



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

LOCAL NEWS - JULY 2025 - ISSUE NO. 547

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WOMEN'S IRISH OPEN



The 2025 **KPMG Women's Irish Open** will take place from Thursday 3rd of July to Sunday 6th July 2025, in Carton House, Fairmont's renowned O'Meara Course. This tournament is now one of Europe's biggest women's golfing showcases, (winning Tournament of the Year in 2024 which was voted by the Ladies European Tour players) and has attracted nearly 100,000 attendees and a global audience of over 100+ million since 2022.

The 2024 tournament was won by Annabel Dimmock from England, after a nail-biting 2-hole play-off, a par was enough to make Dimmock champion which led to her claiming her second title on the Ladies European Tour.



Following the success of the 2024 tournament, which saw a record-breaking 37,000 spectators gather to witness world-class golf at the Ladies European Tour (LET) event, the return of the championship promises to be even bigger and better.



The event promises an electrifying showdown as English golf superstar Charley Hull, one of the sport's most dynamic and recognizable talents, will headline the field. Hull, a Solheim Cup standout and multiple-time LET and LPGA Tour winner, will be joined by Ireland's own

Leona Maguire, who continues to elevate the Irish golf scene with her record-breaking performances and Olympic pedigree.

Fans can also look forward to seeing, Georgia Hall, Madelene Sagström and the 2026 captain Anna Nordqvist. Defending champion, Annabel Dimmock will return to the event to defend her title alongside the World amateur number 1 ranked golfer, Lottie Woad.

Sourced: www.kpmgwomensirishopen.ie & www.cartonhouse.com

The spectator village will offer a vibrant festival atmosphere with a wide selection of food vendors. The village will also feature live music each day, as well as interactive golf-themed games and competitions such as long putt challenges, kids fun zone, and chipping contests - giving fans the chance to test their skills and win prizes throughout the week.

The event offers free admission for children under 16, along with a dedicated kids' zone, face painting, picnic areas, and sweet treats to ensure fun for all ages. Sustainability remains a key focus, with a bottle return scheme in place to reduce environmental impact and promote eco-friendly event practices.

One of the week's most anticipated fixtures, the Pro-Am, will take place on Wednesday, July 2nd, featuring a mix of celebrities, sporting icons, and amateur players teeing it up alongside tour professionals. This is free to attend and offers fans an up-close look at the stars in a more relaxed, entertaining setting.

Accessibility is a priority, with free on-site parking provided to all spectators, ensuring a smooth and welcoming experience from arrival to final putt.

With its stunning parkland setting, the Mark O'Meara-designed course, and a packed programme of golf and entertainment, the 2025 KPMG Women's Irish Open is set to be unmissable and one of the most competitive events on Ireland's sporting calendar.



Tickets are available on <https://kpmgwomensirishopen.ie/tickets>

info@womensirishopen.ie

Carton House, Carton Demesne,
Maynooth, Co. Kildare, W23 TD98, Ireland



Wishing **Maynooth Tidy Towns** the best of luck in the

Tidy Towns Ireland and The Entente Florale European Competitions.



Here's hoping they add 2025 onto their Gold Medal Winners Banner



ENTENTE FLORALE EUROPE
Association Européenne pour le Développement et le Paysage



THIS PUBLICATION IS PRODUCED BY MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT, SUPPORTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL PROTECTION, WHICH IS FUNDED BY THE IRISH GOVERNMENT.

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



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

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

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor, for publication, should be sent by

e-mail to: editor@maynoothcep.com

Mission Statement

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

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

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

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

In addition we undertake the following:

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

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

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

Maynooth Newsletter Archives

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

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

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

Disclaimer

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

All information should be verified from an independent source.

Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter

Editorial

Things do not move fast in Maynooth – in the July 2015 editorial we wrote about the closing of the Maynooth University Swimming Pool. As well as being used as a student facility, generations of young Maynooth children were brought there on Saturday mornings to learn how to swim. I even tried to learn myself there, but it ended in failure. There has been much in the way of talk about a replacement facility that would serve the people of Maynooth, but ten years on nothing is in place. Thankfully, swimming is possible in Maynooth if you become a member of the Glenroyal Hotel and Leisure Club.



Former Maynooth University Swimming Pool

(image courtesy of J. Lawless)

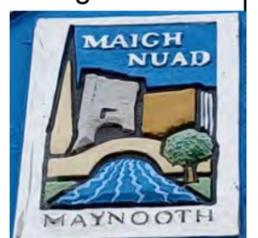
In the July 2000, Maynooth Newsletter we reported on the creation of the “Book of Maynooth” which was an artistic collaboration between local writes and the visual artists. The book has all local original writings and art on each page to visually interpret the writings. While this was a community project, the book which was produced on velum was loaned to Kildare County Council Library on the understanding that it would be displayed in the local library. It was displayed for a number of years and was then removed to make room for public access computers in the library. The book of Maynooth was a unique creation to record the thoughts of ordinary people in Maynooth at the millennium. It is a beautiful piece of art and it should be given back to the community. Does anyone know where it is now?



Also in July 2000, a call was put out for proposed designs for new street nameplates. I was privileged to be one of the judges for the competition. While all of the designs were good, the one selected was created by an artist that lived locally at the time.

The image represents four main features in Maynooth. These are Maynooth Castle, the book represents Maynooth University and Maynooth's tradition as a place of learning. The river represents the local rivers in the town, the Lyreen River and the Joan Slade River and the tree represents Carton Avenue. Some readers might be surprised on how recent the new town street signage came into being. But time is going fast – enjoy July.

Paul Croghan
Editor



**Copy date for the August edition will be
5pm on 23rd July 2025**



Gold Medal Winners
2016 - 2017 - 2018
2019 - 2021 - 2022
2023 - 2024

June was a very busy month for the Tidy Towns team. We are preparing for 2 Competitions: **Tidy Towns Ireland** and **The Entente Florale European Competition**. Judging in the Tidy Towns Ireland competition started on the 7th June. We may have been judged already but if we are in line for another Gold Medal the judges will make a return trip to Maynooth.

We have been busy working with local groups who will participate on the 12th of July in the TSI building. Gaelscoil Ui Fhiaich are representing all the schools. The Glenroyal Hotel will represent all the businesses. We will have Anna Collins from Kildare Bat Conservation, Norman Dunne from Dunnes Farm. John Byrne and his Honey Bees, Jesmond Harding with his Butterfly display. St Patrick's College and Maynooth University are represented by showing off their sports facilities, the College (Gunn) Chapel and the cemetery.

Flag raising ceremony will be centre stage at the College Library at 8.45am on the 12th July. All the work is in progress thanks to Kildare Co. Co. for all their help.

We were also told **Nationwide** will be making an appearance in the Town on the day. Our own Brass and Reed Band will be making an appearance at Carton Avenue and members of Maynooth Comhaltas will be playing a few tunes in the Square.

There will be a gala dinner in Barberstown Castle for all who participated in the preparations of this event, Tidy Towns Volunteers, Kildare County Council and The Department of Rural and Community Development.

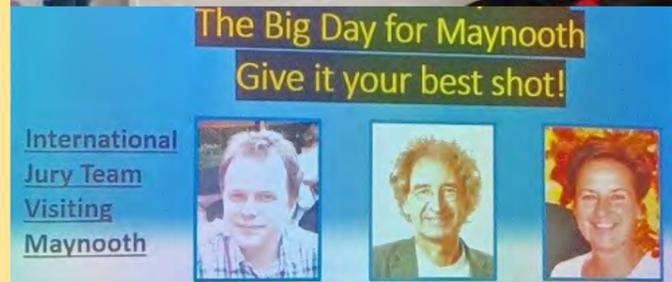
Fingers crossed we get a good result come September in Slovenia.

We painted the gates at Carton Avenue. The new pollinator beds in the Square look magnificent in the sunshine. Vinny's bike or bikes give light relief to all the public on the Main Street.

We have been using our Weedex machine all over the Town. We have had so much rain in recent weeks its really hard work to remove the weeds without the help of the machine which was a great investment. The Pound has been revamped with new pollinators and a poster has been erected. We have asked members of the Maynooth public for their vigilance in the lead up to both competitions especially Residents Associations to allow their grass to grow. Pick up litter even if you didn't drop it

We are always looking for volunteers. We meet every Saturday morning at 9am in the Council car park. Just show up, all the equipment is supplied.

If you wish to volunteer please contact us on our Facebook page or by email maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie Mary Molloy - Maynooth Tidy Towns Association





Fun had by all at the Maynooth Annual Picnic in the Park 2025, Harbour Field 15 June

The Picnic in the Park was another great success this year. The rain held off for the afternoon and crowds of people came to the Harbour Field to enjoy the warm and friendly atmosphere that mixed fun and learning for all age groups. The picnic this year was bigger and better than ever with 20 stands in the field and over a dozen more in the two main tents. The Community Garda, Maynooth Firefighters and Civil Defence were on hand to create a safe space for all to enjoy the day.

The entertainment tent hosted a variety of performers playing music, reciting poetry and telling stories to a delighted audience who were often shrieking with laughter. The Maynooth Brass Band took to the stage at 3:00 p.m. and there was traditional music too. The two main



tents welcomed throngs of people to stalls that offered face painting, seed planting, eco-printing workshops and insect hotel construction, as well as, for those who dared, caricatures.

There were also information stands on things like home retrofitting, water, waste and birdwatching. Many stands sold produce including eggs and flowers as well as a range of crafts. Food lovers were treated to many offerings, including ice-cream, gourmet crepes and waffles as well as Asian treats, honey and more.

Many people brought their own picnics and relaxed on the grass, taking in the atmosphere of the day and the beautiful surroundings. Further highlights included the Kildare Sports Partnership who hosted games with prizes, as well as the raffle, which had lots of exciting prizes kindly donated by participating groups and vendors.

The event, hosted by Maynooth Community Council, in collaboration with the Climate Action Team at Kildare County Council is centred around the themes of sustainability, climate action and community well-being. There were stalls showcasing Maynooth's Low Carbon Initiatives, giving an opportunity to learn about practical steps to take towards a greener future. The Circus of Climate Horrors produced by the ICARUS Team at Maynooth University offered a fun way to learn about climate action, while the Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community and others shared insights about greener living and biodiversity.

This year, the inaugural Decarbonizing Zone



Climate Champion Awards were announced at the Festival. These awards seek to celebrate those who are taking positive action to create a sustainable future for Maynooth. A total of nine awards were presented across all four categories: Business; Schools; Communities and Farmers. The judges were very impressed by the quality of the applications to the programme, and it is set to run again next year. Funding for the event was provided by local businesses, Community Foundation Ireland, Creative Ireland - Creative Communities as well as from the Local Property Tax.

In particular Maynooth Community Council expressed their thanks to the following for funding: The Lions Club; Life Credit Union and Intel. They also expressed their thanks to Kildare County Council for their funding and for the exceptional dedication of their staff which made possible the Picnic in the Park 2025.

See Photo Galleries on pages: 12,13,14,15,16.



St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

June was a very busy month for the Band beginning with a performance by the Academy Band at the Saturday Market in the Square on 7th when the music was brilliant but unfortunately the same can't be said for the weather. It was a dreadful morning, and the Band was very thankful for the Gazebo which we purchased with the aid of a grant from Intel two years ago which allows us some shelter in wet weather.

The Band had better luck when we performed at the Picnic in the Park in the Harbour on Sunday 15th. With better weather and a good surface in the area beside the canal as the grass in the field was definitely not suitable for setting up chairs for the duration of our recital as a result of the torrential rain on the previous day. The dry area was a great help to the large and appreciative audience with lots of positive comments at the end of our recital.

