



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

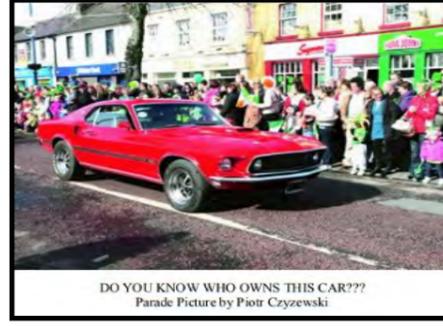
LOCAL NEWS - MARCH 2026 - ISSUE NO. 554



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St. Patrick's Day Archive



DO YOU KNOW WHO OWNS THIS CAR???
Parade Picture by Piotr Czynewski



Party Mad Celbridge: Winner Best Commercial Float
Parade Picture by Alan Grant



Aoife & Inetia McAleese



Noel & Owen Mallon



St. Patrick (Mick Gillick)



Liam, Pryia, & Alex Tilly



Connor Cleary, & Colm Keane



Thomas & Marcus Lejniaks,
Sasha Stack, & Borys Nouiyk



Marcadez Feidiez & Dirh Wieberson



ST. MARYS BAND
MAYNOOTH
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For more stories visit our Archive Section on www.maynoothcep.com



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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

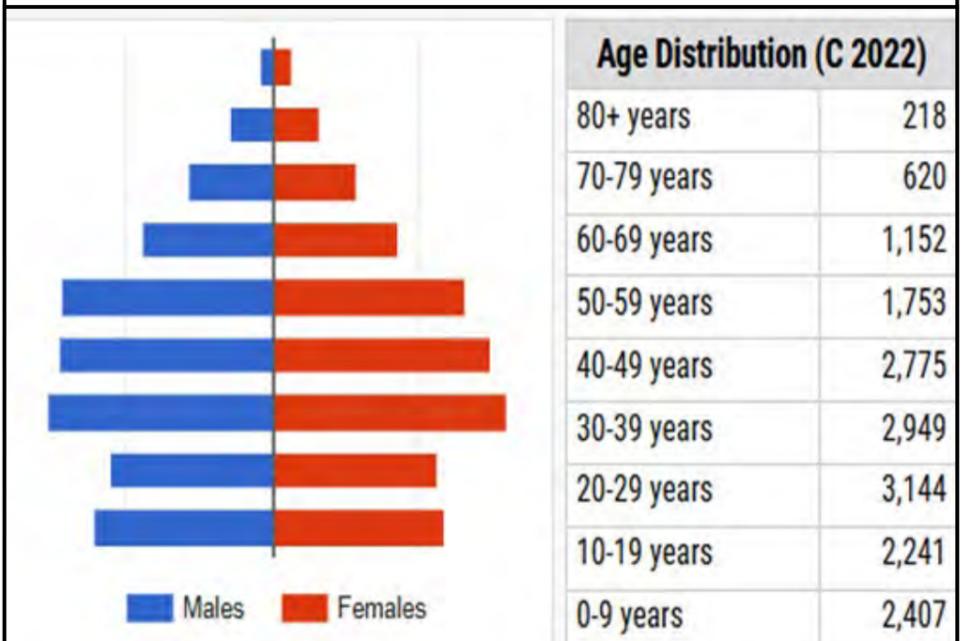
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All information should be verified from an independent source.

Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter

Editorial

It is just fourteen months until the next Irish Census of Population which will be taken on Sunday 9 May 2027. This month we are taking a look back at the details for Maynooth, included in the 2022 census, as provided by the Irish Central Statistics Office. The total Population recorded for Maynooth in 2022 was 17,259. The gender split being 49.9% (8,607) female and 50.1% (8,652) male.



So, taking a look at the age cohorts by bands, it is clear that the age by gender is very close. While 27% of the total population is under 20 years old, that moves to 45% under 30 years old. A massive 62% (almost two thirds) are recorded as under 40 years old.

Just over one in five (22%) are recorded as over 50 years old and this drops to just 12% for over 60 years old. So, the population of Maynooth should remain higher in the lower age cohorts when the 2027 census is taken.

In March, there are at least two days that are dedicated to honour our female population. March 8th is International Women's Day (IWD) which is a global day celebrating the social, economic, cultural and political achievements of women. The theme for IWD for 2026 is "Balance the Scales". We also celebrate our mothers with Mother's Day on Sunday March 15th. For those who have lost their mother since last Mother's Day, it will be a poignant occasion to remember the person who brought them into the world. For those of us who still have a person to call mother, it is important not to miss the opportunity to make contact and thank our mothers for all that they have done for us.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2026, takes place from March 1st and continues up to St. Patrick's Day. It is marked in Ireland and across the world among the Irish diaspora. It is a time that we highlight the importance of maintaining our language and unique cultural activities.

The mention of St. Patrick's Day gives me a chance to remind you about this year's theme. In recognition that in 2026 Maynooth celebrates 850 years since the Fitzgerald's, the Earls of Kildare and later the Dukes of Leinster first established their castle, around which the town of Maynooth developed. To mark this special anniversary, the Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade theme is "Medieval Maynooth". It promises to be a great event this year, so make sure to either take part in the parade or come out to watch it, if possible, dressed in medieval costumes. Hopefully the rain that we had almost everyday this year so far, will be a distant memory by St. Patrick's Day and that the sun will shine on the celebrations.

Paul Croghan
Editor

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

MAYNOOTH ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE
* 2026 *

MEDIEVAL MAYNOOTH

Celebrating 850 Years of Maynooth



VOLUNTEER STEWARDS NEEDED!

**CONTACT US TO HELP WITH
THE PARADE!**

maynoothparade@gmail.com

2026

Maynooth

St. Patrick's Day Parade 2026

Application Form - Medieval Maynooth

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: FRIDAY 6TH MARCH

Name of Group: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Number: _____

Email Address: _____

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

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

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

Commercial Entry - €60 | Community Group - €30

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

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

IBAN: IE60AIBK93320136873023

BIC: AIBKIE2D

Best School Float

Best Commercial Float

Best Band

Best Club Float

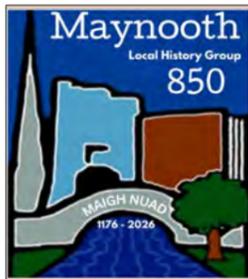
Best Portrayal of Environmental Awareness

Best Portrayal of Theme

Perpetual Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin Award for Best Portrayal of Irish Culture

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

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



Maynooth 850

Celebrating 850 years of Maynooth from Fitzgerald Castle to Commuter Town

The year was AD 1170. Strongbow's Anglo-Norman invasion of Ireland was in full battle cry and his forces had captured their greatest prize, Dublin. These were tumultuous times in medieval Ireland. To strengthen their grip on power, the Anglo-Norman baron Maurice Fitzgerald looked over the rich plains of Leinster to find the best place to build a fortress. In AD 1176 he directed that a wooden fort be built where two rivers meet. And so Maynooth was born, 850 years ago this year. The rich history of our town, its rapid rise from military settlement to once being considered the real capital of Ireland, has been brought vividly to life by local historian Paul Croghan. Paul, Chair of the Maynooth Local History Group, delivered a landmark lecture titled:

Maynooth: From Fitzgerald Castle to Commuter Town

It was a fitting way to kick-start the Maynooth 850 celebrations which will continue throughout the year. Paul opened the 4th Annual 'Maynooth Through the Ages' lecture series on February 9th in Maynooth University. The series is curated by the University's Department of History, in collaboration with St Patrick's Pontifical College and the University Library. The lecture traced the growth of that wooden fort into a powerful seat of power on the site where the remains of Maynooth Castle still stand. Paul outlined the factors that shaped Maynooth into the bustling and growing town we today call home and the rich tapestry of events over hundreds of years that shaped its present. Maynooth is probably the best surviving example of a planned landlord town in Ireland and was often considered the real heart of influence in Ireland when the Fitzgeralds held sway.



