

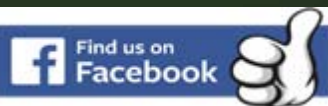


Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

LOCAL NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2026 - ISSUE NO. 560



Maynooth University Solar Eclipse Celebration



Solar Eclipse Celebration Event hosted by the Department of Physics on the 12th. of August.

More than 90% of the Sun was obscured across parts of Ireland on Wednesday evening as a rare partial solar eclipse was visible from the country, marking one of the deepest eclipses visible from Ireland in decades.

To mark the occasion, Maynooth University's (MU) Department of Physics hosted a public viewing attended by more than 400 people, giving visitors the chance to observe the eclipse safely through specialist eclipse glasses and solar telescopes.

Chris & Ann Leward watching with their dog



A solar eclipse occurs when the Moon passes between the Earth and the Sun, partially or fully blocking the Sun from view. During the August 12 eclipse, over 90% of the Sun was obscured at maximum eclipse in parts of Ireland.

Although solar eclipses occur frequently somewhere on Earth, the degree of obscuration depends on the observer's location. Eclipses exceeding 90% obscuration are uncommon for any given place, making this event particularly notable for Irish observers.

Dr Emma Whelan of MU's Department of Physics said: "Solar eclipses have inspired curiosity and scientific discovery for thousands of years. Events like this allow people to experience that sense of wonder first-hand while learning about the science behind what they're seeing. They also provide an opportunity to inspire the next generation of scientists, engineers and innovators. Many people working in STEM today can trace their interest back to moments of awe just like this."

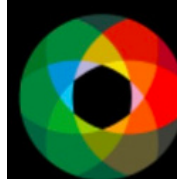
See page 3 for more stunning images of the eclipse.

Continued on page 3



Culture Night is Back in Maynooth!

FRIDAY 18TH SEPTEMBER
FOR MORE DETAILS SEE PAGE 11



CULTURE NIGHT



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

THE VIEWS & OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS.



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

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Website: www.maynoothcep.com

Letters to the Editor

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

Mission Statement

The Maynooth Newsletter is a community focused 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



Culture Night a national annual event to celebrate our creative side takes place this year on Friday September 18th. So far there are six events planned for Maynooth.

This list will be regularly updated and you can find details by logging into the following link <https://l1nq.com/gpaest1>

In September each year Maynooth welcomes many new residents who begin their university life at Maynooth University. With the numbers of people seeking accommodation, there is never enough rental places available to cater for everyone needing it and this has an impact for students.

It means that many more students travel to Maynooth everyday by public transport and private cars. Parking spaces are equally at a premium here, so where public transport is an option, it is best to use these services. We wish every student starting or returning to Maynooth University our best wishes for your studies. Keep safe and remember that Maynooth is also home to people who are not students.



Image courtesy Get Ireland Walking see <https://www.getirelandwalking.ie/nwd-2026>

Being September many of us turn to getting more exercise and are not sure what we should do. National Walking Day 2026 will take place on Sunday the 27th September. It is the culmination of a week long series of days where a focus is put on various aspects of walking.

Monday 21st September – “Mindful Walking Day” has a focus on the health benefits of walking

Tuesday 22nd September – “Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity Day” which highlights cultural diversity and ability issues.

Wednesday 23rd September – “Workplace Walking Day” which encourages employers, schools and youth services to support walking breaks during the day.

Thursday 24th September – “Active Travel Day” which promotes walking as a healthy and sustainable travel alternative.

Friday 25th September – “Access for All day” encouraging participation from people with disabilities, mobility challenges and inclusive community groups.

Saturday 26th September – “Happy Hiking Day” – which encourages us to get involved in hiking.

Sunday 27th September – “National Walking Day” – aiming to get everyone out for a walk.

There are several safe walking routes around our town so let's get out. Maynooth events can be highlighted locally and be registered on <https://www.getirelandwalking.ie/nwd-2026>

Paul Croghan

Editor

**Submission Date for October Edition is
5pm on 23rd September 2026**

Maynooth University

Captures Stunning Solar Eclipse

The celebration also featured live astronomy demonstrations and a programme of talks exploring solar science and astronomy. Topics included the nature and history of the Sun, quantum processes within it, solar energy, the Sun's influence on Earth's climate, the role of eclipses in the history of physics, and the long-term fate of our star.

Dr Whelan presented The Story of the Sun, Dr Joshua Heath explored The Quantum Sun, Dr Marcin Gradziel discussed Electric Power from the Sun: The Good, the Bad, and the Glinty!, and Dr Michelle McCrystall examined the Sun's influence on Earth's climate in The Star of the Show: How the Sun Drives Our Climate. Prof Peter Coles presented Einstein and the Eclipse, while Dr Patrick Kavanagh considered the future of our star in Will Our Sun Go Supernova?

The programme also included an inflatable planetarium and hands-on astronomy-themed arts and crafts for children. The August 12 eclipse offered a rare opportunity for people across Ireland to witness an unusually deep partial solar eclipse. The next eclipse of comparable magnitude visible from Ireland is expected in 2090.



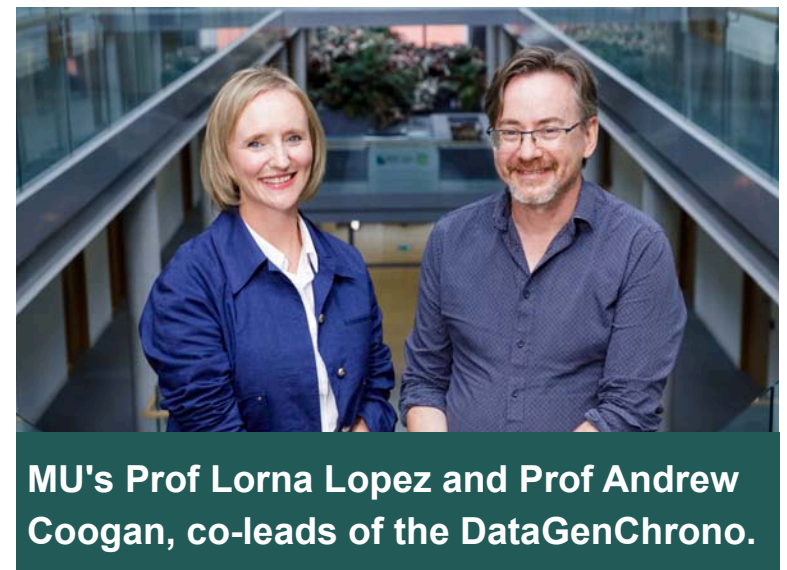
These stunning images were taken at the Maynooth University Solar Eclipse Celebration event hosted by the Department of Physics on the 12th of August



MU lead EU-funded initiative to uncover links between sleep and mental health

Researchers at Maynooth University (MU) are leading a major international research and doctoral training initiative that will investigate how sleep influences mental health and why disruptions to sleep are linked to conditions such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia.

The programme, DataGenChrono, co-led by Prof Andrew Coogan and Prof Lorna Lopez will bring together leading researchers from academia and industry across 12 partner organisations in Europe and Canada.



Funded through the European Union's Horizon Europe programme under the Marie Skłodowska-Curie Actions (MSCA) Doctoral Networks scheme, the €3.6 million award includes €1 million in funding for MU. This investment will fund 11 doctoral researchers working across genetics, data science, sleep science and mental health. In addition to their research, the candidates will receive training in leadership, communication and project management, preparing a new generation of researchers to tackle complex health challenges,

Sleep is increasingly recognised as a key pillar of health, alongside exercise and diet, with growing evidence that it plays a critical role in protecting and promoting mental wellbeing - yet many of the biological mechanisms linking sleep and mental health remain poorly understood.

Mental health conditions such as depression, anxiety, bipolar disorder and schizophrenia affect millions worldwide and present major challenges for individuals and societies and improving sleep health holds clear potential for enhancing mental health outcomes - one of the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals. Addressing this need requires harnessing advances in big data, genomics and technology to develop new preventative and therapeutic approaches - a central focus of DataGenChrono.

Using advancements in human genomics, artificial intelligence and large-scale health data, DataGenChrono will uncover the genetic and biological pathways that connect sleep and mental illness. By generating new insights into these relationships, the programme aims to lay the foundations for future approaches to the prevention, diagnosis and treatment of mental health conditions.

Prof Andrew Coogan at the Department of Psychology and Kathleen Lonsdale Institute for Human Health Research, Maynooth University, said: "Improving sleep health has enormous potential to protect and promote mental health. This programme brings together outstanding collaborators from across Europe and Canada to train the next generation of researchers who will drive innovation in this important field. I am excited to be part of a programme that combines world-class research with the development of future leaders in sleep and mental health research."