Highlight of June was the visit of the Upstate Symphonic Winds Band from South Carolina in the USA who shared a concert with us in the Square on Thursday 29th June. The Band was on a tour of Ireland, and we were delighted that they chose to stop off in Maynooth to play with us. The event has still to happen at the time of writing, but we will have more about this event in the next newsletter.

On Saturday 5th July the Band will be taking part in the South of Ireland Band Championships in Clonakilty after a long absence. Our fingers are crossed for some success, but 17 Bands from all over the country taking part in our section it will be a big ask, more on this next month.

Following the success of our Summer Camp last year, we are again looking for young people between 8 and 12 years of age to join the camp which runs from July 28th to August 1st.

To join the camp just email your details to:

stmarysbrassandreedcamps@gmail.com.

St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band
Maynooth

Summer Camp

€85

July 28 - Aug 1
INSTRUMENT PROVIDED!

Ages 8-12

10am-2pm

Poundlane, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Theory, Instrument Lessons,
Ensemble Practice and Educational Games

For more info and registrations
Contact us at:
stmarysbrassandreedcamps@gmail.com

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- * Social Housing
- * Estate Issues
- * Community Issues
- * Environmental Concerns
- * Employment Concerns
- * Covid - 19 related queries



Phone



E-mail



Cllr Angela Feeney

If I can help e-mail me at:
afeeney@kildarecoco.ie
 Or call on 087 2381962





Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

E mail: afeeney@kildarecoco.ie - Phone: 0872381962



Safety Measures at Boys National School

At the June Council meeting, I submitted a motion calling on the Council to install pencil bollards on the footpath on the Moyglare Road opposite the Boys National School to prevent car parking on the cycle lane and footpath. Cars are being parked on the cycle and footpath at the boys school particularly at opening and closing times for school pick ups and it is pushing pedestrians and cyclists out onto a very busy road. I welcome the positive response to my motion from the Council; the Municipal District Engineer confirmed that he will arrange for pencil bollards to be installed at this location in the coming weeks.

Mill Street Maynooth works

I requested an update from the Council on the works at Mill Street. The Mill Street Active Travel Scheme will complete a "missing link" on the Maynooth North / South Active Travel Corridor. The improvements will provide much improved pedestrian and cycle facilities on both sides of the street, upgraded pedestrian crossings, enhanced bus stop facilities, and a new pedestrian footbridge adjacent to the existing bridge. The report I received from the Council confirmed that works have been progressing on a phased basis throughout this year and are likely to be completed by the end of the year or early 2026:

- Southeast Mill Street – Q1/Q2 2025
- Southwest Mill St: Q2 2025
- Junction Main St: Q3 2025
- Northwest Mill St: Q3/Q4 2025
- Northeast Mill St: Q4 2025/2026

With regard to the section that connects Mill Street to the Moyglare Road, this will be the final section to be delivered and I was happy to hear, in the response provided to me, that the Council is currently in active negotiation with the landowners adjacent to that section. Hopefully, that last bit of the puzzle will be resolved and this North-South corridor for active travel for Maynooth will be open for use.

Link Road from Mullen Park to the Celbridge Road needs to be opened

I asked the Council when the link road from Mullen Park to the Celbridge Road will open. I reminded the meeting that Clause 15 of the Planning Permission (18/761) stated that "it shall be constructed prior to the occupation of the first dwelling." The Council said that an update on the opening date for this section of road has been requested from the developer and will be circulated once it is available.

Community Crèche needed

For many years now, I have been highlighting the need for increased childcare provision for North Kildare and supporting parents on this issue. Recent research shows that childcare fees in Kildare are above the state average and that we have the lowest rate of community based childcare. The response to my call for Kildare County Council to provide a community crèche is that "the provision of childcare does not fall within the remit of Kildare County Council". However, I believe that there are things that do fall within the Council's remit to facilitate the better provision of much needed childcare. For instance, continuing to ensure that planned crèches in housing developments are actually built. In addition, the Kildare Childcare Committee can support community groups in setting up a community crèche because such a facility is lacking in the North of the County. There are successful models of good practice elsewhere in the county and we can learn from them and if the Council through the LCDC and the Kildare Childcare Committee can help by setting up training which might move things forward, I am willing to work with all stakeholders to advance this. Please get in touch if you are interested in supporting such a project for Maynooth.

Upcoming Motions and Questions for Council:

Questions:

- What is the status of the Masterplan for Carton Avenue Maynooth?
- Can the Council provide an update on resurfacing works at St.Bridget's Terrace Straffan?

Motions:

- That the Council introduces a "Special Speed Limit Bye-Law", exceptional to the county-wide and MD reviews, and in accordance with Section 9 of the Road Traffic Act 2004, to introduce a 30 km/h speed limit on the R405 Celbridge Road in the area designated "School Zone/Ceantar Scoile" between Maynooth Educate Together National School and Gaelscoil Uí Fhiach in the interest of public health and safety. (Joint motion with Cllr. Melrose)
- That the Council instructs the developer of Mullen Park to open the link road from Mullen Park to the Celbridge Road Maynooth in compliance with planning permission.

Have your Say!

As part of the ongoing development of the Maynooth Town Renewal Masterplan, Kildare County Council is currently at Stage 1 of a 5-stage process. This initial stage focuses on gathering baseline data to guide the future direction of the plan.

To support this effort, the Council is launching a public engagement survey to collect valuable insights from the community. The survey will be accessible via:

- Kildare County Council official website
- On social Media platforms
- Hardcopy posters placed in key locations around Maynooth

The survey will remain open until close of business on 18th July 2025. It's important that the Masterplan reflects the needs and aspirations of the local community.

Maynooth Town Renewal Plan Give Us Your Thoughts

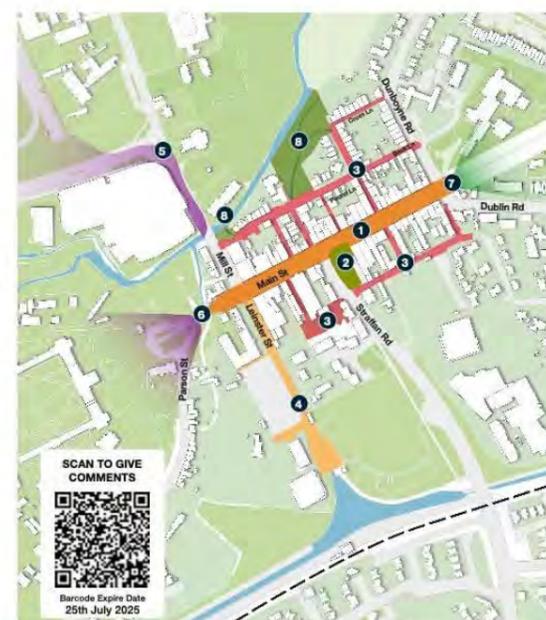


Initial Project Sites

1. Main Street
2. Court House Square
3. Revitalisation of Laneways
4. Leinster Street Gateway
5. Maynooth University Integration
6. St. Patrick's College Integration
7. Carton Avenue Integration
8. Maynooth Pound & Lyreen Park

Improvement Strategies

Enhancement & Wayfinding
Mobility Strategy
Town Branding Strategy
Decarbonization Strategy
Town Centre Living
District Heating Possibilities



Enhancement & Wayfinding

We will look to improve shopfronts and streetscapes through positive placemaking and wayfinding. This could include street furniture, lighting, planting, pedestrianisation, and other schemes to make Maynooth even more attractive and easy to navigate.

Town Branding

We want to create a town brand to conceptualise, communicate and foster an image and sense of place for residents, investors and visitors.

Mobility Strategy

We will seek to address traffic and parking management with an emphasis on pedestrian and cycle connectivity between key destinations within the town centre, and traffic calming where possible and appropriate.

Town Centre Living

We want to create incentives and opportunities to encourage living in the town centre. This will improve the contribution to street life and sustainability.

Decarbonization

We want to promote environmentally sustainable projects and schemes which integrate climate change measures and adaptation opportunities while promoting Maynooth as a decarbonized zone.

District Heating Potential

We will explore the potential for district heating within the historic street grid of Maynooth.

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



June has been a busy month for Maynooth Senior Citizens as we prepare to celebrate our 60th year on the afternoon of Sunday 3rd August.

Our senior citizens club members are working towards an art and craft exhibition which will be on display during the 60th anniversary celebration.

Details of the 60th anniversary will be posted on our facebook page when finalised. We are organising new activities/talks/workshops from September, more details to come.

We are having our annual Church Gate collection at all masses in Maynooth and Ladychapel on Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th July.

New members to the Club are always welcome. We are continuing with our Tuesday and Thursday Club mornings.

Please note the morning Clubs will be closed for the month of August and we start back on Tuesday 2nd of September.

We would be delighted to welcome new committee members and suggest a visit to our morning club in the first instance.
For more information please contact
maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com
or 0877974582 or any member of the existing Committee

THREAD'S BROWS and BEAUTY

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Threads Nails & Beauty
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0872068154



Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

Seeking Volunteers - it could be you!

Who we are

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee was established in 1965. Our registered charity number is 20017521

The aim of the organisation is to "create an environment where older people can retain independence and have autonomy over their own lives, to encourage full participation in their community and society as a whole. to endeavour to eliminate isolation through, social inclusion, transport provision and. to provide a voice for the most vulnerable, while keeping a watchful eye on social policies affecting older people and all the while working towards a just society that has no place for ageism"

What we do

- Conduct monthly meetings
- Organise and run two morning clubs... activities... bingo, art, crafts, wellness courses, information workshops for seniors
- Provide transport for Saturday evening mass via local link
- Support contact for the Senior Alert Scheme
- Organising fundraising activities for the organisation e.g. annual quiz night, church gate collection, Raffles
- Organise outings e.g. local shows, Christmas lunch etc.
- Member of the Irish Senior Citizens Parliament

Can you commit to giving your time to the following?

- Attend monthly meetings on the second Monday of month, Geraldine Hall, 8pm
- Consistent attendance at club mornings to help with setup, tea, clear up
- To help with fundraising activities e.g. annual quiz night, church gate collection, presence on mass bus, selling tickets for raffles etc.
- Computer skills are desirable especially for executive role-most of our correspondence and applications are conducted online
- To ensure that the aims and ethos of the organisation is fulfilled as laid in our governing instrument

We would be delighted to welcome new committee members and suggest a visit to our morning club in the first instance.
For more information please contact maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com
or 0877974582 or any member of the existing Committee



How To Prepare For Festival Season



It's festival season again folks and you can never be too prepared for festivals especially when living in Ireland as the weather is so unpredictable. Preparing for a festival whether it's a music festival, cultural celebration or a social gathering always make a plan. To ensure you have a fun, safe and stress free experience. Here is a quick guide to help with your preparations:

- Plan ahead making note of dates, location, rules, themes and what's allowed (food, alcohol and camping etc.)
- Buy tickets early as some festivals sell out fast and prices may rise
- Check hotels/b&bs especially if it's not a local event. Booking early gives a better chance of getting a hotel/b&b close to the event
- Very importantly, make sure you have fully charged phones, portable charger and cash/ID
- Print of festival map/schedule and tickets
- Waterproof clothing (Jacket, poncho, wellies)
- Sun hat, sun glasses and sunscreen
- Water bottles and snacks
- Familiarise yourself with emergency exits and first aid points
- If camping: Tent, sleeping bag, flashlights, sleeping mat, rubbish bags etc.
- Have a meeting point in case you lose your group

Most importantly stay safe and enjoy the experience



The Advantages Of A Road Trip

A road trip isn't just about reaching a destination its about enjoying the ride along the way. There's a special kind of freedom, the road becomes your guide. Some of the best stories come from the unplanned parts of the journey. Every day is a new adventure capturing the real beauty of nature, taking in the sights, sounds and smells that's lost when travelling by air.

