



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

LOCAL NEWS - JUNE 2026 - ISSUE NO. 557

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In Full Bloom: Gardens that Celebrate Community, Wellbeing and Sustainable Living Announced for Landmark Year

Breathtaking gardens, new horticulture features, and much more announced!

Bord Bia Bloom returns Thursday, May 28th – Monday, June 1st

Bord Bia Bloom has announced the gardening and horticulture line-up for its landmark 20th year, certain to impress green-fingered attendees. With 20 spectacular Show Gardens from top Irish and international garden designers, 14 Postcard Gardens, 17 plant nurseries and floral artists, two brand-new horticulture and gardening features, 35 interactive talks and demos on the Garden Stage and much more; Ireland's largest gardening festival promises another buzzing five days in the Phoenix Park, Dublin. Commenting, Kerrie Gardiner, Show Gardens and Horticulture Content Manager for Bord Bia Bloom, said, "Bloom has always been about bringing people together and connecting them to nature, and this year's programme really demonstrates that. This is a special year, as we mark 20 years of the festival, and we have added some exciting new gardening features that we think attendees will really enjoy. Our aim is to inspire people to implement concepts from Bloom within their personal gardens or communities."



Garden Designer Joe Eustace, Presenter Diarmuid Gavin, and Show Gardens and Horticulture Content Manager Kerrie Gardiner



Rooted in Resilience by David Negus

Shade, designed by Oliver and Liat Schurmann and sponsored by the European Commission. Other designs focus on evolving family life, such as the Citroën Family Flexible Garden, designed by Joshua Fenton and sponsored by Citroën Ireland as well as gardens that champion hands-on learning, like the I Can Create That Garden with Q102 designed by Carleen Osborne.

Wellbeing is another core theme at Bloom, with impactful gardens that focus on support, resilience and changing care structures, including Empowering at Every Step, designed by Robert Moore and sponsored by Marie Keating Foundation in association with AstraZeneca and Gilead; Rooted in Resilience, designed by David Negus and sponsored by Myeloma Ireland, and The 'Future In Mind' Garden, designed by Joe Eustace and sponsored by the Mental Health Commission. A Moment for Myself, designed by Kakha Gigauri and Michael...



Continued on page 3

2026 Show Gardens The 'Jewel in the Crown' at Bloom

The value of communities - and how to nurture it both locally and globally - is explored in Fingal Nurturing Communities Through Nature, designed by Daibhí Mac Domhnaill and AIT team and sponsored by Fingal County Council alongside Shared Roots, Common

Local History

Kildare Local Studies will be hosting a talk demonstrating some of the resources available pertinent to Maynooth and Maynooth 850 celebrations.



The talk will include a presentation of Rare Maynooth books, periodicals, postcards and photos that are normally housed in our Local Studies special collections. The items will not be for lending but there will be a separate table at the talk with some items that are available for lending also.

Venue: Maynooth Public Library, Main Street
Date: Tuesday 16th June 12pm - 1pm

This is a Free event, but places are limited so advance booking is essential.



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Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

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

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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.

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

With the backdrop of Maynooth 850 celebrations, the RTE Nationwide TV Programme filmed in Maynooth over two days in the middle of May for a twenty one minute programme that will be broadcast in July. As well as featuring both the history of Maynooth and the celebrations to mark Maynooth 850, the programme takes a look at the town, our institutions and our community activities at this time. Having met the programme producer in advance, it was interesting how they were able to take a sense of our town, from just a stroll down Main Street. I feel that many of us living here do not appreciate the vibe that Maynooth gives to visitors. Our well preserved Main Street and the centre of the town is probably the best preserved example of an 18th century planned landlord town in Ireland. The comments that we got back from the Nationwide team was that they could make several programmes on Maynooth, so maybe there will be a second episode sometime.



Town Courthouse and Town Hall blown up 21 May 1920
(image courtesy of the Leinster Leader Newspaper)

For me there are some missing features in Maynooth that is a pity we do not have. Our only public building of consequence was the Town Courthouse and Town Hall which was blown up by members of the IRA in May 1920 in order to prevent it from being used by Government forces. The building is first shown on the 1781 Thomas Sherrard Map of Maynooth.

As the town of Maynooth was effectively laid out between 1750 and 1800 to a design overseen by the 2nd Duke of Leinster, this building remained in the ownership of the Dukes, but it was never re-built. Imagine if it were still here!

Other features that are sadly missing in Maynooth are pieces of public art. Having personally been involved in saving the Mill Wheel in Manor Mills and the conversion of the small pond into a public park over recent decades, I think the next thing we need is some significant public art features. Interestingly, I note that as recent as last month (May 2026), Kildare County Council announced that they were inviting expressions of interest for commissions for two public art works for Newbridge Town Centre and the Sallins by-pass. They also provided an update on the public art project for Naas, which is intended to honour the town's success in winning "Ireland's Tidiest Town" in the Irish Business Against Litter League. So, we need to put Maynooth on their radar for future projects.

In the May editorial, we highlighted the range of events taking place last month in the town. While June is not as busy with separate events, it is good to note that the "Picnic in the Park" is back again this year. Taking place on "Father's Day" Sunday June 21, it is a very popular family event.

This year will include a stand and the presence of the "Maynooth 850" group as part of their range of activities to celebrate this special anniversary year. So hopefully the one thing that helps to make this year's picnic as successful as previous years comes along as well – Sunshine.

While many of our post-primary students are already enjoying their long summer break, for two years students there are exams. The Leaving and Junior Certificate exams begin on June 3rd and are held throughout this month. On behalf of the Maynooth Newsletter, we wish every student our best wishes for whichever exams that they are doing. While exams are important they are only part of the journey of life. As Henry Ford said "The whole secret of a successful life is to find out what is one's destiny to do, and then do it."

Paul Croghan

Editor



Submission Date for July Edition is 5pm on
23rd June 2026

Continued from front page

...and sponsored by Leaf 2 Leaf Landscapes, also highlights how small, daily habits can support overall health and wellness.



Photos © Maynooth CEP

Environmental stewardship is also evident across this year's programme, with gardens highlighting climate, circular living, and biodiversity. These include Met Éireann's 90th Anniversary: Past, Present and Future, designed by Paul Dunne and Padraic Woods and sponsored by Met Éireann; 'Recycled, Reused and Refilled' Sculptural Garden, designed by James Purdy and sponsored by Repak and Alltar, designed by Jack Donovan, Bord Bia Bloom Cultivating Talent Winner which will celebrate nature 'on the margins'.

Sustainable food systems including organic farming and local producer networks are brought to the fore in Nature in Balance, designed by Linda McKeown and sponsored by Bord Bia and the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, alongside Where Trust Takes Root, designed by Scott D. Renwick and sponsored by Marks & Spencer.

Meanwhile, there's plenty of design inspiration for gardens of every size. Bord Bia's 'Easy Steps to Dream Gardens' (which enables people to recreate their own Show Garden at home) returns this year with a fresh twist. The Celebrity Dream Garden, inspired by Brendan Courtney, designed by Declan McKenna and sponsored by Bord Bia, will bring the presenter's dream garden to life. There are also three balcony gardens which demonstrate how to maximise outdoor space, including The Master Gardener's Balcony, designed by Debbie Brophy; The Plant Collector's Balcony, designed by Tom Bradford; and The Bird-



Photos © Maynooth CEP

Highlights for garden lovers at Bloom

The popular Postcard Gardens, supported by Tirlán CountryLife will return to Bloom. Built in one day by community groups nationwide, 14 designs will showcase imaginative spaces on topics like native bat habitats, growing community and belonging through gardening, and celebrating biodiversity in rural locations. The full list can be found [online](#).

Meanwhile 17 plant nurseries and floral artists will exhibit in the Nursery Village, in association with Smartfence, where attendees can meet

expert growers and representatives, while purchasing quality, specialist plants. The Botanical Hub Demo Space in association with Tanners Foliage will be back with live demonstrations and hands-on workshops. Visitors can also expect the return of the popular Ask the Expert Plant and Tree Clinics, the Garden Design Clinic, and Plant Crèche.

New horticultural features introduced to the festival this year are the Make Your Mark Market, which will see some of Ireland's most talented growers come together to showcase fresh, seasonal produce, and the launch of the Plants Showcase, where leading nurseries and plant breeders nationwide will offer an inspiring first look at the colours, forms and resilience shaping the future of Irish gardening.

The Garden Stage sponsored by Sunrise will host 35 talks from



Photos © Maynooth CEP

leading horticultural

experts such as Diarmuid Gavin, Adam Frost (BBC Gardener's World), TJ Maher (Patthana Gardens), Peter Dowdall (The Irish Gardener), Ealma Purcell (The Poppy Garden), Jimi Blake (Huntingbrook Gardens), Niall McAuley (Niall Gardens), Harrison Gardner (TV Presenter & Eco-Builder) and Marie Staunton. Presenters David Maxwell (BBC Radio Ulster 'Gardener's Corner'), Kitty Scully (RTÉ One's Home-grown) and award-winning designer and columnist Leonie Cornelius will MC the lively discussions over the five-day festival.

At the Horticulture is Life exhibit in the Food Village, Bord Bia, the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine, and Teagasc will demonstrate how each of the agencies work to support the Irish horticultural industry and growers to deliver top quality, local, sustainable produce and plants. Horticulture is Life is located next to the Eat Well Garden which will showcase a range of fruit, vegetable and amenity plants. Here attendees can participate in regular walk 'n' talk sessions to learn about a range of topics, from organic production to managing key pests. In addition, a series of 'Polytunnel Talks' will take place over the five days of Bloom covering all aspects of gardening.

Tickets

Bord Bia Bloom will take place in the Phoenix Park, Dublin from Thursday, May 28th to Monday, June 1st from 9am-6pm each day. Tickets are priced at €35 per adult, €30 for concessions (plus booking fee). Up to two children aged 16 and under can enter for free with every adult ticket (additional child tickets €5 (plus booking fee)) making Bloom a great day out for all the family.