(Paul Croghan)

From Maynooth Castle to Carton House and the growth of St Patrick's Pontifical University, the town's history has been a rich one. Paul traced the relatively recent emergence and extraordinary growth of Maynooth University and the growth of the town from tiny hamlet to a significant urban centre in its own right. But the evidence of yesterday is still all around us. In 1248, a private chapel was constructed on the Castle site, built curiously into the outer wall of St Patrick's College. The current church which occupies the same site, was built in 1859 and incorporates the fabric of the earlier chapel. It is still in use today. Paul's research included some fascinating details about the construction of Carton House in the 17th Century. Its origins can also be traced back to our old friend Maurice Fitzgerald, effectively the founder of our town, when he was rewarded with lands around Maynooth which included the Carton Demesne. By the year 1850 a conveyor belt of newly ordained priests were walking through the gates of St Patrick's College to begin ministries around the world. The College, established in 1795 was, just 55 years later, the largest Roman Catholic seminary in the world. In its long and distinguished history more than 11,000 priests

have been ordained since its foundation on Duke of Leinster lands around Stoyte House. In 1966, in what was considered a revolutionary move, nuns and female lay students were admitted. St Patrick's College opened its BA and BSc course to the laity bringing "girl students" to Maynooth for the first time. The College President observed: "We felt we should move with the times."

In the 18th century, canals were the motorways of the day, but the original route planned for the Royal Canal did not include Maynooth. It is believed by many that the Duke of Leinster used his considerable influence to ensure the canal passed through the town. Work began on the mighty feat of civil engineering in 1790 and four years later you could travel to Dublin by barge in about four hours. For many tens of thousands of emigrants, journeying east on the Royal Canal was the first leg of epic journeys to the New World. By 1837 the streetscape of the town would have been quite recognisable to many current Maynoothians. Leinster Street was now called Main Street and was home to the Post Office where it remained until relatively recent years. St Patrick's College was well developed and a Police Station was prominent on Mill Street. The town was still growing but disaster, not just for Maynooth but for all the Irish people, was just eight years away.

In his lecture, Paul revealed that The Great Famine of 1845 to 1849 reaped a bitter harvest in the town. Maynooth lost one in five (410 people) in the years of the famine and its aftermath. That precipitous 20pc drop in population from 2,029 to 1,619 in just ten years was not all due to starvation and disease. There were fewer births and there was a sharp rise in emigration. The local workhouse was in Celbridge on a site where a paint factory now stands on the Maynooth Road. It was kept busy.



(Standing Room Only)

By 1860 there were jobs for locals in the town. Kavanagh's Mills was in operation and there was also steady work in St Patrick's College. The railway arrived in 1847. Maynooth GAA was founded in 1887 and cricket also had its supporters. The game still flourishes at North Kildare. Maynooth Town FC would not be formed until 1969 and it merged with Ballygoran United a few years later.

Maynooth and Revolution



(Professor Terence Dooley)

As we celebrate the 850 year history of our town in 2026, Maynooth's prominent role in rebellion and political change in Ireland will come into sharp focus. This part of our history will be the subject of further talks and lectures in the months ahead and will be featured in future editions. However, as Paul points out, Maynooth was the only town in Kildare to experience militancy during all three periods of major conflict associated with the revolution. There are strong connections with Easter week 1916, the War of Independence (1919-1921) and the Civil War (1922 - 1923). We will look at these events in more detail in a future talk. In 1920, Maynooth's only major public building, the Maynooth Courthouse was destroyed during the War of Independence. It was never rebuilt. Larine House was occupied in 1921 by the despised Black and Tans who used it as their base in North Kildare. Just a few yards away from Larine House in the town square there now proudly stands a monument to the fifteen Maynooth 1916 volunteers. Maynooth was an important agricultural market town and remained so until almost 25 years ago when both Kavanagh's Mills and J.P. and M. Doyle's Maynooth Livestock Mart on the old Dublin Road closed in 2001 and 2002 respectively. Many older residents will remember RTE's "Mart and Market" a round-up

of national cattle prices presented by Michael Dillon who lived locally and which regularly featured cattle going under the hammer at Maynooth Livestock Mart. Life in Maynooth was not always about work. The Leinster Hall, Maynooth was known far and wide. In 1947 the National Ploughing Championships held a Gala Dance with music by "Jack Silver And His Band Of Six." Advertising for the event boasted "specially prepared floors" for the dancers with "Catering by Mrs Corscadden and Bar - Mr Phil Brady" His name lives on at the landmark Brady's Clock House.

Written by Maynooth Newsletter Staff

The lecture was followed by the official launch of the 'Maynooth 850' celebrations by Professor Terence Dooley (Pictured Bottom Left) Department of History, Maynooth University. All lectures are free to the public—booking essential:

[Maynooth Through the Ages](#)

Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

Tel: 087 002 3636 Email: dphelan@kildarecoco.ie

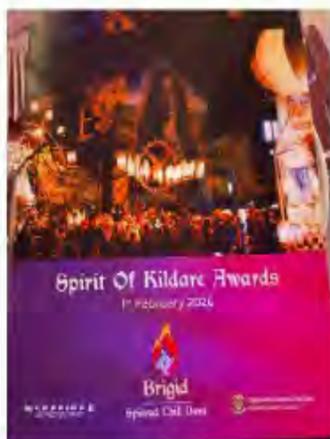


FEBRUARY UPDATE

St Brigid's Festival Weekend



The St Brigid's Festival was celebrated across Kildare this February, with communities coming together to mark creativity, storytelling and connection. In Maynooth, we were delighted to host Fireside Stories with Volkidána, which ran across three performances on the Saturday night. The 6pm show was delivered as a sensory-friendly, relaxed performance, reflecting Maynooth's status as an accredited Autism Friendly Town. I was especially delighted that the Cathaoirleach of Kildare my friend Carmel Kelly, attended the relaxed show, and I was truly blown away by the number of children and families who came along to enjoy such a special and inclusive evening.



This month, I was delighted to attend the inaugural Spirit of Brigid Awards in Naas and was truly blown away by the number of selfless people across our communities who volunteer day in, day out without seeking recognition. Maynooth had two entries on the night, and while they were not successful on this occasion, they are absolute winners in our eyes and a credit to our town and community spirit.



Kildare Fianna Fail meeting in Leinster House

The Kildare Fianna Fáil group, including the county's four Oireachtas members, met with Minister James Browne, the Minister responsible for local authorities across Ireland, to raise concerns around local government funding. We highlighted that Kildare County Council receives approx €715 per person, compared to Dublin City Council at around €1,900 and Leitrim at €1,256 approx. This is one of the lowest allocations in the country. It does not reflect the reality that Kildare is the fastest growing county in Ireland. As a group, we are calling for a fairer funding model to ensure our communities are properly resourced with the amenities and services they need and deserve.



Home Improvement Grants

Kildare County Council currently has three home grants open to support older and vulnerable people to live safely in their homes.

SEAI retrofit grants for energy upgrades will reopen at the start of March.

More information available here:

<https://kildarecoco.ie/AllServices/Housing/HousingGrants>

www.sseairtricity.com





St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Maynooth, Co. Kildare

It's all systems go for our first appearances of the year, with the St. Patrick's Day Parades, where this year we will be starting off with our own parade in Maynooth at 11 o'clock, quickly followed by the one in Kilcock at 1.30 and finishing up in Clane at 3 o'clock. Three parades in one day is a huge undertaking and hopefully the weather will be kind to us; and sure with all the rain we have had this year there can't be very much left for Patrick's Day.

We already have much of our programme for the year mapped out, starting off with a concert in the Maynooth Community Church on the Dublin road, near Tesco, which is on Saturday 18th April at 7.30. This is a lovely venue and hopefully we will have a good audience. In September we will be making a return visit to the Bad Orb International Music Festival in Germany where we will be joining over 30 bands from all over Europe.

The Academy Band will be taking part in the National Band Championships in Ardee on 9th May, while the Senior Band will be heading to Clonakilty in Cork on 4th July, where they will be taking part in the Senior Section, having won a number of prizes at Intermediate Level last year. We wish the very best of luck to both Bands in their endeavours



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MTT strives to maintain Maynooth Town and its environs to the highest possible standard so that Maynooth is a pleasant place to live in, work in and visit. In addition MTT partners with Kildare County Council, Maynooth Business association, Maynooth Green Campus, Maynooth GAA and other local schools on various tasks. We are a very inclusive team. We circulate our Health and Safety statement to all volunteers before they are allowed volunteer and advise them to read it carefully.