Prof Lorna Lopez at the Department of Biology, Kathleen Lonsdale Institute for Human Health Research, and FutureNeuro Research Ireland Centre for Translational Brain Science at Maynooth University, said: "We need to advance our understanding of mental health, and to achieve this we need to train the very best researchers. That is why I am so excited about DataGenChrono. Our programme will equip PhD students with expertise in human genomics, data science, sleep, chronobiology and strategic science communication, alongside the AI and leadership skills needed to thrive in the future research landscape. By 2030, our graduates will be ready to lead data-driven innovation across academia, healthcare and industry, helping to shape the future of mental health research. Supporting early career researchers is my favourite part of the job, and I am delighted to help this new generation develop into future research leaders."

MU's role as the lead institution reflects its international status in sleep research, genetics and mental health, as well as its established track record in training doctoral researchers in these areas.



ONLINE OFFICE



Cllr Angela Feeney



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- Estate Issues



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If I can help

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Call: 087 - 238 - 1962



Whatsapp



Zoom

Cllr Angela FEENEY

087 238 1962 angelaemfeeney@gmail.com
www.facebook/votefeeneey1



Stoma Friendly Toilet Facilities

Thanks to Kildare County Council for its positive response to my request calling for a review of the accessible toilets in its public buildings so as to make facilities more suitable for people living with a stoma. The Council agreed to review accessible toilets in its public buildings and prepare a programme of stoma-friendly toilet upgrades.

This roll out is low cost but high impact', by retrofitting accessible toilets in council-owned buildings to include stoma friendly facilities, creating a county-wide model of best practice. These small changes can make a big difference.



Calling on the Council

New bus service to Dublin airport

Great to hear that the Green Bus (Dublin Coach) has submitted an application to the National Transport Authority (NTA) for a new hourly, 24-hour service, connecting Maynooth with Dublin Airport, serving Dunboyne, Clonee and Blanchardstown along the route.

A second application is also due to be submitted shortly for a similar 24 hour service connecting Celbridge, Leixlip, Lucan and Liffey Valley directly with Dublin Airport.



EU Presidency Event

Delighted to attend the European Movement Ireland's Irish Presidency Reception with Minister Thomas Byrne TD, Minister of State for European Affairs in the Royal Academy of Music, to hear about the priorities for the period of our EU Presidency.

Kildare is twinned with Austria and lovely to speak with the Austrian attaché Dr. Lukas Klik.



Maynooth Cycling Campaign

Notes for December 2025



Road Fatalities

It is with sadness that we report the death of two cyclists in Kildare within a month. The first was Alejandro Carnero (47), originally from Malaga in Spain. He was killed on 15th July when he was cycling from work in Naas to home in Newbridge. His body was only discovered some 12 hours after a collision with a hit and run driver. The second was Marie Heavey (80) who was cycling near Rathangan on 10th August when she was involved in a collision with a lorry. Our condolences go to both their families. Everyone was shocked by the crash on the M9 near Athy which resulted in the death of five young people and to the serious injury to four more. The number of people killed on Irish roads continues to worsen with an increase of more than 16% compared to the same period in 2025. When members of the Garda Siochana cannot be everywhere, the halving of garda numbers in the Traffic Division demonstrates a lack of commitment to road safety by the government and/or garda management.

Membership

We would like to thank those people who have joined the Campaign or who have renewed their membership for the current year. If you would like to join us, please check out our webpage here.

Are You Interested in the Loan of a Trail-Gator Towbar for Your Child?

With support from the Climate Community Funding and Kildare County Council, Maynooth Cycling Campaign is pleased to announce that we have purchased a number of Trail-Gators towbars for parents who have expressed an interest in acquiring one on loan. The towbars link an adult's bike to the bike of a small child to enable them to cycle for longer distances with assistance from the adult. Maynooth Cycling Campaign has still a number of towbars available for loan. If you would like to borrow one, we want to hear from you - particularly for children attending Presentation Girls PS, St. Mary's Boys School or Gaelscoil Uí Fhiaich. Parents with children attending Maynooth Educate Together and Scoil Ruairi have already been notified of our offer through their school.

Cyclist Safety

Tom Flood, the Canadian advertising campaigner on road safety and sustainability, will be delivering a public lecture on 22nd September at the Synge Theatre, Trinity College Dublin on Tuesday, September 22nd from 7-9pm, with the talk taking around 45 minutes followed by a Q&A session. The event is free, but booking is required via [eventbrite.ie](https://www.eventbrite.ie). The event is being co-organised by the Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, Irish Cycling Campaign, Doctors for the Environment, I Bike Dublin, Dublin Commuter Coalition, and Trinity College Dublin. He has an advertising background and is active on social media under the Revélo Creative label. Secondly, Michael Murphy, TD for South Tipperary and the chairperson of the Oireachtas Committee on Transport is seeking the public's views on wearing earphones or headphones while cycling.

Public Consultation on Celbridge Road Walking & Cycling Scheme

On Wednesday 5th August, we lodged our submission on the Celbridge Road Active Travel scheme - before the 5:00pm deadline. We were one of 84 submissions. When councillors are back from their holidays in September, our first task will be to discuss our proposals with a number of them.

BEFORE THE DOCTOR CAME – BOOK LAUNCH



Thursday, 17 September



6:30 pm



The Maynooth Bookshop

All Welcome

Before there were doctors, there were healers.

Before the Doctor Came takes readers on a fascinating journey into medicine, healing and healthcare in early Ireland.

Guests will have the opportunity to meet the author and take home one of the first signed copies of the book.

BOOK LAUNCH

BEFORE THE DOCTOR CAME



Thursday 17th September
6:30 pm

The Maynooth Bookshop
All Welcome

Before there were doctors, there were healers. Join us for the launch of *Before the Doctor Came*, a journey into medicine in early Ireland. Meet the author, and take home one of the first signed copies.

KATHERINE COLTHURST HISTORIC HIBERNIA



My Early Days in Croghan Church Recalled

It was our parish church and I was one of the youthful mass servers. The layout as one entered was the usual one at that time, men and boys on the right hand side, women and girls on the left. There was one exception to this arrangement. In a space near the top left hand side the Frenchs, men and women, sat in splendid isolation. Occasionally a few people, who from their stylish clothes we took to be English cousins, joined them. Unlike most Anglo-Irish families, the Frenchs were Roman Catholics and previously they had been landlords who owned at least half the farms in the parish. To the best of my recollection, they stopped attending mass after a new priest, who had renovated the church, refused to let them keep their own pew. When my mother wanted a job reference for one of our family, the former landlord, the Honorable William French, treated her most cordially.

Another feature of the interior was a balcony above the street-half of the church, usually occupied by an all-male choir, except for the organist, who, as best I can recall, was a woman. Now that I come to think of it, the musical instrument was probably a harmonium rather than an organ, but that didn't matter. We enjoyed the music, so much richer than that of fiddle or accordion.

At this point let me explain my own situation. As already mentioned, I was one of the mass servers, a role that involved assisting the priest in conducting the ritual. We boys – girls weren't allowed – wore dark jacket-like garments above white surplices and we replied to the priest's Introibo ad altarem Dei [I will go to God's altar] with Ad deum qui latificat juventutem meum [to the God who gives joy to my youth].

Of course that was the required answer, but I mustn't have given prompt responses to the following words of the priest because walking the two miles home that morning I was joined by an adult neighbour who made the pithy remark, 'You made a poor fist of it.' Naturally I had the good sense not to defend myself.

Here I must mention that the mass servers changed back into their regular clothes in the vestry just as the priest did. At Christmas there was always a big box of sweets from which we could help ourselves, but since at this time our cousins always gave us a round metal box of sweets, I probably took only a few.

Now it may be appropriate to state that if I hadn't been serving mass I could have got a lift to Croghan with my father, who was going to the second mass with my older brother Cathal and my three sisters, Mary, Emily and Christina – our mother always cycled to first mass in order to have dinner ready when the family returned. We had a horse-drawn jaunting car, or as we called it, a 'sidecar'. In a duplication of the church arrangements, my father and Cathal sat on the right hand side and the girls on the left. I must have joined them soon after this because I do not remember serving mass much longer.

In time the relationship between the sexes changed and, for the most part, men and women now play equal roles both in public and private life. However, before we are too hasty in congratulating ourselves, let us recall the warning of Tennyson in his poem Morte d'Arthur, the Death of Arthur:

*'The old order changeth, yielding place to the new
And God fulfills Himself in many ways,
Lest one good custom should corrupt the world.'*

For those who will ask 'How can a good custom have bad consequences?' there are a number of answers, from stopping progress to resisting change. But all those considerations open up new fields of discussion, so at this point and to avoid boring my readers I'd better finish my Croghan recollections.

Colin Scott



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Culture Night is Back in Maynooth!