Photos © Maynooth CEP

To discover the full event programme, visit bordbiabloom.com or follow @bordbiabloom on Facebook, Instagram and Tik Tok



Maynooth 10K



Womens's 10K Winners
Gillian Clyne (2nd), Rachel Birt (1st), Laura Ward (3rd)



Men's 10K Winners
Eoin Durkan (2nd), Noah Ferron (1st), Barry Egan (3rd)



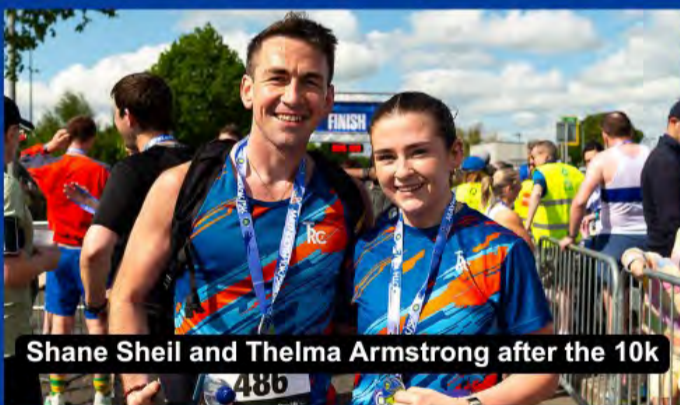
Ava Stack, Lauren Landy and Rachel McInerney at the start of the 10k



Men's 5K Winners
Michael Comer (2nd) Celbridge AC,
Eoin Kelly (1st) St. Cocas AC, David Guilfoyle (3rd)



Women's 5K Winners
Megan Darcy Dunne (3rd), Edel Martyn (1st),
Laura Flannelly (3rd)



Shane Sheil and Thelma Armstrong after the 10k



Committee member Una Phillips and honorary starter and elite athlete Paul Robinson



Members of the Maynooth Cycling Club who lead the races to ensure correct routes are followed



Members of Esker Running Group ahead of the race



Members of the Murphy family ahead of the 5k



Participants from the faculties of MPP and MCC



Pre-race checks with Gardai



Staff from the Cryoclinic in Glenroyal Leisure



Members of Donadea Running Club at the end of the 10k

Help Us Keep Maynooth Market Going Strong



Every Saturday morning, something special happens on Court House Square.

People stop for “just a quick look” and end up staying far longer than planned. There are home-baked cakes, organic veg, farm fresh eggs, artwork and beautiful handmade pieces, but the real magic of the market is the people behind the stalls.

Week after week, talented local makers and small businesses bring warmth, personality and community spirit to the heart of Maynooth and create an atmosphere that feels genuinely special, particularly on the mornings when the Square fills with music and conversation.

What started as a small local initiative has grown into a vibrant weekly market and community space that so many people now look forward to as part of their weekend.

For the past two years, Maynooth Market has been run by a very small number of volunteers behind the scenes. We’ve supported local makers and small businesses, answered hundreds of vendor enquiries, helped traders navigate casual trading licence applications and built the market’s social media presence from scratch, with our posts now reaching more than 25,000 people every month across Instagram and Facebook.

But the reality is that the market now needs more behind-the-scenes support to keep growing and improving. **A community market only works when the community is part of making it happen.**

How You Can Help

That’s why we’re looking for new volunteers to join the team. We’d especially love to hear from people interested in helping with:

- Social media, photography, graphics, or video
- Vendor enquiries
- Funding applications
- General organisation and administration behind the scenes

You don’t need years of experience. Enthusiasm, reliability and a willingness to help go a very long way.

For anyone interested in communications, marketing, events or community initiatives, it’s also a brilliant opportunity to gain hands-on experience while working alongside fantastic local vendors, community groups and a supportive network of people who genuinely care about Maynooth.

What’s Next for the Market

As we head into the summer, we’re really excited about the upcoming season. There’s nowhere better than Court House Square on a sunny Saturday morning when the market is buzzing with music, conversation and community spirit. We have a special festival market planned for the summer months, along with more giveaways and family-friendly moments.

That vibrant community spirit was on full display in May, when we were delighted to welcome:

Comhaltas Maynooth for special Fleadh performances.

- **LudoSport Kildare**, who made a dazzling debut with action-packed lightsaber combat demonstrations that drew a fantastic crowd.
- **The Maynooth Cycling Campaign** offering trishaw rides.
- **Maynooth Education Campus PTA** reps who were on the Square managing number collection for the Maynooth 5k/10k.
- **Maynooth Community Library** sharing information about their events and services.

Be Part of It!

If you’ve ever visited the market and thought, “*this is such a good thing for the town,*” this is your sign to get involved. A few hours of your time can make a massive difference in keeping the market alive and buzzing.

We would love to welcome you to the team. Get in touch today by emailing maynoothlocalmarket@gmail.com or send us a DM on Instagram @themaynoothlocalmarket.



VOLUNTEER AT THE IRELAND SUMMER GAMES 2026 MAYNOOTH AREA

18th - 21st of June

Volunteer in the Maynooth Area:

- NUI Maynooth
- Stewarts Regional Equine Therapy Hub – Kilcloon

Help support the Accommodation Venue and the Equestrian Venue

VOLUNTEER TODAY



www.irelandgames.ie

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Keeping Community Centre for Maynooth front and centre

Five years ago I submitted a motion asking that when the time would come for the old fire station to be vacated that the Council would ring-fence the building for a much needed community centre. The recent official opening of the brand new fire station prompted me to ask for an update on the feasibility study the Council is carrying out on the vacated fire station. The Council said that its immediate focus is on the building itself, and bringing as much of it into a usable condition for safe community use.



So site investigations for the building have been commissioned, to establish certain structural matters, an energy audit is currently in its final stages, with the report expected shortly. The findings of that audit are a prerequisite that will inform overall building refurbishment and design. Alongside that, an expression of interest has been lodged with the Just Transition Fund, seeking funding for a potential green roof, bicycle circular economy hub, and interpretative space. Once a robust design proposal is in place, consultation with ourselves as elected members and the local community will take place. It will be extremely strategic that the site has in place a Part 8 permission, given that all relevant Government grant schemes for capital works, have as a requirement that planning permission is in place to progress to delivery, using grant funding.

Kildare Inclusivity Festival

The second Kildare Inclusivity Festival took place at the Curragh Racecourse and it is going from strength to strength. A fantastic day for families and children of all abilities with opportunities to try out many activities. It was just a great success and the glorious sunshine helped too. Proud to be a member of County Kildare Access and Maynooth Access Group who helped organise this inclusive event.



Future of Maynooth Health Centre

For many years I have been highlighting with the HSE and the Minister the lack of access to GP services for the growing population of Maynooth. There is also a lack of affordable spaces for GPs to set up or extend their practice. Maynooth needs and deserves its own Primary Care Centre. In addition, we need to retain and develop our local health centre.

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St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Maynooth, Co. Kildare

More Success for Maynooth Band



St. Mary's Brass and Reed Academy Band made a return visit to the National Band Championships in Ardee on Saturday 9th May where they secured third place last year. Based on that experience the Band worked really hard to improve on that placing all of which paid dividends with the Band taking first place in their section as well as winning prizes for Best March, Best Own Choice and best Brass Section. This was an outstanding result for the Band in only their second competition ever. Although, because of this win, they will be moving up to

a higher grade next year, we have no doubt that they will have their sights set on more prizes.

The Senior Band will be competing in the South of Ireland Band Championships in Clonakilty County Cork in July where they also won a host of prizes last year and they too will be setting their sights on bringing back more silver to the Bandroom in Maynooth.

On Friday 11th September the Band will be heading to the Bad Orb International Music Festival in Germany where they will join bands from all over Europe in this magical musical extravaganza and flying the Tricolour as the only Irish Band taking part.

In between the Band will be giving Summer recitals in Leixlip, Celbridge and Kilcock as well as Culture Night in the Square in Maynooth on Friday 18th September.

Hopefully these successes will encourage musicians in Maynooth and the surrounding areas to come and join the Band where age is no restriction as you can see in the photo of the Academy Band. You can contact us on Facebook or stmarysbandmaynooth@gmail.com.

Maynooth Fights back against the Dark Side



Ludosport Kildare recently visited the Maynooth Local Market at Court House Square to launch their new Academy. Instructors Aaron Spierin and Brian Doran spent a sunny Saturday afternoon demonstrating light saber fighting techniques and even gave some locals a chance to try it out for themselves.



A contender takes on the national champion

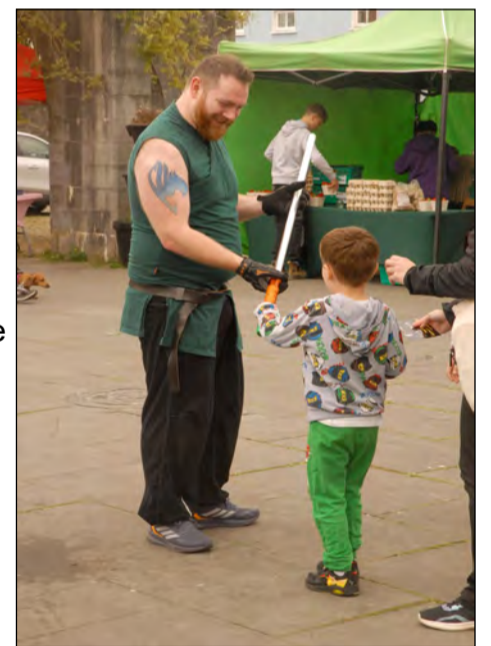
Aaron and Brian started out at the Dublin Academy and recently had the opportunity to open a branch closer to home in Maynooth.

Light saber dueling is designed for all backgrounds, fitness levels and ages (from 12 up), with a strong community aspect. It was created in Italy in 2006 and came to Ireland in 2015. There are events and compe-

titions, both nationally and internationally. In fact, Aaron is a National champion himself.

Club members Rita and David were also in attendance. Rita found light saber dueling to be a great way to get fit and healthy again after an injury land David, told us about how he got involved in the sport as a way to spend time with his 12 year old daughter. Six years later and the whole family has joined up.

Ludosport Kildare can be found at the Maynooth University North Campus on Saturdays from 10am to 2pm. You don't need to have any special equipment to start out as they have all the sabers and safety gear at the training center. Also, the first class is free!



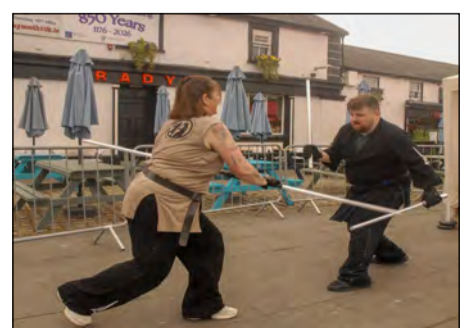
Aaron recruiting the next generation to the light side



Brian wielding the double-ended sabre



Maynooth University North Campus
W23 X3X8
Kildare@ludosport.net



Rita and Brian clash with staff and dual short sabers



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Cllr Angela Feeney



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- Estate Issues



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Zoom



Stormont Covered in Manure

By Cheryl Devaney

Northern Ireland's Parliament Buildings are situated in the Stormont Estate, east of Belfast. The name Stormont probably originates from a large Georgian house, 'Storm Mount', which was built on this site in the 1830s for Reverend John Cleland (1755-1834). John had been tutor to young Lord Castlereagh, land agent for Londonderry estates, then later a local magistrate and acquired Stormont Estate by marrying the daughter of the previous owner. In 1858, John Cleland's grandson had the exterior redesigned in a Scottish Baronial style with turrets and castellations. Its extension included a ballroom, reception rooms and fourteen family bedrooms and was now known as Stormont Castle. In 1893 the Cleland family went to live abroad and, in 1921, the newly established Government of Northern Ireland bought the castle and 235 acres of adjoining land for £15,000.