The Maynooth Tidy Towns Association has been in existence for many decades and has 25-30 core volunteers 12 of whom are on the Main management committee. The Committee plan and oversee the work of all MTT volunteers throughout the year with February to October being our busiest months for volunteer activities.



February was a very busy month for all volunteers. So much dumping around the town and along the canal. One of our volunteers Kevin is a stonemason and he has identified areas around the town that need attention. Namely our historic stone walls. We will be working on them over the next few months under Kevin's guidance. We are so grateful to the ladies from our local ICA who treated all volunteers to some refreshments after clean up on the 14th February. No end to the cups of tea/coffee, apple pie, scones etc. We really appreciate the effort and time on such a cold morning.



We are always looking for volunteers please contact us on our Facebook page or on email at maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie



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CLlr Angela Feeney



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- Estate Issues



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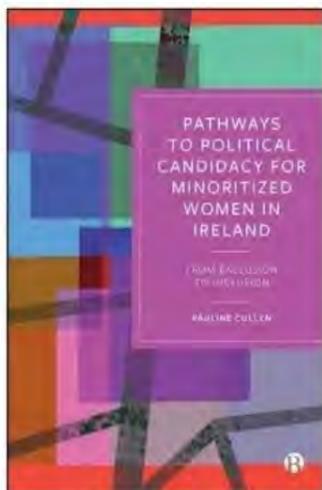
Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

Email: afeeney@kildarecoco.ie

Labour

FEBRUARY UPDATE

Book Launch



© Bristol University Press

It was an honour to be invited to the launch of Professor Pauline Cullen's book at Maynooth University 'Pathways to Political Candidacy for Minoritized Women in Ireland' is more important than ever. Wonderful contributions from Professor Cullen and from the amazing Marie Joyce of the National Traveller Women's Forum. Great to meet my good friend Gabi Muntean from Pavee Point. Maith sibh go léir.



Launch of Maynooth 850



A fantastic launch of the Maynooth 850 in Maynooth University Library. A great start to a year of celebration, marking the events and the people that contributed to the development of our wonderful town of Maynooth. Well done to Paul Croghan for a very engaging and informative launch lecture 'From Fitzgerald Castle to Commuter Town.' Looking forward to an exciting year of events ahead.

Cllr Angela
FEENEY

087 238 1962 angelaemfeeney@gmail.com
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R.I.P. Kevin Byrne

I was deeply saddened to hear the news today that our friend and Labour colleague, former Councillor Kevin Byrne passed away last week. Kevin was one of life's true gentlemen, who worked so hard for his community in Celbridge and as a member of Kildare County Council. I offer our sincere condolences to Kevin's family and all who knew him.



afeeney@kildarecoco.ie



087 - 238 1962



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



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

An Nuadha Players are delighted to welcome Síomha Glynn to the director's chair for this exciting new production. Having appeared in the same production a decade ago — and having also served as assistant director — Síomha brings both experience and deep familiarity to the role. We could not be more pleased to have her leading the production.

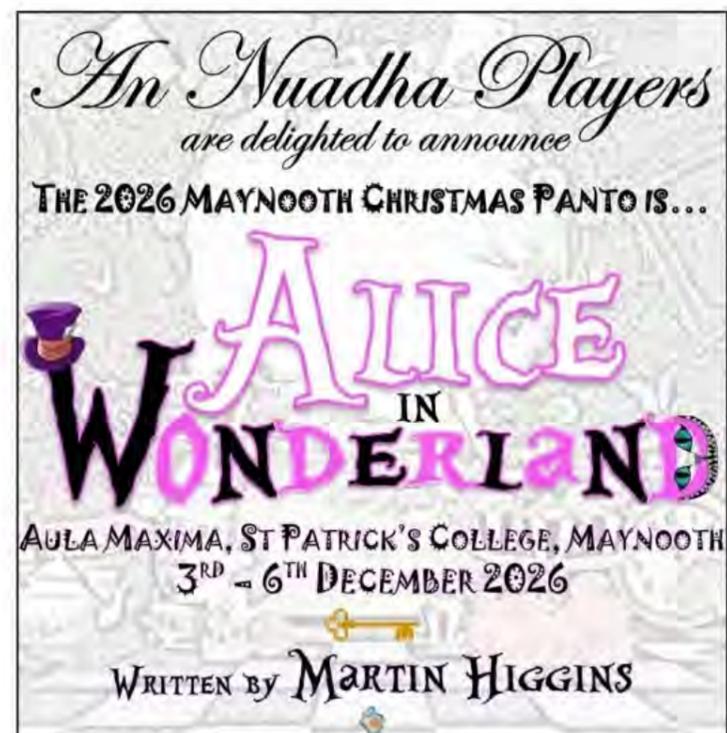
Auditions: 3rd and 4th March at 7:30pm
in Maynooth Community College
Show Dates: 6th-11th July
in Maynooth Community College

If you're interested in auditioning, or being involved in the show off-stage, please complete the form at the link below and ensure you click "Submit". You will receive a copy of your response by email once you've registered.

[Register Interest for Echoes from a Room](#)

Check out our website for more information:
[Echoes From A Room, Summer Production 2026](#)

Although Christmas may seem a long way off, An Nuadha Players are already preparing for a magical trip to Wonderland with their 2026 Christmas pantomime, Alice in Wonderland.



The production will run from 3rd–6th December in the Aula Maxima. Written by Martin Higgins — whom the company is delighted to welcome back — the show will be directed by his daughter, Caitríona Carr. The creative team also includes choreographer Méadhbh Fitzgibbon Moore and Musical Director Marie McAndrew, promising a vibrant and entertaining festive production.

Further details will be announced in the coming months. Updates will be available on the An Nuadha Players [website](#) and social media channels, and audiences can also sign up to the group's email and [WhatsApp mailing lists](#) for the latest news.



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Cycle Safety - Helmets & Hi-Vis

Politicians, Gardaí, Road Safety Authority (RSA) personnel, medical professionals, and media commentators frequently raise the issue of mandatory high-visibility (hi-vis) vests and helmets for cyclists in response to increasing road fatalities. While A&E doctors often support mandatory use, community health practitioners tend to oppose it. Most advocacy groups, including the Maynooth Cycling Campaign, also oppose mandatory requirements. We are not opposed to safety gear itself, but we believe the decision should remain with the individual cyclist. Evidence from Australia shows that mandatory helmet laws led to a decline in cycling levels, resulting in societal health costs that far outweighed the savings from injury prevention. The latest push for mandatory gear follows concerns about e-bike and scooter injuries in countries like the Netherlands. We note that many of these collisions involve illegal e-bikes that do not require pedalling or exceed the 25km/h assist limit, effectively making them e-mopeds. Like much of Irish road safety legislation, there is little enforcement of these distinctions by An Garda Síochána. We welcome the government's recent decision to exclude pedal cyclists from any new mandatory helmet or hi-vis requirements

Ireland & Climate Change Targets

Last month, Marie Donnelly, Chair of the Climate Change Advisory Council, informed the Budget Oversight Committee that Ireland is on track to fail its legal obligation of a 51% reduction in carbon emissions by 2031. Even in a best-case scenario, the EPA estimates emissions will only be 23% lower by 2030 compared to 2018 levels. With the cost of this failure estimated between €3 billion and €27 billion, the question remains: who will be held accountable? More importantly, who will pay for the transport sector's failure—taxpayers, motorists, or vulnerable road users like pedestrians and cyclists?

St. Brigid's Festival & Bike Week 2026

We were delighted to participate in the Sallins Spring Festival over the St. Brigid's Bank Holiday with our trishaw. Looking ahead, Bike Week 2026 runs from 9th–17th May. We have applied for funding for several local events; stay tuned for more details

Independent Group

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

Road Safety Authority

The Maynooth Cycling Campaign is disappointed by the government's reversal on the fundamental reorganisation of the RSA. We echo the Irish Cycling Campaign's concerns regarding:

- Institutional and financial adherence to car dominance.
- A "cultural blindness" to the needs of vulnerable road users.
 - Failure to advocate for better road design and effective enforcement.
- Silence on the rapid growth of large, dangerous private vehicles (SUVs).

We must stop placing the burden of road safety on children. We are appalled by the RSA's "Hi-Glo Silver" promotion, which pushes safety responsibility onto the youngest road users. Children should not need hi-vis gear just to play outside. The RSA is past its "best-before" date.



