



Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s



LOCAL NEWS - DECEMBER/JANUARY 2024 - ISSUE NO. 541.

Merry Christmas and a Happy & Prosperous 2025 from All at the Maynooth Newsletter



Shop Local, Eat Local, Spend Local & Enjoy Local in Maynooth this Christmas 2024 Keep your Business in Maynooth to Keep Maynooth in Business



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Christmas, the season of giving and receiving is upon us once again. This is the perfect opportunity to support our local shops and businesses in Maynooth. Small in size but huge in character, Maynooth comes alive with Festive atmosphere for Christmas. This beautiful town is packed full of specialised shops, pretty boutiques and a variety of restaurants and cosy cafés where you can drop in for a hot chocolate to warm chilly fingers. You will find exceptional value for money is to be had in the smaller local shops where you get a more personalised service and friendly atmosphere. Lets buy our Christmas presents from our local businesses and self-employed people. If the goal is for money to flow back into the local economy, we must commit to choosing wisely. Driving an hour out of our town or shopping online does not contribute to the community we live in.

Maynooth is a lively town with plenty of heart – many would say it has more going for it than other places on the commuter belt. It's also a pretty place with family-friendly housing, canal side walks, and a main street that hasn't been hollowed out by retail parks. There is ample car parking in Maynooth, customers can park (check parking fees and time allocated) while shopping in Carton Retail Park, Manor Mills, Glenroyal, Greenfield and Beaufield Shopping Centres. There is also ample customer car parking in the Aldi and Lidl stores. Pay Parking is also available within the town enabling customers to enjoy the many retail shops, pubs and restaurants in and around the Town.

Maynooth is the "Gastronomic Capital of Kildare". There are vast amounts of establishments in town that offer the most sophisticated cuisine and the most appealing food and beverages. Maynooth is also a "Purple Flag" "destination" "for a good night out, vibrant and well managed".

Stay local this year and take the stress out of shopping, avoid the cost of travel and expensive parking fees. When all the shopping is done there is a multitude of restaurants, bars and coffee shops to visit and enjoy the gastronomic delights and Festive atmosphere of Maynooth. Christmas Shopping is important to small-town retailers. It's a great opportunity to focus on your own business and give your customers a pleasant experience. Retailers need to say, "Stay in Maynooth", we have lots to offer. Support our community, our businesses, our schools, our organisations. Everyone working together will continue to make Maynooth a great place to live in.



Please Support Our Advertisers without whom we would not be able to produce the Maynooth Newsletter as a Free Online Community Newspaper

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



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

Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

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

The Editor, Maynooth Newsletter,
Unit 10, Tesco S.C. Carton Retail Park,
Maynooth, Co. Kildare. W23CT59
Tel: 01-6285922
E-mail: office@maynoothcep.com
Website: www.maynoothcep.com

Letters to the Editor

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

Mission Statement

The Maynooth Newsletter is a community focused 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

“Community is much more than belonging to something; it’s about doing something together that makes belonging matter” (Brian Solis). As we end 2024 and begin 2025, we thank all of those who participate in the range of community, sport and social inclusion activities in Maynooth. I know that in the past year, I have met new people in groups that I am involved in, so I believe that the solid sense of community will continue to be strong in Maynooth. Yes, there is much agreement on what we still need in Maynooth, such a community hub which will support many community activities. It is important that the community works together to achieve this facility, which needs to be open appropriate hours and staffed to provide full support particularly smaller and newly forming groups.

Of course, some community groups have a single focus to achieve and one such group is responsible for the Christmas Lights every year. Well done again to Mark Nolan and his team for delivering again for 2024 with even more spectacular lights. While fund-raising is a key issue for the Christmas lights, they then have to arrange to put them up. This is no easy feat in a town centre as busy as Maynooth.



It was also another good year for Maynooth Tidy Towns winning another Gold Medal in the National Tidy Towns Competition 2024. I reckon that having achieved gold medals every year since 2016 (excluding 2020 because of Covid) that there are now enough gold medals to form a chain. The Maynooth Tidy Towns crib and spectacular Christmas Tree in the Square also adds to the Christmas atmosphere in the town – dare I ask for snow to complete the scene.

At the time of writing this editorial, we were all thinking about who we should cast our vote for in the 2024 General Election. The opinion polls are telling us that there will be yet another coalition Government deal to be done. The North Kildare Constituency increases from four Dail deputies to five because of population growth and a minor revision of the District Electoral Divisions included in the constituency. There was general agreement between the candidates on the specific needs of the people in the constituency. Parties and Independents on the political spectrum differ on how they would manage the economy and the resources that will be available to deliver services. We are lucky that we had so many good candidates to choose from in this constituency.

Looking forward to 2025, no doubt many readers will have personal plans and aspirations. Mine is to try to finish my dissertation for my course on Genealogy. My research has meant looking back to times when most of our ancestors had very little to live on and were just surviving, meaning that many took the opportunity to emigrate and make a living elsewhere. In 2025, Ireland may well have net migration despite the challenges of trying to buy homes and afford to live here. Conflicts around the world can have impacts well beyond where they occur. I am sure that I am not alone in wishing that 2025 will bring an end to existing conflicts in Ukraine and the Middle East. There are no winners in war.

Finally, Good Wishes to all who support Maynooth Newsletter each month. Our staff team and management board are grateful to all our contributors and advertisers. We will celebrate our continued relationship in 2025. Remember to take care of yourselves, your families and those around you who may be alone and welcome a friendly word or visit. As Brian Solis said - it’s about doing something together that makes belonging matter.

Paul Croghan - Editor

Copy date for the February edition will be 5pm on Monday 27th January 2025

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a Happy New
Year"**



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

We received our Gold Medal 2024 at an event in Croke Park on the 2nd November. We increased our points by 13 and we came 4th highest in the County. Congratulations to all the Towns in Kildare especially Naas who came 1st. We received some lovely comments from the judges and some criticism which we will take on board at our next Committee meeting.

"Maynooth is a remarkable place to visit and now it's story can be told with the new heritage trail. Being a volunteer is a demanding task but you are super organised as a group and you have put a tremendous amount of work in. We hope our sincerest appreciation can be a reward for all your achievements. Wishing you well for the years ahead "

We celebrated our win with the help of Mark Nolan and Lily's Cafe. We had tea/coffee sandwiches cakes etc complimentary of Mark and cakes from Casey and Nally Supervalu Maynooth Supermarket.

We would like to thank Supermac's and their manager Ali, on Main Street for the Complimentary litter pickers. Tidy Towns can never have enough litter pickers.

John Kavanagh sourced and paid for our Christmas Tree from Moyglare Garden Centre. Colin Hyland delivered it complimentary to the square on Saturday the 16th November and the lights were turned on the 23rd November. Lights look exceptionally well this year with all the new editions.

We finished planting the rest of the Spring bulbs, removed all the excess leaves and we worked with Church of Ireland making the a Leaf cage. Our environmental award will be presented to The Glenroyal Hotel and Leisure Centre for November.



Mary Molloy - Maynooth Tidy Towns Association - PRO



Maynooth University
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

'Chaser' star Darragh Ennis celebrates book launch at MU

Maynooth University welcomed the return of a special 'star' alumnus, [Dr Darragh Ennis](#), for the official Irish book launch of *The Body: 10 Things You Should Know*, on Thursday, 21 November.

Revealing everything about the human body in ten informative bite-sized essays, his book answers a raft of questions about our body, from why blood is red and how our body defends itself to why we sleep and how hormones control everything we do. "It is with great pride and excitement that we welcome well-known Maynooth University alumnus, Dr Darragh Ennis, back for the Irish launch of his new book," said [Prof Paul Moynagh](#), Interim Executive Dean, [Faculty of Science and Engineering](#) at Maynooth University.

"Known to many as a 'Chaser' on the ITV gameshow *The Chase*, Dr Ennis not only showcased his highly impressive knowledge and intellect to a global audience but continues to inspire through his deep passion for scientific subjects. "Open to the public and hosted in MU Library by [The Development and Alumni Relations Office](#), in partnership with [the Graduate Research Academy](#) and the Faculty of Science and Engineering at Maynooth University, the event featured a discussion with Dr Ennis, a live Q&A session and book signing, offering a unique opportunity to meet the author, scientist and 'Chaser' star.

"This book is a testament to his commitment to advancing knowledge and making complex ideas accessible to the public. This event is not only a celebration of Dr Ennis's outstanding work but also a reflection of the vibrant community of scholars, creators, and leaders fostered at Maynooth University. It is a great pleasure to celebrate this milestone, and sharing it with the broader community," Prof Moynagh said.



Dr Darragh Ennis, Professional Quizzer & Scientist



Book by Dr Darragh Ennis - The Body: 10 Things You Should Know



Dr Andy Hogan, Senior Lecturer at MU Dept of Biology and Dr Darragh Ennis, Professional Quizzer & Scientist



Dr Darragh Ennis, Professional Quizzer & Scientist signing a copy of his book



Left to right: Dr Darragh Ennis, Professional Quizzer & Scientist, Dr Andy Hogan, Senior Lecturer at MU Dept of Biology and Rebecca Doolin, MU Vice President of External Affairs

MU receives 2024 Green Flag award

Maynooth University campus has received the Green Flag award from An Taisce for a public green space, retaining its award for the sixth consecutive year. The University campus has also retained its Green Heritage Flag for the fourth consecutive year, and additionally, was "highly commended" for its biodiversity on campus. In total, 120 public green spaces received awards in the programme managed by [An Taisce Environment Education](#), which celebrates the recognition of Ireland's best parks and green spaces. The Maynooth University campus, shared by Saint Patrick's Pontifical University, is part of a global community of well managed parks and green spaces. The award acknowledges excellence in the management of those green spaces, including parks, gardens, greenways and wildlife sanctuaries around the country, which are freely open to the public. Ireland leads the way for other EU countries, with the largest quota out of a total of 174 EU Green Flag Award sites being located here in 2024. Ireland is also among the leaders in parks and public gardens, with more Green Flag Awards received than by any country, other than the UK where the scheme originated in 1996.