The following are some advantages:

- Road trips allow you to be as free as you like, making your own unique experiences on the road.
- It's a way of stumbling across new things
- Not tied to a timeline and/or schedule
- You have the choice of camping and/or hotel living
- Budget friendly especially when travelling with children or big groups
- Factor in a visit to a family member along the way
- Plans can be changed quickly if something was to arise
- No luggage restrictions
- The driving can be shared
- You can take brakes as frequent as you like

Most importantly stay safe and enjoy the trip

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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for a special one (mention here). Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes it will become Your favour not mine.
Amen.

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and prayer & favour will be granted, no matter how impossible.

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received. R.D.

Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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



6 MONTHS IN MY NEW ROLE AS YOUR PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE

The last six months have been flat-out, and everything I do comes back to one thing: making a difference here in Maynooth. I work closely with TD Naoise Ó Cearúil to keep local issues front and centre—whether it's education, housing, or everyday challenges we're all facing. We're a team, and we're in this together with you.

Autism & Education Advocacy: Supporting families is my top priority. I've continued working closely with TD Naoise Ó Cearúil and the NCSE to help local children access ASD classes and secure suitable school placements. I've also supported parents through the AON (Assessment of Need) process—a journey I know firsthand.

Maynooth Autism Friendly Town: As Chairperson, I led awareness campaigns during Autism Awareness Month, hosted workshops in local schools, and continued rolling out our Event Card initiative—now used at events like the Picnic in the Park to create more inclusive experiences. We were proud to welcome Minister Michael Moynihan to Maynooth for a meeting with our committee.

Maynooth Town Masterplan: I'm encouraging residents to get involved and make their voices heard in the public consultation. This plan will shape the future of our town, and community input is essential.

Safety at Schools: I've raised road safety concerns at council level for areas like the Celbridge Road near Maynooth Educate Together NS and Scoil Uí Fhiaich. Naoise and I will continue to push for better pedestrian safety and meaningful responses from both the council and NTA.

Maynooth GAA All-stars: I've proudly supported inclusive sport initiatives like the Maynooth GAA All-stars team and spoke on reimagining sport through the lens of disability and inclusion at local events.

Youth Engagement & Political Education: Naoise and I recently brought Fianna Fáil MEP Barry Cowen to Maynooth Post Primary for a flag-raising and political talk with 5th years—showcasing all three levels of government in action: local, national, and European.

Local Jobs & Investment: I visited the new €10 million Lidl development site in Maynooth—the first of its kind in Ireland. This project is a major investment in our town and will bring jobs and services to our doorstep.



Question: Can the council consider plans to include sections of Old Greenfield, Maynooth which are in poor condition, on next year's plan of work?

Response: The Municipal District Office will inspect Old Greenfield with a view to considering it for inclusion in the 2026 road works programme

Cllr. Donna Phelan



In January 2025, I re-raised the motion first brought forward by TD Naoise Ó Cearúil in November 2023, calling on Kildare County Council to follow Maynooth's lead and work towards becoming an Autism-Friendly County. I'm pleased to share that the Council has agreed to explore this initiative further and examine potential funding options to support it. As part of this important next step, Adam Harris, CEO of AsIAm, will address all councillors in the chamber this July to discuss what's involved in making this vision a reality

Motion - Councillor Donna Phelan

That the council clarifies the concern surrounding GDPR in relation to listing Unauthorised Developments on the planning portal as was done in previous years.

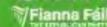
Response

While I acknowledge and support the protection of individuals' personal data under GDPR, I would like clarification on whether a balance can be struck between data protection and transparency for the public. For example, is it possible to publish non-identifiable summaries of enforcement cases—such as case numbers, nature of the complaint, general location (e.g., townland or street)—without revealing names or addresses?

This kind of transparency existed previously and served a purpose in informing the public and deterring non-compliance. Could the Council explore ways to anonymise the data while still reporting on enforcement actions to maintain trust in the planning system, I have asked the council:

- Can statistics on enforcement actions (e.g., number opened, closed, outcome types) be published without identifying data?
- Is there a way for elected members to access more detailed enforcement information in a private, non-public way to perform oversight?

Cllr. Donna Phelan



Important Update for Parents of Children Needing a Special Class Placement

The NCSE has brought forward the deadline for notifying the need for a special class or special school place for September 2026. The new deadline is October 1st, 2025—four months earlier than usual.

Please check the admission policies of the post-primary schools you're considering.

In some cases, you will need an up-to-date cognitive assessment dated within 2 years of your child starting school. This paperwork is essential for the SENO to approve your child's school placement.

Don't leave it too late—start planning now.

If you have any questions or need help, feel free to contact me directly.

#InclusionMatters #SpecialEducation #NCSESchoolPlanning

Over the past six months, I've submitted multiple questions to the Council about key services in Maynooth—covering everything from roads and housing to the long-awaited Greenway, which is expected to be fully open in the next four weeks and will be a fantastic asset for walkers and cyclists alike. I've also attended online meetings with Uisce Éireann to discuss the future of our water supply, which is under growing pressure due to rapid development in the area. These conversations are crucial to ensuring Maynooth's infrastructure keeps pace with our growing population. Separately, the Mill Street upgrade is now well underway. While we're not quite at the halfway mark yet, the progress so far looks promising and is already starting to transform the area.



I am proud to be actively involved in our local community through my work on the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee and the An Cuan Games Committee in Maynooth Community College. I also sit on the Board of Management at the Presentation Girls' School and serve as CEO of Community Cancer Caregivers, a local charity supporting families affected by cancer. Alongside Deputy Naoise Ó Cearúil, I recently welcomed the Minister for Special Education to Maynooth to showcase the fantastic work happening in our schools and to highlight the areas where further support is urgently needed.



Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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



GROWTH AND DEVELOPEMENT PROGRAMME MAYNOOTH WATER NETWORK UPGRADE



Supporting economic and social development



Increasing the supply capacity of the water network



Providing a more resilient water supply

Project Overview

The works involve the installation of 1.2kilometres of new water mains at the F148 Dunboyne Road and the R157, to cater for the future growth and development of the wider Maynooth area. These works are being carried out as part of Uisce Éireann’s Growth and Development Programme and are expected to commence in summer 2025.

The works will be carried out on behalf of Uisce Éireann by Coffey Construction and are expected to be completed by early 2026.

Will customers be affected by the works?

Traffic management will be in place at the R148 Dunboyne Road and the R157. Works will be carried out in rolling stages. Traffic management plans will be communicated in advance of works commencing.

Standard working hours are 7:30am to 6pm Monday to Friday.

Works may involve planned interruptions to water supply. Customers will be notified in advance of any planned water outages

What are the benefits of the works?

The benefits of these water network works include:

- Supporting social and economic development – This project will facilitate social and economic growth, including planned residential development.
- Improving the water network – This project will upgrade the water network, increasing the capacity to deliver reliable, sustainable high-quality water services.
- Providing a more resilient water supply – This project will improve the resilience of the water network, increasing connectivity to enable re-routing of water supply as required.



Maynooth Transfer Pipeline and Water Network Upgrade

Growth and Development Programme



“Got a question or concern? Don't hesitate to reach out”



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.

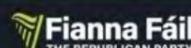
Contact Donna:
Email: dphelan@kildarecoco.ie / Tel: 087 002 3636

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

Donna & Naoise



CUSTOMERS CAN PHONE UISCE ÉIREANN ON 1800 278 278 IF THEY HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE PROJECT.



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



Motions and Questions from Municipal District Council

Motion - Councillor Donna Phelan

That the council explores extending the footpath past the metal barriers at the traffic lights on the Rathcoffey Road, as there are houses on that side of the road that have no footpath to walk on once people leave their houses.



Response

There is not sufficient width available to extend the footpath past the metal barrier to link up with the footpath further along the road. There are existing pedestrian traffic signals at each location where the footpath ends which allow people to cross the road to the footpath on the opposite side.

Question - Councillor Donna Phelan

Can the council elaborate on who requested the several extensions on the stage 2 tender process for the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road that was highlighted in the Chief Executives Report this month?

Report:

One extension to the tender return date was granted following the receipt of several requests from potential tenders for an extension due to the Builders Holidays in April which fell within the original tender period. This request was granted following careful consideration to ensure that enough competitive tenders were received.

The Part 8 planning process for the MERR was approved by Kildare County Council on July 29, 2019.

- **Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO):** In November 2022, the council initiated a CPO to acquire necessary lands for the project.
- **Tendering Process:** As of December 2024, Kildare County Council?

It is now June 2025 and still no contractor to start this work. 6 years later we are still talking about a road!!



Motion - Councillor Donna Phelan

That the council ensures that the company who is tendered to complete the Greenway Maynooth is contacted to ensure this opens fully in time for the Entante Floral judging process on July 12.

Response

Glás Civil Engineering Limited are the contractors working on the Royal Canal Greenway Scheme from Louisa Bridge, Leixlip to Maynooth Harbour. Construction works on the full extents of the project are expected to be completed by the end of June 2025. However, this is a complicated civil engineering contract and under the terms of the contract, any guarantees to the request cannot contractually be provided.

Question - Councillor Donna Phelan

Can the council confirm when the Maynooth Mainstreet masterplan is going to public consultation as there is already a vision for Maynooth Mainstreet published on the council website under the Climate Action section.

Report:

There is no Maynooth Main Street Masterplan and previous reports given to the Members were in relation to the Maynooth Town Renewal Masterplan.

The Maynooth Town Renewal Masterplan project has commenced, with a 12-month delivery programme, and is currently at stage one of the design. The Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team, together with the project Consultant Team, are hosting a stand at 'Picnic in the Park' on 15th June 2025, as a public consultation piece for stage one of the project.

Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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

Fianna Fáil
AN PÁIRTÍ POBLACHTÁNACH



Picnic in the Park June 2025 - Photo Gallery

Photos credit: Ronan Melia



Picnic in the Park June 2025 - Photo Gallery

Photos credit: Ronan Melia





Maynooth Autism Friendly Town Monthly News

Picnic in the Park took place on Sunday 15th of June

MAFT would like to extend its thanks and gratitude to Maynooth Community Council, for providing us with the opportunity of being involved in the event, making it a more inclusive afternoon of family fun for all.

Even the rain, didn't dampen the spirits of Donna and Róisín as they represented MAFT on the day, providing information regarding what we do in the community and of course our event cards which allowed those in the autism community the opportunity to enjoy the day in its entirety.



MAFT had the privilege of presenting at the 'My Moving Brian' series, held in MEC campus on Saturday June 28th



The event is all about bringing the community together to share their insights, ideas and experiences around brain health.

The event in Maynooth as part of the talk, looked at inclusive sports in Maynooth, how we have 3 teams embracing inclusion. The AllStars, Basketball for all and Skylarks. The basketball for all is the only team in North Kildare who provides an inclusive team unlike the other 2 sports of Gaa and tag rugby.

Every member of our community regardless of ability should be entitled to live a fully immersive life and these 3 sports teams allow for this. You can work, play, socialise and be educated in the one town regardless of ability and working with Aslam to create autism friendly workplaces here in Maynooth we will always strive for bigger and better



• Maynooth GAA All-Stars

The All-Stars initiative, supported by MAFT and hosted at the Maynooth GAA Astro for June, continues to grow in popularity. This inclusive sporting opportunity allows children of all abilities to participate and thrive.

The 'All Stars' had their final training session before the summer break on Sunday the 22nd of June, with a great day had by athletes and coaches.