Phelan Cllr. Donna
 Working with Naoise Ó Cearúil TD
 If you have any issues or want to arrange an appointment feel free to get in touch.

Contact Donna:
 Email: dphelan@kildarecoco.ie / Tel: 087 002 3636

Contact Naoise:
 Email: naoise.ocearuil@oireachtas.ie / Tel: 01 618 4193

Donna & Naoise



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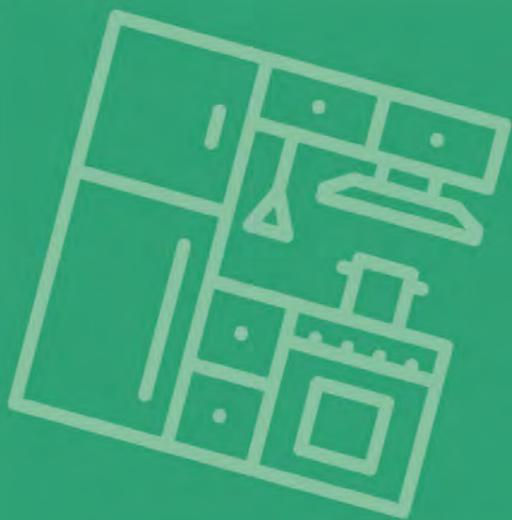
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**Social
Democrats**

Councillor Peter Melrose



Well, I have been busy, that's for sure! My wife Maebh and I were delighted to welcome baby Lachlan to our family on February 5th. Both mum and baby are doing well.

As a primary school teacher, I was entitled to two weeks' Paternity Leave, and I am taking some extra time off after to help out at home. As a councillor, technically I am an office holder, not an employee, so no such leave applies. And although I did turn off the phone and close the laptop, I felt guilty about it. If we want people to put themselves forward to be public representatives, the job needs to be both sustainable and a lot more family friendly.

There has been substantial progress made in Kildare with hybrid work, allowing councillors to attend some (not all) meetings remotely. Without that I would have to give up the role entirely. The council needs to be representative of our entire community, and having parents to young families in the council chamber (and the Dáil) is more important than ever: we all lose when certain parts of our community feel that they can't participate.

I will be taking a step back from social media this year as I have increasingly found that its negatives outweigh its positives. I have begun to post articles and updates to SubStack, and you can find my profile by searching my name on the website. It has allowed me greater freedom to post longer, more in-depth analyses of different aspects of the job (too long for the newsletter unfortunately!), and you can subscribe to receive any new material I upload.

Finally, it is always heartening to see the evenings stretch that little bit longer. Although it continues to rain, winter is (slowly) coming to an end. We are heading into a time of renewal and rebirth, and I hope that we can all get out and about a bit more in the weeks ahead. It's good for the body, and for the mind.

Peter.

WRITERS' CORNER



Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Pizzlies and Grolars

Polar bears and grizzly bears are both members of the same genus *Ursus*. Evolutionary studies believe that polar bears (*Thalarctos maritimus*) evolved from brown bears during the Ice Age, with the species having split at least 150,000 years ago.

Grizzlies (*Ursus horribilis*) are a subspecies of the brown bear. Their name derives from their typical colouration where the hairs on their back are brownish-black at the base and whitish-cream at the tips giving their distinctive grizzled colour. Unlike grizzlies, another subspecies, Kodiak bears, which inhabit the islands in southwest Alaska, eat protein-rich salmon and are, therefore, larger. The grizzlies usually live inland in Alaska and northern Canada, where they eat plants, carrion, moose and deer.

With climate change, which has led to shorter winters, male grizzlies are leaving their dens earlier than usual, the females remaining with the cubs. Due to food scarcity, grizzlies are entering the Arctic area and have been witnessed hunting seals. Polar bears are travelling further south in search of food, which has resulted in the two species meeting in the northern parts of Canada and in the area between the Alaskan tundra and the sea. The polar bear breeding season occurs during March until June, whereas the grizzly bear mating season happens during May and June. This allows both species to mate during May and June.

Some of the earliest accounts of controlled matings between grizzlies and polar bears come from a zoo in Halle, Germany. A preserved example of a late 1800's hybrid specimen is displayed in the Rothschild Zoological Museum in Tring, Hertfordshire, England. In April 2007, this museum was taken over by London's Natural History Museum and now bears its name. In, 1936, an accident at the Smithsonian National Zoo in Washington D.C. enabled a male polar bear to mate with a female grizzly. Unlike most hybrid animals, which are born sterile, their offspring were fertile.

The first sighting of a naturally occurring pizzly was in 2006 in the Canadian Arctic. A man spotted a pizzly with 'white fur of a polar bear but the long claws, humped back, shallow face and brown patches of a grizzly'. The name of the sire comes first in such combinations. The offspring of a male polar bear and female grizzly is a pizzly. Canadian wildlife officials have suggested calling the hybrid 'nanulak' taken from the Inuit name for polar bear (nanuk) and grizzly bear (aklak). However pizzly is most commonly used.

Pizzlies are smaller than the ordinary polar bear but bigger than the average grizzly. Where polar bears have hair-covered soles, pizzly soles are only partially hair covered, which makes it hard for them to walk on ice. They have been observed lying down on their backs like polar bears with their rear legs splayed. This is probably to warm the underside of their bodies.

Grolars remain rare in the wild and are the offspring of a male grizzly and a female polar bear. Inuits refer to them as aknuk. Their tooth arrangement is different from both parents that created them, which makes them poor hunters in either parental hunting pattern. They are clumsy on ice due to their long claws and are weaker swimmers than polar bears. They live off roots, grasses, berries and insects but can devour small rodents and fish. They have long necks like polar bears and small shoulder humps like grizzlies. They can be extremely aggressive to humans. A polar bear, whose skin is actually black, has hairs with a hollow core. Their hollowness helps to trap warm air against their bodies and insulates them from the cold. A grizzly's hair is either solid or has small hollow regions and a hybrid's would contain a mixture of the two. Grolars have thick, creamy-white fur with brown patches around the eyes and on the legs and paws but are, however, much better adapted to warmer climates.

An increase in crossbreeding would be a concern for conservationists. Hybrid offspring are not limited to one generation and can interbreed with either polar or grizzly bears, leading to a complex hybrid lineage. It is quite possible that pizzlies could replace polar bears in the future due to their distinct advantages in our rapidly warming climate.

By Cheryl Devaney

WRITERS' CORNER

Short Stories/ Articles from our Readers



Derrylow Memories



Mam cycled to first mass in Croghan,
Dad hitched our farm horse to the sidecar
And drove us to second mass,
He with his two sons on the right-hand side,
His three young daughters on the left.

It was the same arrangement in the chapel,
Men and boys in the right-hand pews,
Women and girls in the left-hand ones,
And then the journey home to a dinner
Mam had almost finished cooking.

Those were the days before we ventured
Into the great, unconquered world
Where every dream seemed reachable,
But, 'O tempora, o mores,
Et nos mutamur in illis'. *

* 'Oh the times, oh the customs, and we
change in them.'

By Colin Scott



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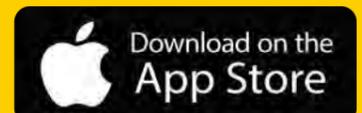
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The Siege of Maynooth Castle, March 1535

Maynooth Castle was far more than a grand Fitzgerald residence. In the early 16th century, it stood as one of the most powerful fortresses in Ireland—and at the very heart of one of the most dramatic rebellions in Irish history

Rebellion and Preparation

In 1534, Thomas FitzGerald, better known as “Silken Thomas,” the 10th Earl of Kildare, rose in rebellion against the English Crown. King Henry VIII and his advisers immediately recognised the danger. Maynooth Castle was the key to the rebellion’s success or failure. Whoever controlled it controlled the political and military centre of Kildare. Confident in the castle’s strength, Silken Thomas heavily fortified Maynooth before leaving to go west to gather Gaelic Irish support and loyal reinforcements. With its thick stone walls and strong defences, he believed the castle to be impregnable.