Get ready for an evening of music, art, history, creativity and community as Culture Night returns to Maynooth.

Culture night is nationwide celebration of Irish culture, giving everyone the chance to discover something new, experience local talent and explore the cultural life of their own community. And best part? **Events are free!**

 **Date:** Friday 18th September 2026

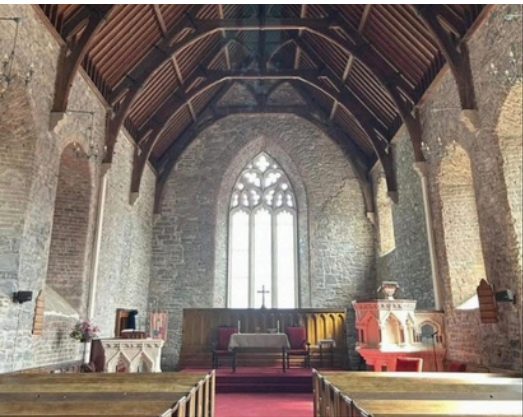
 **Times:** Events will take place from the afternoon into the evening, with individual event times to be announced.

 **Cost:** Free — **although some events may require booking in advance.**

Across Maynooth, you can expect a lively evening of cultural experiences, with activities and events taking place in local venues and community spaces. From live performances and music to exhibitions, workshops, talks, heritage and family-friendly activities, there will be plenty to see and do.

Whether you're interested in Maynooth's history and heritage, local arts and creativity, live music, or simply looking for something different to do with the family, Culture Night is a brilliant opportunity to get out, explore the town and experience something new.

One Night. So Many Ways To Experience Culture.



Open Evening at St. Mary's for All the Family

Come visit St. Mary's historic building on Culture Evening from 6pm until 9.30pm! St. Mary's Chur...

 St. Mary's Church of Ireland

 18:00 - 22:00



The Award Winning St. Mary's Brass and Reed Academy Band

Join St. Mary's Brass and Reed Academy Band for an enjoyable evening of the music you love. The Academ...

 St. Mary's Brass and Reed Academy Band, The Square Maynooth

 19:30 - 20:30



Mór Laughs presents an evening of comedy at Kildare's longest running comedy club

Mór Laughs Comedy club are Kildare's longest running comedy club and co-runner of Mayhoots comedy festi...

 Mór Laughs

 20:00 - 23:30



Traditional music and dance with Comhaltas Maynooth

Craobh Mhaigh Nuad is a branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann located in Maynooth, having been formed in ...

 CCÉ Craobh Mhaigh Nuad, St. Mary's COI

 20:39 - 22:00



Visit the National Science and Ecclesiology Museum at St Patrick's College Maynooth

On Culture Night, visit the National Science and Ecclesiology Museum at St. Patrick's College Maynooth. ...

 St Patrick's University, Science & Ecclesiastical museum, South Campus, St Patricks College Maynooth, Co Kildare

 16:00 - 20:00



Bodhrán Workshop and Songs of Kildare

Join us we celebrate Culture Night 2026 in Maynooth Community Library where Eoghan Burke will lead an intro...

 Maynooth Community Library

 16:00 - 17:00



Oíche Litríochta agus Cheoil

An bhfuil suim agat san fhocal scríofa? Ag an ócáid litríochta seo, is féidir éisteacht le file ó bhéa...

 An tOireachtas, Músaem an Choláiste

 17:30 - 19:00





Maynooth CEP

MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER



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**Submission date for the
October edition of The
Maynooth Newsletter is
September 23rd**



Cllr. Donna
Phelan

Working with **Naoise Ó Cearúil TD**

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

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

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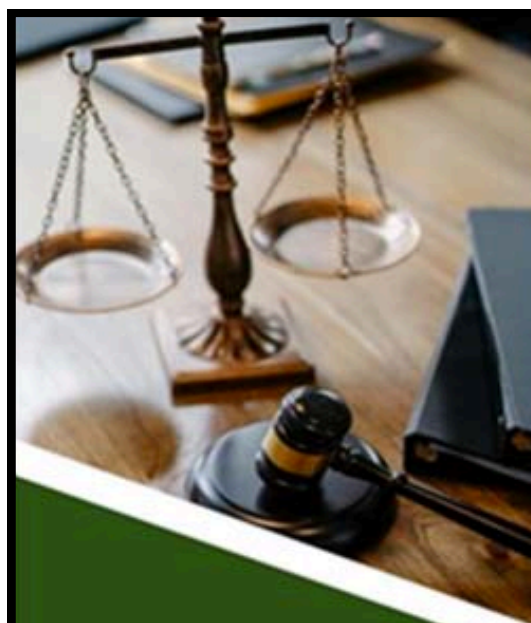
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St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Maynooth, Co. Kildare

The Band were very busy in August with our Summer Recitals at the Church of Ireland in Celbridge on the 9th and on the banks of the Liffey in Leixlip on the 16th, both of which were supported by Kildare County Council Arts Service. Our Academy Band travelled to Ardclough on Saturday 22nd for a return visit to their Heritage Week.

Our Summer Camp, which ran from 17th to the 21st was a great success for all the children taking part and we hope some of them will consider taking up music and joining our Band.

September will see the Band 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 from 11th to 14th.. This will be our fourth visit to the Festival and it is a tremendous experience to meet with those bands.

An Nuadha Players
~ in collaboration with ~
MAYNOOTH 850, ST MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND
AND CASTLE KEEP ART GROUP
proudly present

NO PASTRY FOR THE KING

**A One-Act Play by Declan O'Connor
Directed by John Bean**

"Cometh the hour...cometh our Dan."

*A comic and compelling retelling of the
Maynooth Band, the Royal Visit of 1911, and
the man who would become Governor General.*

★ Live Music ★ Local History ★ Sharp Humour

AUDITIONS

29TH JULY 2026 ~ 8PM
MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

PERFORMANCES

14TH - 16TH OCTOBER 2026
ST MARY'S CHURCH OF IRELAND

The Festival Finale sees a parade of all of the Bands to the Town Square where they participate in a joint recital by all the nations taking part. Our Band will be giving a send off recital in the Square in Maynooth on Monday 7th September starting at 7.30.

Looking ahead to October the Band will be joining with An Nuadha Players presenting a one act Drama entitled No Pastry for the King in the Church of Ireland on 14th, 15th and 16th which should be a very entertaining.



An Nuadha Players Community Theatre

Come one, Come all to the An Nuadha Players Townhall!

Thank you all for coming along to our Townhall meeting. This meeting was all about looking back and looking forward to the future of An Nuadha Players.

It demonstrated the importance of community and made for an evening of craic, discussions, and good fun. We would like to thank the hard-working committee members and the Newtown Inn for hosting such an important event.



Panto Tickets For Sale Now! (Oh Yes They Are!)

ALICE IN WONDERLAND
PANTOMIME 2026

AULA MAXIMA, ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, MAYNOOTH

THURSDAY 3RD DECEMBER 7:30PM
FRIDAY 4TH DECEMBER 7:30PM
SATURDAY 5TH DECEMBER 2:30PM & 7:30PM
SUNDAY 6TH DECEMBER 2:30PM

VISIT [ANNUADHPLAYERS.IE](http://annuadhplayers.ie)
OR CALL INTO
MAYNOOTH BOOKSHOP

ADULT €18
CONCESSION €15
FAMILY €55
GROUP (10+) €15 EACH

It's Panto Season once again!

We are delighted to announce that tickets for the An Nuadha Player's 2026 Pantomime are on sale now! You can grab yours on our website annuadhplayers.ie or from Maynooth Bookshop!

The Alice in Wonderland crew are gearing up for this year's exciting rehearsals. We are all looking forward to seeing the magic coming together onto the big stage. To get updates from Wonderland make sure to check out our social media accounts @annuadhplayers!

We look forward to going down the rabbit hole with you all from the 3rd to the 6th of December!



annuadhplayers@gmail.com



AnNuadhaPlayers



www.facebook.com/annuadha



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contact :

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amandadempsey@grow.ie



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Making Kildare More Inclusive

Maynooth Access Group spearheads a Stoma-Friendly Toilet Initiative across County Kildare

Simple change to a toilet facility can make an enormous difference to someone's independence, dignity and confidence.

The Stoma-Friendly Toilet Project is being spearheaded by Maynooth Access Group (MAG) as part of the wider work of the County Kildare Access Network (CKAN). The initiative encourages public bodies, businesses, community organisations and other venues throughout County Kildare to make accessible toilet facilities more suitable for people living with a stoma.

The project is about more than adapting toilets. It is about ensuring that people living with hidden disabilities can participate fully and confidently in everyday community life.

What is a stoma?