Today, known simply as Stormont, Parliament Buildings is purpose-built for the present Northern Ireland Assembly. There were plans to have three separate structures on the same site. This proved to be too expensive and hence the reason why the plural 'buildings' is used today even though Stormont stands on its own. It originally was needed after the 1920 Government of Ireland Act divided Ireland into two self-governing entities Northern Ireland and Southern Ireland. In 1932 Edward, Prince of Wales, who became King Edward VIII and later abdicated, opened the newly created parliament.

The Prince of Wales Avenue, commonly known as 'The Mile', is lined with 305 red-twigged lime trees, and leads up to this neoclassical style construction, which cost £1.7 million. It has six entrance pillars and six storeys, representing the number of counties in Northern Ireland, and is 365 feet long. This was a deliberate design choice by architect Sir Arnold Thornely – one foot for every day of the year. There were two separate chambers, the blue-benched rectangular Northern Ireland House of Commons and the smaller red-benched Senate. The House of Commons was originally supposed to have green benches like the ones in Westminster, London but this was considered to be inappropriate. The main hall, known as The Great Hall, has a large gold-plated chandelier, which was a gift from King George V.

During World War II the Senate chamber was used as the Royal Air Force Operations Room and it was during this period that the building's exterior Portland stone was painted with a mixture of bitumen and cow manure for camouflage. As a result, Stormont was never bombed but it proved extremely difficult to remove the mixture which had scarred the stonework. The removal took seven years but it has never regained its original white colour. Some of the paint still remains on unseen parts and in the inner courtyard.

The building's use for the Parliament of Northern Ireland was suspended in 1972, then two years later it served as a venue for the short-lived Sunningdale Power-Sharing Executive. Until 1998 it acted as the headquarters of the Northern Ireland Civil Service and, between 1982 and 1986, Parliament Buildings was the seat of the 'rolling-devolution' assembly.

In 1990, Sinn Féin suggested that there should be a new parliament building as the original one was too associated with unionist rule. No one else supported this demand and the new Northern Ireland Assembly used it as its permanent home.

In 1995, the entire House of Commons chamber was destroyed by fire. Blamed on an electrical fault in the wiring below the Speaker's chair, many believed it was arson. Its destruction allowed for a modern, less confrontational chamber to be built. This chamber with its horseshoe seating arrangement is used by the power-sharing Northern Ireland Assembly, which was established under 1998's Belfast Agreement. The Senate Chamber remains unchanged and is now used as a committee room. This new legislative body uses the Parliament Buildings to debate proposals for laws and it suggests amendments.

Meanwhile Stormont Castle, southeast of Parliament Buildings, is a mere two-minute drive away and served as the official residence of Northern Ireland's Prime Minister Sir James Craig until 1940. Subsequent Prime Ministers just had offices there and it was, until 1972, a meeting place for the Northern Ireland cabinet. The Castle is now home to the Northern Ireland Executive. Made up of eight ministers who are in charge of government

departments, it is responsible for delivering all public services such as health and education. It also contains the office for the First Minister, Michelle O'Neill, and one for the Deputy First Minister, Emma Little-Pengelly.

The Speaker's House, now known as Stormont House, to the right of Stormont Castle, was built in 1926 and was part of the redevelopment of Stormont Estate. It was the official home of the Speaker of Northern Ireland's House of Commons from 1926 – 1972, when the Northern Ireland Government was abolished. A number of Prime Ministers lived there and it was later the headquarters of the Northern Ireland Office until 2022.

Stormont Estate also includes two historic summerhouses, gate lodges, cottages and glasshouses. Today, many people enjoy walking through its attractive woodland and parkland, admiring its many different features

Military Graveyard, Dublin

Rose bushes brighten headstones
in regimented rows of grey:
Argyle and Sutherland Highlanders,
forgetting Culloden and Clearances;
Australians, New Zealanders,
South Africans, Canadians
bleeding for distant Empress or King,
and, from this fractured island,
side by side, Inniskillings moulder
with Connaught Rangers, Dublin Fusiliers.

How many varied ranks lie here:
dragoons, lancers, gunners, sailors,
airmen climbing to the stars,
captains, lieutenants, chaplains,
generals with quadruple names,
a 'Boy' with none at all,
army wives and children,
serving, 'Wherever right and glory leads',
in defence of an empire
on which the sun never set.

After the endless wars, all's now peaceful,
so that a worker's sit-on mower
accentuates the silence –
And look! Beneath those evergreens,
a blackbird, half decayed, reminder of
that poet who mourned our 1916 poets,
then died at Ypres, far from quiet Slane,
and of that Dublin poet,
fighting for small nations' freedom,
who died at Ginchy on the Somme.

Patrick Devaney

MU CHAMBER CHOIR FEATURES ON NEW DERMOT KENNEDY ALBUM



MU Chamber Choir and Artistic Director Dr Michael T. Dawson pictured with Dermot Kennedy at 'The Weight of the Woods' recording session

The Maynooth University Chamber Choir (MUCC) features on seven tracks of Dermot Kennedy's newly released album *The Weight of the Woods*, following a collaboration between the Irish musician and the choir earlier this year.

The album recently reached number one in both Ireland and the UK, making Kennedy the first Irish solo artist to top the UK charts with his first three studio albums. The record also reached number six in the United States.

Kennedy, who graduated from MU with a Bachelor of Music (BMus) in 2012, invited the choir to take part in the recording process in January 2025. The project also reunited him with MU Chamber Choir Artistic Director Dr Michael T. Dawson, who studied at MU at the same time as the musician.

"Dermot was the year below me when I studied the BMus at Maynooth," said Dr Dawson. "I remember going with classmates to see him perform in small venues across Dublin and even then, there was something special in his own songs and the way he performed."

"Dermot reached out in January 2025 asking if we would be interested in singing on his new album," he said. "We arrived at these beautifully renovated stables and met Dermot and his team. Once he started singing in the recording session it felt very special. Dermot's voice, the harmonies, how collaborative both him and his co-writer Gabe Simon were. It was a privilege to be part of the process and contribute to his album."

Kennedy also described the collaboration with the choir: "I'm so honoured to have worked with the Maynooth University Chamber Choir on my new album," he said. "A group I admired so much whilst I studied in Maynooth. It was a joy to be around their talent and enthusiasm. I can't imagine these songs without their input. They brought so much to the project and I'm very grateful."

Alongside appearing on *The Weight of the Woods*, the choir also joined Kennedy for a performance at *Other Voices* and features in a series of live music videos directed by Charlie Sarsfield. Kennedy also shared moments from the collaboration on his Instagram account.

Representing students from across the University, the MUCC recently marked its 40th anniversary with a special performance as part of the University's 2026 Arts and Minds Festival. The choir has built an international reputation through performances and competition successes, including winning the Choir of the World title at the Llangollen International Musical Eisteddfod and the 52nd Festival of Songs in Czechia.



MU AWARDED €3.1 MILLION FOR ANTIBIOTIC RESISTANCE AND CROP DISEASE RESEARCH



Noel Grealish TD, Minister of State at Dept of Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and the Marine; Prof Fiona Walsh from MU's Dept of Biology and Martin Heydon TD, Minister for Agriculture, Food, Fisheries and the Marine.

Two Maynooth University scientists from the Department of Biology will lead projects worth €3.1 million to tackle the urgent challenges facing farmers, patients and the public: the rise of untreatable infections and a destructive disease threatening a key Irish tillage crop.

Prof Fiona Walsh, along with collaborators based at Teagasc, UCD and University of Galway, has been awarded €2,438,685 for her project entitled 'Antimicrobial resistance dynamics: evolution and emerging threats in the environment.' Prof Emmanuelle Graciet has received €672,334, along with her Teagasc partners, for work called 'Surveillance and action for fighting club root in oilseed.' This is part of a €37.5 million investment by the Department of Agriculture, Food and Marine in 30 research projects across the agri-food, forest and bioeconomy sectors.

Resistance

The problem of antimicrobial resistance (AMR) arises when bacteria evolve or acquire DNA to that stop antibiotics working to treat animal and human infection.

"Antimicrobial resistance means that bacteria and infections can't be treated by antimicrobials, because they are resistant. That is the major problem, not being able to treat infection in humans or animals, or in fact plants, because the bacteria that cause those infections are no longer being killed," said Prof Walsh.

The issue of AMR is a growing global problem, that touches many areas of our lives – hospitals, farms, food production and the natural environment.

A particular worry for scientists is that many pharmaceutical companies are no longer developing new antibiotics because they do not regard it as economically viable, so few new drugs are being developed.

"If we run out of antibiotics, and the bacteria are resistant to all of the options, then we don't have an option left to treat the infections," said Prof Walsh.

Her project takes a different approach, one that doesn't focus on developing drugs, which is incredibly expensive and can take decades to get from discovery to the market. Instead, it looks at how resistant bacteria and the DNA that carries the resistant genes move between animals, and the environment, and how they can be blocked.

"If we understand how antimicrobial resistance is moving and where it's moving, the idea is to then see if we can put barriers in place to prevent that movement. Each of those transmission points is a potential stopping point. If we can reduce the amount of antibiotic resistance moving around, particularly into humans and animals, then we can extend the shelf life of those antibiotics for longer," added Prof Walsh.

The MU team, with partners in UCD, University of Galway and Teagasc, will study farms, abattoirs and the linked environment to identify hotspots where resistance is spreading and where targeted changes in waste treatment or farm practice can make a difference. The project will also use modelling to anticipate future antimicrobial threats and to inform policymakers.

Root Disease

The Irish tillage sector is being hampered by a root disease that can wipe out entire crops of valuable oilseed rape and other vegetables. "Club root disease has been really on the rise here in Ireland. It is creating crop losses, and it's causing a lot of problems in terms of crop rotation," said Prof Emmanuelle Graciet, whose project is aimed at tackling the problem.

Oilseed rape, the crop with the striking yellow flowers seen in fields around Ireland in Springtime, is an important source of income for farmers and a way to diversify crop systems. But club root, caused by a soilborne pathogen that infects plant roots, is putting that potential at risk.

"If you grow the wrong varieties in a field that has the disease, then you can lose a lot, sometimes pretty much 100% of your crop. Farmers are not going to grow it if they have a risk of losing everything because of this disease," Prof Graciet explained.

The goal of her project is to develop a molecular diagnostic test for the pathogen. A kind of soil test that she compares to the COVID-19 tests used during the pandemic.

"We developed something very similar for this pathogen, but what we will be testing is the soils," said Dr Graciet.