The Crown Strikes Back

The English response was swift and ruthless. By January 1535, Sir William Skeffington, the new Lord Deputy of Ireland, arrived at Maynooth with a large royal army. To cut off support for the rebels, his forces burned the surrounding town—a brutal but deliberate tactic designed to isolate the castle completely.

On the 14th of March 1535, Skeffington formally began the siege.

For days, Maynooth endured sustained cannon bombardment. Heavy iron cannonballs slammed into the walls, shaking the ancient stonework. Although the castle suffered severe damage, much of its defences initially held firm. Despite this, Skeffington later reported to Henry VIII that his artillery had successfully breached the walls and that the castle was taken by force. He stated that the garrison had fought bravely—but once the castle fell, its defenders were arrested and executed.

Ireland’s First Cannon Siege?

Built in the late 12th century, Maynooth Castle had been designed for medieval warfare, with thick walls and strong towers. By the 16th century, it was equipped with cannons of its own and was widely regarded as a “great fortress.” The 1535 siege is believed to mark the first time a foreign force used cannon artillery to attack a castle in Ireland. Imagine the scene - soldiers hauling heavy iron cannonballs, ramming them into massive guns, and firing again and again at the walls. The thunderous noise, choking smoke, and flying stone would have been terrifying—and unforgettable.

Christopher Paris - Traitor or Scapegoat?

At the centre of the castle’s dramatic fall was Christopher Paris, the constable of Maynooth Castle. Paris came from a Meath family loyal to the powerful Fitzgerald earls of Kildare and had been raised alongside Silken Thomas as his foster-brother. This close bond earned him great trust.

Paris was entrusted with significant responsibilities, including managing money and defending key strongholds. When Maynooth Castle came under attack in 1535, he was placed in charge of its defence. Despite being one of the strongest castles in Ireland, Maynooth fell after just ten days. The speed of its capture immediately raised suspicions. Rumours spread quickly that Paris had betrayed the castle from within. According to later accounts, he was accused of striking a deal with the attackers—allegedly getting the garrison drunk on wine so enemy forces could enter with ease. These claims were widely believed at the time, though no solid evidence has ever been found.

Paris was executed shortly after the fall of the castle, along with many of its defenders. The following year, he was officially declared a traitor.

Whether Christopher Paris was truly guilty—or simply made a convenient scapegoat for a disastrous defeat—remains one of the enduring mysteries of the Siege of Maynooth.



A Silent Witness

Today, the ruins of Maynooth Castle stand quietly, bearing silent witness to roaring cannon fire, shattered stone, and a rebellion that shook Tudor rule in Ireland. Yet if you pause and imagine, you can almost hear the clash of iron and stone, the shouts of soldiers, and the thunder of Ireland’s first cannon attack echoing across the centuries.

Written by – Alan Cleary – Tour guide, Historian and Author.

Source Acknowledgement – The above account is drawn from Ireland’s *Uncrowned Kings*, a historical work co-authored by **Alan Cleary** and **Katherine Colthurst**. Set in the heart of Maynooth, the book explores a powerful story of ambition, intrigue, and rebellion, tracing the legacy of the Fitzgerald family whose influence is woven into the very fabric of Irish history.

Copies of *Ireland’s Uncrowned Kings* are available online and in store at **Maynooth Bookshop**, **Seanchai Books (Kildare Town)**, and the **Kildare Town Heritage Centre** or to purchases and further enquiries, please contact historichibernia@gmail.com.

Dr. William O'Loughlin - Titanic's Senior Surgeon

Born: Tralee, Co. Kerry, 1849

Education: Trinity College Dublin; Catholic University (now University College Dublin)

First Medical Appointment: Dispensary Doctor, Clane, County Kildare

Occupation: Senior Surgeon, White Star Line

White Star Service: Nearly 40 years

Ships Served On: Majestic, Olympic, Titanic

Residence: Tralee, Clane & Southampton (formerly Liverpool)

Fate: Lost at sea; body never recovered or identified

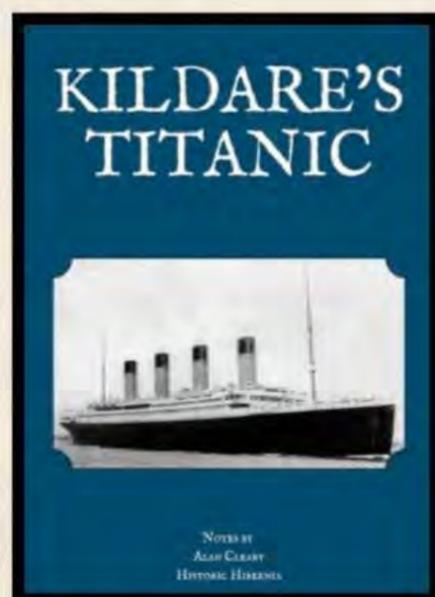


Francis Godolphin Osbourne
Stuart. Public domain

A LIFE AT SEA

At just 21 years of age, William O'Loughlin joined the White Star Line, beginning what would become an extraordinary medical career spanning almost four decades at sea. After qualifying in medicine in Dublin, his first professional posting brought him to Clane, Co. Kildare, where he served as a dispensary doctor—an early connection that would later link him to Kildare's Titanic story.

O'Loughlin later settled in Liverpool, before relocating to Southampton as his career advanced. Over the years, he served aboard some of the White Star Line's most prestigious vessels, including the RMS Majestic and the RMS Olympic (Titanic's Sister Ship) By 1912, he had achieved the senior rank of Chief Surgeon, making him responsible for the health and wellbeing of both crew and passengers aboard Titanic. Highly respected by colleagues and passengers alike, O'Loughlin was known for his calm manner, professionalism, and dedication to duty.



FRIENDSHIP WITH TITANIC'S LEADERS

Dr. O'Loughlin moved in the highest circles aboard Titanic. He was a close friend of Captain Edward Smith, with whom he regularly dined, and was also well acquainted with J. Bruce Ismay, chairman of the White Star Line.

He shared a particularly strong friendship with Thomas Andrews, managing director of Harland and Wolff and chief designer of Titanic. The two men frequently dined together during the voyage, and on the evening of 14th April 1912, they shared a meal before Andrews retired to his cabin to review the ship's plans. Both men would later be remembered for their bravery and selflessness during the disaster.

The Final Night

Following Titanic's collision with the iceberg, Thomas Andrews was summoned by Captain Smith to assess the damage. After inspecting the ship, Andrews delivered the grim verdict, and he then spent the remainder of the night urging passengers to put on lifebelts and make their way to the lifeboats while doing everything in his power to help people. Dr. O'Loughlin, meanwhile, carried out his duties with quiet courage. Witnesses later recalled seeing him near the First-Class entrance, assisting passengers and encouraging them to seek safety. He was reported to have refused a lifejacket, choosing instead to prioritise others.

At 63 years old, he was one of the oldest crew members aboard the ship. Thomas Andrews was last seen alone in the First-Class smoking room. Dr. O'Loughlin was last seen helping passengers. Both men unfortunately perished in the sinking.



Thomas Andrews

A Quiet Hero

Dr. William O'Loughlin's body, if recovered, sadly was never identified. Yet his actions on that final night have ensured his place among the quiet heroes of Titanic. He died as he had lived—calmly, professionally, and in service to others.



Source Acknowledgement – The above account is drawn from Ireland's Uncrowned Kings, a historical work co-authored by **Alan Cleary** and **Katherine Colthurst**. Set in the heart of Maynooth, the book explores a powerful story of ambition, intrigue, and rebellion, tracing the legacy of the Fitzgerald family whose influence is woven into the very fabric of Irish history.

Kildare's Titanic is available in store and online at Maynooth Bookshop or emailing historichibernia@gmail.com. It can be purchased individually or as part of a four-booklet maritime series, which also includes titles on RMS Lusitania, RMS Empress of Ireland, and RMS Leinster

MU Celebrates 920 STEM Passport for Inclusion Graduates



Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth

Participants from Women's Collective Ireland (WCI) Ronanstown, along with 319 Transition Year (TY) students from schools across Leinster graduated from the STEM Passport for Inclusion programme at a ceremony held at Maynooth University (MU).

The STEM Passport for Inclusion programme aims to break barriers and empower those from under-served backgrounds to pursue career pathways in science, technology, engineering and maths. The involvement of WCI Ronanstown is an important milestone for the programme as it aims to expand its reach and further bridge the gap in STEM access for people from under-served backgrounds.