A stoma is a surgically created opening on the abdomen that allows bodily waste - urine or stool - to leave the body when this can no longer happen through the usual route. There are three common types: colostomy, ileostomy and urostomy. A stoma may be temporary or permanent and may be required for many different reasons, including cancer, Crohn's disease, diverticulitis or abdominal trauma.

It is estimated that approximately 1 in every 300 people in Ireland lives with a stoma, representing around 40,000 people nationally, with approximately 2,300-2,500 new stoma surgeries taking place each year.

For many of these people, something as ordinary as going shopping, meeting friends for coffee, eating in a restaurant, attending an event or travelling can become considerably more difficult if appropriate toilet facilities are unavailable.

Why are stoma-friendly toilets needed?

A standard accessible toilet does not necessarily provide everything a person with a stoma needs. Changing or managing a stoma appliance requires adequate space and somewhere clean and hygienic to place medical supplies. A person may also need to dispose discreetly of used appliances, adjust clothing and be able to see the stoma while changing or checking their appliance.

Without these basic facilities, people may find themselves having to use unsuitable or unhygienic surfaces or may simply avoid particular venues altogether. Access to suitable toilet facilities can affect a person's confidence, independence and ability to participate in employment, recreation, tourism and community life.

Small Changes - A Big Difference

One of the strengths of the project is its simplicity. Making an existing accessible toilet more stoma friendly does not necessarily require a major refurbishment. MAG and CKAN are encouraging venues to consider:

- A shelf for medical supplies: A clean fixed or fold-down shelf provides a hygienic surface for stoma bags, wipes, scissors and other supplies.
- A disposal bin within the cubicle: A discreet bin enables used stoma appliances and associated products to be disposed of privately and hygienically.
- Appropriately positioned hooks: Hooks provide somewhere to place clothing, coats and bags, keeping personal belongings safely off the floor.
- A suitable mirror: A mirror can be important when a person needs to see their stoma clearly while changing, checking or adjusting an appliance.
- Stoma-friendly and hidden-disability signage: Appropriate signage identifies suitable facilities and reminds the wider public that not every disability is visible.

Kildare Libraries Leading The Way

An important development in the initiative is the work being undertaken with Kildare Library Services, which is working with CKAN to make library facilities more stoma friendly. This demonstrates what can be achieved when public services and disability-access organisations work collaboratively.

The ambition extends beyond libraries. MAG and CKAN would like to see the concept embraced throughout County Kildare - in public buildings, workplaces, cafes, restaurants, hotels, shopping facilities, sports and leisure venues and other places used by the community.



An Invisible Disability

For many people living with a stoma, one of the most difficult experiences can be the reaction of others when they use an accessible toilet. A stoma is generally invisible. Someone may therefore appear to have no disability and can occasionally encounter questioning, judgement or even confrontation when using an accessible facility.

NOT ALL DISABILITIES ARE VISIBLE

Accessible toilets are not exclusively for wheelchair users. They are intended for people whose disability or medical needs mean that a standard toilet cubicle may not be suitable. Greater public awareness and understanding can therefore be every bit as important as physical improvements to facilities.

Who Benefits?

The principal beneficiaries are people living with a colostomy, ileostomy or urostomy, including people who have undergone treatment for cancer and those living with inflammatory bowel disease. Thoughtful improvements to accessible toilets can also benefit older people, wheelchair users, people experiencing incontinence, people living with neurological conditions such as multiple sclerosis, Parkinson's disease or the effects of stroke, neurodivergent people and those recovering from surgery.

This is an excellent example of inclusive design: changes introduced to address one particular accessibility need can ultimately make a facility better for many people.

How Can You Get Involved?

Businesses and organisations: Review existing accessible toilets and consider simple additions such as a shelf, appropriate hooks, a disposal bin, mirror and suitable signage.

Employers and public bodies: Include stoma-friendly facilities in accessibility reviews, refurbishments and plans for new buildings.

Community and voluntary organisations: Promote the initiative, encourage local venues to participate and raise awareness of the needs of people living with hidden disabilities.

Members of the public: Ask workplaces, cafes, restaurants, sports clubs and other venues whether their accessible toilet is stoma friendly. Raising the issue respectfully can be the first step towards change.

Everyone can also help by challenging the assumption that a person who does not 'look disabled' should not be using an accessible toilet. Most importantly, spread the word. Greater awareness helps reduce the stigma that can still surround bowel and bladder conditions and makes it easier for people living with a stoma to participate confidently in everyday life.

Become a Stoma-Friendly Partner

Maynooth Access Group and the County Kildare Access Network welcome the involvement of businesses, community organisations, public services and venues throughout County Kildare that want to support the initiative and become more inclusive. Becoming stoma friendly can involve relatively small and inexpensive changes, but their impact on someone's daily life can be significant.

If you would like to support this important initiative and help make County Kildare more inclusive, we would be delighted to welcome your business, organisation or community facility as a Stoma-Friendly Partner.

To get involved, please contact the Maynooth Access Group by email (maynoothaccessgroup@gmail.com). Participating premises will be provided with Stoma-Friendly Partner window stickers for public display, together with appropriate signage for accessible toilet doors, clearly indicating that stoma-friendly facilities are available.

By displaying the signage, your organisation will not only help people living with a stoma identify suitable facilities with confidence, but will also demonstrate a visible commitment to accessibility, dignity and inclusion for people with hidden disabilities.

Accessibility is About Participation

The Stoma-Friendly Toilet Project reflects a simple principle: people should not have to plan their lives around whether they can find a toilet that meets their medical needs. Appropriate facilities protect dignity and privacy, support independence and make it easier for people to work, shop, socialise, travel and participate in their communities.

Through this initiative, Maynooth Access Group, working as part of the County Kildare Access Network, is helping to make County Kildare a more accessible, understanding and inclusive place for everyone.

GET INVOLVED

Could your business, workplace, community organisation or public venue become stoma friendly? Take a look at your accessible toilet. A few practical changes could make a very significant difference.

Support the initiative. Start the conversation. Become stoma aware. Help us make County Kildare stoma friendly.

Further information about living with a stoma and ostomy support is available from Crohn's & Colitis Ireland and Colostomy UK.