The plan is to collect and test soil samples from right across the country and use the data to create the first detailed map of club root in Ireland, showing where it is found and how abundant it is. They also aim to identify different strains of club root and then screen commercial oilseed rape varieties to see which are resistant to which strains of the pathogen.

"If you have that level of understanding, we can tell a farmer: in that region, where you probably have that strain, you'd better grow this variety; in another region, you probably have another strain, you'd better grow this other variety."

Ultimately, the project aims to provide farmers with practical, evidence-based advice so they can grow oilseed rape with greater confidence and lower risk.

"We want to support the national push to diversify crop systems, but in a way that is sustainable for farmers and for the soil," said Dr Graciet.

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MU ALUMNI BOOK CLUB LAUNCHED AT ARTS AND MINDS FESTIVAL 2026



Dr Belinda McKeon from the Department of English, alumni Edie May Hand (2023 MA) and Tanya Sweeney (1997 BA), and Gordon Jamieson Head of Development and Alumni Relations (Interim).

Maynooth University's Development and Alumni Relations Office and the Department of English have just announced the launch of Maynooth University Alumni Book Club (MUABC), a new initiative designed to bring graduates together to explore great books and engage in meaningful conversations. The MUABC was officially launched at The Literary Lounge at this year's Arts and Minds Festival on Saturday May 9 in St Mary's Church of Ireland.

The launch at the Literary Lounge event was a fitting introduction to the book club as it featured two of Ireland's debut authors and Maynooth University alumni - Edie May Hand (2023 MA) and Tanya Sweeney (1997 BA). Both writers shared readings and insights into their writing journeys during the event. Hand's debut novel *Dirtpickers* has been selected as the book club's inaugural title.

The MUABC will provide a welcoming and relaxed space for graduates to explore books together from a mix of alumni authors and other contemporary writers. It will also bring alumni into conversation with academics from the Department of English, fostering a continued connection to the University.

Participation in the book club is completely free and open exclusively to MU alumni. Members will meet online in private evening sessions. This allows alumni from across the globe to take part - all that's needed is an internet connection and a passion for reading!

Speaking about the book club, alum author Edie May Hand expressed her enthusiasm for the initiative and its focus on building community: "Alumni connection solely for the sake of shared interests is invaluable in today's world, where creativity and innovation can often take a backseat to productivity and profit. It is a well-considered initiative that is accessible for all alumni, which I am very proud to be part of, and I am delighted that *Dirtpickers* has been chosen as the book club's first title."

Oona Frawley, a writer and lecturer in the Department of English said: "The Book Club offers alumni the chance to talk about brilliant books in an informal, friendly setting – and to stay in touch with MU. We're excited to get started!"

Maynooth Bookshop has kindly offered a 25% discount to book club members to purchase the books on the list for the club. Alumni interested in joining the book club can find out more here and sign up here: mu.ie/alumni-book-club

Top French Award for Irish Academic

Roscrea native and resident of Kilcock Co. Kildare, Eamon Maher has just been awarded the top academic accolade of the French Government.

A wonderful celebration took place recently at the French Ambassador's Residence in Dublin. The reason for this auspicious occasion was the elevation of Dr. Eamon Maher, Lecturer in the School of Tourism and Hospitality Management, Technological University Dublin, to the rank of *Commandeur dans l'Ordre des Palmes Académiques* by the French Ambassador to Ireland, Céline Place.

The *Ordre des Palmes Académiques* is one of the oldest civil honours bestowed by the French Republic, dating back to 1808, and the rank of *Commandeur* is the highest level of this academic accolade.

In her speech, Ambassador Place highlighted Eamon's outstanding contribution to academia and in particular, his contribution to Franco-Irish relations, his distinguished scholarship through publications and research supervision, and his remarkable commitment to promoting French language and culture in Ireland. The Ambassador warmly noted that she could think of no more deserving recipient of this incredible award, than Eamon.

The very pleasant ceremony took place in the beautiful surroundings of the Ambassador's residence in warm evening sunshine and was attended by a number of Eamon's colleagues from TU Dublin, past and present, some of Eamon's former teaching colleagues from Clongowes Wood College, his sons and daughter, sister, and many friends, neighbours and relations.



Dr. Eamon Maher

Photo by Kevin Griffin

Just a Thought



"There is no God", the atheist cried;

What a curious stance to take!

For only one wrought in God's mould,

Could such a statement make!

BY GABRIEL MARTIN

Cllr. Donna Phelan
MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

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Fianna Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

MAY UPDATE



New Stencilling on the Greenway



Following feedback from residents using the Greenway, new stencils have now been installed to help tackle the ongoing issue of dog fouling. Keeping our shared spaces clean is important for everyone using the walkway, especially families, walkers, runners and cyclists. I want to thank the council staff for their assistance in getting these markings put in place and remind all dog owners to please clean up after their pets and help keep the Greenway enjoyable for all.

Fianna Fail 100yr Breakfast Briefing



This month, I attended the Kildare Fianna Fáil Business Breakfast in Newbridge, where I had the opportunity to speak directly with An Taoiseach Micheál Martin about the urgent need for greater investment in disability services and supports. While it is positive to see progress being made, there is still a long way to go to ensure children, adults and families can access the services they need in a timely and meaningful way. I will continue to advocate strongly for better resources, improved supports and real investment across the disability sector.

Arts and Minds Festival Maynooth University

As a County Councillor, it was a privilege to attend events across this year's Arts and Minds Festival and to see the incredible creativity, talent and inclusivity being celebrated throughout Maynooth. Through the work of the Maynooth Autism Friendly Town Programme, I was delighted to help support another first for our town with a sensory friendly tour of Maynooth Castle, helping ensure our local heritage can be enjoyed in a more accessible and inclusive way. I also had the pleasure of attending performances during the festival, including the outstanding Maynooth University Chamber Choir. Their performance was truly exceptional and it is a huge honour for Maynooth to be home to one of only two university chamber choirs in Ireland. Festivals such as Arts and Minds are so important in showcasing the strength of community, culture and inclusion within our town.

Cllr. Donna Phelan
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Fianna Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

MAY UPDATE

The Golden Child Book Launch



It was a real pleasure to attend the launch of The Golden Child at Maynooth Bookshop recently. Seeing the support for Róisín and her work was incredibly special. Róisín continues to be such an inspiration to the autistic community through her honesty, advocacy, and storytelling. Events like this are so important in helping to create understanding, acceptance, and conversations around autism, and it was wonderful to see our local community come together to celebrate such a fantastic achievement.

Kildare Inclusivity Festival the Curragh



I was delighted to attend the Inclusivity Festival recently, which welcomed over 12,000 people for a truly wonderful community event. A huge credit must go to Kildare County Council and all of their partners who did an amazing job delivering such an inclusive, welcoming, and positive day for everyone involved. It was extra special for me personally as I got to see my beautiful friend Orla showcasing the most magnificent slime in Ireland on her brand new swanky slime cart a complete one of a kind! Events like this show the very best of community spirit and the importance of creating spaces where everybody feels included and celebrated.

FLEADH CHEOIL CHILL DARA
17th-24th May 2026
Maynooth
FLEADH AN PHOBAIL
COMMUNITY FLEADH EVENT



Fleadh Cheoil Chill Dara

The Fleadh brought an incredible atmosphere to Maynooth all week and it was truly outstanding to see the town so full of music, culture, and community spirit. From the performances and competitions to the live music on the streets, there was such a fantastic energy right across the town. A very special thank you and congratulations to Craobh Mhaigh Nuad for the super job they did organising such a fantastic week of events. It really showcased the very best of our community, and I think it's safe to say we would absolutely love to see this kind of energy and celebration in Maynooth every year.



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Fianna Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

MAY UPDATE

Womens Caucus Meeting in Tipperary County Council



This month I attended the Women's Caucus meeting in Tipperary where there were really positive and important conversations around women in public life and leadership. I genuinely believe more women should consider getting involved in politics. It is such an interesting role, and having more women around decision-making tables can only strengthen our communities and bring more balanced representation to local and national issues.

Meeting Minister Darragh o Brien



It was great to meet with Minister Darragh O'Brien last week where I had the opportunity to thank him for the significant investment being made into the MERR project for Maynooth. This infrastructure is hugely important for the future growth and connectivity of our town. I also took the opportunity to raise the need for a direct airport bus service for Maynooth, as this is something residents have been calling for over a long period of time. Improved public transport links remain a key priority for our growing community.

Maynooth Eastern Ring Road Overview

I recently shared a 3-part series explaining the overview and plans for the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road project. If you would like to see the plans and stay updated on local projects, make sure to follow me on social media.



Fianna Fail ARD FHEIS

It was a great honour to attend the 84th Fianna Fáil Ard Fheis recently, and I was especially delighted to hear Maynooth mentioned during Michael Moynihan's speech when he spoke about the An Cuan Games that he officially opened the previous week. He spoke so positively about the event and said he was completely blown away by what he experienced, which is a huge credit to Maynooth Community College and everyone involved in delivering such an incredible event. It was also a real honour to see Tom and Marie O'Doherty recognised with an award for their longstanding dedication and commitment to the party over many years. I will never take for granted being in the same room as the men and women who help shape our country and having the opportunity to represent my community at events like this.



€138,000 for Community Climate Projects in Maynooth

Delighted to see funding for various community climate action projects in Maynooth:

- Maynooth Cycling Campaign: €2,798.75
- Maynooth Community First Responders: €10,798.33
- Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community (SEC): €23,225.00
- Maynooth Tidy Towns: €100,000
- St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band: €2,476.92

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Working with Naoise Ó Cearúil TD

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

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Donna & Naoise

Fianna Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

For the latest info and press releases visit fiannafail.ie/news

Follow us



Climate Community Funding

We are delighted to announce that we have been successful in our application for funding of €2,778 for two projects under the Climate Community Grants programme. The first is the purchase of a wheelchair trailer for pulling by our trishaw. The second is the provision of a number of "Trail-Gators". A Trail Gator is a towbar which connects a parent's bike to a child's and assists the child in keeping up with older siblings and parents. The Gator will be loaned to a family for a period of months until the child has progressed to cycling on his or her own. The Gator will then be returned to the Campaign for lending to another family. We have asked for expressions of interest from parents in a number of schools. If you are interested or want to find out more, send us an email to maynoothcycling@gmail.com.

Bikeweek

We would like to thank Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich, Scoil Ruairí, Educate Together and Presentation Girls School which participated in the Bikeweek Art Competition and which currently engage with the Campaign on our parking project. We hope that the winners enjoy the prizes. We would also like to thank Maynooth Post Primary (MPP) for the opportunity to give a talk to TY students about cycling and for participating in the raffle. Maynooth Cycling Campaign is grateful to Kildare County Council for providing funding for Bikeweek events including the cash prizes to MPP.