The [Green Flag Award](#) is the international quality benchmark for the public green space sector, now operating in 19 countries around the world. Running for over 25 years, the Green Flag programme uses eight key criteria, with an emphasis on environmental management, for its assessment. All sites implement a management framework and then undergo an annual inspection conducted by qualified judges. President of Maynooth University, Professor Eeva Leinonen, thanked all of those who helped and supported the Grounds Team in retaining these awards for another year. "We are honoured to retain the Green Flag Award and the Green Heritage Flag at Maynooth University, highlighting our ongoing commitment to sustainability and care for our campus environment. Our green spaces are a real source of pride for our community and reflect the hard work and dedication of our Grounds Team and the Maynooth Green Campus initiative," she said. "This recognition encourages us to keep building on our efforts to support biodiversity and sustainable practices across our campus, as we look towards a greener future that benefits both our community and the wider environment."



MU was highly commended for biodiversity



Maynooth University
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

MU welcomes young scientists to celebrate Science Night

Maynooth University welcomed young scientists to its annual Science

Night on Friday, 15 November, opening its doors to hundreds of families from across the region. The fun evening of free events for children of all ages included robot soccer, chemistry experiments, star gazing and crime scene investigation (CSI). Young visitors also had the opportunity to ask questions of MU scientists, engineers and students about the exhibits and the world of science.

Science Night was part of national Science Week 2024, an annual celebration of the role of science in our daily lives. This year, it took place from November 10-17 with the theme of Regeneration. Throughout the week, the Faculty of Science and Engineering hosted a range of events attended by alumni and members of the public including tours of the Science Museum on South Campus and an online astrophysics and cosmology masterclass. One of the week's highlights was an interactive panel discussion --

Ozempic – Unravelling fact from fiction -- with Consultant Endocrinologist and HSE National Clinical Lead for Obesity Prof Donal O'Shea and Dr Andrew Hogan of MU's Biology Department. Hosted in The Phoenix building on North Campus and attended by a capacity audience, the panel explored the science behind Ozempic, including how it works and its impact on health. Discussing the latest research, they detailed how these medications have changed the treatment of obesity, and also answered controversial issues such as whether Ozempic causes muscle loss, increases fertility, and whether 'Ozempic face' is real.



Interim Executive Dean, MU's Faculty of Science and Engineering at Maynooth University, Prof Paul Moynagh; MU President Prof Eeva Leinonen and Prof Ronan Farrell, MU's VP of Academic and Registrar with Stella Reale (6), Rachel Murray (9) and Andrew Murray (11) from Enfield, Alessandro Reale (7) and Arianna (10) Reale from Celbridge



Amelia Armstrong, 9 from Maynooth



Rosie McCormack, 5 and Finn Doyle, 5 from Maynooth



Sadhbh Hogan, 5 from Lucan



Una Brett, 7 and Sadhbh Robinson, 6 from Maynooth



Bobby Carberry, 8 and Carlos Johnson, 8 from Maynooth with Eva Miklasova, 8 from Dunboyne



Andrew Murray, 11 and Rachel Murray, 9 from Enfield



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Seasons Greetings To All



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For more information please contact Amanda on 086 1367423

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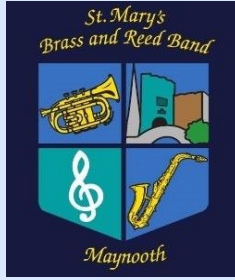
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Seasons Greetings to all our Customers



St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Last month we were delighted to welcome nearly 200 children over a number of days to our Band room who wanted to know all about it's history. They were surprised to learn that it was the original Church for Maynooth before the present one was built in 1840 and it was then used as the Boys' National School until 1942 when a new two classroom school was built opposite the Priest's House on the Moyglare Road. They were even more surprised that there was no heating, running water and the toilets were located in the open air at the back of the school. They were also very interested in the Band from when we took it over in 1943 with one boy asking if we played any rock music.



The highlight of November was our Annual Band Mass which was celebrated for the first time by Fr. Gerhard who showed particular interest in the Band and it's history for which we are indeed grateful. Highlight of this month is our Annual Christmas Concert which is being held in St. Mary's Church on Sunday 15th December at 7.30pm. Admission is just €10 and tickets are available online at www.gr8events.ie/stmarysbrassandreedband, Maynooth Bookshop or you can pay at the door on the night.

Our Annual Christmas Collection takes place on Saturday 21st December so watch out for our uniformed collectors in Manor Mills and Supervalu during the day. We also hope to be inside upstairs near the checkouts in Tesco at some point providing some seasonal music to brighten up your shopping. These collections are the main source of our funding going towards the high running costs of the Band and your contributions are really appreciated.

Finally can we thank everyone for supporting the Band through the year and we would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a very happy and peaceful Christmas.

ST MARY'S BRASS AND REED BAND

CHRISTMAS CONCERT



Join us in St. Mary's Church Maynooth for an evening of festive music and holiday cheer.

15TH DECEMBER AT 19:30

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

www.gr8events.ie/stmarysbrassandreedband

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

Our Committee has been very busy in the last few weeks. We have had our club mornings on Tuesdays and Thursdays as usual. We had a very informative 3 week session on "using your mobile phone" which was very well attended. It was organised under a community education. This was followed by papercraft recycling books that otherwise might be discarded. This was headed up by our own Toni Reid and proved to be so enjoyable and engaging for everyone as they produced Christmas Angels, Christmas Candle holders and a Hedgehog. (See pictures below) In the meantime Art and Bingo continue.

We are looking forward to the annual Christmas lunch for our people, which will take place in the Springfield Hotel on 1st December. Other activities are taking place. In the New Year we hope to have a series of Chair Yoga sessions on the Tuesdays.

Fundraising has been on the cards as well. Thanks to all who supported us in our annual quiz, coffee morning and buying raffle tickets. Our Christmas draw will be on 1st December at the Christmas lunch.

We wish everyone a very happy Christmas and New Year. Follow us on Facebook.



Congratulations to Lisa Thompson from Old Greenfield, Maynooth who received her Bachelor of Science degree in Early Childcare and Education from Trinity College, Dublin on 28th November.

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Maynooth Local Market

'Tis the Season to Support Local and Buy Local



November has been a busy month of festive preparations for all involved in Maynooth Local Market. It's fantastic to see the tree on Court House Square all lit up, and all the other decorations that add to the overall atmosphere and ambience of the town.

This Christmas, we're asking you to show your continued support for local businesses and vendors. We are so grateful for the loyal customers who come along each week. By choosing to shop local, you're not only getting unique and high-quality products, but you're also contributing to the vitality of our community. Maynooth Local Market is the perfect place to find unique gifts for your loved ones.

The Maynooth Christmas Markets will be on Saturday 7th and 14th December from 10am to 5pm. We'll have hot chocolate, music and lots of activities in our dedicated Kids' Zone.

Limited Edition Gifts

Keep an eye out for limited-edition Christmas cards and calendars by local artist Maura McDonnell, and paw-some sparkly bows and bandanas for your furry friends from Collie Flower Designs.



As always you can pick up eco-friendly, homemade products from So Obsessed, GD Melts and Handicrafts. Dunnes Farm Eggs and Donadea Organic Veg will both have a selection of delicious local produce to use in all your Christmas cooking! Once Upon a Whisk and Shafafa Micro Bakery will have mouth's watering with their delicious bakes, and you'll be able to pick up pizza and other treats from the team at Fun Foods. And who could forget the Orient Mini Asia Market stall - the ideal place to pick up some special stocking fillers.

We can't wait to see you there!

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mu.ie/artsandmindsfestival



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Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Of Cars and Teachers

Attending Woodbrook School during the war years will in my mind always be associated with the various modes of travel involved. For children such as my brother and I it meant walking two miles by road and across fields, barefooted by choice in summer and wearing sturdy boots in winter. The teachers were in a somewhat comparable situation, Mrs Kelleher who taught the junior classes cycling out three miles from Carrick and 'Master Callaghan' cycling down nine miles from Elphin. Eventually both teachers acquired cars, which brings me to the subject of my story.

In those far-off days punishments for misbehaviour in school mirrored what went on in homes, the mother dealing with minor infractions, the father with more serious ones. As best I can recollect, Mrs Kelleher was fairly easygoing but Master Callaghan used the cane to enforce discipline and learning. Not that I blame him. He had to bring his pupils, many of them no ardent scholars, up to a level where they would pass the Primary Certificate, as well as satisfy the school inspector on his unannounced visits. We got a good grounding in the required subjects, including Maths, Religion, English and Irish, and if that involved an occasional slap across the palms it probably did no great harm – Not that some tearaways thought so at the time.

In due course our two teachers graduated from the bicycle to the automobile, probably because the wartime restrictions on driving, including petrol rationing, had come to an end. What a change it must have been for them to reach their classrooms most mornings in comfort rather than, as was frequently the case, wet and saddle sore.

I can't recall what make of car either teacher had but Master Callaghan's must have been a bit past its sell-by date because it frequently refused to start in the evening. That presented no problem, as there were always volunteers ready and willing to give him a push. It was now that those who were smarting under some recollected punishment saw their chance to get even. One or two of them would pull handfuls of grass, which the ringleader would then press against the exhaust pipe. The result gave rise to much suppressed merriment, the engine coughing and spluttering while a crowd of boys in short trousers propelled the car downhill, ostensibly trying to help. Of course discretion always took over and before the master got out to investigate, the culprit would throw away the grass. By this time the car would be chugging past McGreevys' house on the first leg of its journey home.

Mrs Kelleher's car usually started quite easily. Trouble in her case arose from shortcomings in the art of reversing. She always left her car parked just outside the school wall, then each evening would

slowly steer it backwards into the road leading to Dorrory before turning left to face the road that ran past Leneghans' to the Croghan -Carrick road. As she carried out this fraught manoeuvre, she would call out, "Am I going right, boys?" to which the answer was invariably "Yes". Then one day our chief ringleader decided to play a trick on her. He had noticed that on getting into the car she always assumed her front wheels were pointing straight ahead just as she had left them in the morning, then by turning the steering wheel gradually to the right she would reverse the car safely back into the Dorrory road. What did this young horror do only turn the front wheels of the parked car fully to the left.

Now to understand what happened next it is necessary to point out that a fairly deep drain started just a little back from the school wall. Mrs Kelleher as usual began turning the steering wheel to the right but this only straightened out the front wheels, so that instead of reversing into the Dorrory road the car was now moving directly towards the drain. "Am I going right, boys?" she asked, to which a chorus of voices answered, "Yes!" Smiling happily, she continued on her way. Next moment the rear end of the car dropped into the drain, leaving the front end sticking up at a 45-degree angle. What I can still recall is Mrs Kelleher asking rather calmly as she sat in her seat gazing up at us, "Is she badly stuck, boys?" Suppressing an almost uncontrollable urge to split our sides laughing, we assured her that it wasn't. Oh, the unconscious cruelty of young people! Whether we were able to raise the car for her or had to get help from some grownup neighbour is something that now escapes my memory. To the best of my knowledge, however, I do not think that Mrs Kelleher ever realised what a dastardly trick had been played on her.