STEM Passport for Inclusion enables participants to earn a Level 6 National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) university qualification, alongside receiving academic supports, work experience opportunities and mentorship from industry professionals.

Among the graduates was Dionne Hannifin-Daly, who completed the programme at WCI Ronanstown alongside her mother, Avril, who has been involved with WCI for the past 20 years. Reflecting on her experience, Dionne said: "The STEM Passport for Inclusion programme has transformed how I see careers in STEM. It has encouraged me to explore opportunities in AI and to think innovatively about creating tools that support people with additional needs... My mam's attitude towards learning has always inspired me and the Women's Collective offered a really a really supportive learning environment."

Since its launch, more than 5,000 students have completed the STEM Passport for Inclusion programme, and as the programme enters its next phase, it is aiming to support a further 5,000 while expanding to include TY boys, Youthreach learns, and women returning to education.

Speaking about the programme, Prof Katriona O'Sullivan said: "The continued growth of STEM Passport for Inclusion demonstrates its success in encouraging students from disadvantaged backgrounds to explore the wide range of opportunities available to them.

Welcoming participants from Women's Collective Ireland at this year's graduation highlights what is possible when access to opportunity is expanded."

Led by Prof O'Sullivan at MU in partnership with lead and founding partner Microsoft, the programme is funded by Research Ireland, the Department of Education and Youth, as well as by many industry and education partners.



MU Men's Soccer Team Wins Third Collingwood Cup

Maynooth University's senior men's soccer squad has successfully retained the Irish Universities Football Union Collingwood Cup, securing back-to-back titles following a three-day tournament hosted at the University of Limerick's Jackman Park from February 16-18.

Goals from Taylor McCarthy and a 25-yard free kick by Taylor Mooney sealed a 2-0 win against UL in the final. En route to the final, MU overcame DCU 3-2 in the quarter-final before producing a dominant 3-0 win against UCC in the semi-final.

The triumph marks Maynooth University's third Collingwood Cup title and makes MU the first team in a decade to retain the trophy, with UCD the last side to achieve the feat.



MU's Alex Sheerin finished as the tournament's top scorer, while captain Dean O'Shea was named Player of the Tournament.

Barry Prenderville, Soccer Development Manager at MU's Sport Office said: "This triumph is a credit to the players, coaching team, support staff and the wider MU community. The squad displayed superb resilience, tactical maturity and individual brilliance across all three matches."

First played in 1914, the Collingwood Cup is the oldest surviving all-Ireland association football competition. It is named after amateur footballer and physiology professor Bertram J. Collingwood. UCD were the inaugural winners and remain the competition's most successful team, with 53 titles.

Sport Ireland Recognises MU's Support for Student Athletes

Sport Ireland has recognised the high level of support provided to high-performing athletes at Maynooth University (MU), awarding it full Accreditation for Student Athlete Support (ASAS). Minister of State at the Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, Charlie McConalogue TD, presented the award to MU at the annual Sport Ireland Dual Career Forum which took place at the Sport Ireland Campus. "Supports such as this are vital in helping student-athletes achieve their potential both academically and in their sporting context."

Welcoming the award, MU Vice-President (Students & Learning) Prof Tim Thompson said: "This is a great achievement and a reflection of the positive and supportive whole-university approach that we take in supporting our young athletes to succeed." A growing number of high-calibre athletes across multiple sports are choosing to study at MU. Dual career athletes currently studying at the University include rugby players Sean Walsh and Luke Fogarty, who have been selected for the Ireland U20 squad for the Six Nations campaign. International golfers Anna Dawson and Lorenzo Fior also attend MU, as did recent graduates Alan Hill, Ryan Griffin, Simon Walker and Kate Lanigan.

A number of Irish under-age soccer internationals are currently enrolled at the University, including Taylor McCarthy, Mathew O'Hara and Sean McHale,



along with women internationals Saoirse Amelia, Therese Kenneally, Aoife O'Connor, Becky Watkins and Aoife Kelly. Gaelic games are also played at the highest level by MU students, who include Meath Senior football captain Eoghan Frayne, Meath Senior footballer and All-Star nominee 2025 Ruairi Kinsella, Galway Senior Ladies footballer Kate Slevin and Aoife Murnane of Kildare Senior Ladies. International boxer and Irish National Champion boxer Sophie Fitsimons and Irish U20 volleyball player Alex Cowming also attend MU.

"All of us involved with MU Sport are delighted to have Accreditation for Student Athlete Support. MU's record in providing dual career support is as much a tribute to our colleagues in the Academic Departments across the university, and in particular the Exams Office, for their considered work and attention in facilitating students, whenever possible, to pursue their career in high performance sport," said Paul Davis, MU's Sports Officer.



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Maynooth Golf Society

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President: John Byrne - Vice President: Liam Farrelly - Captain: Paul Farrelly- Vice Captain: Barry Farrell

Secretary: Martin Maguire - Treasurer: Norman Kavanagh - H/C Sec: Eamon Murphy - PRO: John Kelly

The AGM of Maynooth Golf Society was held Sunday February 8 in Brady's Clockhouse.

Well-attended, the main decisions were the election of John Byrne as President, Liam Farrelly as Vice-President and the returning of the existing officers of the Society.

Last year's Captain – John Nolan – handed over the role for 2026 to Paul Farrelly, wishing him a successful year and thanking everyone for helping to make his Captaincy a success. Paul, in turn, expressed his delight at being Captain and looked forward to an enjoyable years golf for everyone.

The first outing of the year is to Grange Castle GC, March 7 from 11:40. A list of all the year's outings is included here and details will follow before each event.

There are almost 40 members in the Society and new members are always welcome. Anyone looking to join can do so through any member, or by contacting John Kelly at 089 950 4025.

Finally, thanks to all our generous sponsors whose support is so valuable to Maynooth Golf Society:

2026 Outings

John Byrne – [Maynooth Book Shop](#)
 Dave Mahoney – [Mahoney Mechanical](#)
 Pat Connolly – [Euro Farm Foods](#)
 Paul Farrelly – [Captain's Day](#)
 Bronagh Kavanagh
 Ollie Bright
 Simon Black
 Derek Murray
 John Saults
 Norman Kavanagh

March 7 – Grange Castle GC

April 11 – Moyvalley GC

May 15-16 – Portarlinton GC & Tullamore GC; **Overnight in Tullamore Court Hotel.**

June 6 – Arklow GC

June 19 – Craddockstown GC

July 18 – Carlow GC

August 1 – Mullingar GC. **Captain's Prize**

August 15 – Roganstown GC

September 19 – Rathcore GC

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 15/01/2026 to 24/02/2026 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
2660042	Kildare County Council	Gerard O'Leary	Celbridge Community School, Maynooth Road, Moortown, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	13/02/2026
2660126	Kildare County Council	Karen Delaney	21 The Meadows, Moyglare Hall, Maynooth, Kildare	11/02/2026
2660122	Kildare County Council	Karen Delaney	21 The Meadows, Moyglare Hall, Maynooth, Kildare	11/02/2026
2660085	Kildare County Council	Peter and Karina Cafferkey	Kilcock Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	30/01/2026
2660070	Kildare County Council	Peter and Karina Cafferkey	Kilcock Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	27/01/2026
2612	Kildare County Council	Brendan Hoare	Catherinstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	27/01/2026
2660077	Kildare County Council	Ann Howley	2 Laurence Avenue, Maynooth, County Kildare	27/01/2026
2660055	Kildare County Council	Laraville Properties Limited	The Roost Public House Licensed Premises, Main Street / Leinster Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	21/01/2026
2660051	Kildare County Council	Donal & Laura O'Leary	16 Temple Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	20/01/2026
2660042	Kildare County Council	Laraville Properties Limited	The Roost Public House Licensed Premises, Main Street / Leinster Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	16/01/2026



Events at Maynooth Community Library



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Events for Adults

Luain Press Poetry Café

Tuesday 3 March , 6.00 pm - 7.00 pm

Join us in for chats, readings, and creative opportunities.