Strategic Infrastructure & Bike Infrastructure

The government has passed legislation which allows it to nominate key projects as Strategic Infrastructure and which is designed so that the applicant can apply directly to An Bord Pleanála for planning permission rather than the local authority. It is designed to simplify and speed up the planning process for "key" infrastructure. Maynooth Cycling Campaign supports the call by the Irish Cycling Campaign for cycling infrastructure to be included as strategic infrastructure. In view of the shocks to energy prices as a result of the invasion of Ukraine and the attack on Iran by the USA, there is a critical need to reduce dependence on fossil fuel especially from the Middle East and to develop greater resilience to similar future shocks. Under the government's Climate Plan, we also need to decarbonise our transport and the Climate Advisory Council has indicated that we are unlikely to meet our international commitment to reduce carbon emissions by 50% by 2030. People need an alternative to vehicles powered with internal combustion engines. In the short term, the government has chosen to subsidise fuel prices but in the long term the solution is to offer an affordable alternative to people.

Rothar Road - Quiet Road in Monaghan

County Monaghan was selected as a pilot for the designation of a quiet rural road to promote cycling by the possible introduction of a 30kph speed limit and traffic-calming measures such as a new red road surface, shared space signage, and flashing speed signs. Unlike the Moone pilot project in Kildare, the proposed Rothar Road in Co. Monaghan actually connects two destinations - the villages of Scotstown and Ballinode. The road runs parallel to a wider road more suited to through traffic, which most motorists are expected to use. This is the first example in Ireland of a road on the model of Dutch "Bicycle Road" where the car is a "guest". Such roads operate best where bicycle traffic is twice the volume of motorised traffic. With such a high level of car dependency in Ireland and the sharp bends on many rural roads, it will be interesting to see the traffic mix and if people feel safe on such roads. 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, why not join us.

Maynooth Access Group



The month got off to a great start with confirmation from Maynooth Post Primary School that they were in receipt of a further delivery of soil and fertilizer and the Growing Connections project has really taken root. This project is a collaboration between MPPS and Maynooth Access Group. When the need was identified for the development of an accessible gardening space we stepped in to offer as much support as possible and have to date contributed an accessible picnic bench, soil, fertilizers, fruit, vegetables, and flowers for the garden, which looks fantastic. Students are experiencing the joy of planting and watching the fruits of their labour. The flowers are enticing butterflies and insects, and the fruit and vegetables are making their way to the kitchen and onto their plates. We are expecting the delivery of a poly tunnel in the near future which will further enhance the capacity for growth for both the students and the plant life. See Maynooth Post Primary School's Facebook page for more information and photos of the Garden.

The County Kildare Access Network hosted the Inclusivity Festival on the Curragh racecourse on Sunday 10th May. It was the 2nd year for the event which was a resounding success. It was attended by approximately 12,000 visitors, a large increase on the inaugural year. The focus of the event is to provide accessible entertainment, sports and games, whilst highlighting local arts and crafts, and presenting displays by organisations such as Barrettstown, The Defence Forces, The Fire Service and many others. There is a friendly, warm and welcoming atmosphere for everyone who attends, with emphasis on the element of inclusivity for persons with disability. Maynooth Access Group were in attendance on the day displaying a wide range of their "Our World" toys. "Our World" is an educational programme aimed at pre-school and primary school children, the aim of which is to start open discussion around disability. Children learn through play and by introducing "Our World" they learn to accept that everyone is different and unique and the importance of creating an inclusive and accessible society. For information on Our World visit Maynooth Access Group on Facebook, on Instagram @access_maynooth, email Maynooth access group @gmail.com. For further information regarding Kildare Inclusivity Festival please see CKAN.ie



We were delighted to receive an invitation to attend the An Cuan Games in Maynooth Community College on 12th May. This annual inclusive, non-competitive sporting event for secondary school students with autism and additional educational needs is organised by the "An Cuan" ASD unit staff and student volunteers. The games feature highly accessible and adapted sports such as table tennis, balloon volleyball, bowling, hockey, tag rugby and an outdoor giant inflatable obstacle course. The excitement was palpable and it was great to see everyone participating and having fun. Updates and images from the games can be seen on Maynooth Community College Facebook page.



On the evening of 12th May, it was our pleasure to attend Stepping Stones Special School, Moyglare Road, together with representatives from Anytime Fitness and Leinster Cleaning Services as the Parents Association expressed their appreciation for the support and assistance the above groups had provided to the school community. The students of Stepping Stones present with complex needs and are exceptionally well cared for by the dedicated teaching staff. The Parents association work tirelessly to raise much needed funds to provide essential equipment for the students. MAG have worked in conjunction with the parents' association and to date have donated benches, a mud kitchen, a picnic table, and a wide range of sensory toys for the school community. We look forward to further collaboration with the staff and parents' association as we work towards the provision of equipment which will benefit the student population. Keep up to date with what's happening in Stepping Stones Special School on their Facebook page.

Our Parish Youth Leaders initial idea to create a sensory area within St. Mary's Church Maynooth, quickly developed into an idea to hold a sensory mass. When Emma approached Maynooth Access Group with this suggestion, we were more than happy to be of assistance. We purchased a range of sensory toys and mats for use in the Church and members of the group were on hand to help out for the 1st mass which took place on 25th April. It was a resounding success with very positive feedback from those in attendance. The 2nd mass took place on 23rd May. The sensory mass is designed to be inclusive and welcoming for families who may benefit from a quieter and more relaxed worship environment. The short mass (approx. 20 minutes) has gentle lighting and sound, calm atmosphere, space to move around if needed and sensory items to aid regulation. Movement around the church is permitted and noise is welcome and understood. Cup of tea in the Pastoral Centre after mass is available if desired. Contact parishyouth@gmail.com for more information.

We were very happy to receive an invitation to attend the Intel Pride of Place award ceremony which takes place on 26th May. Maynooth Access Group have been successful recipients of this award for projects in the past and we are very hopeful that we will have further success on this occasion. Keep an eye on next month's Maynooth Newsletter to hear how we get on and for more updates on our activities within the community.

MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY LIBRARY EVENTS



Events for Adults

Luain Press Poetry Café

Tuesday 2 June, 6.00pm - 7.00pm

Our June meeting will be the last hosted by Lee Sheridan in Maynooth. We'd like to thank the Maynooth Community Library for facilitating the meetings over the last number of years. Meetings will continue in September, and will be hosted by several members of the current group. Once again, all are welcome to attend to discuss their own poetry or the poetry of others, as well as chat and engage in creative writing. See you there!

Age Friendly Coffee Morning

Wednesday 10 June, 10.00am - 11.30am

As part of our Age Friendly Programme, drop in for a cup of tea/coffee and a chat with library staff and find out more about the libraries online and other services.

Drop In. No booking required

Library eServices Demonstration

Wednesday 10 June, 10:00am - 11:30am

Staff will demonstrate and answer questions about Kildare Library Service apps and websites which are free to download. These apps/websites give users access to eBooks, eAudiobooks, digital newspapers and magazines, language learning and more! Drop in - no booking necessary.

Housing and Homelessness Supports Information Clinic

Monday 15 June, 2.00pm - 4.00pm

Looking for advice on homelessness and housing supports? Visit this Kildare County Council drop-in clinic in Maynooth Community Library to learn about the supports available. *Drop in*

Groups and Clubs

Maynooth Community Library Craft Club

The Library Craft Club meets every Monday, 11.30am - 1.00pm (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, 10.00am - 11.00am

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!*

Origami Club for Adults

Thursday 18 June, 6.30 pm - 7.30 pm

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 *

Exhibitions

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 April 2027. To be placed on a waiting list to use the exhibition space in 2026, or for booking enquiries, please email maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie.

Why not register for the Kildare Library Service events newsletter here: [Newsletter Subscribe Form](#)



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



facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 27/03/2026 to 20/05/2026 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
2660523	Kildare County Council	Cormac Dodd Eimear Connolly	11 Lyreen Lawn, Mariavilla , Maynooth, Co. Kildare	19/05/2026
2660492	Kildare County Council	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd.	Lands located to the east of Linden Demesne, west of the R157 and south of Dunboyne Road within the townland of Maynooth, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	06/05/2026
2660481	Kildare County Council	Jonathan O'Neill	Barrogstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	01/05/2026
2660471	Kildare County Council	Paul and Siobhan Turley	18 Limetree Hall, Dublin Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	29/04/2026



Maynooth Autism Friendly Town



What a fantastic month it has been for Maynooth Autism Friendly Town! We were absolutely delighted to see the Glenroyal Hotel recognised at the 2026 AsIAm Awards, a reflection of the incredible commitment local businesses continue to show towards inclusion and accessibility. The Glenroyal have gone above and beyond to support autistic individuals and families in our community and we are so proud to see their work acknowledged on a national stage. One of the initiatives we particularly love is their mobile sensory tents for guests who may need them. While the hotel may not have the space for a dedicated sensory room, this creative and practical solution ticks all the boxes by providing a calm, sensory friendly environment directly within family bedrooms, making stays more comfortable and inclusive for everyone.



This month also saw more fantastic inclusion initiatives across the town. Our ACE employment partner Zambrero's launched their new communication board and re-stocked their fidget box, helping to make their environment even more welcoming and accessible for autistic customers and staff. We were also honoured to help facilitate Maynooth Castle's very first sensory friendly tour as part of the Arts and Minds Festival, and the Maynooth 850 group another important step in making local heritage and culture accessible to everyone. The town was also buzzing during Fleadh Chill Dara week, with sensory friendly events factored into the programme to ensure more families could comfortably enjoy the celebrations. It is wonderful to see inclusion continuing to become part of everyday thinking across our community and we are so grateful to everyone who keeps supporting this journey.

The An Cuan Games returned to Maynooth this month and once again showcased the very best of inclusion, community spirit and sport. Hosted by Maynooth Community College, the games brought together students from across Leinster in a celebration of teamwork, friendship and ability. Maynooth Autism Friendly Town have been involved with the games since the very beginning, supporting funding applications, organisation and external grant applications to help the event continue to grow each year. It was also a huge honour to welcome the Minister for Special Education to officially open the games, highlighting the importance of initiatives like this that create opportunities for young people of all abilities to participate, feel included and be celebrated within their community. The atmosphere throughout the day was simply incredible and a real credit to everyone involved.



This month, Maynooth Autism Friendly Town also co-hosted a Special Needs Legal Advice Night for parents, caregivers and families supporting children or adults with additional needs. The evening focused on helping families better understand future planning, including financial planning, legal protections and long-term supports. For many families, planning for the future can feel overwhelming and often people simply do not know where to begin. Events like this are so important in providing practical information, guidance and reassurance, while also creating a space where families can ask questions and access expert advice in a supportive environment. It was a huge success and we thank all the families who attended.