There's a sequel to this story. A few years ago I was in Sligo for our fiftieth Summerhill College class reunion and decided to visit the Nazareth Home, where Michael O'Callaghan was then staying – some time previously my wife and I had called to his Glasnevin apartment but by then he had left Dublin. On this occasion I found him reading a detective novel, his mind as alert as when he had been teaching in Woodbrook. I intended to thank him for the good primary education, the interest in Gaelic and the love of poetry that he had given to farmers' children such as me but he was more eager to talk about my mother, whom, since she was born in Culleen, near Elphin, he had known when growing up in that town.

Recently, I was saddened to learn of Michael's death. He and Mrs Kelleher were two pillars of primary education at a time when that was all the schooling most country children could expect. *Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n'anamacha*, May their souls be on God's right hand.

By P. G. Nerney

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for this 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.

Nollaig 2024

Tá an Nollaig ar an bhfód linn arís,
An díomhaointeas, an saint is an bhaois;
Beidh ithe is ól,
Féiríní is ceol,
Beag beann ar an Naí lena ghaois!

GM.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

DEAR Heart of Jesus, in the past I have asked you for many favours. This time I ask for this 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
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Never known to fail.
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Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers (Cont.)

My Chequered Life Chapter 11

After a month or two I was moved to Shepton Mallet, a lifers' prison. I was told if I behaved myself and did some self-improving courses I would be well placed for release after two years. That information encouraged me to do what was required so over a few months I did a course on anger management and another on alcohol awareness and learned plenty and indeed those courses also helped to pass the time. Then after about six months I got a job in the tuck shop. It was run by Aromac, an independent company employed by the prison authorities. Prisoners could get toiletries, tobacco, sewing cards, minerals and sweets and more or less anything a regular news agency would stock. I was one of a half dozen inmates working there with four of the Aromac staff.

Audrey was one of these and very soon she and I became very friendly. We used to go out at the back of the shop for a smoke every now and then and she'd tell me about her life. She was a few years younger than me and had a partner and two teenage children from a former relationship. She was very good looking and some of the prison officers and several of the inmates were always trying to chat her up but I was the one that she used to ask to help her with new deliveries from the Cash and Carry and so on. Then one day we were having a smoke on our own when she told me how fed up she was and how she wouldn't be coming into the shop at all if it weren't for me. I didn't know what to make of that and I decided I needed counsel from someone more experienced in the ways of the world than I was!

I had a friend on the wing called Laz, a lifer,

and I knew I could trust him to keep things to himself. So I ran it past him and while his advice was very definite and sound it wasn't to my liking. He told me to run a mile from her or I'd get into serious trouble. I couldn't do that. This was a new experience for me and I wasn't going to let it go without at least finding out what she meant. Well, be careful he said, or it will come back to bite you. I headed back to the shop and it was very quiet, just myself and Audrey and two inmates. When I got a chance I asked her to come out the back with me for a minute. Once outside I asked straight out what she had meant by saying that she wouldn't be coming in each day if it weren't for me. Her answer was clear enough. She stepped forward, threw her two arms around me and kissed me passionately on the lips. I didn't say no! All that afternoon we were enjoying our guilty secret and later on when we were going back towards the wing we hung back to let the other lads go on ahead and had another session of kissing and cuddling. She asked me whether or not I was going to tell anyone. I assured her I was not and she said she wanted more!

I went back up to the wing and when I met Laz he burst out laughing and said I looked like the cat that had got the cream! Because of the promise I had made to Audrey I felt a bit of a fraud when I told him what had happened. But I always knew I was going to tell him because I knew he would never tell anyone. He did tell me, however, to be very careful and I always was. Several times a week we were intimate and had a fully-fledged affair right under their noses. She'd come for me a few mornings a week when the wing would be unlocked for breakfast and we had an adult physical relationship. It was such an experience for me. We also talked a lot and enjoyed each other's

company and really it was a very special time.

I had someone who cared for me, Jay Gannon, for the first time in my life. Yea my parents cared for me, at least my father did. But surely that was their duty! So this went on for about five months and one day Shirley gave me a bag with a phone and a charger in it. I smuggled that back to my cell and nightly, we had an extra chat for often up to two hours.

I was interviewed by the lifers' manager and he says I see you a lot with that girl from the tuck shop, what's her name? You know well her name is Audrey, says I, and she's my boss and we get on well, that's all. Shortly after, the head of security called into the tuck shop when I was on lunch break and mentioned something the same to Audrey and she said yes he's a very good worker and trustworthy and we never have any problems with him. Audrey was alarmed and told me that the authorities knew and she'd have to leave as it was bound to come out. And she did leave and also left her partner and went back to Portsmouth.

After about a week or so, as promised, she came back as a casual visitor to see me. In the 'routine' security check the dog sat on her for drugs possession! She had no drugs but the visit became a 'glass panel between us visit'! She was very upset. I never saw her again. I made my feelings known to the authorities about the dirty drugs trick but had to be careful as I knew my parole review wasn't far away. Shortly after, the phone calls, too, stopped and that was the end of the affair!

GM

Maynooth College Revisited

From high-up in an evergreen
an unseen raven croaks
his intermittent, guttural
warning,
as we return with grown-up
children
to this august, walled-in
campus.

Beyond cut-stone buildings,
autumn has transformed the
trees
into a glowing canopy,
spread leaf carpets on
tarmac paths
to welcome our return,
but in the midst of such
munificence
I can't forget those former

walks,
our children racing eagerly
ahead,
adult angst undreamt of still.
Now lively talk keeps cares at
bay,
while I am grateful for this
interlude,
the dying season's kindliness.

We come back by the
cloistered garden,
my old retreat when cares
beset;
today the place is bleak and
drear –
its flowerbeds dormant
promises.

By Colin Scott

Maynooth Toddler Group

After many wonderful sessions at the Maynooth GAA Clubhouse, our group will be moving to a new home at the Maynooth Community Centre starting next month. We've cherished our time at the GAA, but this move will allow us to grow and continue providing a fun and supportive space for parents and little ones alike.

Our first session in the new venue will take place on Thursday, December 5th, at 10 AM, and we're kicking it off with a special event: the **Balloon Christmas Boogie!**

This festive celebration will feature music, games, and creative fun with balloons, making it a memorable morning for kids and parents alike.

Here are the details for the first session at our new Venue:

Maynooth Community Centre

Thursday, December 5th - 10:00 AM - €5 per family



The Gold Wrapping Paper - An Inspirational Christmas Story

Once upon a time, there was a man who worked very hard just to keep food on the table for his family. This particular year a few days before Christmas, he punished his little five-year-old daughter after learning that she had used up the family's only roll of expensive gold wrapping paper.

As money was tight, he became even more upset when on Christmas Eve he saw that the child had used all of the expensive gold paper to decorate one shoebox she had put under the Christmas tree. He also was concerned about where she had gotten money to buy what was in the shoebox.

Nevertheless, the next morning the little girl, filled with excitement, brought the gift box to her father and said, "This is for you, Daddy!"

As he opened the box, the father was embarrassed by his earlier overreaction, now regretting how he had punished her.

But when he opened the shoebox, he found it was empty and again his anger flared. "Don't you know, young lady," he said harshly, "when you give someone a present, there's supposed to be something inside the package!"

The little girl looked up at him with sad tears rolling from her eyes and whispered: "Daddy, it's not empty. I blew kisses into it until it was all full."

The father was crushed. He fell on his knees and put his arms around his precious little girl. He begged her to forgive him for his unnecessary anger.

An accident took the life of the child only a short time later. It is told that the father kept this little gold box by his bed for all the years of his life.

Whenever he was discouraged or faced difficult problems, he would open the box, take out an imaginary kiss, and remember the love of this beautiful child who had put it there.

In a very real sense, each of us has been given an invisible golden box filled with unconditional love and kisses from our children, family, friends and God.

There is no more precious possession anyone could hold.

Source: www.daveswordsofwisdom.com/2017/12/the-gold-wrapping-paper-inspiration



Maynooth Community Employment Project Job Opportunity

Position: Community Employment Scheme Supervisor
(Full-time)
Location: Maynooth, Co. Kildare



Maynooth Community Employment Project is seeking applicants for the role of CE Supervisor.

The key responsibilities of the role are to manage the recruitment, training, supervision, development and progression of the Community Employment participants.

Maynooth Community Employment Project produces the *Maynooth Newsletter* and provides grounds persons for the maintenance of Maynooth Town Football Club and the Maynooth Harbour area in the town. The project also supports a range of community activities including secretarial services to the public.

Candidates must have attained a Major 3rd level qualification (NFQ Level 6 or higher) in Business/Financial Administration, Training, Human Resources, Project Management or related disciplines and have 3 years supervisory experience or equivalent.

Competent in ICT skills are also essential (e.g. MS Office). Experience/knowledge of Canva would be an advantage. Also good interpersonal skills, effective communication and report writing skills are required. Previous experience in Administration, Project Management and/or Training or other relevant positions would be an advantage.

The successful candidate will be appointed from early March 2025.

Expressions of interest or requests for more information in this position can be made by email to: paul.croghan@maynoothcep.com

Jackie's Sausage Meatloaf

A nice addition to the Christmas table

Ingredients

Sausage meat x 2 sticks
Bag of breadcrumbs
Eggs x 2
Onions x 1 large or 2 small
Peppers x 1/2 of one red and green
Mixed herbs
Fresh garlic cloves or garlic paste
Salt
Pepper

Method

1. Empty sausage meat into mixing bowl
2. Add two beaten eggs
3. Breadcrumbs
4. 1 large onion chopped or two small
5. Half of a red and green pepper chopped
6. Mixed herbs
7. Fresh garlic cloves chopped or garlic paste
8. Salt and pepper
9. Mix all the ingredients together in a mixing bowl before transferring the ingredients to a greased or lined loaf tin covering with tinfoil for half the cooking time
10. Put the meatloaf in a preheated oven at 180 degrees for 45/60 mins
11. Stick a knife into the centre of the meatloaf to make sure the meatloaf is cooked through. Let the meatloaf cool slightly before cutting and enjoy.