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Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 3(Good Health & Well being) ; Goal 4 (Quality Education); Goal 13 (Climate Action);

Board Games Through Irish

Saturday 28 March 10:30 am to 12.30 pm

Practice your cúpla focal playing board games as Gaeilge. All ages welcome. All children attending this event must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Organized by Gaeilge Nuada and hosted by Emma from Eclecticats. * Drop in , all welcome !*

Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 3(Good Health & Well being) ; Goal 4 (Quality Education); Goal 13 (Climate Action);

Housing and Homelessness Supports Information Clinic

Monday 23 March , 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

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*

Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 1(No Poverty) Goal 3(Good Health & Well being) ; Goal 13 (Climate Action);

Goals: Goal 17 (Partnership for the goals) ; Goal 13 (Climate Action)

Events for Children

Cluichí Cláir trí Ghaeilge,

Dé Satharn an 28 Márta , 10:30 r.n. go 12. 30 i.n.

Cluichí Cláir spráúil as Gaeilge. Do gach aoisghrúpa. Caithfear tuismitheoir / caomhnóir a bheith in éineacht le gach páise a bhfuil ag freastal ar na himeachta seo. Eagraithe ag Gaeilge Nuada, le Emma ó Eclecticats.* Buail isteach, fáilte roimh chách !*

Age Friendly Programme

Age Friendly Coffee Morning
Wednesday 11th March, 10 am - 11.30 am

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

Drop In. No booking required

Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals:

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

Climate Action Events

Zero Waste Maynooth - Free Community Swap & Repair Event

Saturday 14th March , 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Kids Clothes Swap - Clothes from two years upwards. All clothes to be in good repair.

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

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

Cloth Nappy Library Ireland

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

Drop in, no booking required

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

Exhibitions

“ Nature Inspired Art : Love Life Create”

3rd March - 27th March 2026

Exhibition in acrylic , fabric and wool by the residents of Maynooth Community Care Unit.

Exhibition Opening

Tuesday 3 March , 5.00 pm - 6.00 pm

All are welcome to attend the exhibition opening of ' Nature Inspired Art : Love Life Create ' .

*Drop in . No booking required *

Exhibition Bookings

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

Groups and Clubs

Maynooth Community Library Craft Club

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

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

Baby and Toddler Group

Every Thursday, 10am – 11am

If you have a young baby or toddler and would like to meet other parents or minders in the area, come to our stay and play group every Thursday morning at 10am. On Thursday 12 March, Elaine from Kildare County Childcare Committee will be there during the parent and toddler group to meet with

childminders and provide information about the work of the childcare committee. *No need to book, just drop in!*

Origami Club for Adults

Thursday 19 March , 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 *

Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals:

Goal 3(Good Health & Well being) ; Goal 13 (Climate Action);For further information about Kildare Library Service Events, why not subscribe to our events newsletter at the following link:

[Kildare Library Service - Newsletter Subscribe Form](#)

Voluntary Work and Social Welfare Payments

Introduction

Voluntary work is a good way to keep active, learn new skills and get involved in your local community. You can do some unpaid work as a volunteer and keep your social welfare payment. However, you must continue to meet all the conditions attached to your payment.

Your Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office or the section paying your social welfare payment will usually decide whether you can keep your social welfare payment and work as a volunteer.

Disability Payments and Volunteering

If you are getting Illness Benefit or Invalidity Pension you must get permission to work as a volunteer. You must apply to the section that pays your social welfare payment before starting any voluntary work.

If you are getting Illness Benefit, you apply to the Partial Capacity Benefit section for permission to do voluntary work.

If you are getting Invalidity Pension, you must apply directly to the Invalidity Pension section for permission. You can find out more about how the DSP makes decision on voluntary work.

If you are getting Disability Allowance or Blind Pension, you do not need permission to participate in voluntary work.

Carer's Payments and Volunteering

To qualify for a carer's payment you must be providing full-time care. If you are getting Carer's Allowance or Carer's Benefit, you can do a maximum of 18.5 hours per week of voluntary work. Before you start working as a volunteer, you must get permission from the Carer's Allowance or Carer's Benefit section in the Department of Social Protection.

Jobseeker's Payments and Volunteering

To get Jobseeker's Allowance or Jobseeker's Benefit you must be available and looking for work. If you want to do voluntary work, you must first get permission from a Deciding Officer at your Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office. You must continue to satisfy the conditions of your jobseeker's payment.

The Deciding Officer considers a number of factors when deciding if the work involved is voluntary.

These include:

1. The aims and standing of the voluntary organisation (they can be national or local voluntary groups)
2. The type of work involved
3. The weekly number of hours worked.

Examples of unpaid voluntary work a jobseeker can do include assisting youth clubs, care groups, sports groups, and local residents associations.

If you want to do voluntary work and continue to get Jobseeker's Allowance or Jobseeker's Benefit, you must apply under the voluntary work option before you start any voluntary work.

To apply, fill in application form (VW1), which is available from your Intreo Centre or Social Welfare Branch Office.

Other Social Welfare Payments

If you are getting one of the payments listed below, there are no restrictions on the number of hours or type of unpaid work you may do. In addition, you don't need prior permission to do voluntary work.

State Pension (Contributory), State Pension (Non-Contributory), State Pension (Transition), Bereaved Partner's (Contributory) Pension, Bereaved Partner's (Non-Contributory) Pension, Guardian's Payment (Contributory), Guardian's Payment (Non-Contributory), Blind Pension, One-Parent Family Payment (OFP), Farm Assist, Maternity Benefit, Paternity Benefit, Adoptive Benefit and Health and Safety Benefit

Home Energy Upgrade Loan Scheme

The Home Energy Upgrade Loan is a low-interest loan for homeowners who want to make their property more energy efficient.

You must use the loan for home energy upgrades that are also funded by a home energy upgrade grant from the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI).

You can get the loan for the home you live in, or a property you rent out.

The loan can be drawn down before you start the work. This removes some of the upfront financial barriers to getting the upgrade works done.

Loans are available until 31 December 2026 or until the funding runs out.

If you can't afford to make your home more energy efficient, you may qualify for a free energy upgrade with the SEAI Warmer Homes Scheme.

What Work is Covered by the Loan?

You must be getting one of these SEAI home energy upgrade grants to get the loan:

- Better Energy Homes Grant
- National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme
- Community Grant Scheme

The loans can be used for:

A deep retrofit of your home. This means upgrading many parts of your home's structure and energy systems.

1 or 2 upgrades that will significantly improve the energy performance of your home.

The work might include:

1. Insulating your home
2. Installing a heat pump
3. Upgrading your heating controls
4. Installing solar power with solar panels

You cannot get the loan to install only solar panels.

(Continued on page 26)

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 Tel: 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121

Continued from page 25

However, you can get funding for solar panels as part of a deep retrofit to your home under the SEAI's National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme or Community Grant Scheme.

If you are just getting a couple of upgrades with the Better Energy Homes Scheme, the loan will not cover solar panels. However, 25% of the amount you borrow can be used for other changes to your home, that could include the cost of your solar panels.

Where can I get a Home Energy Upgrade Loan?

The loan is currently available from:

Allied Irish Bank (AIB), Avant Money, in partnership with An Post Money, Bank of Ireland, PTSB, Clonmel Credit Union, Connect Credit Union, First South Credit Union, Listowel Credit Union, Naomh Breandan Credit Union, North Midlands Credit Union, Progressive Credit Union.

How Much Can I Borrow?

You can borrow between €5,000 and €75,000 per property.

You can get loans for up to 3 properties or €225,000 per applicant.

Loan terms range from a minimum of one year up to a maximum of 10 years.

The loans are unsecured loans. This means that no security or personal guarantee is needed.

What are the Interest Rates?

The interest rates are different depending on who you get your loan from. But they will be lower than rates for regular personal loans. This is because the interest rates are subsidised by the Government and the loans are backed by the European Investment Bank.

The banks participating in the scheme are offering interest rates that start from 3%. The credit unions are offering interest rates of between 2.99% and 4.5%.

Do I qualify for the loan?

To qualify for the loan, you must meet these conditions:

Resident and property in Ireland

You must be living in Ireland

The property must be in the Republic of Ireland

You must own the property. It can be the home you live in, or a property you rent out.

About the work on your property

You must qualify for an SEAI home energy upgrade grant for the work

The upgrade work must achieve at least a 20% improvement in the home's current Building Energy Rating

The work must be done by either:

An SEAI registered One Stop Shop

Energy Partner

Community Project Coordinator

You must use the loan for home energy upgrade work:

At least 75% of the loan must be used for energy efficiency measures
25% can be used for non-energy related works, like redecorating your home

You cannot get a loan to fund work that has already been completed.