SPECIAL NEEDS TRUST PLANNING WEBINAR

- Discretionary Trust
- Guardians & Trustees
- Letter of Wishes
- Hospital Passport
- Hidden Entitlements
- Bank Accounts
- Trust Funding

BOOKING REQUIRED
www.financialwellbeing/webinar

5 May @ 8pm

Designed for parents whose children are under 18

Special Needs Trust Planning Webinar

7th May @ 8pm

- Discretionary Trust
- Guardians & Trustees
- Letter of Wishes
- Hospital Passport
- Hidden Entitlements
- Bank Accounts
- Trust Funding

Booking Required
www.financialwellbeing/webinar

Designed for parents whose children are under 18

These efforts reflect the heart of Maynooth:
 A town that's actively working toward being inclusive,
 understanding, and welcoming to all.

For more updates or to get involved, follow MAFT on social media
 or contact us via our email autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com

MAFT Committee will be back in September working with the Maynooth Community,
 to continue to strive to be the best we can be, making our town inclusive for all.



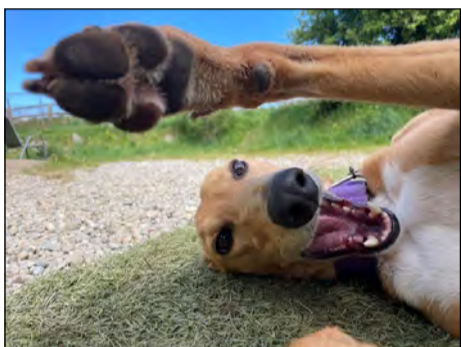


We step into June with high hopes of a warm, dry summer at the shelter, and look forward to watching the dogs enjoy the new sights, sounds and smells that nature delivers at this time of year. Morning walks enriched with abundant flora and wildlife activity around the hedges provide an added dose of mental stimulation for our dogs, which is hugely beneficial to their wellbeing.

Work at the shelter is predominantly outdoors, and so the longer summer days are welcomed by volunteers and dogs, especially the sighthounds who enjoy nothing more than an afternoon lounging on their sunbeds. We are rarely without sighthounds at the shelter, especially greyhounds and lurchers and most arrive with backgrounds of hardship. Despite this, these gentle and sensitive creatures often respond well to affection and can form close bonds with volunteers. Last month we introduced our beautiful black greyhound, Ethel and this month we are introducing two more sighthounds in the shape of the strikingly handsome Jasper, and the super resilient Nina.

Meet JASPER

This four-year-old Lurcher came into our care last November and really is the most expressive and affectionate boy. Curious and playful, he relishes in one-to-one attention from volunteers and would definitely like to be an only dog. Although he



loves his humans Jasper has struggled with reactivity towards some dogs and it will require patience and lots of positive reinforcement to help him overcome this. We believe Jasper will thrive and make a wonderful companion in the right setting.



Meet NINA



It will be a special person or family that opens their heart and home to this impressive brindle lurcher who has already endured a leg amputation in her young life... but don't think for a second that this has broken her spirit or stride. Nina enjoys her garden zoomies as much as any other dog! She is currently enjoying life with one of our foster carers, who is full of praise for this



remarkable girl. Her fosterer has taught her some basic commands and tells us that Nina's favourite game is fetch. Nina is gentle and sociable – the perfect ingredients for a wonderful companion.

If you are interested in further information on either Jasper or Nina, please click on the link below, where you can read their full profiles and also read about the other animals in our care.

<https://www.kwwspca.ie/adopt-a-dog>

UPCOMING EVENTS

A huge thank you to all who attended our Fashion Pop-up and Spring Fair in Newbridge last month, we are very grateful for your support.

PAWmerstown AT THE MANOR - Saturday June 6th, 2026.

KWWSPCA is proud to be the chosen charity partner for this wonderful dog festival set in the glorious manor gardens of the Palmerstown House Estate, Johnstown, Co. Kildare. Back for its second year after a sell-out inaugural event last summer, this really is a dog lovers dream day out. Tickets are available at <https://www.followfoxevents.ie/pawmerstown>

The KWWSPCA is a registered charity, no. CHY 6280 and can be contacted at kwwspca@gmail.com. All our details can be found at www.kwwspca.ie.

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Contact us for pricing: 01-6285922, email office@maynoothcep.com, or drop in! Across from Tesco, next to Coyne's Butchers.
Open M-F 9:00-4:30 (closed for lunch 1-2)

Picnic Plans for June

(with the utmost optimism)



SUMMERY SUGGESTIONS

- CHORIZO & MANCHEGO QUICHE
- FISH FINGER HOT DOGS
- JAMACAN BEEF PATTIES
- VIETNAMESE SUMMER ROLLS
- PICKLED PINK TURNIPS
- SWEET POTATO & CHEDDAR FRITTATA
- PORK & APRICOT SAUSAGE ROLLS
- CHERRY TOMATO & FETA WRAPS



CARAMELISED ONION SAUSAGE ROLLS

- 400g pork sausages
- 2 tbsp caramelised onion chutney
- 1 tsp wholegrain mustard
- 1 tbsp chopped thyme
- 320g sheet puff pastry
- 1 beaten egg
- Heat the oven to 190°C
- Mix the sausage meat with the chutney, mustard and thyme.
- Unravel the pastry and roll out until one side measures 40cm.
- Arrange the sausage meat down the centre of the pastry.
- Use the egg to brush along the bottom of the pastry.
- Bring the pastry around the meat, and seal the edges with a fork, then cut into eight.
- Brush with a little more egg and transfer to a lined baking sheet and cook for 25 mins or until golden.





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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth



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

Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie
and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121

Travelling Abroad

Before You Travel

Before you go on a trip, make sure to do a few essential things. First, check the rules and requirements for the country you are visiting. You might need a visa, or your passport may need renewing. You should think about getting travel insurance in case something goes wrong.

If you plan to drive, ensure your driver's license is valid.

While you're away, it's good to know where the nearest Irish Embassy or Consulate is, just in case you need help. Irish citizens travelling or living overseas can [register their contact details with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade](#). The Department can contact you or assist you in an unforeseen crisis such as a natural disaster, civil unrest, or a family emergency abroad.

Check travel advice and entry requirements for your destination

Check the [travel advice and entry requirements for the country you are visiting](#) before you travel abroad.

You might need a visa, this depends on your destination. You can find out [if you need a visa on the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade website](#).

Irish citizens will not need [European Travel Information and Authorisation System \(ETIAS\)](#) authorisation to travel to the Schengen Area, Cyprus, or any EU country.

Is Your Passport In Date

Check that your and your family's passports are up to date before you book. Passport Online is open to all applicants. You can get information on [how to renew your passport](#) or [how to apply for your child's first passport](#).

The [latest passport turnaround times](#) are available on the [Passport Service's website](#).

Do you have travel insurance?

You should get travel insurance for yourself and your family.

You should bring your [European Health Insurance Card \(EHIC\)](#) with you if you are travelling to the EEA or Switzerland. You cannot use your EHIC in the UK. But you can still get the healthcare you need. You will need to show your Irish passport to the GP or hospital. Make sure that it is in date, it must be renewed every 4 years, and each family member needs their own. An EHIC does not replace travel insurance.

[Ireland and Australia have a reciprocal health agreement](#). This means Irish visitors to Australia will receive emergency services and assistance towards the cost of prescribed drugs and medicines on the same basis as persons ordinarily resident in Australia.

Irish citizens travelling in the UK are entitled to access healthcare through the [Common Travel Area](#).

Driving Abroad

If you plan to drive while abroad, make sure your Irish [driving licence](#) is valid and bring it with you.

Some countries outside the European Economic Area (the member states of the European Union, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein) may require you to hold an [International Driving Permit \(IDP\)](#), and your Irish driving licence.

See the [IDP application form \(pdf\)](#) for a full list of countries that recognise the permit.

Always make sure you are properly insured for driving while overseas.

Get [more information on driving abroad](#) from the Road Safety Authority.

While Abroad

Note the address, telephone number and opening hours of the [Irish Embassy or Consulate](#) in the country you are visiting.

In countries with no Irish diplomatic or consular representation, you may seek emergency assistance from embassies or consulates of other European Union countries.

On its website, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade provides advice on [staying safe while abroad](#) and what to do in an emergency.

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



Travelling Tips

These are some other tips to help with your journey.

- Check if you need any vaccines or immunisations before you travel (at least 6 to 8 weeks in advance).
- Make a note of the 24-hour emergency number of your bank so you can cancel your credit card or debit card if it is stolen.
- Check your mobile data allowance with your mobile phone service provider. (For travel outside of the EEA).
- Do you need a special adapter to plug in your electrical devices?

More Information

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Ireland provide [travel advice to Irish people planning a trip overseas](#). You can also get guidance and advice if you are [travelling abroad for medical, dental or cosmetic procedures](#).

The Health Protection Surveillance Centre provides [advice on its website for travellers on how to avoid illness](#).

The World Health Organization has [information and advice regarding health and international travel](#).

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
Iveagh House, 80 St. Stephens Green, Dublin 2. Ireland D02 VY53
Tel: +353 (01) 408 2000
Homepage: <http://www.ireland.ie>

The European Health Insurance Card

The European Health Insurance Card (EHIC) allows you to access public healthcare in another EU/EEA state for free or at a reduced rate. You can use it when you are travelling abroad or when you are staying temporarily in another EU State.

Essential Points About The Card

- Each family member needs their own card.
- It lasts for up to 4 years.
- You will need to renew your card [online](#).
- When abroad, always carry your EHIC with you.
- It will not cover you for healthcare outside of the EU, other than Iceland, Norway and Liechtenstein (EEA) and Switzerland.
- It does not cover private healthcare.
- It used to be called the E111 form.

You can apply:

- By post or email: [Print out an application form \(pdf\)](#) and post it along with any documents required. Post to EHIC Applications, PO Box 11745, Dublin 11 or send it by email to PCRS.Applications@hse.ie.

Online: [Apply through the HSE website](#).

Can I Get A European Health Insurance Card

You can only apply for a European Health Insurance Card:

- If you live in Ireland
- If you live in another European Union (EU), European Economic Area (EEA) member state, or Switzerland

If you live in Ireland but you are linked to another EU/EEA State's Social Security System, contact the health authorities in that country for more information.

If you live in Northern Ireland but are employed in Ireland, you can get an Irish-issued EHIC.

Frontier workers (or cross-border workers) can get an Irish-issued EHIC because they make social security contributions in Ireland. They must return home at least once a week to qualify.

Student dependants of frontier workers can get an Irish-issued EHIC.

- They must be aged 17 to 23 years
- Studying in the EU or EEA or Switzerland

The EHIC Card is FREE

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

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Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie
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If You Live in Another EU/EEA Member State or Switzerland

If you live in the EU, EEA or Switzerland, you are entitled to an Irish-issued EHIC if any of the following apply.