Don't worry, the 'All Stars' will be back after the summer break for more fun filled Sunday mornings.



• Hangouts and Playball Groups Thriving

MAFT's social and recreational programs—including Hangouts and Playball—remain in high demand, with waiting lists across all age group.

Playball had its final session on Thursday 19th of June. What a success story this has been for our younger children. We would like to thank Nikki and her team, for what has been yet another successful initiative for our Autistic community.

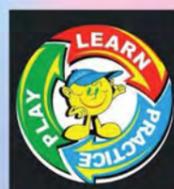


• Hangouts and Playball Groups Thriving

MAFT's social and recreational programs—including Hangouts and Playball—remain in high demand, with waiting lists across all age group.

The hangouts had their final meetups before the summer break on Wednesday the 26th of June. They celebrated the summer break with a pizza party funded by MAFT.

MAFT look forward to hosting the hangouts after the summer break, and hope everyone has a lovely summer.



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

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

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



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Summer in Full Bloom at Maynooth Local Market

As we write this, the sun is shining brightly over Maynooth - a rare and very welcome treat! Whatever the weather holds in the coming weeks, we're looking forward to a summer full of colour, connection, and the simple joy of supporting local vendors each Saturday.

Maynooth Local Market to welcome Entente Florale judges

We're delighted that Maynooth Local Market will be one of the featured stops during the judging visit for the Entente Florale Europe Competition on Saturday 12th July. It's a valuable opportunity to highlight the role our market plays in the community, as part of a broader celebration of Maynooth's environmental and social efforts. Huge credit to Maynooth Tidy Towns and all involved in preparing the town for this prestigious honour.

Meet our newest Vendors

This summer also sees the addition of some exciting new vendors to the market family:

Vicky Loew Creations – Handmade resin pieces and woodwork crafts that are as practical as they are beautiful. Perfect for gifting or treating yourself to something unique.

Explore with Marion – Designer and artist Marion captures the magic of Ireland through her on-the-go sketchbook. Her artwork reflects the colours, textures and stories of the Irish landscape.

Flowers by Bernadette Smith – A sustainable florist offering stunning, hand-tied bouquets. Her arrangements are crafted with care using fresh flowers from trusted growers.

Get involved – volunteers needed!

If you'd like to get involved behind the scenes, we're actively looking for volunteers to join our small but dedicated team. Whether it's helping out on Saturdays, supporting our vendors, lending a hand with admin, fundraising, or spreading the word about the market — there are plenty of ways to contribute.

It's a great way to meet people, build community, and support something local and meaningful. To get in touch, just email us at maynoothlocalmarket@gmail.com.



The Importance Of Organ Donation

Organ Donation is a topic that is very close to my heart because my beautiful niece/godchild Neveah who's name means heaven backwards and who was born on Christmas Day, passed away just before her 10th birthday on the 7th of November 2014 of a brain haemorrhage.

She donated her organs which saved the lives of five people. Her organs saved the lives of four school boys aged between 9-12 and a 34 year old woman.

The decision to donate Neveah's organs was inspired when Neveah saw her mams donor card a few weeks earlier. Being the inquisitive young girl she was, she found this fascinating that lives could be saved through organ donation.

Organ donation is very important because it gives so many people a second chance at life who are suffering from chronic illness and/or organ failure. The brave acts of donors and their families provides other families with the chance to extend life and improve the quality of life of their loved ones.

It is important that we keep talking about organ donation so people are aware of the great need.

I myself carry an **Organ Donor Card** and hope that many more will.

Carrying an organ donor card is vital because it shows first responders and medical staff of the donors wishes. This confirms their decision of organ donation, making people aware especially if a sudden or unexpected death occurs, ensuring that their wishes are respected.

I'm glad to see new legislation has just been passed, All adults in Ireland will be considered to have agreed to be an organ donor when they die, unless they have recorded a decision not to donate on the National Organ Donation Opt-Out Register or are in one of the excluded groups.

The HSE has welcomed the Human Tissue Act 2024 Part 2, which now provides a national legislative framework for organ donation and transplant services in Ireland for the first time.

(www.breakingnews.ie)



Newsletter Staff Writer: Jackie

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MU Chamber Choir makes history in Czechia



MU Chamber Choir celebrating winning the Svátsky Písni Olomouc (Festival of Songs Olomouc).

Maynooth University Chamber Choir was announced as the overall winner of the 52nd edition of the Svátsky Písni Olomouc (Festival of Songs Olomouc).

Consisting of choirs from across Europe and across various age categories, the festival is the Czech Republic's oldest and premiere choral competition. No Irish choir has ever won the MUNDI CANTANT award, which is for best overall choir at the festival.

Maynooth University Chamber Choir has now written itself into the history books, becoming the first Irish choir to achieve this honour, beating choirs from Slovakia, Czechia, Macedonia, Poland and Slovenia.

Adding to the accolades, the choir also secured wins in the Sacred Music category and the Youth Choir U26 category, performing newly commissioned works by Michael McGlynn (Tormán) and Eoin Conway (Nead na Lachan).

The judges were deeply impressed with the choir's performances, awarding them Most Convincing Interpretation of Contemporary Choral Music, Best Performance of a Czech Composition, and Most Inspiring Performance.

"It's a huge achievement for the choir. Czechia and this region of Europe has a rich history of choral music, so to win the Absolute Winner overall prize, and five others, including the best performance of a Czech piece is incredible," said Artistic Director of Maynooth University Chamber Choir, Dr Michael T Dawson.

The competition in Olomouc forms part of the choir's tour of the Czech Republic. The choir has performed at the Irish Embassy in Prague and represented Maynooth University at a range of events. A concert in the Church of Our Lady Victorious and The Infant Jesus of Prague will conclude a successful year for MUCC.

Dr Dawson added that Maynooth University Chamber Choir would like to express its deepest gratitude to all who have supported them on their journey so far.

MU students showcase inventions at Design Show

Student innovators at Maynooth University showcased a wide range of projects, at Inventing Possibilities, the Product Design and Innovation Degree Show that took place on MU campus over the June bank holiday weekend.

The end of the academic year show featured projects from students in the final year of the BSc Product Design and Innovation degree. The exhibition offered a unique window into the creativity and ingenuity of Ireland's emerging design talent and showcasing a range of products aimed at tackling every day and global challenges.

Visitors explored a diverse selection of projects addressing pressing issues in healthcare, wellbeing, and humanitarian response. The products exhibited were original designs developed from a thorough user and market research starting point, prototyped and then manufactured on campus.

Best Project in Show Winner Zoe O'Sullivan and her invention Lymphia is a handheld device to help breast cancer survivors prevent lymphoedema, a condition that causes swelling of the bodies' tissues, by teaching safe manual lymphatic drainage techniques. It has integrated pressure sensor and offers a practical solution for post-surgical care and recovery.

Matthew Byrne, winner of the John McHugh Student of the Year Award created an interactive puzzle game called MediMatch to ease children's



The BSc Product Design & Innovation Class of 2025

anxiety around medical procedures. The game introduced young users to medical tools through imaginative play, transforming fear into curiosity and comfort.

Programme Director



L-R: Dr Frank Devitt, Best Project in Show Winner Zoe O'Sullivan and Programme Director BSc Product Design and Innovation Oratile Mokgatla

for MU's BSc Product Design & Innovation Oratile Mokgatla said: "The BSc Product Design & Innovation Degree Show is a celebration of the curiosity, rigour, and creative courage our

students bring to tackling real-world challenges. Their work this year reflects a deep engagement with pressing societal issues and a commitment to design that is not only innovative but also meaningful. From sports safety and public health to responses to global emergencies, our students have embraced a deeply human-centred approach at a time when reconnecting with human needs feels more relevant than ever."

The Degree Show aims to demonstrate the precision involved in the creation of products that address domestic and global obstacles. It is an integral part of the BSc Product Design and Innovation degree, which provides graduates with the foundations, skills and creative confidence they need to become pioneering designers. It also reflects a growing awareness of the role of design in shaping a more resilient future.

Disability advocate Sinéad Burke calls for greater inclusion in higher education

Founder and CEO of Tilting the Lens Sinéad Burke has called for increased access and inclusion for staff as well as students across all areas of the third level sector.

In a keynote address to the Equitas 2025 Conference hosted at Maynooth University, the disability advocate said that accessibility should extend beyond student services to encompass hiring, promotion as well as leadership.

"When accessibility is confined to student services, we replicate the very hierarchies we aim to dismantle. Staff, particularly disabled staff, deserve systemic inclusion: in hiring, promotion, research funding, and leadership."

"Explicit fairness must be embedded at every level, not just the syllabus or the onboarding of a new cohort of students," she told the two-day Equality, Diversity and Inclusion (EDI) conference (Wed 18-Thurs 19 June).

The conference coincides with the publication of the Times Higher Education (THE) Impact rankings, with Maynooth University in the top 5% of international universities for reducing inequalities.

The Equitas - EDI in Practice in Higher Education Conference is an annual event open to EDI practitioners, academics, researchers, graduate students, managers, administrators and all who are interested in ensuring equality, valuing and celebrating diversity, and promoting inclusion in Higher Education.

In her keynote, titled 'Accessibility is a framework, not an outcome', Ms Burke said: "We must continue to advocate for a reimagining of our institutions - not as places where disabled people are accommodated, but as places where disabled people belong, lead, and innovate. This requires shifting from individual interventions to structural accountability."

The Equitas Conference offers a dynamic space to share best practices, innovative research, and lived experiences across higher education, aiming to foster more inclusive and equitable academic environments. A welcome address was delivered by President of Maynooth University, Professor Eeva Leinonen.

Topics under discussion include disability and accessibility, inclusive recruitment, exile and interculturalism, race equality, gender equality and intersectionality, the gender pay gap, teaching and learning, ending sexual violence and harassment, as well as engaging men in gender equality.



Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth



CEO of Tilting the Lens and disability advocate Sinéad Burke



L-R: CEO of Tilting the Lens Sinéad Burke, VP of Equality and Diversity Gemma Irvine, MU President Prof Eeva Leinonen and Sam Blanckensee, MU Equality Officer



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FINBARR COGHILAN	ANN KELLY
MERLOT	PHLEM
AOIBHINN O'NEILL	DARA DOHERTY-MADRIGAL
ARTHUR	MUCUS
ALISHA SHIELS	AOIFE DUTTON
EOWYN	LORD CUMBERBUN
RAYNE DARKER	JOHN O'TOOLE
EGWENE	HUB
LEANNE GREEKE	ELIN FOX
ELAYNE	NUB
REBECCA WRIGHT	CAMILLA PEDERSEN
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HAWW	SHRUB
TOM BRADY-CONNOR	SIOBHAN O'SHEA
MAMMY	ROYAL ANNOUNCER
MICHELLE WALSH	BRY JOHNSTON
DADDY	VILLAGERS
JOHN FITZGIBBON-MOORE	LAURA BRENNAN
	AVA GREENE

Cast announcement

After 2 fantastic nights of auditions and much deliberating over the immense talent, from both new faces and returning members, our production team have released the white smoke- We have a cast for our Christmas Panto 'The Sword in the Stone'!
Congratulations one and all!

Keep an eye on our website for the first-hand information on ticket sales and how to get involved with the group at <https://annuadhplayers.ie>.

The Picnic in the Park 2025

We had a fantastic day on the 15th of June at the Picnic in the Park!

Huge thanks to Maynooth Community Council and everyone involved in organising this great event.

Thank you to all of our members who came down to support us, and promote our group and shows, and to everyone who took the time to talk to us.

It was lovely to chat to so many people. We look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming shows.