Additional Information

Remember you can always adjust the ingredients to suit ones pallet





Leinster "12 County Tour" Open Training Session in North Kildare Rugby Club

Photo Gallery courtesy of Kevin and Robert Griffin



Will Connors and the Leinster Rugby Squad visit North Kildare

Donadea native, Will Connors first played rugby at The Maws, between Maynooth and Kilcock -home of North Kildare Rugby Club. Will has wonderful memories of being coached by his father and other volunteer coaches, proudly wearing the red, white and blue of North Kildare, and dreaming of playing for Leinster. Now a stalwart of the Leinster team who has been capped for Ireland nine times, Will has not forgotten his roots. He is a regular visitor to the Club, in particular in his role as Ambassador to the North Kildare Skylarks – the Club’s inclusive team for young players. When he visits his ‘buddies’ in the Skylarks, he isn’t a bystander, he jumps in and takes a full part in the training, and leads their ‘Skylark Cheer’.

When Leinster Rugby came up with the idea of visiting the province, Will was quickly on the job and invited Leo Cullen and the squad to visit his home club. The hard work of the club executive, collaborating with Leinster Rugby came to fruition on 12 November with a wonderful sunny afternoon of training, followed by the entire

squad talking to the crowds of visiting fans. The thrill of watching their heroes was palpable in the attending fans of all ages and the club looked fantastic, thanks to the grounds staff and volunteers who had the pitch and facilities shining.

While some of the best-known Leinster players were absent from the squad, as they are in camp with the Irish national team, there was no shortage of household names in attendance. Max Deegan and Dan Sheehan were particularly popular as were Jack Conan and Ross Byrne. A number of the younger Academy players were happy to thrill the crowd and revelled in the enthusiasm of the young supporters who turned out in force. The events of the afternoon culminated in the presentation by Will Connors of his first Ireland Jersey to North Kildare Club president, Rob Landy – a wonderful testimony to the connection between local club, provincial and national team.



Will Connors presenting Rob Landy, President North Kildare RFC with his First International Jersey



Will Connors with Baby Patrick Moran (Maynooth)



Will Connors with Amy Charles (Enfield)



Jack Conan with Harry Casey (Kilcock)



Will Connors with members of North Kildare Skylarks and their siblings



Fintan Gunne with Aiace Achille Crosato (Maynooth)



Max Deegan with Daithi Garrad (Enfield)



Leinster "12 County Tour" Open Training Session in North Kildare Rugby Club (Cont.)

Photo Gallery courtesy of Kevin and Robert Griffin



Ben Brownlee with Dylan McDonagh (Maynooth)



Will Connors with James and Conor O'Keeffe (Maynooth)



Max Deegan with Alex Charles (Enfield)



Jack Conan with Darren Zareba (Kilcock)



Ross Byrne with members of the Lorenzo, Bradley and Fahy families



Will Connors with Sean Casey and James O'Keeffe (Maynooth)



Dan Sheehan with Anthonine, Shane and Killian Fahey (Maynooth)



Jack Conan signing jerseys



Will Connors with Darren, Harry, Luca and Zach MacNeaney (Enfield)



Max Deegan with Archie O'Sullivan (Mulhussey)



Leinster "12 County Tour" Open Training Session in North Kildare Rugby Club (Cont.)

Photo Gallery courtesy of Kevin and Robert Griffin



Jack Conan and Dan Sheehan with Kate Griffin, Rian McCullagh, Adam and Alex Charles, and Aaron McCullagh (all from Enfield)



North Kildare Committee members receiving a gift of Will Connor's first Ireland Jersey.



James Culhane with Ruben and AJ Lorenzo (Maynooth)



Will Connors with Seamus, Tom and Jamie Kennedy (Maynooth)

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North Kildare Business Lunch 2024

Photo Gallery courtesy of Kevin and Robert Griffin

The 2024 North Kildare Rugby Club Annual "Pat Geraghty Business Lunch" took place in the Glenroyal Hotel on Friday 23 November 2024. Over the years, this event really has grown into one of the premier business and social events in the annual calendar for Maynooth and surrounding areas. Attendees were treated to the highest standard of hospitality by the Glenroyal Staff who provided top quality food and service.

Recipient of the 2024 Business Person of the Year Award was a delighted Eugene Sheehan, while the Lifetime Achievement Award went to an emotional Antonio Cascella. Both recipients were warmly congratulated with enthusiastic and energetic applause as they received their awards from North Kildare RFC President, Rob Landy.

After-dinner entertainment was first provided by Nigel Osborne, who imitated the likes of George Hook and Andy Farrell among others, but it was his Matt Williams which stole the show. Next, Bernard Jackman was on standby to interview Allan Shine - Chief Executive of Kildare Innovation Campus - about the exciting progress in what has been dubbed "Europe's most advanced business campus" at the old HP site. Eamonn O'Flaherty of Sherry Fitzgerald (Maynooth) had the challenging task of managing a rowdy crowd as he auctioned a number of attractive prizes including international rugby tickets with accommodation and food; but the most important sale of the night involved a bidding war for the turkeys of Michael Reilly & Roger Satchwell.

The final segment of the night's events involved an entertaining and insightful 'conversation' between international Irish rugby legends David Wallace, Stephen Ferris and Bernard Jackman. What a fantastic event, a credit to North Kildare Rugby Club, the event organising committee and the wonderful club sponsors, who all made this night possible.



Carol and Fergal O'Malley



Kerry Hartnett, Jerry Bradley and Seamus Kennedy



Calvin Coffey, Niall Moran and Daniel Waldron



NK Business Lunch Organising Committee with Stephen Ferris and Bernard Jackman



Steven Maguire & Patrick Nolan



David Wallace, Ted Robinson and Bob Casey



Stephen Ferris, Nigel Osborne, John Hurley and Bernard Jackman



Nigel Osborne and David Wallace



Katie Robinson, Lisa Coonan and Barbara Ennis



North Kildare Business Lunch 2024 (Cont.)

Photo Gallery courtesy of Kevin and Robert Griffin



Eugene Sheehan being presented with the North Kildare Business Person of the Year Award by Rob Landy (President North Kildare RFC).



Eugene Sheehan and family celebrating Eugene's Business Person of the Year award



Valerie & Antonio Cascella and their daughters, celebrating Antonio's 'Lifetime Achievement Award' presented by North Kildare RFC.



Antonio & Valerie Cascella celebrating Antonio's 'Lifetime Achievement Award' presented by North Kildare RFC



Gerry Bradley and Sean Waldron



Ronan Twohig and Tom Fitzpatrick



Bernard Jackman, James Lawless, Allan Shine and Stephen Ferris



Rob Landy (President North Kildare RFC) presenting Antonio Cascella with the North Kildare 'Lifetime Achievement Award'



Bernard Jackman interviewing Allan Shine Chief Executive of Kildare Innovation Campus about progress in "Europe's most advanced business campus"



Nigel Osborne, entertaining the audience with his hilarious impressions of various rugby stars



Elaine Fox and North Kildare RFC president Rob Landy



Darren Mooney and Jonathan Dean



Eamonn O'Flaherty (Sherry Fitzgerald Maynooth) auctioning international rugby tickets and some legendary Maynooth turkeys



David Wallace, Louis Fitzgerald, Stephen Ferris and Bernard Jackman



*An Nuadha Players
Community Theatre*
Celebrating 25 years

It's Pantomime Time in Maynooth!

Characters young and old, real and imaginary, alive and even dead have made their way to Maynooth and will take to the stage in the Aula Maxima in St. Patrick's College, Maynooth from Thursday 28th November to Sunday 1st December. An Nuadha Players is delighted to welcome a host of visitors who have travelled all the way from Victorian London for our 25th Anniversary pantomime 'A Christmas Carol' written by Martin Higgins (with a little help from Charles Dickens).

The production team has gone all out this year to bring a lavish and magical show to the stage and we are very grateful to our sponsors. Without their generosity, a show on this scale would not be possible.

Rehearsals have been in full swing since August and following a weekend of set building and fine tuning, everything is ready to go. If you would like to come and see the show, tickets are available online at Annuahplayers.ie. Show times are 7.30 pm Thursday to Saturday with matinées on Saturday and Sunday at 2.30 pm. We hope to see you there. Please be advised that the Sunday matinée is booked out and that the other shows are selling fast. To avoid disappointment, be sure to purchase tickets in advance.

2025 Summer Production

Following our sellout run of Alan Bennett's *The Lady in the Van* we are inviting submissions for our 2025 summer production. If you have written a full length or one act play, or have a play script that you would like to put forward for consideration for our summer production in 2025, please email your submission to annuahplayers@gmail.com by **18th December 2024**. If you are interested in directing, please confirm this in your email along with providing us with a brief background of your experience.

Meanwhile, all of us in An Nuadha Players wish you a Happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful 2025.



The cast and production team of *A Christmas Carol* in festive mood at rehearsals .



The ghost of Christmas Past (Amelia Brogan) prepares to take Scrooge (John Fitzgibbon-Moore) on a magical trip to his past.



Young Scrooge (Sam O'Shea) is too busy learning the ways of commerce to accept the invitation of his teacher (Maria Fitzgibbon) to take Christmas Day off.

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Christmas Cocktails

Christmas cocktails come in a great variety of styles. From fruity martinis to comforting drinks with seasonal accents, there is a fantastic cocktail that's sure to put anyone in the festive spirit and impress all of your holiday guests. While some may require a specialty ingredient or two, you can prep those ahead of time, and many single cocktails are easy to size up for a holiday party you'll never forget.

This Christmas mimosa recipe makes a wonderful holiday drink with a pink hue that looks lovely when garnished with fresh rosemary sprigs and sugared cranberries.

Christmas Mimosa Ingredients

2 fluid ounces cranberry juice
2 fluid ounces Champagne
1 splash orange liqueur
1 sprig fresh rosemary
2 sugared cranberries



Directions

Pour cranberry juice into a Champagne flute and top with Champagne. Add orange liqueur. Garnish with rosemary sprig and sugared cranberries.

Pomegranate gin cocktail

You can use 100% Pomegranate Juice
Gin
Lemon juice
Simple syrup
Egg white*
Soda water (club soda) sparkling wine in place of Champagne.