- You receive a state pension from Ireland and have an Irish-issued E Form/S1 form (certificate of entitlement) registered in your country of residence.
- You work for an Irish employer and are posted to work in another EU/EEA country or Switzerland.
- You are a frontier worker (cross-border worker) living in the EU/EEA and working in Ireland.
- You are a family member of a posted worker of someone working in Ireland, and you are not covered in your own right by the EU/EEA country you live in.

You can apply [online](#).

If you are not eligible for an Irish-issued EHIC, you should see if you are eligible for an EHIC in the country you are currently living in.

Where Can I Use It?

EU and Europe

You can use your European Health Insurance Card in any European Union or European Economic Area (EEA) country and in Switzerland. Currently, the EEA comprises of the 27 member states of the European Union together with Iceland, Norway, and Liechtenstein.

As Andorra and Monaco are not part of the EU or EEA, your EHIC is not accepted there. You should get private health insurance instead.

Find out where you can use your EHIC and how to access healthcare abroad.

UK

If you are an Irish citizen, you have access to healthcare under the Common Travel Area while visiting the UK. However, other EU citizens should continue to use the EHIC, which is still accepted in the UK.

Outside the EU

If you are travelling outside the EU/EEA, you should get private health insurance instead.

What it covers	What it does not cover
Free or reduced cost public healthcare in any of the EU and EEA countries	Private healthcare
A temporary stay of up to 3 months	The cost to fly you back to Ireland
Pre-existing medical conditions	Ongoing or permanent healthcare
Routine maternity care - if you're not going there to give birth	Medical expenses if your reason for going abroad is to have treatment
If you're a student studying abroad, you'll be covered for up to an academic year.	

Will I have to pay anything for healthcare with my EHIC?

In some EU member states you may have to make some payment towards the cost of the services you receive, just as people in that state do. You will not receive a re-fund for this or for private healthcare.

Where Can I Use It?

How Can I Get a Refund From The HSE If I Paid For Healthcare While Abroad?

You may be able to get a refund if you had to pay because you did not have your EHIC card with you or because the healthcare provider charged you by mistake.

Apply for a refund by email. Send your receipts to E126.Refunds@hse.ie. Or email them to overseas.medservices@hse.ie if you live in Dublin, Wicklow or Kildare.

The HSE will send an E126 form to the health authorities in the other state to find out:

- If you used a public health service and how much of a refund is due.

When the HSE receive the completed E126 form from the other state, the HSE can see if a refund is due or not. Further information is available on the [HSE website](#).

Apply Online if you are travelling abroad in the next 10 days and need your EHIC urgently.

Select the 'travelling in less than 10 days' option. They will send you a digital temporary certificate, which is valid for 3 months. If you need help with an urgent application, contact the [EHIC service](#).

The Quickest and Easiest option to Apply/Renew EHIC is to apply to **EHIC ONLINE**
For more information visit **HSE Website**



An Nuadha Players Community Theatre

Tickets on sale!

We are delighted to announce that tickets for 'Echoes From A Room' are on sale from June 1st! You will be able to purchase them on our website: <https://annuadhplayers.ie/Tickets.php>

Tickets will also be on sale at this year's Picnic In The Park on the 21st of June.

Adult Ticket: €15

Concession (Student/OAP): €12

Come join us from the 6th to the 11th of July in Maynooth Community College for a wonderful night at the theatre.



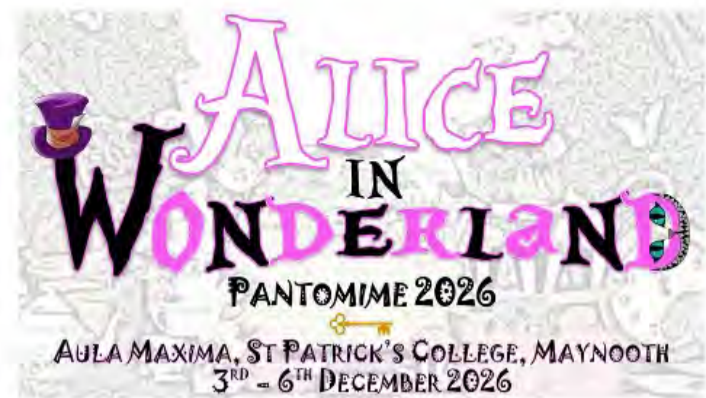
If you would like to be involved in this production by helping offstage please see our website for more information <https://annuadhplayers.ie/echoes.php>.

We are also seeking raffle prizes from any local businesses that are in a position to donate at this time.

Please email us at annuadhplayers@gmail.com. Without the support of this wonderful community we could not continue to do what we do.

Theatre Friends Worth Applauding

We would like to congratulate our neighbours at Insight Theatre who have wrapped up their Spring productions of 'The Good Father', 'Lone Star', and 'Her Big Chance'. They were all a huge hit with audiences! Well done to all the cast and crew involved!



Panto Time- Oh yes it is!

And...lift off! We are delighted to have had a hugely successful panto launch night for Alice In Wonderland. It was wonderful to see familiar and fresh faces join us for an evening of dance, craic, and music! This year's choreographer Meadhbh delivered a wonderful movement workshop that got us warmed up for Panto Season! We have also had a wonderful week of auditions and the Creative Team are blown away by the amazing talent that they saw! We hope to have a cast announcement for you all very soon.



We want to say a big thank you to everyone who came to our Big Spring Quiz to fundraise for Echoes From a Room! Congratulations to our committee who put on a wonderful night of fun and trivia! We would like to thank Brady's Clockhouse for hosting us on this special night. A special mention to Martin Higgins and Amy Douglas for writing up the tough questions and our wonderful Camilla Pedersen for stepping in to MC.



Insight have just announced their Autumn production for this year... 'Jane Eyre' directed by Tom Brady-O'Connor. Tom has been an incredible actor and director in the An Nuadha family and we are so excited to see his play come to the stage. Keep an eye out for updates on their social media @insightcelbridge



COMMUNITY EVENTS BRING HISTORY TO LIFE AT MAYNOOTH CASTLE

Maynooth Castle welcomed large crowds over recent weeks in May 2026, with a series of engaging tours and talks celebrating local history, heritage, and culture.

A week before the Arts and Mind Festival Maynooth, the castle guiding staff organised the popular “Kildare Titanic” talk at Maynooth Castle, presented by OPW guide and historian Alan. The presentation explored the story of the world’s most famous liner, with a particular focus on its Irish connections, especially those linked to Ireland, Co. Kildare and Maynooth. Attendees heard about the ship’s construction, its tragic sinking and aftermath, and the lives of passengers and crew.

Special thanks were extended to the Maynooth Scouts for kindly providing a model of the Titanic for the event, which added greatly to the presentation. Due to strong interest and positive feedback, visitors who missed the talk were assured that it will return later in the season.

The following weekend, as part of the Arts and Mind Festival Maynooth, a special sensory tour of the castle, also delivered by Alan, proved to be a great success. Organisers extended sincere thanks to everyone who attended and helped make the event possible, with particular appreciation expressed to Cllr. Donna Phelan, Gerry Quinn, and the Arts and Mind Festival Maynooth team for their support. Following the positive response, more sensory tours of Maynooth Castle are planned for the future.

The festival also included a well-attended Irish-language guided tour led by OPW Irish Language Officer Liam Ó Culbáird. Visitors enjoyed exploring the rich history of the castle through Gaeilge, with many already looking forward to next year’s festival.

Organisers also thanked all attendees, the Maynooth 850 members and the dedicated Maynooth Castle guide staff for their continued support and enthusiasm. A wide range of upcoming talks and tours are planned in Maynooth and at the castle throughout the season, exploring topics such as the Fitzgerald family and the rich history of Maynooth Castle itself.





SILKEN THOMAS & HIS REBELLION AGAINST HENRY VIII

On 11 June 1534, Thomas FitzGerald — remembered as “Silken Thomas” because of the silk fringes worn by his followers — launched one of the most dramatic rebellions in Irish history. Believing that his father had been executed in the Tower of London and fearing the destruction of the powerful Fitzgerald dynasty, the 21-year-old publicly renounced allegiance to Henry VIII at St Mary’s Abbey in Dublin.

With 140 armed gallowglasses at his side, Silken Thomas laid siege to Dublin Castle and called on the lords of the Pale to join him. Those who refused were imprisoned in Maynooth Castle. But Dublin Castle held firm for the Crown, and by 1535 the rebellion was collapsing. The fall of Maynooth Castle — betrayed through bribery and followed by the brutal execution of its defenders in what became known as the “Maynooth Pardon” — marked the beginning of the end.

Although Silken Thomas won support from many Gaelic and Old English families, he overestimated the willingness of Ireland to unite against English rule and the religious changes of the Reformation. Forced into guerrilla warfare, he eventually surrendered. In February 1537, Silken Thomas and his five uncles were executed at Tyburn in London. His revolt nevertheless forced England to pay greater attention to Irish affairs and helped pave the way for the creation of the Kingdom of Ireland in 1542.

Exactly 263 years later, another Fitzgerald rebel became a symbol of resistance. On 4 June 1798, Lord Edward FitzGerald died in Newgate Prison, Dublin, from wounds received during his arrest. A leading commander of the United Irishmen, Lord Edward was inspired by the revolutionary ideals of America and France and believed passionately in liberty, equality and the rights of man.

Buried in the crypt of St Werburgh’s Church beneath the shadow of Dublin Castle, Lord Edward remains one of the most romantic and tragic figures of Irish revolutionary history. From Silken Thomas in 1534 to Lord Edward in 1798, the Fitzgerald family stood at the centre of two defining rebellions separated by 263 turbulent years of Irish history.



(Henry VIII)



(Silken Thomas)



Step back into one of the most dramatic chapters in Irish history with the story of Thomas Fitzgerald, 10th Earl of Kildare - better known as Silken Thomas — and his rebellion against Henry VIII.

In 1534, the young nobleman launched a bold uprising against the English Crown, leading to the famous rebellion that shook Ireland.

Discover the gripping story of betrayal, warfare, and the devastating Siege of Maynooth Castle, where Maynooth Castle became the centre of one of the bloodiest events of the Tudor conquest of Ireland.



WEDNESDAY 3 JUNE - 12PM
THE SILKEN THOMAS REBELLION & SIEGE OF MAYNOOTH CASTLE

Booking recommended
Contact Maynooth Castle
Phone: 046 9422270



Date: Wednesday - June 3rd

Time: 12:00 p.m.

Meeting Point: Maynooth Castle (Free Admission | Booking Recommended)

For more information please message Maynooth Castle on Facebook or contact us on 046 942 2270. Feel free to contact us between 10:00am and 5:00pm.

Visitor Information:

- Free admission
- Exhibition on site
- NO public toilets on site
- NO onsite parking (paid on-street parking available)
- Due to the historic nature of the building, there is limited access for visitors with mobility issues.