An Nuadha Players
proudly present

The Prisoner of Second Avenue

BY NEIL SIMON

MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE
8TH - 12TH JULY 2025

DOORS 7PM | SHOW 7:30PM

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An Nuadha Players proudly present 'The Prisoner of Second Avenue' by Neil Simon, directed by longstanding member Ann Kelly.

The Prisoner of Second Avenue will take place from the 8th -12th July in Maynooth Post Primary. Doors will open at 7pm with the show starting at 7.30pm

Tickets are selling fast, with less than 50% availability left already for the performance on Friday 11th July. We advise you get your tickets ASAP at <https://annuadhaplayers.ie> to avoid disappointment as we cannot guarantee that there will be any tickets available at the door.

Meet the Director and Cast of the Prisoner of Second Avenue



Ann Kelly (director)

*Cast: Top row L-R: Oran O'Rua (Mel), Tom Brady-Connor (Harry) Katie Noone (Pauline),
Bottom row L-R: Martina Murphy (Edna), Áine O'Malley (Jessie), Patricia O'Malley (Pearl)*





We cannot wait to share this production with you! In the meantime, take a sneak peek at rehearsals so far:



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For more information please contact

Amanda on 086 1367423

amandadempsey@grow.ie

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for a special one (mention here). Take it dear Heart of Jesus and place it within your own broken heart where your Father sees it. Then, in His merciful eyes it will become Your favour not mine. Amen

Say this prayer for three days. Promise publication and prayer & favour will be granted, no matter how impossible.

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received.

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Thanksgiving for favour received. R.D.

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Blast from the past - The Fleadh Cheoil in Maynooth 10 years ago



See if you recognise anyone.....



Fleadh Cheoil Laighean Maigh Nuad 2015

(Photo's by John Boyd & Rory O'Connor)





Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

An Immigrant's Account of The Ireland He Knew

(Told to me by Michael Beirne in New York, 25th June 1961)

First, let me outline where I met Michael and try to establish his age. In 1961 I was employed in Manhattan as a draughtsman by Fischback and Moore Inc. We did electrical layouts for new skyscrapers on large, rectangular sheets, which were then sent out to get printed copies. One day a man in his mid 60s arrived with a bag of prints. We began chatting and in a few minutes I learned that this friendly deliveryman was not only Irish but was also a 3rd cousin of mine. By a rough calculation, he must have been born around the year 1896, long before Ireland gained its independence.

Around that time, John Merrick Lloyd was the landlord in our family parish of Croghan. A Rev. Fr. Timothy O'Beirne, who was a curate in Croghan during the Great Famine, published a letter denouncing the then Lloyd landlord for his treatment of the poor. In the 1930s John Merrick Lloyd sold his extensive demesne to the Ffrenchs, a Catholic Anglo-Irish family. During my boyhood the Ffrenchs had their own pew in the parish church.

Michael had left Ireland in his youth and now had teenage grandchildren by his daughter, who had married a German chef, whose first name – to the best of my recollection – was Ritti. About a year after our initial encounter, I was invited to Michael's Brooklyn home and met his attractive extended family. Later, I invited all of them for dinner to my apartment in Queens. As a special treat I had picked up sea bass at the Fulton Street fish market. When Ritti learned that I intended to grill them he was appalled and instructed that I should go out at once with his eldest daughter and purchase some lemon garlic herb sauce. Under his instructions the meal was quite a success. In the meantime, Michael had given me the following account about life in my home area in the years before Ireland gained its independence.

There used to be stag hunts and drag hunts in the old days. For the drag hunts, a scented object was dragged across country on the day before the meet. The Lloyds of Croghan or the Kirkwoods of Moylurg 'Castle' generally arranged the hunt. Colonel Kirkwood's place was not a demesne but a country residence. His wife rode sidesaddle to the meets, which were held in the countryside around Eastersnow graveyard. The Kirkwoods had a liveryman who took care of the horses and stables, 3 or 4 servant girls and the same amount of workmen. The liveryman held the stirrup while the colonel or his wife mounted.

Great care was taken to keep deer away from the lake, as they seemed to scent water and head for it, thus preventing the horses, but not the dogs, from following them. The Fords of Rockmount, a Catholic family of means, always attended these meets and Marcella Ford was able to jump from the ground onto a horse's back. The Fords used the field opposite the graveyard for racing, but, from their obsession with horses and aversion to work, they finally had to sell out.

Everybody who could ride attended the hunt and Fr. Mullaney (He died recently, aged over 90) with tall, silk hat and swallow-tailed coat was usually present. The Anglo-Irish men wore peaked caps and the ladies, who sat sidesaddle, wore high riding boots and skirts. Perhaps twenty or thirty people followed the hounds.

Once a year Lloyd allowed people to shoot rabbits on his demesne and a reward was offered for each rabbit. At other times poachers were prosecuted. The rabbits were considered a pest. The priests rode alone, but usually had a boy to drive them when they travelled in their traps. A priest usually had one boy and a maidservant in the house.

Horse races were held on the Croghan side of Dunamese hill and were known as 'The Boyle Races'. People came from as far away as Gorteen. It was flat racing and lasted one day.

The parson – referred to by Michael as 'the minister' – lived in the parsonage, which was located in the same place as today. He remembers a Minister Courtney, who had no children. The next man, a minister named MacIntosh, swapped a Spanish donkey for a small, brown 'Neddy' of Michael's, which the children could ride. It was considered good luck to let a donkey run around with the cattle, so his family generally kept one till he was 2½ years old, then trained and sold him. They also kept young bulls. Bulls were sold at Croghan fair, which was held on 28th October. People would start arriving at 'Tipperary' (his family's pub) at about 10 o'clock the evening before the fair.

There were dances in summertime at Eastersnow crossroads and Conroys' crossroads. The priests frowned on country-dances, even when held in homes and the people would run away scared on the priest's arrival. It was only church-approved and supervised dances at Christmas and Easter that were officially allowed.

A favourite pastime was cycling. A group of fifteen or so would go for a long ride to Sunday games or dances. Cycle races were held once a year between Croghan village and 'Tipperary' pub and competitors would come from as far away as Boyle and Cootehall. Forty people might participate in these events.

P.G.Nerney

Village Rebirth?

Visiting Achill I walked
its bleak Deserted Village,
a line of stone-built, roofless cabins
inhabited by hooded crows and ravens,
bared like rotted teeth
along a rutted track-way.
Before them black-faced sheep
cropped the verges' meagre grasses;
behind them tracks of lazy beds
that once grew 'lumpers',
food for half-starved families
until blight caused the Great Hunger.

Today I gaze at a painting
of picturesque Achill dwellings,
eight russet-roofed cottages
with gleaming, white-washed walls,
two or three small windows,
red half-doors and gable chimneys,
linking electric poles aslant,
yet know that the originals
are two-storey, slated houses
electric poles securely upright,
then wonder if even supreme art
could make the roofless village bright.

Colin Scott



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

Exploring the Legacy of Thomas Fitzgerald "His Defiance Against King Henry VIII"

On the 11th of June 1534, the Silken Thomas rebellion began.

Thomas FitzGerald, 10th Earl of Kildare, also known as 'Silken Thomas' was a leading figure in 16th-century Ireland. This nickname is derived from the fact that his followers wore silk fringes on their helmets or carried silken banners.

In February 1534, his father was summoned to London and appointed the 21-year-old Thomas (by then Lord Offaly) deputy governor of Ireland in his absence. In June 1534, Thomas heard rumours that his father had been executed in the Tower of London and that the English government intended the same fate for himself and his uncles and were plotting the complete downfall of the Fitzgerald's of Kildare.

He summoned the council to St. Mary's Abbey, Dublin, and on the 11th June 1534, accompanied by 140 armoured gallowglasses and publicly renounced his allegiance to King Henry VIII. By July, Thomas began a four month siege of the city of Dublin and he called the lords of the Pale to the siege of the Castle. Those who refused to swear fidelity to him, he sent as prisoners to Maynooth Castle. Unfortunately for the Earl, Dublin Castle alone held out for the King of England.

A major turning point in the Silken Thomas Revolt, Dublin, July, 1534.

John Allen was sent by King Henry VIII from England to take up office as the newly elected archbishop of Dublin. Archbishop Allen was very keen to reclaim the vast lands and estates once held by his predecessors and the crown particularly on the borders of Kildare. However, these lands by the end of the 15th century were under the control of the Earls of Kildare.

This decision by the Archbishop would bring him in direct confrontation with the 9th earl of Kildare, Gerard Fitzgerald. During the rebellion lead by the 9th Earls son, Thomas Fitzgerald, Archbishop Allen sought refuge in Dublin Castle but he decided to leave and return to safety in England, a fatal move.

The ship he boarded ran aground near Clontarf and the following morning he was arrested by Thomas Fitzgerald. Whether Silken Thomas actually ordered the killing or not remains a subject of debate, there is a well-known tradition that John Teeling and Nicholas Wafer misunderstood his command in Gaelic to "take this fellow away" as a command to execute him.

Thomas always maintained that he had intended to spare his life and take him prisoner to Maynooth Castle but that his order had been misinterpreted. Fitzgerald afterwards sent his chaplain to Rome to obtain absolution for him and his supporters from the excommunication incurred by this murder.

The Archbishop had become the most high-profile victim of the revolt thus far following his savage execution. On hearing of his son's rebellion, and perusing the excommunication launched against him, Gerald died "of grief" in the Tower of London. Nevertheless, Thomas always believed that Archbishop Allen had been partially accountable for the death of his father.

The brutal murder absolutely enraged and further provoked King Henry VIII to end this rebellion and to order a siege of Maynooth Castle to commence in the next number of months.

Following the failed siege of Dublin Castle and the killing of Archbishop Allen, Silken Thomas retreated to his stronghold at Maynooth and fortified it from attack. In March 1535, Maynooth Castle was taken by an English force under Sir William Skeffington by bribing Thomas's foster bother, while Thomas was absent gathering reinforcements to relieve it.

The surrendered garrison was put to death, which became known as the "Maynooth Pardon" of the "Pardon of Maynooth".

Thomas had already gathered much support throughout Ireland, amongst many of the more powerful Gaelic families in Leinster and also many of the old Anglo-Irish families who had allied themselves with the earls of Kildare.

However, had wrongly assumed that his rebellion would attract even more overwhelming support, in particular from Irish Catholics opposed to Henry VIII's English Reformation.

Unfortunately for the Fitzgerald's, the support they had was not sufficient enough to continue the fight and without his stronghold at Maynooth Castle, the revolt became increasingly more difficult for him to lead and reverted to guerrilla tactics, but by now his rebellion was effectively a lost cause by the following year.

Eventually, Thomas and his five uncles were arrested and executed at Tyburn, London, in February 1537. Silken Thomas's revolt caused Henry to pay more attention to Irish matters, and was a factor in the creation of the Kingdom of Ireland in 1542.

Alan Cleary, Tour Guide and Historian.

"WHAT CAN WE DO?"

I happened to catch part of an interview by an RTE journalist with a retired bishop, of a neighbouring diocese. In this particular excerpt he was giving examples of how approachable he had been to people and to children especially. This topic had been introduced by the interviewer and now was being elaborated upon by the bishop.

He gave as an example of how easily children could talk to him as he did his rounds of the local schools. A little girl asked him what exactly it was that he did in his job as a bishop? His answer, or rather his reply was: "where are you from?" I didn't understand why he asked such a question as a reply to the child's simple inquiry.

I lost interest immediately. Why on earth couldn't he have answered the child directly? Surely he knew what his job was? He was offered a teed-up opportunity and he fluffed his lines. "What do you do"? What is your job? Could he not have said very simply that his job was to tell as many people as possible about Jesus Christ? The child would have understood that.