The SBCI has more information about the loan's terms and conditions.

How do I apply for the Home Energy Upgrade Loan?

1. Get an energy assessment for your property

You must get one of these SEAI registered service providers to do an energy assessment of your property:

SEAI Registered One Stop Shop

Energy Partner

Community Project Coordinator

When they have done the assessment, they will give you a Home Energy Summary Report.

You can apply for the loan, if the upgrades recommended in the report could lead to at least a 20% improvement in your home's current Building Energy Rating.

2. Get an SEAI home energy upgrade grant

To get the low-cost loan, your upgrade project must be supported by an SEAI grant. Your SEAI registered service provider will apply for one of these SEAI home energy upgrade grants for you:

Better Energy Homes Grant

National Home Energy Upgrade Scheme

Community Grant Scheme

You must qualify for one these grants to get the loan.

3. Apply for a Home Energy Upgrade Loan

Contact one of the financial institutions that offers the Home Energy Upgrade Home Loan. The Strategic Banking Corporation of Ireland has a list of the financial institutions that currently offer the loan.

You will need to show the financial institution your Home Energy Summary Report

Each participating financial institution uses its own credit criteria, policies and procedures to decide if they will approve your loan application.

4. Begin the work on your property

When your loan is approved, you can begin your home energy upgrade work.

Where can I find out more about the Home Energy Upgrade Loan?

You can find more information about the Home Energy Upgrade Loan Scheme on the SEAI's website and the SBCI's website.



Maynooth Community Employment Project

Producing the Maynooth Newsletter

Memories From the Archives

1986

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com



MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

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PRICE 20p

The Maynooth By-Pass

Details of the Maynooth By-Pass Road (which will also by-pass Lucan, Leixlip, and Kilcock) were released by Kildare County Council.

The road will be built to motorway standard, which means that there will be limited access points, with other roads either passing under or over the new road.

At the Leixlip end of the County Kildare section, the new road begins with an interchange (i.e. access point for feeder roads) just south of the existing Leixlip-Lucan road between Tara Co-Op and the Toyota garage. The road then passes south of Leixlip between the built-up area and the IMP meat factory on the Celbridge road (which will pass over the new road).

The road carries on westwards to the north of Celbridge and approaches Maynooth just to the south of Ballygoran Cross on the Celbridge-Maynooth road. The latter road will pass over the by-pass road, while other roads in this area will be re-aligned. The new road will intersect with the Straffan Road passing over the by-pass, and slip roads providing access to the by-pass.

The new road will then pass under the Rathcoffey Road at Perry Twomey's (beyond Cluain Aoibhinn). It will also pass under the Treadstown Laragh, Brangstown-Laragh, and Kilcock-Clane Roads before eventually

merging with the main Galway Road west of Kilcock. There will be some re-aligning of local roads along the Maynooth-Kilcock stretch of the by-pass.

This means that the only access point to the by-pass between Kilcock and Lucan will be at the Straffan Road. This has several implications. It means that all traffic from the Maynooth area and to the north seeking access to the motorway will be channelled onto the Straffan Road, which passes through the main residential district of the town, and along which there is very heavy pedestrian traffic. It will also put considerable extra pressure on the road bridge at the station, which is already extremely inadequate. It is also likely that Old Greenfield Lane would be heavily used by traffic from the Cluain Aoibhinn/College Green/Beaufield/Newtown area.

At the moment, a large volume of heavy traffic comes into Maynooth from the Dunboyne direction. This might be intensified by the availability of the by-pass, with the result of attracting a lot of heavy vehicles through the town centre and out of the Straffan Road. On the other hand, other proposed road improvements in the Dublin area, including the Western Ring Road and the new Navan Road section at Clonsilla, could also have the effect of diverting

much of the traffic which currently comes through Maynooth from the north side.

Maynooth Community Council will be discussing these and other aspects of the by-pass with Kildare County Council's engineering staff. Already, a suggestion that the link road from Maynooth to the by-pass be located to the east of the town (perhaps Blacklion via a new section of road linking with the Grangewilliam-Ballygoran Road) is being examined by County Council engineers.

Any groups or members of the public who have reservations about the proposed by-pass (maps of which may be viewed in Maynooth Public Library) should send these in writing to the County Council or the Department of the Environment. All objects will be given the right to appear before a Public Inquiry which is to be held sometime during the coming summer. The plans may be altered depending on the Inquiry findings. Construction of the by-pass may begin towards the end of 1987.

Anyone seeking further information should contact either the County Council directly or Maynooth Community Council at the Town Centre Mall (telephone 286166).

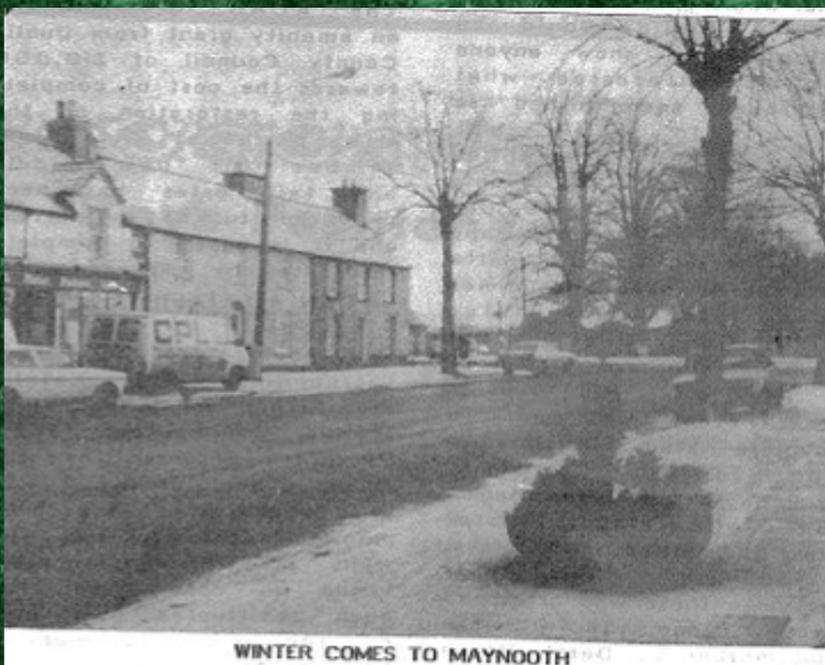
MAYNOOTH A.C.

Leinster Championships

The final session of these took place at Ballinacree, Co. Westmeath on Sunday the 2nd of February where our men over 40 retained their Leinster title. Brian Redmond was in superb form in taking the individual Bronze with Paddy Maher 8th and Tony Gallagher 9th. This trio as well as Peter Keegan 14th figured on the county team pipped for Gold by Louth. Marie Gleeson 15th completed the scoring for the Kildare U/35 Ladies team which won the Bronze. Most successful juvenile was Enda Breslin who was 16th in the Boys U/15 assisting Kildare to 3rd county.

All Ireland Championships

At Enfield on the 9th of February Patsy McCloskey returned in style after illness and injury with an outstanding performance to take the Ladies U/35 title. Patsy stretched the opposition on the snow covered course and led all the way for a highly popular victory. She also led the Kildare Team to the inter county title. The U/35 men were defending the title won in Rostrevor last year, an uphill battle without Brian Redmond who was ill. Athletics from Meath, Kerry and Clare filled the first three places with Liam McNamee leading Maynooth and Kildare athlete in 4th position.



WINTER COMES TO MAYNOOTH



Don Bosco Academy Night

M.C. Phil McDermott

Congratulations to Adrian and Mary Murray, Taghadoe, Maynooth on the birth of a Baby Daughter.

Congratulations to Mary Murphy 559 O'Neill Park, Maynooth and Kevin Clogher, Roscommon on their recent marriage.

Best wishes to Tommy and Oonagh Murray of Laurence Avenue and formerly of Dublin Road, Maynooth. They departed for Australia on February 6th, 1986. All their friends in Maynooth wish them every success, health and happiness in their newly adopted country.

Maynooth Community Contacts Listing

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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.