How to make an egg white foam: the dry shake
Adding egg whites in cocktails might seem retro, and it is: it's a tradition that dates back to the 1860's! The foam adds a frothy texture to the top of the drink and a creamy rich flavor to each sip. Classic drinks like the Gin Fizz, Ramos Gin

Fizz and Whiskey Sour are traditionally served with this frothy topping. The key to an egg white foam is a special technique called a dry shake. Here's how it works: Shake the drink ingredients without ice first. This lets the protein in the egg begin to form the foam, instead of being diluted by the ice.

Then add ice and shake again. This cools the drink and strengthens the foam. Strain it into the glass and you'll get a thick, white frothy layer. (As a note: citrus is required for the foam formation: so you'll need the lemon in combination with the pomegranate.)

Pomegranate Martini

Try a Pomegranate Martini! Crisp, sweet tart, fruity, and light: it's much closer to a Cosmo than the classic martini. But instead of cranberry juice like the Cosmopolitan, it's made with pomegranate juice instead.

Serve it up in a martini glass and you've got a sophisticated cocktail that's refreshing and easy to drink. Here's how to make it!



Ingredients

Vodka
Pomegranate juice (purchased or fresh squeezed)
Cointreau
Lemon juice
Simple syrup



Directions

Place all ingredients in a cocktail shaker. Shake for 15 seconds until cold. Strain into a glass.
Garnish with a lemon peel: see below for what to do with it!

How to express citrus into a cocktail

For this pomegranate martini, you'll do something that's common in cocktails: expressing a citrus peel onto the drink. Why? This gives you a strong citrus perfume when you go to take a sip of the drink. Here's what you'll do: Use a knife to remove a 1" wide strip of the lemon peel. Squeeze it over the drink first, which releases the oils and gives it a strong lemon perfume. To amp it up a notch, run the lemon peel around the rim of the glass. This gives an even more citrus-y first sip.

Source: www.acouplecooks.com/christmas-cocktails-drinks/

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www.heads-up.ie



December 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

Song & Rhyme Time for 0-2 year olds

Fri 6th and 13th December, 10am- 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. Book your free ticket here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/1324163>

Festive Storytime for ages 3-6

Fri 20 Dec 2024 15:00 - 15:30

Join Niamh for this festive story time!

Please note that it is only suitable for children 3+. Book places for children only. All children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Booking your free ticket here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/1478682>

Christmas Movie Event

Friday 6th December

3-.00pm – 4.45 pm

Come along for a family friendly Christmas movie event in Maynooth Library. Be ready for a journey to the North Pole, so bring along a blanket and a snack to settle in. Suitable for all ages, children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. Book your free ticket here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/1477143>

Library Ireland Week 2024: Festive craft workshop for ages 6- 10

Saturday 7th December

3.30 – 4.30 pm

Join Emily for a fun-filled Christmas craft event in Maynooth Library. Suitable for children aged 6-10. Booking necessary. Children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult.

Book your free ticket here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/1477158>

Family Time @ Your Library: Intergenerational CD Etching Art Workshop for children aged 10 +

Saturday 7th December

10 am – 11.30 am

Create cards, postcards or mini prints. In this intergenerational "Eco-Etching" workshop children and their grandparent / guardian or parent will be guided to make mini-prints on sustainable bamboo paper, by using a drypoint technique on recycled CDs and printing with an etching press.

You don't need to be good at drawing, Angelina will guide you in mark making, patterns and symbols.

- Participants' hair needs to be tied up to avoid getting caught in printing presses
- Etching ink stains clothes, children must wear old clothes or bring an apron.
- Children will need to be able to use a compass. We use the compass like a pencil to draw/etch on the surface.

Book your free ticket here <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/1476530>

Intergenerational Festive Craft Event

Tuesday 10th December

3:30pm – 4:30pm

Join Emily and Mary for an inter-generational festive craft event in Maynooth Library. Aimed at children of any age and an older family member, come along to learn some new festive and seasonal crafts together.

Book your free ticket here:

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/1477165>

Family Time @ Your Library : Early Years Festive Craft Event

Saturday 14th December

11am – 12pm

For ages 2 - 5

Come to Maynooth Library on Saturday 14th December at 11am for a toddler-friendly Festive Craft Event. Suitable for children aged 2-5. Children attending this event must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Book your free ticket here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/1477170>

Botley Coding Workshop for children for ages 7- 10

Thursday 19th December

3.30pm -4.30pm

Calling young coders! Join Federica and Emily to try out some Botley coding games and challenges. Suitable for children aged 7-10, and children must be accompanied by a parent/ guardian.

Book your free ticket here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/1478973>

Family Time @ Your Library: Family-Friendly Festive Craft Event

Saturday 21st December

11am – 12pm

Join Emily for a final Craft event before Christmas! Suitable for all the family, and children under 8 must be accompanied by a parent/guardian .

Book your free ticket here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/1477178>

Events for Young Adults

Library Ireland Week 2024: Where Ideas Matter. The Freedom to Think, to Discover and to Be Yourself'

Online Teen Writers Group for 12-15 year olds

Thursday 5th and Thursday 12th December

6pm- 7pm

Are you (or do you know) a teen writer who'd like to get a head start on new year resolutions and start writing their novel/short story? Would you like to join a friendly group of peers to get some writing done and share ideas on writers block? Then this group might be for you! Join on Teams from the comfort of your own writing space for an hour, twice every month.

For more information or to join, email us on maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie or call into the branch

(Continued on page 24)

December Events at **Maynooth Community Library (Cont.)**

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

(Continued from page 23)

Teen Book Club for 12-15 year olds

Friday 13th December

4pm – 5pm

Are you aged 12-15 and enjoy reading? Then turn your luck around this Friday the 13th and come along to Maynooth Library for our brand new bookclub! The group is drop-in so there's no pressure to commit and while there are recommended books provided, members can choose their own reading too. Just bring along a reading recommendation and try out our group.

Christmas LGBTQIA+ Teen Pride Club Ages 15-17

Friday 13th December

2.30pm – 3.30pm

Hosted by one of our library staff members, this is a safe space for LGBTQIA+ teens to hang out and chat with their peers in the cosy meeting room. There will be music and games (including some festive themed activities) to break the ice and tasty treats to enjoy. Members are welcome to bring along their ally friends also. This is a FREE tea/coffee afternoon with light refreshments provided.

Please book a free space via Ticket Tailor so we know how much treats to prepare!

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/maynoothlibrary/1441983>

Events for Adults

Homelessness and Housing Supports Info Clinic

Tuesday 3rd December

2pm – 4pm

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*

Luain Press Poetry Café

Tuesday 3rd December

6pm - 7pm

The last poetry club of 2024! Come by Maynooth Community Library on Tuesday the 3rd of December at 6 p.m. for chats, readings and creative writing activities!

Age Friendly @ Your Library Programme: Free Digital Skills Drop in with ALONE

Wednesday Dec 4th & Dec 18th

1pm – 4pm

We are here to give you support with your phone or device and, for example, sending an email, using Whatsapp, filling in a form, booking tickets online, shopping online and much more! Tea and coffee will be provided.

For any queries, please phone Maynooth Community library on 045 980493

Seasonal Concert with the Maynooth Library Retired Ladies Guitar Group

Tuesday 17th December

1.30pm – 3.00pm

A concert of festive songs led by a group of retired women who meet every week to "sing for fun". From this group we have a subgroup of retired women who are learning to play the guitar. They have been learning for almost a year now.

Get into the festive spirit by coming along and joining in the singing. *Drop in*, no booking required .

Climate Action Events

Zero waste Maynooth

Saturday 14th December

2pm – 4pm

- Ladies Clothes Swap
- Craft Corner
- Cloth Nappy Ireland Station
- Kids Toy Swap

Ladies Clothes Swap

Join a free community event with Zero Waste Maynooth as it hosts its ladies clothes swap shop. Bring up to three pieces of clean clothes in good repair and swap for something new to you! All sizes and brands welcome. Enjoy swapping clothes as a way to tackle textile waste and save some money !

Craft Corner

Our last session with Vanessa from The Craft Corner to learn some tips on repairing clothes. Vanessa is a fantastic teacher who can help tackle those repairs with your clothes and bring them back to life. Bring an item of clothes that needs repair and Vanessa will show you how to repair. With funding from Kildare County Council.

Cloth Nappy Ireland

Chat to volunteers from Cloth Nappy Library Ireland. A massive way to save waste and save money. So simple to use, drop by and chat to a volunteer

Kids toy swap - bring one, take one! Let's get the kids used to the idea of swapping before buying !

Exhibitions

Doodle Box Art Exhibition

December 4th – December 31st

The Maynooth & Newbridge students from Doodlebox.ie (aged 5 to 12) are delighted to have an exhibition of their art on display for their families and friends to visit. They have been working very hard on their winter themed paintings and the Maynooth students are so proud to see them displayed in their local library.

Exhibition Space Booking

If you are a local artist or art group and would like to book our exhibition space, please contact us. Maynooth Community Library's Exhibition Space is available to host exhibitions from January 2026. To be placed on a waiting list to use the exhibition space in 2025, or for booking enquiries, please email maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie.



Royal Canal Notes

December 2024

Education ~ Heritage ~ Recreation

SCULPTURE UNVEILING

On Friday 25th October last a sculpture was unveiled to the memory of the late Dr Ian Bath founder of the Royal Canal Amenity Group back in 1974.

The sculpture which is located adjacent to the canal at Castleknock, was unveiled by Jackie Bath, daughter of Dr. Ian and Mr Éanna Rowe of the Waterways Ireland Executive.



Section of the crowd at the unveiling of the sculpture. Photo © J.L. Photography

Jackie attended with two of her daughters. Also in attendance were RCAG president Mr. Noel Spaine and RCAG chairman Mr. Matthew Kennedy.

The monument was designed and sculpted by the well-known artist and sculpturer Mr Simon Hayes.



Ms Jackie Bath cuts the ribbon assisted by Mr Éanna Rowe. Photo © J.L. Photography

ACCOLADES

The Chairman, committee and board of directors would like to extend thanks to a number of people and groups for their help and support during the year.

First up is the 'scheme' staff and supervisor who: tidy the harbour, trim the grass, carry out minor maintenance and empty the bins.

We would also like to thank the tidy towns committee who also do some cleaning in the harbour area. They also provide additional bins and assistance when we run functions in the harbour.

We also appreciate the efforts, assistance and kindness shown by the MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER staff and supervisor with regards to publishing matters.

Finally, a huge vote of thanks to you the communities along the canal and readers of this excellent publication, who have supported us from the start and continue to support all our endeavours.