Better still if she had followed up with a question such as "why do you want to do that? Or "why is that a good thing to do"? Surely he would have known why that was a good thing to do! And how he went about doing it? He didn't work on his own but his particular job was to help those who worked with him to tell others about Jesus also.

His job was to not only to make it possible for others to do that but to

make sure they did it to the maximum of their ability. And he could have said that he gives good example by preaching an interesting and clear sermon at Sunday Mass. The sacraments could also have featured as an important part of telling people about Jesus Christ. And most of all perhaps he could have told the child and any others listening that that he tries to model his life on the way that Jesus dealt with everyone he met while he was going around Palestine 2000 years ago.

So, an opportunity lost! But it is easy to throw stones. Don't the rest of us who claim to be followers of Christ have our obligations also? How many opportunities do we lose to declare what it means to be a Christian? We live in a world where Christian values and principles are not at the top of the agenda. Does it trouble us that up to three billion people are today not sure of the quality of the water they drink? How many billions are hungry? Is there any great shortage of missiles, bombs and bullets? Has Christianity any message for the war mongers who slaughter and trample on those poor unfortunate people who get in the way of their greed?

It's not easy to answer these questions but surely we should be doing our level best as intelligent people to put structures in place that would help the poor wherever they are? No one is an island!

GM

Events at **Maynooth Community Library**

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



[facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService](https://www.facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService)



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Events for Children

Summer Stars Intergenerational Parent/ Grandparent & Child Craft Workshop for ages 8 - 12

Wednesday 2nd July, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Come and join us for some joyful stitching inspired by nature. During this intergenerational parent/ grandparent and child workshop you'll learn how to compose a small textile piece of art using up-cycled materials from textiles to beads & some needle work skills. All children attending this workshop must have a parent/guardian present with them for the duration of the workshop.

Book your free ticket here: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20078841>

Summer Stars Reading Challenge

Don't forget you can sign up your child to the Summer Stars reading programme in the library. Children collect prizes as they read and are awarded a certificate for taking part.

Song & Rhyme Time for 0-2 year olds

Friday 4th July, 10.00 am - 10.30 am

A story and song session for ages 0-2. There'll be a few short stories, and some popular Action Songs to engage younger attendees.

Places are limited and one free ticket is required per child. All children must be supervised during this session.

Booking Link: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20055457>

Song & Rhyme Time for 0-2 year Olds

Friday 11th July, 10.00 am – 10.30 am

A story and song session for ages 0-2. There'll be a few short stories, and some popular Action Songs to engage younger attendees.

Places are limited and one free ticket is required per child. All children must be supervised during this session.

Booking Link: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20055526>

Little Makers Time for ages 1-6 years

Friday, 18th Jul 2025, 3.00 pm – 3.30pm

Let their imaginations run wild! Join us for this making session for 1- 6 year olds. Practice fine motor skills while having fun!

Build amazing creations using construction toys such as Magna-Tiles, Duplo, Mega Bloks, Blockaroo, puzzles and more. While not all activities will be suitable for all ages – there will be something for everyone! Suitable for ages 1- 6 year olds.

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Booking Link: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20058497>

Events for Adults

Homelessness and Housing Support Clinic

Tuesday 22nd July, 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, no booking required**

Healthy Ireland Events

Kids Kitchen Takeover workshop with Oliver McCabe, Author, Whole Food Chef and Nutritional Therapist for ages 6- 15 years.

Saturday 26th July, 10.00 am – 11.00 am

Oliver McCabe Author of Kids Kitchen Takeover and Fuel Food Cookbook is a renowned Irish Nutritional Therapist and Wholefood Chef working with the independent health store and health food community for over 20 years. He has collaborated with schools, colleges, corporate, festivals and events with 'kids cooking as a life skill' supporting their future health and wellbeing. This is encompassed

in the fun Kids Kitchen Takeover Cookbook for kids and teens (aged 6 - 15) and families to enjoy preparing easy nourishing healthy recipes together in the kitchen, the heart of the home. All children attending this workshop must have a parent/guardian with them for the duration of the workshop.

Book your free ticket here : <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20135364>

Exhibitions

'Colourful Life': Exhibition in Water and Acrylic Colors by artist Sarika Jadhav

Maynooth Community Library, Wednesday 2nd July - Thursday 31st July

Sarika Jadhav is a passionate artist with a lifelong love for creativity and self-expression. This exhibition, *Colourful Life*, features a vibrant collection of Sarika's watercolour and acrylic paintings. Inspired by the natural world and its rich palette, her works are filled with dynamic splashes of color that reflect energy, joy, and the beauty of everyday moments.

Come explore a world of emotion and inspiration through Sarika's unique artistic lens — where every brushstroke tells a story of life in full color

Maynooth Community Library Exhibition Space

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 August 2026. To be placed on a waiting list to use the exhibition space in 2025, or for booking enquiries, please email maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie.

Groups and Clubs

'Knit + Chat ' Craft Club

Thursday 17th July, 6.30 pm – 7.30pm

"Maynooth Knit + Chat " is a club intended to create a space where the knitters and fibre artists of Maynooth can come together and bond over a shared love of knitting (or crochet, or anything that takes your fancy!). Whether you are a beginner or an advanced knitter, this is the club for you! People of all ages (from 18 and up) and skill levels will be in attendance. Even if you are the most skilled knitter in all of the greater Kildare area, we are sure that there will be something new for you to learn! Please contact the library @maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie

Drop in, no booking required

Maynooth Community Library Craft Club

The Library Craft Club meets every Monday, 11.30am - 13.00

(except on Bank Holidays).

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

Ciorcal Comhrá - Irish Conversation Group

Dé Máirt 11.00 r.n. – 12.00 i.n. – Tuesdays 11.00 am – 12.00pm

Fáilte roimh chách chun do Gaeilge a chleachtadh gach Dé Máirt ó 11:00am - 12:00pm.

All are welcome to practice their Irish every Tuesday from 11:00am - 12:00pm

Baby and Toddler Group

Every Thursday, 10 am – 11 am

If you have a young baby or toddler and would like to meet other parents or minders in the area, come to our stay and play group every Thursday morning at 10am.

No need to book, just drop in!

The Maynooth Town Renewal Plan is now out for public consultation



This plan will help shape how Maynooth grows and develops over the coming years. It covers everything from housing and transport to public spaces, accessibility, community facilities and more. Now is the time to use your voice.

As a proud and active member of this community, I know how deeply people care about our town. Whether it's safer roads, greener spaces, better access for all, or protecting the character of our historic town - your views matter.

This is your opportunity to have a real impact on the decisions being made.

The survey is short and easy to complete, but it will help guide long-term planning for our community. I strongly encourage you to take a few minutes to participate and help shape a better Maynooth for everyone

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/DQBFWB3>

Lets build the future of Maynooth together.

Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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



Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 27/05/2025 to 25/06/2025 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
560696	Kildare County Council	Gothafa Ltd	20 Greenfield Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	24/06/2025
2560664	Kildare County Council	Cairn Homes Properties Ltd.	Lands at Mariavilla, Moyglare Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	13/06/2025
2560622	Kildare County Council	Peter Robinson	Crinstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	06/06/2025
2560616	Kildare County Council	Old Carton Farms Ltd.	Oldcarton, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	05/06/2025
2560602	Kildare County Council	Lisa and Dave Keegan	16 Rockfield Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	03/06/2025
2560583	Kildare County Council	Terry & Sarah Fahey	18 Woodlands, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	29/05/2025

July Gardening

Flowers

Cut down deciduous ornamental grasses left standing over winter, before fresh shoots appear

Divide large clumps of snowdrops and winter aconites after flowering and replant to start new colonies

Prune late-summer flowering clematis, cutting stems back to healthy buds about 30cm from the base

Divide congested clumps of herbaceous perennials and grasses to make vigorous new plants for free

Transplant deciduous shrubs growing in the wrong place, while they are dormant

Pot up containers with hardy spring bedding, such as primroses, wallflowers and forget-me-nots



Fruit and Vegetables

Finish winter-pruning fruit trees and soft fruits, including apples, autumn raspberries and blackcurrants

Chit first-early potato tubers, such as 'Foremost', by standing them in trays in a light, frost-free place

Prepare veg beds for sowing by weeding thoroughly, then cover with a thick layer of garden compost

Feed fruit trees and bushes by sprinkling sulphate of potash fertiliser around the base to encourage fruiting

Sow mustard and cress in a small seed tray on a warm windowsill for pickings in just a few weeks

Put cloches or fleece over strawberry plants to start them into growth and encourage an early crop

Hunt out overwintering snails huddled in empty pots and hidden corners, to reduce populations. Find out more about how to deter slugs and snails from your garden



Greenhouse

Sow sweet peas in deep pots and keep them frost-free in a greenhouse or on a sunny windowsill

Pot on and pinch out autumn-sown sweet peas to encourage side shoots to form
Sow summer bedding and tender annuals, including cosmos, lobelia, dahlias, nasturtiums and snapdragons

Sow tender crops such as tomatoes and chillies in a heated propagator or on a warm sunny windowsill

Plant dahlia tubers in trays to encourage shoots to develop, which you can then use as cuttings

Monitor greenhouse temperatures with a max-min thermometer to ensure heaters are working efficiently.



Source: [bbc gardening world.com](http://bbcgardeningworld.com)



Five Affordable Ways to Improve your Garden

A garden can make or break a house. From green grass to patios, colourful flowers to garden furniture, every garden is unique to its owner. Creating a space that suits you and your lifestyle is important. The cost of creating your dream garden may put you off, but garden's can be created cost effectively, stick to your budget set out while also creating the garden you want!

1. Paint

You'll be surprised by how much a lick of paint can change an area. In a garden, painting fencing can create a backdrop for your garden features. Painting a fence black can create the perfect setting for colourful flowers to bloom. This can also be used as a centre piece in your garden, drawing visitor's eyes to the pop of colour in full bloom. You can also paint plant pots to create the same lasting effect. Contrasting dark colours like black with bright flowers creates a world of colour in the comfort of your own home.

2. Upcycling

Upcycling is popular trend sweeping the world at the moment. With plenty of old unused furniture in houses around the country, re-purposing it for a new venture is a no brainer. Upcycling an old dressing table or outdoor ladder to create plant station, can bring your garden from zero to hero very quickly. You can check out more of our homemade garden ideas here.

3. Indoor to outdoor

Indoor designs are slowly but surely making their way outside and have become a feature of many garden designs. Bringing a taste of the indoors outside allows you to continue a design or theme of your house further in your home. An affordable way to do this is to invest in outdoor rugs. Outdoor rugs can be bought in any design and can inject some personality into a space.

4. Hanging baskets

Similar to our first point, hanging baskets can bring a pop of colour into a possibly dull space. The beauty of hanging baskets is they can go virtually anywhere you like and can be any colour and type you wish. Ready-made baskets are available to purchase, but creating your own allows you pick the theme and colours you prefer.

5. Light it up

Adding some form of lighting in your garden will allow you to use your garden both night and day. Small outdoor fairy lights or garden light features can create the perfect atmosphere for summer evenings outside.

Source: www.creditunion.ie

Air Fryer Roast Chicken

Preparation time: less than 30 mins

Cook time: 1 to 2 hours

Serves: 4

Dietary: Egg-free Nut-free Pregnancy-friendly



You can make a delicious and succulent roast chicken in an air fryer, in little over an hour. Here, the bird sits upside down for half of the cooking time so the breast is kept moist. The skin crisps up perfectly for a lovely golden finish, too.