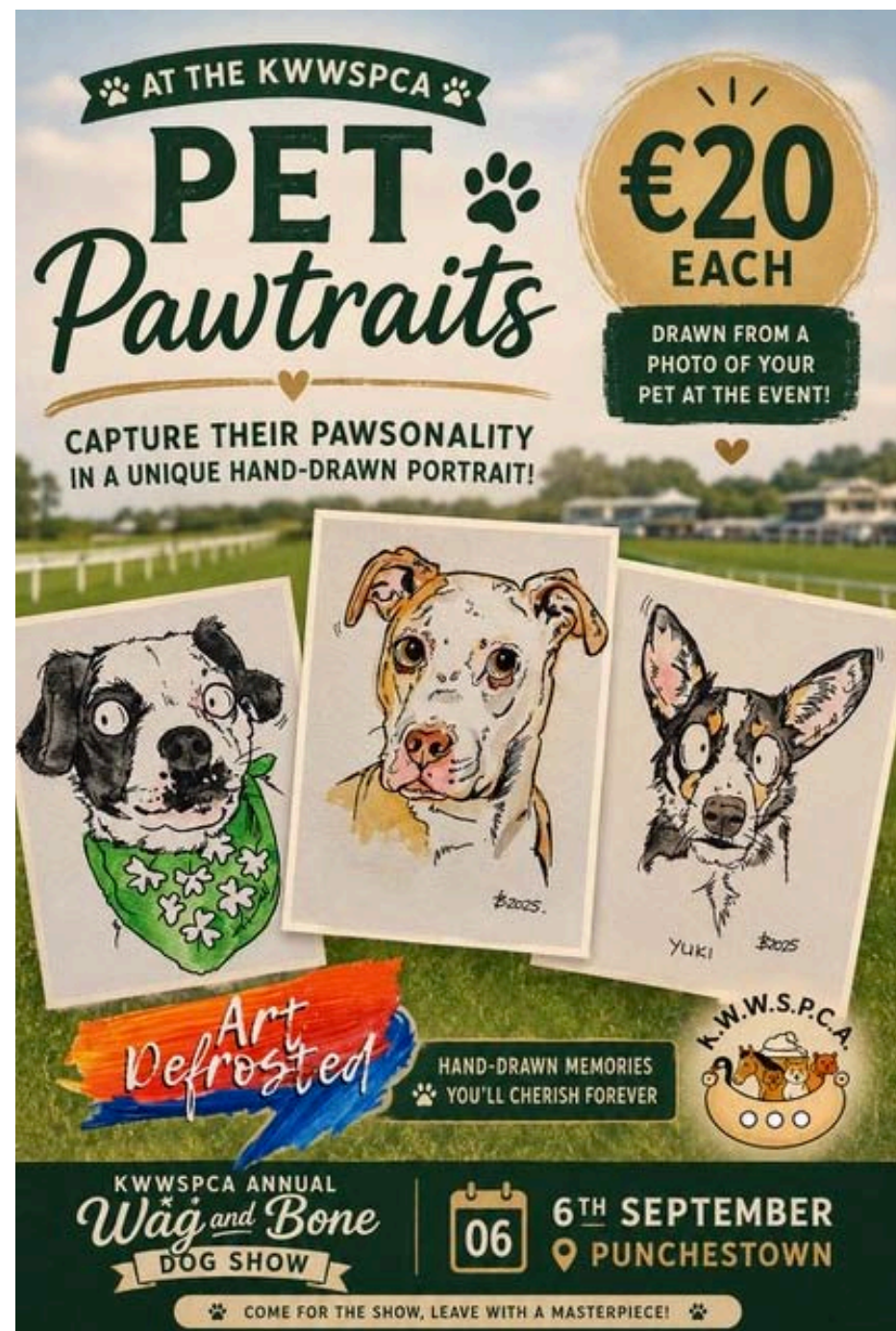


JOIN THE FUN AT OUR ANNUAL KWWSPCA WAG & BONE DOG SHOW

The KWWSPCA annual Wag & Bone Dog Show is just around the corner, taking place on Sunday 6th September at Punchestown Racecourse in Naas. This popular event offers a great opportunity for families and dog lovers to enjoy a fun day out, and the dog comes too! Alongside the dog show, which will include classes for every type of dog, our Noah's Ark charity shop will have a stall selling a selection of items for your pet.

There will be face painting for the children and our very talented artist, Lisa, will be doing her wonderful pet portraits. The KWWSPCA will also have an information stand where you can chat to volunteers and learn more about our society and how you can get involved. Light refreshments will be available on the day and there is plenty of free parking at the venue. Registration is from 1pm and the Show starts at 2pm.

There will be a few guests of honour present on the day in the shape of some current KWWSPCA rescue dogs who will be coming along to say hello and join in with the fun, along with many of our past rescue dogs and their families. One such guest will be the lovely Ethel, a beautiful black greyhound who is searching for her forever home. This quiet but sociable lady has stolen the hearts of several volunteers at the shelter with her gentle presence. Ethel is looking forward to meeting lots of you there!



We are delighted that Naas Veterinary Clinic will be joining us at the Wag & Bone Dog Show this year and will offer a subsidised microchipping service for just €15 per dog



MICROCHIPPING MATTERS

Microchipping is compulsory for all dogs over the age of 12 weeks in Ireland. The process ensures that your dog is easily identifiable and will significantly improve the odds of their safe and timely return home in the dreaded event that they become lost or stolen. The procedure itself involves a tiny microchip containing a unique number being implanted under the dog's skin.

The unique number and owners details are then registered onto a central database and owners are given a microchipping certificate. The microchips, which are around the size of a grain of rice, are readable by the scanners used in veterinary practices, animal rescue centres and by local dog wardens. It is vital that owners update the database with any changes in address or contact details to ensure their pet's continued protection.

From Venice to Maynooth: Adventures through language and culture



James Joyce once said: “Real adventures do not happen to people who remain at home: they must be sought abroad.” This quote expresses the spirit of TGS Eurogroup, an Italian association that, in collaboration with the Salesians of St Catherine’s in Maynooth, arranged our group visit to Maynooth this year to study English and live a real group experience abroad.



For the entire two weeks we stayed at the beautiful campus of St. Patrick’s College, Maynooth. It often happened that we spent our free time in the gardens surrounding the college, which were a source of inspiration due to their beauty and the care with which they were maintained. We took many photos of the college’s attractive green spaces and made a collage of them.



Each day began with a “Good Morning” reflection by one of the Salesian priests or brothers. Then followed our English classes in the college with native English-speaking teachers. We covered different topics during the lessons such as grammar, speaking, Irish mythology, nature around the college and many other subjects.

There was also the possibility to do the Cambridge English exams in Dublin towards the end of our stay. Riccardo, who did the Cambridge exam at level B1 says: “Personally, I think that this was a great opportunity because it gave us the chance to take home some internationally recognised certification. I was quite nervous but I’m satisfied with how I did”.



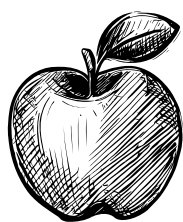
Sports we went by bus to the Salesian college in Celbridge. We found hurling and Gaelic football very challenging because we had never done them before although they were interesting and fun. We also tried some fun Irish dancing too.

During the two weeks we had the opportunity to visit some spectacular sights, both near Maynooth and in Dublin, such as the Trinity College, Castletown House, Carton House, the National Museum and the National Gallery. We also had a guided tour of Leinster House and were lucky afterwards to meet the local Dail TD Naoise O'Cearuil, who nicely answered our questions about his path to politics and about his work.

One of the most beautiful experiences we had in Dublin was seeing Riverdance at the Gaiety Theatre; the traditional dances were sheer perfection.

All of these experiences and trips were very interesting and unforgettable to us because we learned a lot of new things. This stay has surely given us a lot of gifts: we enriched our knowledge of Irish history and culture, we improved our English, we became more responsible and independent, but most of all students, group leaders and Salesians built up a strong connection with each other, learning the language of love.





The core of the Matter



A seasonal opportunity to explore some local varieties

The apple season begins in September running through October and Ireland has a multitude of great native varieties to try.

Ballyvaughan Seedling

Co. Clare

Yellowish green. Crisp and sweet.

Blood of the Boyne

Co. Louth

Small and dark red with soft white flesh and an almost strawberry-like taste.

Ballyfatten

Co. Tyrone

A large green cooking apple. Firm and tart.

Ardcairn Russet

Co. Cork

Red-orange on the outside with yellow-white flesh.

Kerry Pippin

Co. Kerry

Intense, sweet and tangy with orange skin. Kids love them.

Green Chisel

Co. Donegal

Crisp and juicy with white flesh.

Leixlip

Co. Kildare

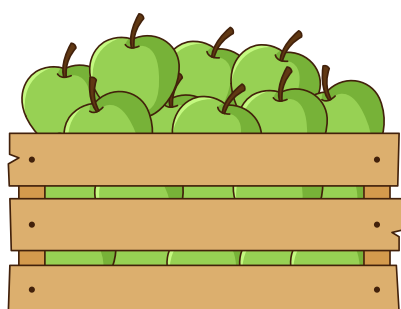
A green cooking apple with a slight red blush. Great for making sauces and ciders.



Irish Peach

Co. Sligo

Small, round and yellowish, with an aromatic aroma.



Bloody Butcher

Co. Kilkenny

Large, crimson, juicy and tart.





MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY LIBRARY EVENTS



Events for Children

Maynooth Games Club

Tuesday 1st September , 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM

Bi-weekly games club in Maynooth Library. First and third Tuesday of the month. Selection of games available. Children under 12 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian

<https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=27127385>

Drop in sessions. No booking necessary

Climate Action Events

Zero Waste Maynooth Pop Up Swap

Sat 12 August , 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

We are delighted to host a swap after the summer break.

Pop in anytime from 2-4pm.

Ladies Clothes Swap

Bring one, take one. Any brands or sizes. Clothes in clean and useable condition. No large bags of clothes please.

Mending Station

Save your clothing from waste and get it mended. Even better, learn the skill yourself. Bring an item needing repair and Vanessa will show how to mend it. Sewing supplies available. Kindly hosted by The Craft Corner.

Kids Toy Swap

Get the kids into swapping toys. Bring one, take one. Small toys only and no broken items.

Cloth Nappy Library Ireland.

Learn how easy modern cloth nappies are! Chat to a volunteer about how to use them and see options that are available to borrow

Kids Clothes Swap

No kids clothes swap this month, **back in October**.

Events for Families

KCC Play Day : Family Board Games Afternoon

Saturday 5 September, 2pm - 4pm

To celebrate KCC Play Day , Maynooth Community Library is hosting a Family Board Games Afternoon ! Why not call in to the library between 2pm - 4pm for some screen free time for all the family and join in a game of boggle, scrabble as Gaeilge , Monopoly , Guess Who , Game of Life Junior and more !

All children attending this event must be accompanied by a parent / guardian.

*Drop in. No booking required *



MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY LIBRARY EVENTS



Events for Adults

The Poetry Club

Tuesday 8 September , 6pm - 7pm

The Luain Press Poetry monthly gathering which is continuing as The Poetry Club (6 -7 pm on the second Tuesday of the month) is for writers who want to share their work in a supportive environment. It's also a space to share announcements and information about opportunities for writers. All welcome.