CHRISTMAS JUMPER WALK

The Post-Christmas 'Christmas Jumper' walk will take place on Friday December 27th starting at 12.15 pm.

The weather, hopefully, will be conducive to this event making it an enjoyable day for all.

As always, we would like to thank, in advance, the management at Carton for kind permission to walk through Carton, and those members of the group who will help on the day. If you have one then please why not wear your Christmas Jumper for the occasion.

Most readers will be aware that "Greenway" work is ongoing on the canal between Mullen bridge on the Straffan Road Maynooth and Pike bridge at Carton.

The walk is, therefore, subject to the canal being reopened on time, after these works if not the walk will be rerouted.

SEASONAL GREETINGS

The officers and committee would like to avail of this opportunity to wish you all a very peaceful Christmas and good health in the New Year.



BRADY'S CLOCKHOUSE

BAR - LOUNGE - RESTAURANT



Book your Parties online @ info@clockhouse.ie

"Live Band New Years Eve"

We look forward to seeing you soon.

Like us on Facebook

@BradysClockhouseMaynooth

e-mail: info@clockhouse.ie

Web: www.clockhouse.ie - Tel: 01-5054725



***Wishing Everyone a Happy Christmas
& Best Wishes for the New Year.***

Great Food Served 7 Days



COLOURING FUN



NB To Print the page go to File, select Print and put in this page number. Then Print.



Pet Care for December

This Christmas while you are enjoying yourselves, don't forget some Christmas food can cause problems for your pets. First of all, keep all food cupboards closed at all times as pets are very curious and might help themselves to some naughty foods. Also keep waste bins where they can't be got to easily. Don't leave dishes out with leftovers or food on counters.



Foods to Avoid Giving to your Pet

Pigs in Blankets and gravy are fatty and very salty. They can cause serious digestive problems.

Grapes, raisins and sultanas are highly toxic and can cause kidney problems. So don't give them any mince pies, Christmas pudding and fruit cake.

Never give them turkey bones. It is dangerous as they are brittle and can get stuck in their digestive system.

Macadamia and walnuts can cause lethargy, high temperature, tremors and stomach upsets.

Nutmeg is highly poisonous to pets. Can cause tremors and seizures.

Chocolate is toxic for dogs, so don't leave any chocolate lying around as they will eat it. Dark chocolate is more toxic.

Alcohol is also bad as it can lower their body temperature and blood sugar levels which can lead to seizures and comas.

If your Pet does eat any of the above, ring your Vet immediately, tell them what they have eaten/drunk if you know and they will advise you on what to do.

Also advise any visitors not to give your pets any of the above.



It's ok, they will just think Santa ate them.

Pet Friendly Christmas Snacks

Plain, cooked white turkey meat, plain cooked and boneless salmon, raw carrots, plain brussel sprouts and plain boiled parsnips.



Keeping Pets Calm at Christmas

A change in routine can be stressful for your pet. Also all the activities, lights and decorations and people coming and going in the house. Be mindful of your pet, some pets may love all the attention but there are some that will find it highly stressful.

So create a safe, calm space for your pet in another room where there is little noise and little chance of it being disturbed. Put a nice comfy bed in there with food and water bowls and some toys. So them this so that they can retreat there when things get too much.

Also let kids, family and visitors know not to crowd the pet and when they are in the quiet space, to leave them alone. Ensure that children know not to go near them when pets are eating or sleeping.



If you have got-



ten a pet for Christmas, just be aware that this is all new to them therefore they will be overwhelmed. It is important that you start a routine with them and keep to it as this will give your pet a sense of security amid all the chaos.

It is best to wait till all the celebrations are over so that you can give the pet all the attention and training that they need. Also this will give you extra time to consider whether you want a pet or not. It is very cruel to the pet, to give it a home and treat it as part of your family over the Christmas and then hand it back or even dump it somewhere afterwards. The cruelty of this is just heart-breaking, traumatic and soul destroying for the pet.



IF YOU CAN'T GUARANTEE YOU WILL KEEP IT - THEN DON'T GET A PET IN THE FIRST PLACE.

Christmas Safety for Your Pet

A real Christmas tree will pose a serious risk to your pet. The needles can become lodged in your pet's throat or injure their paws but the oils from the needles are toxic and can irritate mouths and stomachs. The water the tree sits in is also dangerous if the pet drinks it as it may contain chemicals such as fertilisers/pesticides that were used on the tree. The water will be stagnant and be a breeding ground for bacteria. So cover the tree bowl or block it off so the pet can't get to it. Do not to let your pet alone in the room with the tree, besides drinking the water, there is a possibility that they may play with the decorations, or even get stuck in them and pull the tree down completely and even chew the lights (which is not good at all). Secure the tree to something solid and it possible cordon off where the tree is so the pet can't get near it.



While candles can be very dangerous. Your pet may knock them down or even get irritated by the scent. Keep the candles up high out of the way and best to use candles with no scent if you are unsure.

Snow globes can have antifreeze in them, which as we know is fatal to dogs and cats if swallowed. So keep them up high and use double-sided tape to keep them in place so they can't be knocked over.

Ornaments and baubles can be fragile so be careful where they are placed, if they fall or get knocked, the fragments can be very sharp and damage your pet's paws or even get stuck in their paws. So make sure your pet has plenty of toys and playtime to distract them from all the decorations and the tree.

As always if your pet is unwell - contact your vet immediately



Sourced: <https://www.medivetgroup.com>

Easy Upcycled Holiday Crafts

How to Make Clothespin Angels

What You Need

36 wooden clothespins, 2.9" long
1 flat back wooden bead
Hot glue gun with clear glue sticks

1. Separate the clothespin pieces from the springs.
2. Assemble 4 back-to-back pieces as shown.
3. Assemble 16 end-to-end pieces.
4. On 14 of the "blue" end to end" pieces, add a third piece to make the shapes.
5. Glue two "back to back" pieces together from "end-to-end" as shown to create the angel's body segment.
6. Now that the pieces are prepped, you can begin to assemble the angel. Start building the skirt by gluing end to end shapes on one side of body piece as shown.
7. Continue adding the prepared shapes to create an entire skirt.
8. Next, glue on the "back to back" arm pieces. And then glue on the wing pieces.
9. Last but not least, add wood bead to the top of the angel body for the head.
10. Now that the angel clothespin is fully assembled, you can use it as is, turn it into an ornament or wall hanging or a piece of art.



You can also paint it any colour you wish or varnish it.

Giant Cardboard Christmas Trees

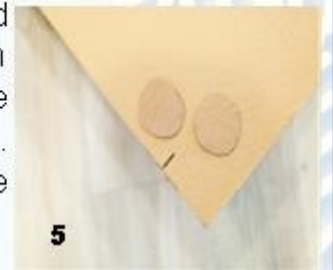
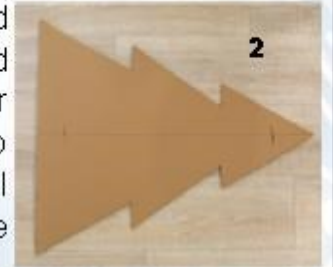
Materials

cardboard sheets or boxes
box cutter
scissors
yard stick
pencil
optional: saw



Instructions

1. Gather your cardboard. If you have extra large boxes or sheets, you can make taller trees. You can cut open boxes and lay them flat to maximize your cardboard.
2. Trace a tree onto a sheet of cardboard with your pencil. Consider the size and shape you'd like, and ensure that your tree is symmetrical. Keep in mind that to create one standing tree, you'll need three flat cardboard trees of the exact same size.
3. If you're using a saw, it's really easy to layer 3 pieces of cardboard and cut them all out at the same time. If you're using scissors or a box cutter, just cut out three trees by hand.
4. Trace a pencil line down the centre of each tree. With your box cutter, carefully slice down the pencil line, being sure to only pierce one side of the cardboard (leave the side that's face-down intact). If you're using very thin cardboard, you can probably skip this step and just crease your trees down the middle so that they can fold in half.
5. Cut two small circles of cardboard (about 4" in diameter). Fold each tree in half. Create two slits in each tree on the fold, one high and one low on the tree. The slits should be less than half the depth of your circles.
6. Insert the circles into the slits of one of the folded trees and open the tree enough to stand. Add the other two trees onto the circles.
7. These trees can be painted bright, festive colours or they can left in this natural cardboard colour. So with your trees, dress them up any way you like! You can add fairy lights to them Christmas stickers etc.




Why not let kids decorate them, just give them a bunch of art supplies and leave them to it. Group them together to make a forest. These can be used year on year.



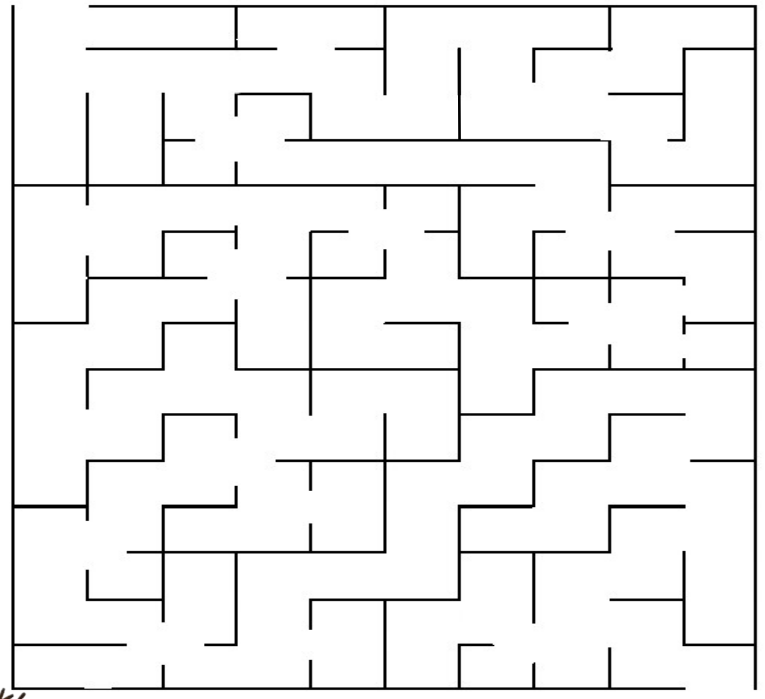
Christmas Fun



CHRISTMAS MAZE




IN



OUT



Match the Answer to the Clues



This jolly man works this time every year. _____

These power Santa's sleigh. _____

These guys work for Santa. _____

This green character tried to steal Christmas. _____

Where Santa lives and works. _____

These are hung on a mantle. _____


The name of the Snowman. _____

Who was kissing Santa under the tree? _____

What is in your stocking if you are bad? _____

What does Santa check twice? _____



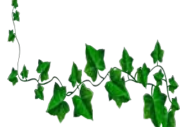







I have a red nose. _____



NB To Print the page go to File, select Print and put in this page number. Then Print.