Ingredients

- 20g/¾oz butter, softened
- 1 good quality whole chicken, weighing 1.4–1.5kg/3lb 2oz–3lb 5oz
- ½ lemon
- 2 garlic cloves, left whole
- Handful thyme or few rosemary sprigs
- Salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

Heat the air fryer to 180C and rub the butter all over the skin of the chicken.

Season well with salt and pepper.

Place the lemon half, garlic and thyme in the cavity of the chicken. Roast, breast side down, for 30 minutes. Then flip the right way up and roast for another 35 minutes.

Check the chicken is thoroughly cooked and the juices run clear when the thickest parts of the breast and thigh are pierced with a skewer or knife.

Leave the chicken to stand for a few minutes before carving. If you would like to make gravy, see the Recipe Tips.

Recipe Tip

If you can't fit a whole chicken in your air fryer, use halves or pieces instead.

For halves, take a whole chicken and use strong scissors or a boning knife to cut down the spine.

Then flip over and cut down the middle of the breast. You'll be left with two halves to fit snugly inside your air fryer.

Proceed with step 2, check after 45 minutes and every 5 minutes thereafter until the chicken is cooked through.

For pieces, use 2 chicken thighs or drumsticks per person.

Mix the butter with a teaspoon of olive oil to loosen and add a squeeze of lemon juice and about 1 teaspoon thyme leaves, then season well.

Spread this paste over the chicken pieces and cook in the air fryer at 180C for 10 minutes then turn and cook for another 12–15 minutes until crispy and golden.

The juices from the roast chicken in the air fryer can be used to make a gravy.

Add a little water to loosen any bits stuck to the base, then pour into a saucepan.

Add a little flour and chicken stock or wine and whisk over a medium heat until thickened.

Leftover roast chicken will freeze in an airtight container for up to 3 months.

This recipe was developed using a 5.5 liters/9½ pint air fryer.



Air Fryer Baked Potatoes

A baked potato in the air fryer comes out beautifully crusty on the outside, light, and fluffy on the inside, just what a great baked potato should be!

Preparation time: 5 mins

Cook time: 1 hr

Serves: 2

Ingredients

- 2 large russet potatoes, scrubbed
- 1 tablespoon peanut oil
- ½ teaspoon coarse sea salt



Method

Gather all ingredients and preheat an air fryer to 400 degrees F (200 degrees C).

Brush potatoes with peanut oil, sprinkle with salt, and place them in the air fryer basket.

Cook potatoes until very tender when pierced with a fork, about 1 hour.

Serve them with your favourite toppings, like sour cream, butter, or chives and enjoy!

Recipe Tip

The potatoes do not need to be pricked with a fork before cooking or turned while cooking.



Source: *ALLRECIPES*

CRISPY AIR FRYER CAULIFLOWER

Ingredients:

- Head of cauliflower
- Olive Oil
- Seasonings e.g. turmeric, smoked paprika, garlic powder, fajita, taco seasoning, salt, and pepper.



Method

Remove the leaves, and wash the cauliflower head. Pat completely dry using a clean kitchen towel or paper towels.

Using a chef's knife, cut off the cauliflower stalk so it can sit on your counter.

Then slice it in half vertically, and remove the core while holding the knife at an angle.

The florets will separate on their own, or use the tip of the knife to separate them.

Place the florets in a bowl so it's easier to season.

Drizzle with olive oil, and use your favourite seasonings.

How to Air Fry Cauliflower

Toss the cauliflower florets so that they're well coated in the seasoning.

Roast in the Air Fryer at 390°F (200°C) for around 15 minutes flipping every 3 minutes.

You have to keep an eye on the cauliflower as it can burn easily, so check every 5 minutes and shake the basket so that the florets are roasted evenly.

When the air frying process is done, remove the crispy cauliflower from the air fryer basket and serve on a plate. It can be enjoyed either warm or cold with freshly squeezed lemon juice!

Source: *LittleSunnyKitchen*

July Pet Care

Pet Hydration Awareness Month

National Pet Fire Safety Day on July 15th

How to Keep Your Dog Happy, Hydrated and Healthy – Even When It's 16 Degrees

While Ireland's summer might not feel tropical, it still presents unique challenges for our four-legged friends. With longer days, occasional heatwaves, and an explosion of outdoor adventures, it's important to keep an eye on your dog's care routine.



That's Water, Ventilation and Shade

Veterinary Ireland is again advising all pet owners to give their pets plenty of WAVES over the coming summer months.

“WAVES” explains Peter Bishton, Veterinary Ireland's Deputy Chief Executive, “stands for Water, Ventilation and Shade. These are the three things essential to all pets during the summer months, and Veterinary Ireland uses this short acronym to help pet owners keep their dog and cat family members safe and healthy throughout the summer”.

“Having adequate drinking water available for your pet at all times is of prime importance,” explains Mr Bishton, “in order to ensure that your pet is adequately hydrated. Ensure that water bowls are kept topped up, and when out, have a separate water bottle available for your dog. Short drinks on a regular basis are better than one long drink, and make sure that the water is not too cold”.

Essential Summer Dog Care Tips

1. Adjust Exercise Routines

Walk early in the morning or late in the evening
Avoid hot pavements (test with the back of your hand)
Stick to shaded, wooded paths when possible
Reduce exercise in temps above 20°C, especially for at-risk breeds
Try mental stimulation (like puzzle toys) on the hottest days

2. Keep Your Dog Cool

Offer shaded areas at all times
Lay damp towels on the ground (don't drape them over your dog)
Use pet cooling mats or shallow paddling pools
Increase airflow with fans or open windows
Keep indoor dogs in cooler rooms during peak heat

3. Grooming Matters

Brush regularly to remove loose fur and help airflow
Don't shave double-coated dogs — their coats regulate temperature naturally

4. Consider Pets' Dietary Needs

With the heat of the summer, your pets' appetite might decrease. Ensure they are getting enough nutrients and consider smaller, more frequent meals.

Irish Summer Hazards to Watch

Water Safety:

Watch for blue-green algae, especially in lakes and ponds (it's toxic)
Look for green or brown scum on the surface—if in doubt, stay out!
Monitor swim sessions to avoid water intoxication
Always supervise dogs around water

Parasites on the Move:

Ticks, fleas, and worms thrive in warm weather
Stick to year-round parasite prevention
Check for ticks after walks, especially in grassy or wooded areas
Ask your vet for the best product for your dog's size and lifestyle

National Pet Fire Safety Day

in Ireland, and throughout the world, is observed on July 15th. It's a day to raise awareness about fire safety for pets and promote preventative measures to ensure their well-being in case of a fire. The day was established in 2009 by ADT Security and the American Kennel Club.

July 15th is
National Pet
Fire Safety
Day



National Pet Fire Safety Day reminds us to consider our pets when planning fire routes and safety in our homes.

Our pets are as much a part of our family as any other member. This day stresses the importance of protecting them. Taking preventable measures now can both save your home and your pet. Many times our pets can cause a fire if we don't take the proper precautions.

8 Pet Fire Safety Pets

Extinguish open flames. Pets are curious and certainly not cautious. Wagging tails haphazardly knock over candles. Curious kitties will paw at sizzling grease, quickly sending a kitchen up in flames.

Always turn the power off for the oven and hob when not in use so as your pet will not accidentally turn them on.

Consider flameless candles for ambiance and backup lighting in the event of a power outage.

Replace glass water bowls with metal or plastic. Outside on wooden decks, they can heat up and actually start a fire.

Store leashes and collars near the entrance of your home. When away, have your pets in the main living area for easy rescue. Make sure everyone knows where they are.

Have a set of leashes and collars upstairs if pets are in bedrooms at night. Know exactly where they are and do checks to make sure that they are where they are supposed to be.

Secure young pets when away from home. This can help avoid fire hazards. Pet kennels or in a pet-proofed room are options.

Fire alert window clings help firefighters identify the room your pets are located and identify the number of pets in the home. Add one to the window of the room you keep your pets when you are away. Keep it updated with the number of pets residing with you and your current phone number.

Have a plan and make sure everyone knows what to do. Practice so there is little panic and pets get familiar with the commotion. Know which family members will be responsible for each pet.

Sourced: www.nivettoday.com & www.nationaldaycalendar.com





Memories From the Archives Celebrating 40 Years of Maynooth Community Employment Project Producing the Maynooth Newsletter

July 1985

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com

MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 1985

NUMBER 98

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PRESENTATION CONVENT SCHOOL SPONSORED WALK

The Annual Sponsored Walk in aid of the Presentation Convent School Building Fund will take place on Sunday 29th September. Sponsorship Cards will be available at the school. Further details in September issue.

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

All items for inclusion in the next issue of the Newsletter should be handed in on or before the deadline date of 11th August 1985.

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Sat: 9 - 6pm

SPORTS PAGE

Athletic Club Contd.

BOYS U/10: 600m - 1st Austin Noonan

BOYS U/11: L.J. - 1st Hugh Purcell.

BOYS U/13: 600m - 5th Gavin Callaghan.

BOYS U/14: 600m - 2nd Enda Breslin, 5th Frank Desmond;

800m Walk: 1st Enda Breslin, 3rd Frank Desmond.

800m: 2nd Enda Breslin; H.J. - 1st Frank Desmond, 2nd Enda Breslin.

RELAYS

SENIOR MENS 1st Team: Pat Maher, Matt Cunningham, Kevin Tracey, Mick Gleeson.

VETS O/35 1st Team: Tom Sullivan, Tony Callaghan, Brian Redmond, Brian Steward.

Carbury Road Race

The Carbury Club held their annual road race on June 2nd at Derrinlurn, and the Vets section was dominated by Maynooth. Pat Maher finished in 9th place overall, and was the winner of the O/35 section, and Peter Keegan 12th overall, winner of the O/45 section. David Jolly finished in 22nd place.

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INDOOR FETE

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MANY STALLS & ATTRACTIONS

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collection will be made

NOTICES WILL APPEAR IN * WATCH OUT FOR DETAILS
SHOPS & BUSINESS PREMISES

Leinster Championships, Dunboyne, June 8th and 9th

If the Kildare Championships were successful for Maynooth, the first part of the Leinsters were a disaster, with only two of our athletes - Michelle Ennis and Hugh Purcell - getting into the medals. Michelle won the Girls U/12 600 metre

BOYS U/15: 100m - 3rd Niall Mc-

Cormack; 800m - 2nd Dara Callaghan;

1500m - 2nd Dara Callaghan;

L.J. - 1st Dara Callaghan.

BOYS U/16: Discus - 3rd Enda Breslin

Javelin - 1st Enda Breslin.

JUNIOR MEN: 1500m - 2nd Michael

Kelly.

SENIOR MEN: 100m - 1st Pat Maher,

2nd Matt Cunningham, 3rd Kevin Tracey

200m - 1st Pat Maher, 2nd Matt

Cunningham, 3rd Kevin Tracey.

400m - 1st Pat Maher, 2nd Matt

Cunningham, 3rd Kevin Tracey.

Javelin - 1st Matt Cunningham.

5lbs Throw - 2nd Jim Harle; Discus -

2nd Brendan Hogan; Shot - 1st

Jim Hette, 2nd Philip McDermott,

3rd Pat Maher.

VETS O/35: 100m - 3rd Tom Sullivan;

800m - 1st Tony Callaghan; 1500m -

1st Brian Redmond, 4th M. Gleeson.

VETS O/40: 200m - 2nd Tony

Callaghan, 3rd Brian Redmond,

4th Mick Gleeson. 1500m - 1st

Brian Redmond, 2nd Tony Callaghan,

4th M. Gleeson.

CONGRATULATIONS

Congratulations to Mr. James P. McCormack, Ph.C., who is 25 years in business on Main Street, Maynooth.