Digital Tablet Demonstration

WJed Sept 9 2026 , 10am - 11.30am

Learn about our digital tablets which are free to borrow with your library card. Drop in event - no need to book!

<https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESEENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=27026101>

Age Friendly Coffee Morning

Wed Sep 9, 10.00 am - 11.30 am

Come along for a chat and to hear what the library can offer you. You may like to get help with Digital literacy and even borrow one of our Tablets to use at home.

Groups and Clubs

Sewing Machine Club

Tuesday evenings , 6.30 pm - 7.50 pm

Use your machine to reuse, upcycle, alter and make different items, from repairing cases to altering clothing, to using scraps to make beautiful quilted projects. Sept meeting on Tues 15th.

Babywearing Kildare Meet-up

Mon 7 Sep , 10.15 am – 11.15 am

We are back this month on September 7th, from 10:15-11:15am, after the summer break. Join us for our monthly baby wearing meet up where we have slings and carriers to try and rent along with chats for all things baby wearing. We look forward to seeing you there! For more follow us on Facebook @Kildare BWI Sling meets and library and Instagram @Babywearing_ire_kildare * Drop in , no booking required *

Seed Library

Don't forget that there are plenty of seeds that may still be planted at this time of year, e.g. Carrots, Kale, Turnips, Parsley, Cabbage, Radish, Lettuce, Coriander, Spinach, Rocket, Beans, Fennel, Beetroot, Peas and Scallions. Check out what seeds are available at the library desk.

Film Club

Third Tuesday of every month , 7.00 pm – 8.00pm

Come along, meet new people and with a coffee in hand settle in as we discuss The Good The Bad and The Ugly in the world of Movies.



MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY LIBRARY EVENTS



Groups and Clubs

Exhibitions

1-30 September

'Without Words '.

Exhibition in Acrylic and Gold Leaf, by artist Kate Furlong

Without Words is a collection of vibrant, expressive paintings exploring connection - with animals, nature and the world around us.

Through colour, texture and symbolism, Kate Furlong's work captures the quiet emotions and connections that can sometimes be felt more deeply than they can be expressed in words. Kate is currently in her final year of training to become a qualified art psychotherapist, and her creative practice continues to explore the powerful relationship between art, emotion and connection. The exhibition features 10 original paintings, with fine art prints also available to purchase.

ExhibitionBookings

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

For more information about Kildare Library Service Events , why not subscribe to the Kildare Library Service Events newsletter at the link below :

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

Planning Applications received from 24/07/2026 to 23/08/2026 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
26105	Elaine and Philip Neary	23 Parklands Crescent, Maynooth, Railpark, Co. Kildare	25/08/2026
2660952	Clonfert Pet Farm Ltd	Clonfert Farm, Clonfert South, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	22/08/2026
26103	Colm and Martina Murphy	494B Moyglare Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	21/08/2026
2660951	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd.	Mariavilla, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	21/08/2026
2660938	Shane Fagan	5 Ashleigh Grove, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	19/08/2026
2660870	Frank Regan	No. 6 Main Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	29/07/2026



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The Staff of Maynooth Castle Thanks Public for Supporting Heritage Week Talks

The guide staff would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who attended the free historical talks held at Maynooth Castle during Heritage Week 2026.

All three talks were completely sold out, reflecting the continued enthusiasm and interest in local, Irish and maritime history. The organisers greatly appreciate the support, encouragement and warm response from everyone who attended, and are delighted that so many people came along to hear these stories and take part in the discussions.

The first talk, 'Kildare's Titanic', explored the fascinating Irish, and particularly County Kildare, connections to RMS Titanic. The talk examined the many links between Kildare and the world's most famous ship, including passengers and crew, as well as the people and businesses involved in the manufacturing and construction of Titanic.

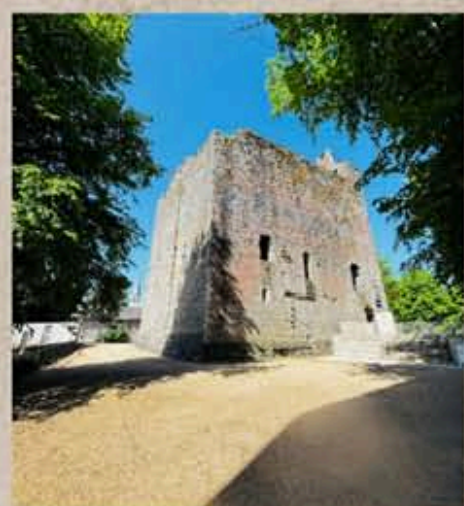
The second talk, 'Behind Every Great Man... The Fitzgerald Women and Their Connections', focused on four remarkable women whose lives and achievements are hugely significant to Irish history, but whose stories are sometimes overlooked or forgotten. The talk sought to bring their lives back into the spotlight and highlight their important place in the history of the Fitzgerald family and Ireland.



The third talk, 'The Wizard Earl – Gerald FitzGerald', explored the extraordinary life of Gerald FitzGerald, the famous 'Wizard Earl' of Kildare and half-brother of the renowned rebel Silken Thomas. The talk examined Gerald's remarkable life following the failed rebellion led by his brother, as well as the fascinating way his story became intertwined with Irish folklore, legend and mythology.

The guide staff said the response to all three talks was hugely encouraging and that the level of public interest makes the work of researching, preparing and delivering such events particularly rewarding.

These talks will be held again in the future, alongside a programme of new historical talks and events covering a wide range of Irish, local and maritime history.



There is also still an opportunity to visit Maynooth Castle, which remains open until 23rd of September. Visitors can enjoy both self-guided and guided visits, with free admission. For further information or to book a guided visit, contact maynoothcastle@opw.ie or telephone (01) 628 6744.

All of the Maynooth Castle staff would once again like to thank everyone who attended the Heritage Week events and supported its work. The continued enthusiasm of the public is helping to ensure that Ireland's rich history remains alive, accessible and engaging for future generations.



Fuel Allowance

What is Fuel Allowance?

Fuel Allowance is a payment to help with the cost of heating your home during the winter months. It is paid to only one person in a household. The Fuel Allowance season normally begins in late September of each year and ends in April. The 2025/2026 Fuel Allowance season started on Monday, 22 September 2025 and it is paid for 28 weeks.

Extension to Fuel Allowance

On 24 March 2026, it was announced the Fuel Allowance season will be extended by 4 weeks until 1 May 2026 due to the recent increases in fuel costs. If you get the Fuel Allowance in 2 lump sum payments, the extra 4 weeks' payment was automatically paid in one lump sum during the week starting Monday, 6 April 2026. If you are paid weekly, you will continue to receive the payment weekly until week ending 1 May 2026.

Budget 2026

From September 2026, people moving from Disability Allowance or Blind Pension to take up work will keep their Fuel Allowance for 5 years.

How to qualify for Fuel Allowance

To get Fuel Allowance you must:

- Be aged 66 or over
- Be under 66 and get a qualifying social welfare payment (see qualifying payments below)
- Live alone (or only with certain people listed below)
- Satisfy a means test

You must also live in Ireland. You cannot get Fuel Allowance if your heating costs are provided in full as part of your accommodation.

Who can I live with?

To get Fuel Allowance, you must live alone, or with:

- A spouse, civil partner or cohabitant who qualifies for an increase on your pension or social welfare payment, or is getting a qualifying payment in their own right
- Dependent children
- A person who gets Carer's Benefit, and who is caring for you or for your spouse, partner or cohabitant, or for a qualified child dependant on a full-time basis
- A person getting short-term Jobseeker's Allowance (less than 312 days) or basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance (less than 364 days)
- An immediate family member getting the Working Family Payment
- A person getting a qualifying payment (for example, long-term Jobseeker's Allowance) and who would be eligible for a Fuel Allowance in their own right
- A person aged 66 or over
- A person renting a room from you, where this doesn't affect your entitlement to Fuel Allowance

A person you provide accommodation to in your own home, and for whom you get the Accommodation Recognition Payment

If more than one person in a household qualifies

Only one Fuel Allowance payment is paid to a household. If someone in the household is 66 or over, they should apply.

If more than one person in the household is getting a social assistance payment, you can decide who applies for Fuel Allowance.

If someone in the household is getting a qualifying social insurance payment, such as State Pension (Contributory) or Invalidity Pension, they should apply first (so a means test can be carried out on their income).

Another qualifying person in the household can also apply for Fuel Allowance, but they must include information about the person getting a social insurance payment.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

Citizens Information Board
information · advice · advocacy

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

Qualifying social welfare payments and pensions

If you are 66 or over, you don't need to be getting a qualifying social welfare payment to get Fuel Allowance. However, you must satisfy a means test.

If you are under 66 years of age, you must be getting a qualifying social welfare payment (see qualifying payments below).