Produced by Martina, Newsletter Writer

Can you guess the Christmas songs?

<p>No Talking</p> 	 + 	 + 
<h1 style="font-size: 2em;">Christmas</h1>		 + 
	<p>→ Noel Noel Noel Noel</p>	<p>↓</p> 




Answers:


Silent Night
 White Christmas
 Three Kings
 Holly and the Ivy
 First Noel
 Jingle Bells
 Mistletoe & Wine
 Snowman
 Little Donkey


Solve the Crossword

1


25



3





4

5

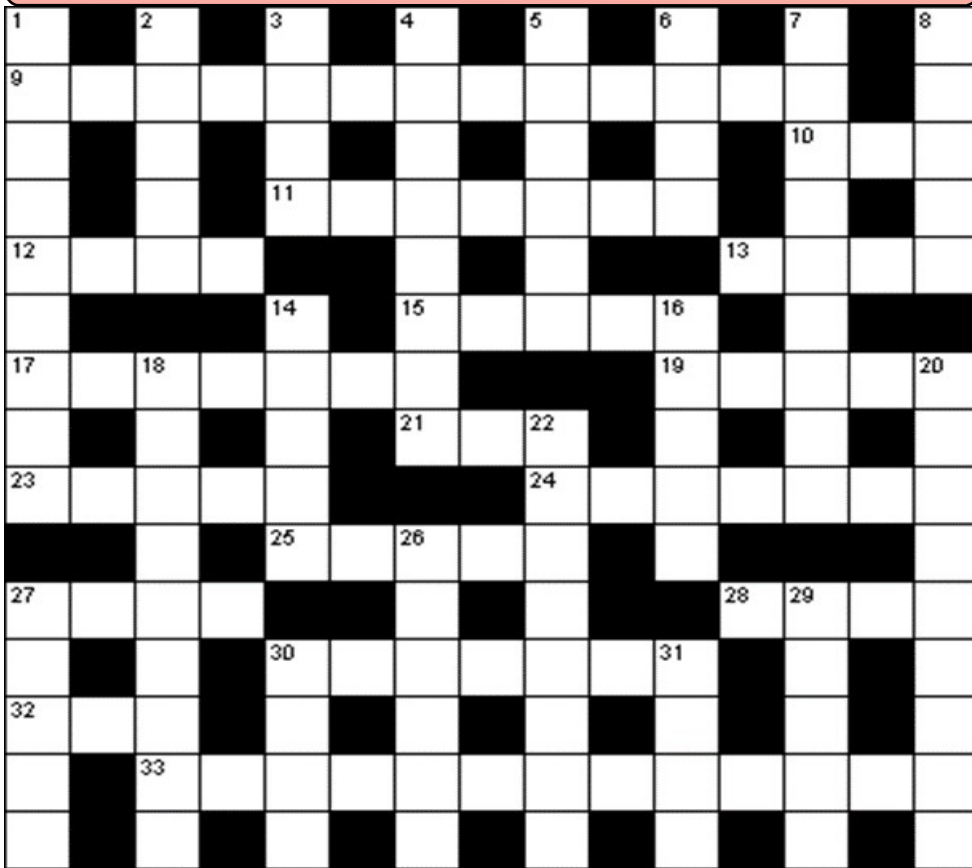
6


2
7

8


7

8

3

December 2024 Crossword - No. 541

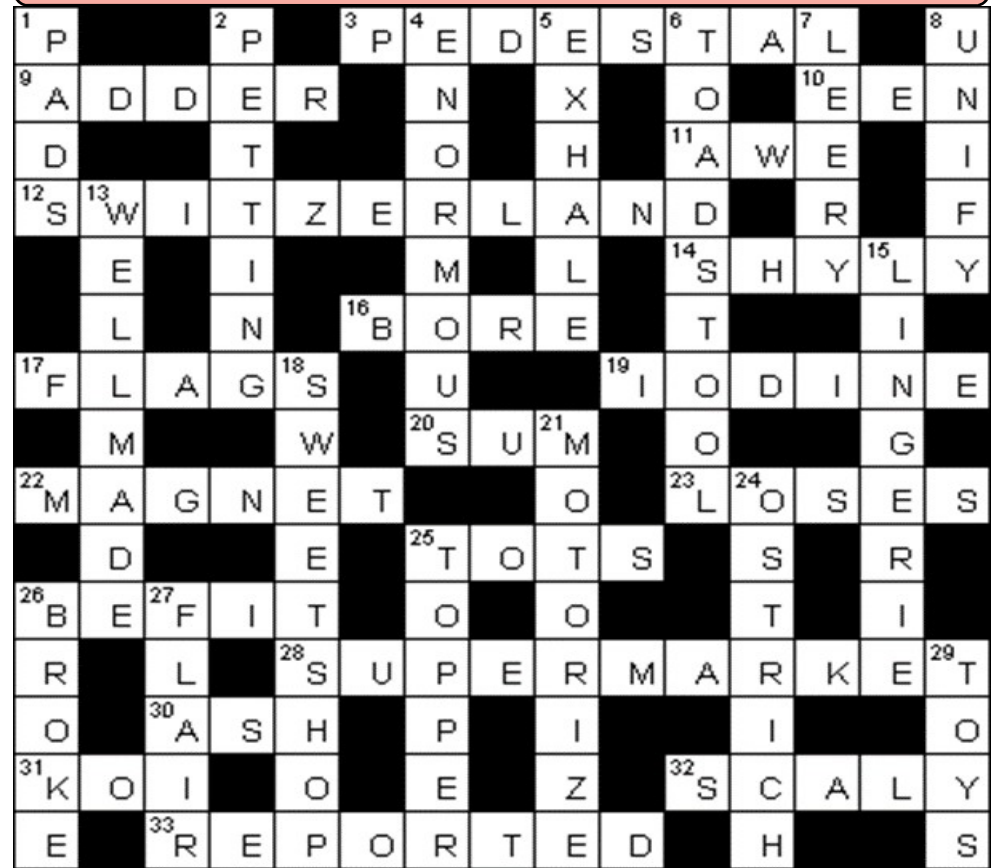


Clues Across

- | | |
|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9. Mobile telephone (8,5) | 24. Rolled oats (7) |
| 10. Floor covering (3) | 25. The devil (5) |
| 11. Methods (7) | 27. Drink greedily (4) |
| 12. So be it (4) | 28. Skills (4) |
| 13. Comply (4) | 30. Link (7) |
| 15. Marine growth (5) | 32. Illustrative craft (3) |
| 17. Underwriter (7) | 33. Amount a tablespoon can hold (13) |
| 19. Follows orders (5) | |
| 21. And so on (3) | |
| 23. Pierces with horns (5) | |



Solutions to Crossword No. 540



Clues Down

- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. Uttering screams (9) | 18. Table napkin (9) |
| 2. Blaze (5) | 20. Persuasive argument (5,4) |
| 3. Insects (4) | 22. Scorn (8) |
| 4. Slaughter (8) | 26. Underground passage (6) |
| 5. Become visible (6) | 27. Sealed with a loving kiss (5) |
| 6. Seed containers (4) | 29. Summits of buildings (5) |
| 7. Musical note (9) | 30. Republic in the Caribbean (4) |
| 8. Containing fat (5) | 31. Hoot (4) |
| 14. Apparel (5) | |
| 16. Bingo (5) | |

Difficult

Sudoku Challenge

Super Difficult

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

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

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.

How to cook a turkey

There are many ways to cook a turkey, but the most common method is roasting. Roasting involves cooking the turkey in an oven at a low temperature for a long time, until the meat is tender and juicy, and the skin is crispy and browned. Here are some basic steps for roasting a turkey:



- Thaw the turkey in the refrigerator for about 24 hours per 4 to 5 pounds of weight. Make sure the turkey is completely thawed before cooking.
- Remove the turkey from the packaging and take out the giblets and neck from the cavity. You can use them to make gravy or stock, or discard them. Rinse the turkey and pat it dry with paper towels.
- Season the turkey with salt, pepper, butter, herbs, or any other flavorings you like. You can also stuff the turkey with bread, vegetables, fruits, or nuts, but make sure the stuffing is cooked to 165°F before serving.
- Place the turkey breast-side up on a rack in a large roasting pan. Tuck the wings under the body and tie the legs together with kitchen twine. Insert a meat thermometer into the thickest part of the thigh, without touching the bone.
- Preheat the oven to 325°F and roast the turkey for about 20 minutes per pound, or until the thermometer reads 180°F for the thigh and 170°F for the breast. Baste the turkey with pan juices or melted butter every 30 minutes to keep it moist. If the skin starts to brown too much, cover it loosely with aluminum foil.
- When the turkey is done, transfer it to a cutting board and let it rest for 15 to 20 minutes before carving. This allows the juices to redistribute and makes the meat easier to slice. Enjoy your turkey with gravy, cranberry sauce, mashed potatoes, or any other side dishes you prefer.

Brussels sprouts are a versatile vegetable that can be cooked in many ways. Here are some popular methods:

- **Boiling:** Boiling is the most common method of cooking Brussels sprouts. To boil Brussels sprouts, trim the ends and remove any yellow or wilted leaves. Then, add them to a pot of boiling salted water and cook for 5-10 minutes, or until they are tender but still firm. Drain and serve with butter, salt, and pepper.
- **Roasting:** Roasting Brussels sprouts is a great way to bring out their natural sweetness and nuttiness. To roast Brussels sprouts, preheat the oven to 400°F. Trim the ends and cut them in half. Toss them with olive oil, salt, and pepper, and spread them out on a baking sheet. Roast for 20-25 minutes, or until they are crispy and browned.
- **Sautéing:** Sautéing Brussels sprouts is a quick and easy way to cook them. To sauté Brussels sprouts, trim the ends and cut them in half. Heat some oil or butter in a pan over medium-high heat. Add the Brussels sprouts and cook for 5-7 minutes, or until they are tender and lightly browned. Season with salt, pepper, and any other spices you like.
- **Steaming:** Steaming Brussels sprouts is a healthy and simple way to cook them. To steam Brussels sprouts, trim the ends and cut them in half. Place them in a steamer basket over a pot of boiling water and steam for 5-7 minutes, or until they are tender. Serve with lemon juice, butter, or any other sauce you like.
- **Grilling:** Grilling Brussels sprouts is a fun and flavorful way to cook them. To grill Brussels sprouts, trim the ends and skewer them on a metal or wooden stick. Brush them with oil and season with salt, pepper, and any other spices you like. Grill for 5-7 minutes, or until they are charred and tender.