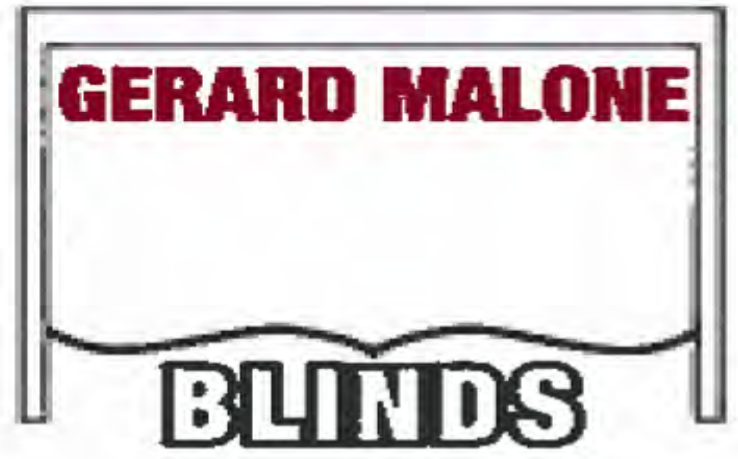
Arts and Minds

Maynooth University's annual celebration of the best in Irish and international arts and culture has returned for its fifth year since kicking off in 2022.

The largest and most diverse to date, this year's festival featured performances by the Irish National Opera, movie screenings with acclaimed directors, live music performances, Irish-language arts events, and literary discussion and readings with world-famous authors.



Among the most notable events were The Blindboy Live Podcast Show, Mundy, the Maynooth University Chamber Choir and a sensory tour of Maynooth Castle.



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MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

ISSUE NO. 108
JUNE EDITION
PRICE 30p

MAYNOOTH BY-PASS

Submission to Public Inquiry

Maynooth Community Council supports, in principle, the construction of the Maynooth By-Pass. While accepting that the By-Pass will have a negative impact on some businesses in Maynooth, the Council considers that, on balance, the By-Pass will be of benefit to the town. It will be of particular benefit to the large number of Maynooth residents who commute daily to the Dublin area. The removal of very large volumes of through traffic from the town centre will considerably enhance the environmental amenity of the town and contribute significantly to the conservation of Maynooth's historical and architectural heritage. The By-Pass will also increase greatly Maynooth's attractiveness as a place to live, which in the long run will boost the town's business life.

Maynooth Community Council's main concern, therefore, is with the link road between Maynooth and the By-Pass. The Council accepts, in principle, that the Straffan Road should be used to provide this link. This will be advantageous to the great majority of the residents of Maynooth who live on the south and southwest sides of the town, while it will also divert a large volume of local traffic from the town centre, particularly during rush hours.

It is, however, absolutely necessary that major improvements be carried out on the Straffan Road before it will be suitable to serve as a link road to the By-Pass. Even with existing volumes of traffic, this road is extremely inadequate. Accordingly, Maynooth Community Council calls for the full and immediate implementation of the improvement plan for the Straffan Road submitted by Kildare Co. Council to the Department of the Environment. This plan provides for:

1. Widening of the road to 10 metres throughout the stretch from the Town Square to the interchange with the By-Pass, including the town railway/canal bridge.
2. Footpaths to be laid on both sides of the road within the built-up area.
3. Pedestrian lights to be provided at the entrance to Greenfield Lane.
4. The road to be re-aligned on the Straffan side of the bridge.
5. The Clebridge Road to meet the Straffan Road at right angles.
6. Right-turning lanes to be provided at all junctions.

In addition to the above, Maynooth Community Council seeks the following:

- (1) One-way system to operate in the town square.
- (2) All cut-stone structures and items of historical/architectural value which will be disturbed by road-widening and associated work to be restored as far as possible. This to include walls, the old horse watering station near the square, the ball alley near the bridge, and the bridge itself.
- (3) Particular care needs to be taken to make the access road to the railway station, between the railway and canal segments of the bridge, as safe as possible.
- (4) Satisfactory public street lighting along the link road.
- (5) As this road carries a very heavy volume of pedestrian traffic, proper surfacing and roadside drains are required to prevent drenching of pedestrians during wet weather.
- (6) Since the widening of the Straffan Road will inevitably lead to speeding traffic, strict traffic policing is required in the interests of pedestrian and cyclist safety (as well, of course, as the safety of vehicle drivers and passengers).

Maynooth Community Council is particularly concerned that the use of the Straffan Road as the By-Pass link will mean that drivers from the built-up Newtown district of the town will use Greenfield Lane to get access to the By-Pass, as this lane provides a direct link to the Straffan Road.

Greenfield Lane (see map) is narrow, poorly lit, poorly surfaced and passes through a residential area with large numbers of children and older residents. However, it is also dead straight for most of its length, and this will inevitably encourage speeding and hence constitute a public hazard. Large volumes of through traffic will also detract from the amenity of those living along the lane. As most of Newtown has been zoned for further residential development, this problem will only get worse over the years.

Maynooth Community Council is aware that Kildare Co. Council has tentative long-term plans to build a new road which will link the Straffan Road directly with Newtown (see map). However, these plans are dependent on further

Contd. on Page 2.

Interview with

MRS. DALY OF O'NEILL PARK

One of Maynooth's Oldest Ladies

Born on the 26th of October in 1896 in Moyglare, Mrs. Daly formerly Monahan, is presently Maynooth's eldest lady. She was educated in the Presentation Convent until the age of fourteen and then she found employment in service with the Duke of Leinster who then resided at Carton House. After a short spell there Miss Monahan found employment with a Sir Walter Nugent, the owner of a 100 acre estate in Multifarnham, Co. Westmeath and she stayed with him for 2 and a half years. She was then approached by one of the ladies of Carton House and she returned to service in Carton where her duties included laundry and daily work.

A year later leaving Carton to be married Miss Monahan may have imagined her days of service in such houses were over, though this was not to be. Mrs. Daly had 3 children the eldest of whom was not even 5 years old when her husband died. She then worked for Mr. Gannon in the place where her husband had worked for 5 years as a Farm Manager, until such a time as the farm was sold. At that time her parents were very supportive of her, and she returned home.

As fate would have it she returned to Carton House where she was provided with her own apartment. The only conditions she had to abide by was that she had to be in by 10 o'clock each night. The Duke of Leinster left Carton, and now lives in England and has a son who would be the now Earl of Kildare.

Informed of a vacancy in Derrinstown House, Ladychapel, a house owned by the Duchess of Westminster, Mrs. Daly was a successful applicant and so began a term of 29 years service in all. The Duchess only occasionally visited the house and on one occasion she requested that Mrs. Daly would accompany her to Loughmore in Scotland, another residence of the Duchess. While there the Duchess entertained many guests and at one particular lunch party Mrs. Daly was presented to Princess Anne by the Duchess, in the kitchens of Loughmore. After six months Mrs. Daly then returned to Derrinstown.

A regular visitor at the Annual Dublin Horse Show Mrs. Daly kept an interest in events and followed with pride the fortunes of the Great Arkle (who died in 1970 and is now on show in the Irish National Stud in Kildare) who was owned indeed by the Duchess of Westminster (and in more recent times the Duchess won the Grand National with a horse called Last Suspect).

The Duchess retained the house in Derrinstown and the services of Mrs. Daly up to two years ago when the house was sold to Arabs.

Mrs. Daly recalls fond memories of her time with the Duchess and a particular highlight of her service was a cruise on the Rhine with the Duchess which took place in 1975.

Among other things Mrs. Daly spent 3 months in Zambia visiting her daughter who was a nurse there. Other recollections of life in Maynooth were the memories of Kildare winning the All Ireland Final in 1927, and the Easter Rising in 1916.

Mrs. Daly is a very fit and alert lady, her secret is cycling (in her young days she thought nothing of cycling from Maynooth to Dun Laoghaire and back, to spend the day by the sea) and just simply being active. It is not uncommon for Mrs. Daly to make a 9 mile cycle to Clane to visit her daughter.

Report from A. Kearney.

ADVERTISING RATES	
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Royal Canal Amenities Group Table Quiz.
Winners: Peter and Siobhan Denman, Jim Cunningham and Kevin Honan with John Glynn, manager of Ulster Bank who sponsored the event.

WEDDING ANNIVERSARY GREETINGS

Congratulations to Pat and Carol Barton "San Feliu", Maynooth who celebrated their 20th Wedding Anniversary on the 11th of June. With much love from Aisling, Fergal and Roisin.

SURVEY HIGHLIGHTS THE PLEASURES AND PROBLEMS OF LIVING IN MAYNOOTH

A survey of 119 Maynooth residents was carried out in April by the participants in the Community Development Course organised by Maynooth College. The survey, which is part of a larger project, shows a picture of a community generally happy with life in Maynooth. 89% of those surveyed could name positive aspects to living in Maynooth. However, 86% could also point out problems and needs.

Almost half of the residents questioned regard the physical environment as a positive attribute of Maynooth. The rural/urban setting, the relative peace and quiet, and the cleanliness of the air were mentioned. Almost one third referred to the social environment, the general friendliness and neighbourliness, and above all, people considered that Maynooth is a good place to bring up children. Another important feature of Maynooth is its relationship with Dublin. "It's near enough to commute but far enough to avoid the pollution and other problems of urban living", was the opinion of over a third of those questioned.

However, lest we get carried away with visions of paradise, there are also a host of problems. Perhaps we are fortunate in that the problems identified are not as serious as those facing other communities. Few people mentioned drugs, and only 12% referred to unemployment. However, the lack of recreational facilities was mentioned by almost half of the group. They cry was "nothing for young adults, nothing for teenagers, cinema, no swimming pool". There was the fear that more problems may arise as our young population increases, to find nothing constructive to do with their leisure. Other problems identified were the appalling roads (17%), transport (9%), services e.g. shopping (13%), and a whole host of others, ranging from lack of public seating, general untidiness, to the 'thing in the square'.

Despite the fact that there are 66 organisations in Maynooth, and despite the cries that there is nothing to do, only 35 people said they belonged to local organisations i.e. less than one third. One person, having bewailed the lack of things to do, sheepishly admitted that she couldn't persuade the children to go swimming, and she herself hadn't the interest to become involved with what is going on already. It appears that some people are less inclined to take responsibility for their own leisure pursuits, leaving others to provide, whether on a commercial or a voluntary basis. The voluntary organisations would be only too happy to give people something to do!

An encouraging note is that involvement increases the longer people are resident, so that over half of those who have lived in Maynooth for over 10 years are involved, compared with just 14% of those who have lived here for less than 5 years.

The survey also covered questions relating to Maynooth Community Council, and how people perceived its role in the community, as well as the Newsletter. The responses to these questions are being studied at the moment. A copy of the full report will be ready within the next few weeks, and will be available to interested organisations: Contact - Kay MacKeogh, 92 Railpark, Tel. 285241.

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