Social welfare payments are either based on your PRSI contributions (social insurance payments) or means-tested social assistance payments.

Most social assistance payments (non-contributory payments) are generally considered to satisfy the means-test for Fuel Allowance with the exception of Carer's Allowance.

Qualifying Social Insurance Payments

If you are under 66 years of age, you must be getting one of the following qualifying social welfare payments.

- Bereaved Partner's (Contributory) Pension
- Incapacity Supplement under the Occupational Injuries Benefit scheme
- Invalidity Pension
- Guardian's Payment (Contributory)
- Death Benefit under the Occupational Injuries Scheme
- A pension or benefit from a country covered by EU Regulations or a country with which Ireland has a bilateral social security agreement (provided there is an equivalent Irish payment)

Qualifying Social Assistance Payments

- One Parent Family Payment
- Carer's Allowance
- Disability Allowance
- Blind Pension
- Bereaved Partner's (Non-Contributory) Pension
- Deserted Wife's Benefit or Deserted Wife's Allowance
- Guardian's Payment (Non-Contributory)
- Farm Assist
- Jobseeker's Transitional payment (JST)
- Working Family Payment

Supplementary Welfare Allowance

You can qualify if you have been getting Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance for more than a year (this is 364 days over 12 months - it is paid on a 7-day week basis so 12 months' payment is reached after day 364).

Half-rate Payments

You do not qualify for Fuel Allowance if you are getting a half-rate payment in addition to a qualifying payment.

This does not apply to half-rate Carer's Allowance.

Employment or Education Support Schemes

You can keep your Fuel Allowance if you were getting it before you started any of the following schemes:

- Back to Education Allowance
- Back to Work Enterprise Allowance (BTWEA)
- Community Employment (CE)
- Rural Social Scheme (RSS)
- Tús

Working Family Payment

From 1 January 2026, if you are getting the Working Family Payment, you will also get the Fuel Allowance if:

No other member of your household is getting the Fuel Allowance

Your heating needs are not included in full as part of your accommodation

You are legally resident in Ireland

You do not need to submit an application.

The first Fuel Allowance payment to people getting WFP was paid on 12 March 2026 and included backdated payments from January 2026.

Jobseeker's Allowance

You qualify if you have been getting Jobseeker's Allowance for more than 312 days (over 12 months - it is paid on a 6-day week basis so 12 months' payment is reached after day 312).

Days on Jobseeker's Benefit (JB) and Pandemic Unemployment Payment (PUP) can count towards the 312 days, if your JB or PUP was immediately before your JA claim.

You can keep your Fuel Allowance if you move to Jobseeker's Allowance from One Parent Family Payment, Carer's Allowance or Jobseeker's Transitional payment.

Spouse, Civil Partner or Cohabitant on a CE Scheme

If you are getting Jobseeker's Allowance, and your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant is on a Community Employment (CE) scheme, they can be considered as a qualified adult on your payment if you apply for Fuel Allowance.

CE, RSS and Tús

You can apply for Fuel Allowance at any point when you are on CE, RSS or Tús if you meet all the relevant qualifying conditions for Fuel Allowance. If you were getting a long-term qualifying payment before starting CE, RSS or Tús, you satisfy the qualifying payment requirement.

Time spent on CE, Tús and RSS can be used to meet the minimum number of days on a qualifying payment for Fuel Allowance.

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

Citizens Information Board
information - advice - advocacy

How your income is assessed for Fuel Allowance

Fuel Allowance is a means-tested payment. This means that the Department of Social Protection (DSP) examines all your sources of income. Your gross weekly income must be below a certain amount to pass the means test.

Social welfare payments and other income

Income from some social welfare payments and certain other sources is not counted in the means test for Fuel Allowance.

Income not counted includes:

- All social assistance (non-contributory) payments
- If you get a social insurance payment and your spouse or partner gets a social assistance payment, the income from the social assistance payment
- Carer's Allowance and half-rate Carer's Allowance
- Disablement Benefit
- Any maintenance received in respect of a child is not counted
- Compensation awards under the Mother and Baby Institutions Payment Scheme
- Compensation awards to people who have contracted Hepatitis C from contaminated blood products
- Compensation awards to people for personal injuries suffered at the Stardust, Artane on 14 February 1981

Second Property

If you have a second property (property other than your own home), the rental income from that property is assessed. However, the capital value (less any mortgage outstanding on the property) will be assessed if the property is not rented.

Renting a Room in Your Home

If you are renting out a room in your home, you can have an income from rent of up to €269.23 a week (€14,000 per year) without affecting your Fuel Allowance. The person renting the room in your home must use the room for a minimum of 28 consecutive days and cannot be an employee of yours or an immediate family member.

The Accommodation Recognition Payment (for hosting people from Ukraine) is not taken into account in the means test.

Since 1 February 2024, someone renting a room from you, or for whom you get the Accommodation Recognition Payment, does not have to:

- Get a qualifying social welfare payment
- Qualify for Fuel Allowance in their own right

How much is Fuel Allowance?

From January 2026, the weekly rate of Fuel Allowance is €38 per week.

You can get your Fuel Allowance paid weekly or in 2 lump sum instalments.

Weekly payment

Fuel Allowance is usually paid from the end of September to April each year for 28 weeks. Fuel Allowance is included in your weekly payment, if you are getting a social welfare payment.

If you are not getting a social welfare payment, your Fuel Allowance can be paid directly into your account in a financial institution or you can collect it from your local post office.

Lump Sum Payments

It can be paid to you in 2 instalments (lump sums) - usually September and the following January each year. This instalment option is not available to people getting the Rural Social Scheme, Tús, Gateway, Community Employment, Supplementary Welfare Allowance or the Working Family Payment.

To change how your Fuel Allowance is paid, fill in the Change the Payment Frequency form at least one month before the first instalment is due.

Telephone Support Allowance

If you are getting Fuel Allowance as well as the Living Alone Increase, you will also get a Telephone Support Allowance of €2.50 per week. This is paid automatically with your main social welfare payment, so you do not have to apply for it.

How to Apply for Fuel Allowance

If you apply for Fuel Allowance after the start of the Fuel Allowance season, it will not be backdated. You do not need to reapply for Fuel Allowance each year as long as, your circumstances remain the same and you continue to get the same social welfare payment.

Online Application You can apply for the Fuel Allowance online. You must have a MyGovID account to apply online.

Paper Application Form at your Intreo Centre, Social Welfare Branch Office or Citizens Information Centre and send to the relevant social welfare department that you are getting your payment from.

National Fuel Scheme, Social Welfare Services, College Road, Sligo F91 T384 Ireland

Tel: (071) 915 7100 or 0818 200 400

Homepage: <https://www.gov.ie/en/service/00aa38-fuel-allowance/>



MAYNOOTH SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE

We are delighted to be back after our month's break in August.

Our Club morning resumes on Tuesday 1st September and will continue on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 10.30am to 12.30pm in the Geraldine Hall.

We hope to have some new activities in the coming months and will be letting you know about that when finalised.

Our monthly committee meeting will take place on Monday 14th September in the Geraldine Hall at 8pm.

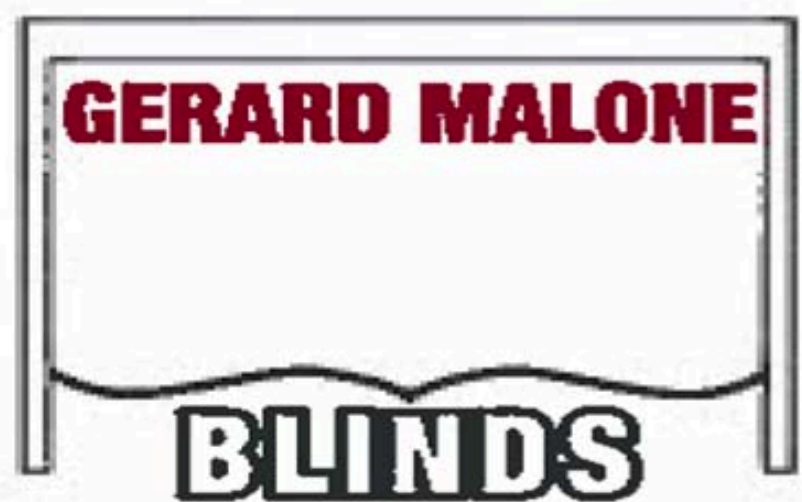
We are looking forward to seeing everyone again.