Jimmy opened his Chemist Shop in July of 1960 and has provided an efficient and courteous service to the people of Maynooth and district ever since.

Best wishes to Jimmy and his wife Ita and family for the future.

Congratulations to Peter Dowling, Blessed Sacrament Community, All Hollows, who has successfully completed his examinations. Peter is the son of Mrs Madge Dowling, Leinster Cottages.

Recent Births

Congratulations to Michael and Maureen Mooney, 27 Maynooth Park, on the birth of a daughter, a sister for Michelle.

Congratulations to Brendan and Teresa Carty, Waynestown, Dunboyne on the birth of a son.

Congratulations to Noel and Breda Walsh, Ballygoran on the birth of a son.

Also congratulations to Bartly and Bernadette Conneely, Pagestown, Dunboyne on the birth of a son.



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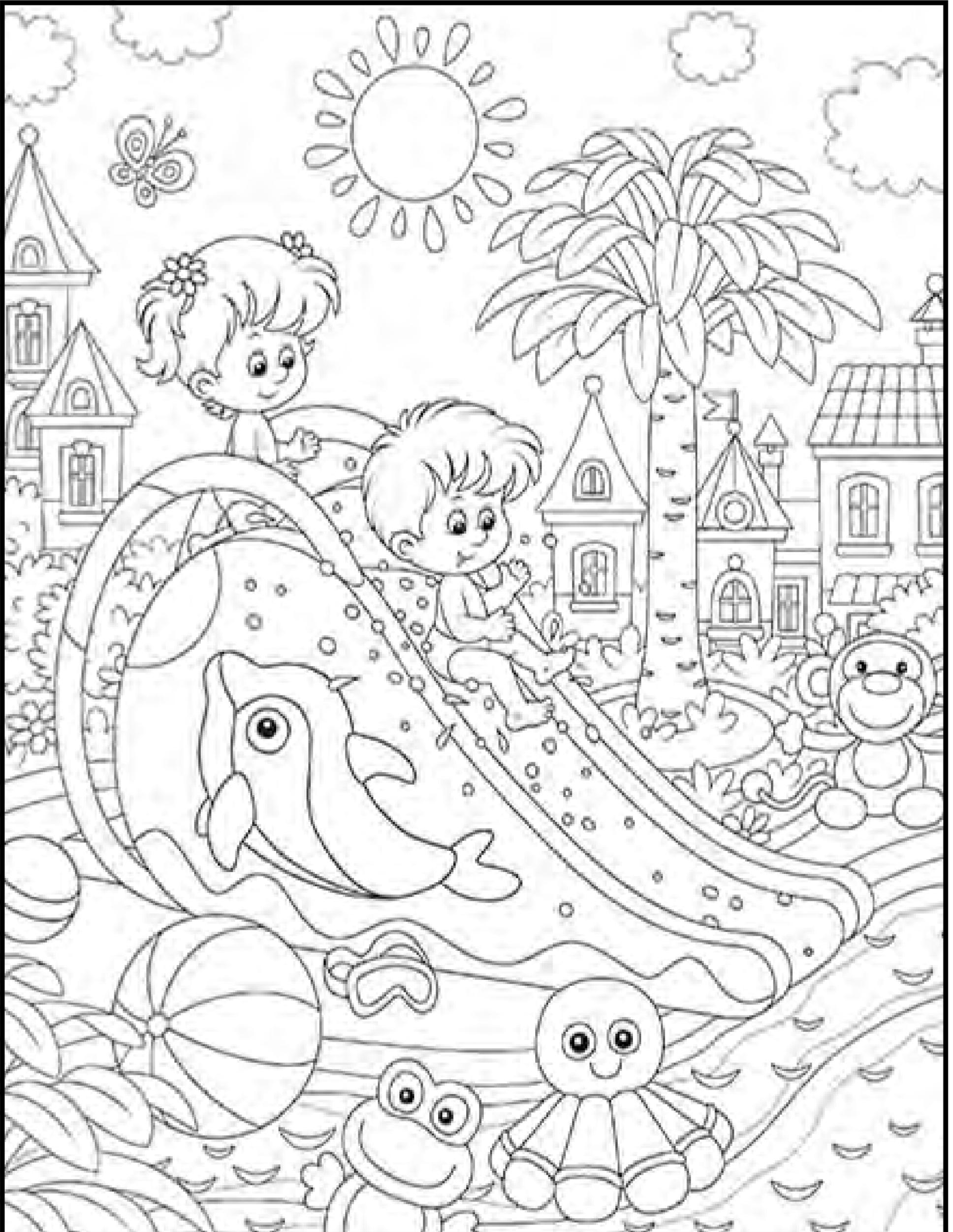


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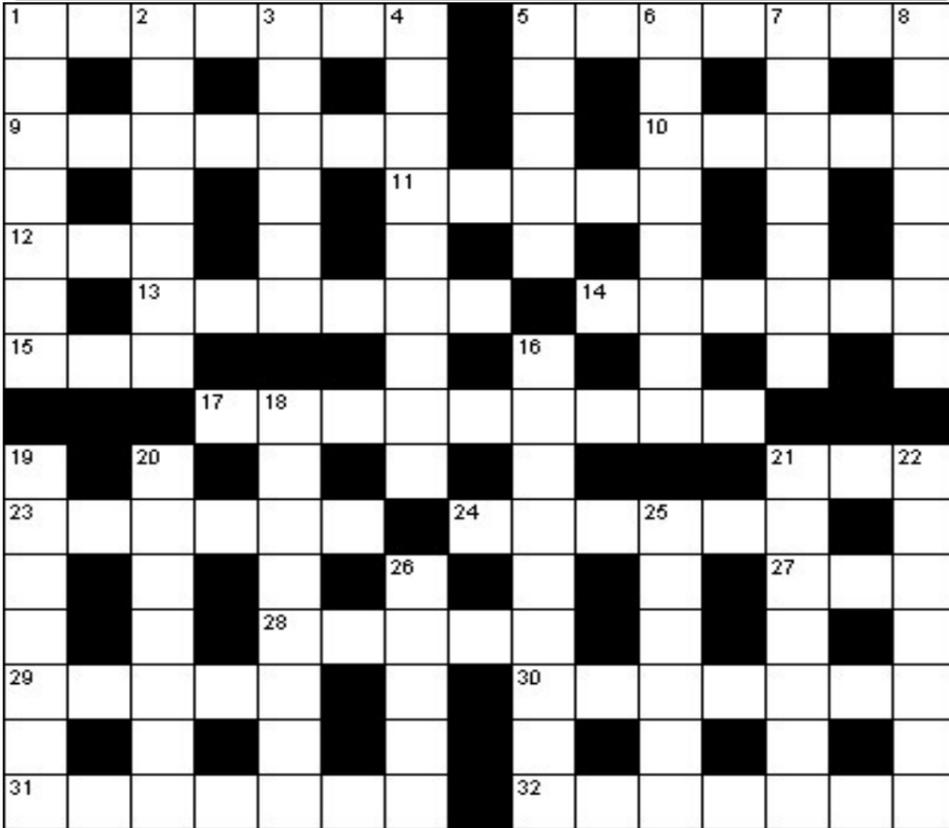


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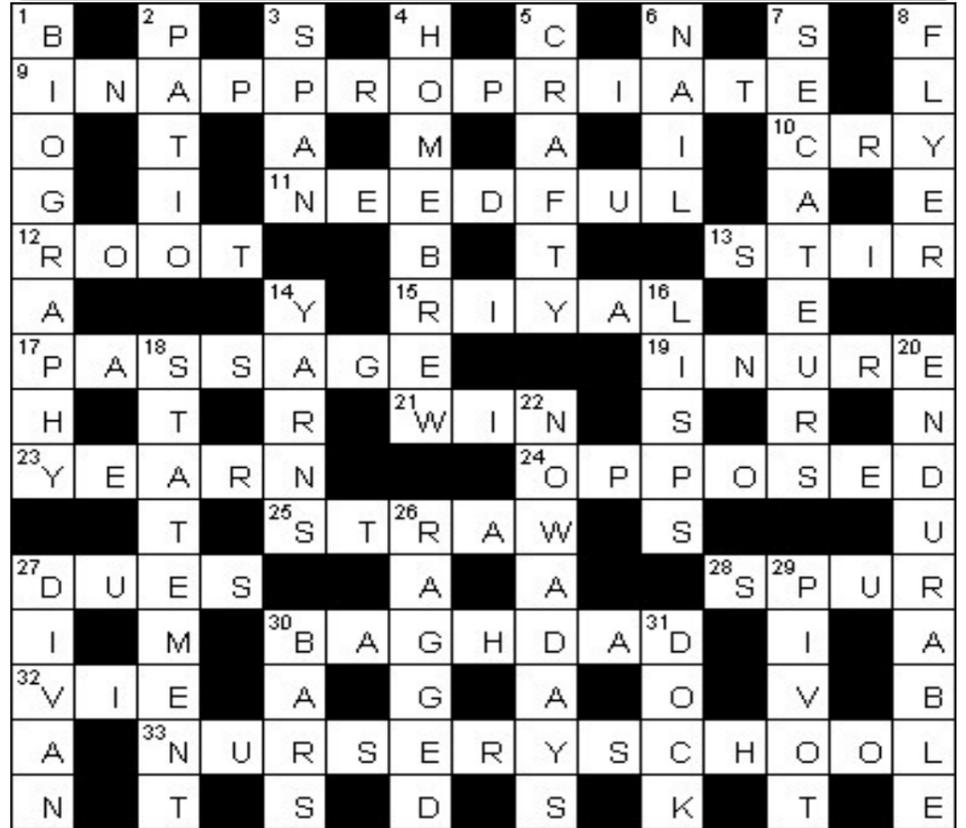
Sourced free from Google



July 2025 Crossword - No. 547



Solutions to Crossword No. 546



Clues Across

- 1. Provide with new housing (7)
- 5. Ambitious (7)
- 9. Rather tall (7)
- 10. Become liable for (5)
- 11. Choose (5)
- 12. Uncooked (3)
- 13. Spain and Portugal (6)
- 14. Become sad (6)
- 15. Container used for cooking (3)
- 17. Water fallen as rain (9)
- 21. Nevertheless (3)
- 23. Flowering shrub of the genus Rhododendron (6)
- 24. Small stone (6)
- 27. Meadow (3)
- 28. Keyboard instrument (5)
- 29. First prime minister of India (5)
- 30. Personal view (7)
- 31. Strategic withdrawal (7)
- 32. Systematically arranged body of facts (7)

Clues Down

- 1. Device for catching rats (3,4)
- 2. Fool (4-3)
- 3. Incomparable (6)
- 4. Book of the New Testament (9)
- 5. Card game (5)
- 6. Piece of luggage (8)
- 7. Enclose (7)
- 8. Republic in central Europe (7)
- 16. Resembling a cavern (9)
- 18. Tavern (8)
- 19. Person who drives a wagon (7)
- 20. Hearing distance (7)
- 21. Inhabitant of Belgium (7)
- 22. Learner (7)
- 25. Two-piece bathing suit (6)
- 26. Heron (5)



Difficult

			1			5		
				8	4			7
	3		9					6
						6		8
2	8		7		6		1	4
5		3						
3					5		4	
4			6	9				
		8			2			

Sudoku Challenge

								8
						7		1
							8	2
							2	3
			6			4		3
	1	9			3		5	4
	7				6		8	
3		8			9			
5	2					1		
1								

Super Difficult

If you have access to a printer and wish to complete the Crossword and/or Sudoku for fun you can print the single page by going to File -> Print and print the single page number only.

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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.