Best wishes

Susan Durack, Chairperson, Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

0877974582

Email: maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com



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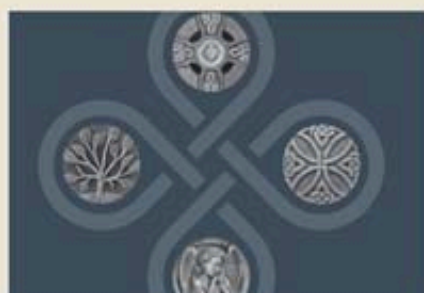
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Memories From the Archives

1986

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com

MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 111

Sept. Edition

Price 30p

TRAVELLERS AT BLACKLION



Maynooth Town Soccer Club August Notes

The Club started the 1986-87 season on the weekend of August 23-24 and hopes to do as well as in previous seasons. We are always interested in signing on suitable new players and, of course, any of last season's players. Training has already started and we are fielding three teams as before. We would like to take the opportunity to welcome Noel Holmwood as First Team Manager. Noel, of course, played with the club before and everyone in the club wishes him all the best. Second Team Manager will, as last season, be Gerry Moen and Tony McTernan will look after the Third Team. We would also like to mention the start of a Ladies Team who have already started training and will enter the Ladies' League in September. A committee is being formed and they would welcome as many ladies as possible to become involved.

We would also like to mention that our efforts to secure a permanent playing field are still continuing and we are hopeful that we will meet with success. Meanwhile, we are experiencing the same problems as before in relation to the use of the field on the Dublin Road. These problems are not our fault nor are they the fault of the owners of the field, who have always been courteous and helpful to us. Hopefully a solution will be found soon to what is quite obviously a serious problem, as anyone familiar with that approach to the town knows. Once again thanks to all who have supported us in the past and we look forward to the same in the future.

G. Durack
on behalf of Committee of Maynooth
Town F.C.



L-R: Referee Mick Hegarty, winning Captain Mick Dempsey being presented with the Donovan Cup by Clr. Emmet Stagg and Peter Holland, organiser.

LADIES SOCCER

A Ladies Soccer Committee was formed at a meeting held on the 29th July. These are the list of officers:

Main Committee:

Chairperson	Christina Sauls
Secretary	Patricia Nyland
Asst. Sec.	Mary O'Riordan
Treasurer	Angela Brazil
Asst. Tres.	Catherine Fitzpatrick

Fund Raising Committee:

Chairperson	Sandra Moran
Secretary	Shelly Breslin
Asst. Sec.	Mary Nyland
Treasurer	Geraldine Fitzpatrick
Asst. Tres.	Geraldine Treacy

Committee: Tina Fitzpatrick, Pam Burke, Alison Conlon, Louise Boyce, Colette Dunning, Patricia Dempsey.

The Ladies Soccer Team will be training on Mondays and Thursdays at 8.00 pm in the Harbour field. Anybody interested should contact Patricia Nyland at 285257 or 285201.

NATURE TRAIL

The Wild Duck

There are a number of species of Wild Duck that live in Ireland. One of the most common is the Mallard. The mallard can be found in every county. The male mallard is called a drake and the female is called a duck. The drake can be more easily picked out because of its beautiful coloured feathers, it has a green neck and head, it has a blue area on its wings and a bright plumage, whereas the duck is a mottled brown. At the end of Summer both the male and female lose their feathers, this is called moulting, they do not fly a great lot while this change is occurring. They can live up to 15 years.

The mallard breeds in Spring and early Summer, the nest is built of reeds, grass, water roots, and when the eggs are laid they are covered by light down from the duck. The eggs are pale green in colour and vary in number from 8 to 15, they take 28 days to hatch and when the young are born they are yellow and dark brown in colour. The duck has webbed feet, and the female duck brings its young to the water at a very early stage to learn to swim and to eat. It eats plants, small fish, frogs, snails, slugs and flying insects. The mallard is a very fast flyer, its main enemies are the fox, mink, and of course man, during the shooting season, from 1st September to 31st January. The mallard can be seen feeding on small ponds, lakes and rivers, the mallard can be seen preening its feathers by pressing its oil glands near the tail, this process is done a number of times each day and this leaves the feathers waterproof. Mallards usually fly in large numbers and some of them migrate to warmer countries and return in Spring.

The Hedgehog

The Hedgehog is a very timid creature and can be found living in garden fields and woods. It is completely covered in sharp spines and is brown in colour, the hedgehog is often seen wandering in the evening time in quiet spots in search of food. Its main diet is snails, earthworms, birds' eggs, fruit ... apples, blackberries, gooseberries. The hedgehog makes its nest under an old shed, or in a wall or hedge, the nest is made of dead leaves, grass and twigs. They breed in the Spring and Summer, the litter numbers 5 to 6, the young stay in the nest for about 3 to 4 weeks before venturing out to scratch the ground for food. In Winter the hedgehog stays in its nest to protect itself against the cold weather, this is called Hibernation. They may live up to 10 years. Their main enemies are the fox and the badger, and of course a great number of them are killed while crossing the roads.

Peadar

Day Trip to the Mountains

Green quiet places
Holding like cliff-cloistered gardens
The sanctity of forgotten centuries
Low slate-cold lakes
Dark dank valleys
Straying woods
High stone-shouldered mountains
Gathering wizard mists in their
heather hair
And the wind-bitter solitude
Wanted fiercely like a harlot's arms
Because it can be fled
Before its chill indifference
Obliterates the opening ecstasy —
Oh beauty moved about us
In the mountains
While we hung on the warm wine
Of a labouring engine
That drew us
Like disquieted pilgrims
Back to lighted streets
And fragrant fires
Back through that turbulence
Of pitiless beauty
And man-bellitting majesty.
It was evening when we passed
Through cultivated flatlands
The town was near
And we were bringing home
Within our brimming minds
The tamed epiphany of the wilderness
Sweet hedges gathered us
Into the warm evening
Sent forth a bird
That swooped headlong
Into the furling wheels
Too late to brake!
And in the rearview mirror
A song thrush tumbling
on the stricken road.



Snooker Marathon

The indefatigable Pat Farrell, of the Labour Party, is planning a 24 hour snooker marathon in aid of the Irish Kidney Association in September. He will be going from house to house seeking sponsorship, so please support this important cause. For further information, contact Pat at the Star Guest House, Greenfield Drive.

Community Flashback

The Newsletter has organised an exhibition of photographs taken at recent events in Maynooth. These include the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and the Community Fortnight. The exhibition is on view in the Library, Main Street. Copies of photographs on display can be ordered from the Newsletter Office, Town Centre Mall, behind Main Street, price 50p.

Local Student gains P.Hd. at Belfield.

We offer congratulations to Gerald Nelson, Greenfield, Maynooth who was conferred recently with a P.Hd. in English Literature at U.C.D. Gerald is a former student of Maynooth Post Primary School and gained his B.A. and M.A. at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth. Indeed it is a great achievement as Gerald is one of the youngest students ever to receive such a degree in U.C.D. We wish him every success in his career ahead.

Maynooth Parish Folk Group

The 9.45 pm Folk Mass resumes on Sunday, September 7th.

New Members:

Anyone wishing to join the Folk Group (musicians, singers) should come to Boys' National School on Wednesdays at 8 pm. We would love to hear from you.

P.O'D

Maynooth Community Contacts Listing

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Cllr. Paul Ward 087 2294697 cllrpaulward@gmail.com	An Nuadha Players annuadhplayers@gmail.com facebook.com/annuadha	An Post Sorting Office Maynooth 01-6293390	Brass & Reed Band (St Mary's) sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie facebook.com/maynoothband/
Cemetery Committee (Laraghbryan) 01-6293018	Church of Ireland 01-6292163 secretary@meath.anglican.org	Citizen Information Centre 0818078100 maynooth@citinfo.ie	Cloth Nappy Library Ireland 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/NappyLibraryIreland
Community Welfare Services 0818607080 Kildarecws@welfare.ie	Employment Office 01-6106000 bo.maynooth@welfare.ie	Kildare County Council 045 - 980200 customerservice@kildarecoco.ie	Kildare Civil Defence 045 980529 pmcneela@kildarecoco.ie
Kildare County Council (Local Office) 01 - 6286236	Kildare MABS 0818072600 kildare@mabs.ie	Maynooth Autism Friendly Town 0863329050 autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/maynoothaft	Maynooth Employment Services Office Kelly's Lane, Maynooth 01-6016360 EstMaynooth@welfare.ie
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Maynooth Kilcock Lions clubcontact@maynoothkilcocklionsclub.org facebook.com/MaynoothKilcockLionsClub/	Maynooth Library 01-6285530 Maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie	Maynooth Newsletter 01-6285922 office@maynoothcep.com facebook.com/MCEPnewsletter	Maynooth Senior Citizens maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com
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North Kildare Tennis Club info@northkildaretennis.ie	Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth 01-6293018 maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com	SVP Vincent's Shop 01-6289643 geraldinebyrne.east@svp.ie facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064619179003	Zero Waste Maynooth 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth

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