Source: www.bbcgoodfood.com



December

Fruit and veg

- Place straw around the base of parsnips to prevent the soil freezing, which can make harvesting difficult.
- Plant thorn less blackberries, such as 'Loch Ness', for easy pickings of large, sweet, juicy fruits.
- Winter prune large fruit trees, such as apple and pear, to control their shape, size, and to increase their productivity.
- Plant fruit trees trained as cordons, fans or espaliers to make good use of limited space.
- Start to plan next year's crops and order seeds.
- Tidy up raspberry and blackberry beds – weed and mulch with compost, then tie new stems to support wires.
- Lift and divide large clumps of rhubarb, replanting the outer sections into soil enriched with well-rotted manure.
- Keep kale, winter cabbages and other brassicas covered with netting to protect them from hungry pigeons.
- Finish clearing old crops and debris from the veg plot, but only compost healthy material.
- Remove yellowed leaves on brassicas, so fungal diseases such as grey mould and downy mildew don't take hold.
- Make sure Brussels sprouts don't topple over in strong winds - tie to a cane for support and earth up the stems.
- Prune grapevines, cutting back side-branches to one or two buds from the main stem.

Garden Maintenance

- Bring all watering equipment indoors, including hoses and sprinklers, so they don't freeze and split.
- Scoop fallen leaves and debris from ponds, leave on the side so pond life can escape, then add to the compost bin.
- Stand your Christmas tree in a bucket of water in a sheltered spot outdoors until it's time to bring it indoors.
- Clear out your shed, organise and clean your tools.
- Check tree ties and stakes are firm enough to stand up to winter storms.
- Prune blackcurrants once dormant, removing about a quarter of the old stems.
- Order well-rotted manure or mushroom compost to dig in over winter or spread over bare soil for worms to take down.
- Order summer-flowering bulbs such as lilies and gladioli.

Flowers

- Protect terracotta pots from cracking in freezing weather by bringing them indoors or wrapping in bubble polythene.
- Rake up accumulated fallen leaves in borders that could be harbouring slugs and other pests.
- Plant bare-root roses and other deciduous shrubs, plus ornamental trees.
- Hang bird feeders near roses to attract hungry birds that will also pick off any overwintering pests.
- Cut stems of berried winter shrubs, seasonal flowers and evergreen leaves for festive decorations and wreaths.
- Move plants in pots to a sheltered spot if conditions turn very cold, as their roots are more exposed to the elements.
- Pile straw or bracken around the base of tender shrubs and climbers to protect them from falling temperatures.
- Plant fragrant winter shrubs in pots on the doorsteps.
- Prune climbing roses between now and February.
- Hard prune overgrown shrubs and hedges while they're dormant.
- Check stored bulbs and corms regularly for any signs of rot.



Source: GardenersWorld.com

Seasons Greetings to All



MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN



General Election 2024

By the time that this appears in print, the results of the general election will be known. Three of the sitting TDs are running for election so there will be at least two new TDs in North Kildare. Maynooth Cycling Campaign would like to congratulate the winners and commiserate with the losers.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign - Public Meeting 14th November

Maynooth Cycling Campaign held a public meeting in the ICA Hall on 14th November. We would like to thank those who came along to the meeting. Among the issues discussed was Cycling Without Age (see next item below), Priorities for 2025, Amended Maynooth and Environs LAP, Priorities for 2025 and General Election 2024.

Cycling Without Age

One of the main items on the agenda was Cycling Without Age. We were happy to report that the distance travelled by the trishaw in 2024 had increased to more than 300 km. We would like to thank Hans and the rest of the St. John of God/Genil Training for working with us in offering cycle tours to people who would have difficulties in cycling on their own. We have had a great response from volunteers who would like to be trained as pilots. The big challenge for 2025 is how to attract clients from the general public. A number of ideas were put forward at the meeting. These will be developed over the winter months and, hopefully, implemented in the coming year.

Local Area Plan - Deletion of Proposed Permeability Measures

The Amended Maynooth and Environs Local Area Plan is currently open until the 6th December for consultation by the general public. The main issue for transport remains the deletion of the permeability measures. Maynooth Cycling Campaign opposes their deletion on the grounds that the deletion of such measures is contrary to government policy on climate, health and road safety.

Maynooth likes to see itself as a progressive town with two third level colleges, good rail links to Dublin but appears to be turning

into just another anti-cycling town which is “addicted to fossil fuel” and which pays lip service to climate change. How else would you categorise a town where councillors

- Oppose the removal of a right turning lane into residential estates (on the Straffan Road)..
- Oppose officials’ proposal to turn a footpath into a shared path (in Carton Avenue).
- Oppose the proposed trial when it was proposed to restrict motorised traffic to flow in one direction (on Parsons Street).

Maynooth Cycling Campaign suggests that Kildare County Council is responsible in part for the level of opposition to increased permeability as it failed to make the case for their inclusion in advance of the publication of the Local Area Plan.

Climate Change

In last month’s Newsletter Notes, we included early reports of over fifty deaths from flooding in the Valencia region as a result of heavy rainfall. This loss of life turned out to be a gross underestimate. It turns out that the number of fatalities was 216. Almost half were over 70 years of age which suggests that elderly people are a group who are at high risk from climate change. It is ironic that many of them were trapped in their cars trying to flee the flood waters.

Ireland too has seen flooding but not on the same scale as Valencia. In Listowel 70 homes were evacuated in the worst flooding for a generation. In Killybegs 16 houses and nine businesses were flooded. In England and Wales both experienced severe flooding in the same storm.

Cop29 has just finished in Baku. It was reported that 1,773 fossil fuel lobbyists attended the conference - outnumbering the number of delegates from countries participating in the conference. Despite all the talks over years, global fossil fuel emissions continue to rise. The oil companies knew that their businesses had an impact on the climate, but chose to continue plying their trade. They are doing the same today.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party independent local lobby group advocating for better cycling infrastructure in Kildare.

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 29/10/2024 to 27/11/2024 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
2461239	Kildare County Council	B.O.M Stepping Stones Stepping Stones Special School	Stepping Stones Special School, Moygale Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	22/11/2024
2461222	Kildare County Council	Circle K Ireland Retail Limited	Circle K Carton Hall Service Station, Straffan Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	19/11/2024
2461164	Kildare County Council	Maynooth GAA Club	Maynooth GAA Sports Training grounds, Moyglare Road, Mariavilla, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	04/11/2024
2461153	Kildare County Council	Kevin O’Sullivan	Newtown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	01/11/2024
2461151	Kildare County Council	Mark and Aoife Kennedy	Moneycooly, Celbridge Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	01/11/2024
2461146	Kildare County Council	Mark and Aoife Kennedy	Moneycooly, Celbridge Road, Maynooth, Co Kildare	31/10/2024
2461139	Kildare County Council	Randelswood Holdings Ltd	Lands at Doctor's Lane, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	30/10/2024

Maynooth Community Contacts Listing

<p>An Nuadha Players annuadhplayers@gmail.com facebook.com/annuadha</p>	<p>An Post Sorting Office Maynooth 01-6293390</p>	<p>Bernard Durkan T.D. 01-6183732 bernard.durkan@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/BernardDurkan/</p>	<p>Brass & Reed Band (St Mary's) sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie facebook.com/maynoothband/</p>
<p>Catherine Murphy T.D. 01-6183099 catherine.murphy@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/catherinemurphytd/</p>	<p>Cemetery Committee (Laraghbryan) 01-6293018</p>	<p>Church of Ireland 01-6292163 secretary@meath.anglican.org</p>	<p>Citizen Information Centre 0818078100 maynooth@citinfo.ie</p>
<p>Cllr. Angela Feeney 087-2381962 angelaemfeeney@gmail.com facebook.com/cllrangelafeeney/</p>	<p>Cllr. Naoise Ó Cearúil 086 7280050 cllrnaoise@gmail.com facebook.com/naoiseoceanuil/</p>	<p>Cllr. Paul Ward 087 2294697 cllrpaulward@gmail.com</p>	<p>Cllr. Peter Melrose 089 263 7612 peter.melrose@socialdemocrats.ie</p>
<p>Cllr. Tim Durkan 086-8632784 tim.durkan321@gmail.com</p>	<p>Cloth Nappy Library Ireland 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/NappyLibraryIreland</p>	<p>Community Welfare Services 0818607080 Kildarecws@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Employment Office 01-6106000 bo.maynooth@welfare.ie</p>
<p>Maynooth Employment Services Office Kelly's Lane, Maynooth 01-6016360 EstMaynooth@welfare.ie</p>	<p>James Lawless T.D. 01-6183587 james.lawless@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/JamesLawlessFF/</p>	<p>Kildare Civil Defence 045 980529 pmcneela@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Kildare County Council 045 - 980200 customerservice@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Kildare County Council (Local Office) 01 - 6286236</p>	<p>Kildare MABS 0818072600 kildare@mabs.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Autism Friendly Town 0863329050 autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/maynoothaft</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Care Unit 01-6106351</p>
<p>Maynooth Community Church 01-5054990 office@maynoothcc.org facebook.com/maynoothcommunitychurch/</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Library 01-6285530 maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie. facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService</p>	<p>Maynooth Cycling Campaign 086-8252934 Maynoothcycling@gmail.com www.maynoothcyclingcampaign.com</p>	<p>Maynooth Fishing Club 01-6293202 info@maynoothfisheries.com</p>
<p>Maynooth GAA Club secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie facebook.com/maynoothgaa/</p>	<p>Maynooth Health Centre 01-6106130</p>	<p>Maynooth Kilcock Lions clubcontact@maynoothkilcocklionsclub.org facebook.com/MaynoothKilcockLionsClub/</p>	<p>Maynooth Library 01-6285530 Maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Maynooth Newsletter 01-6285922 office@maynoothcep.com facebook.com/MCEPnewsletter</p>	<p>Maynooth Senior Citizens maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com</p>	<p>Maynooth Students Union 01-7083669 frontdesk@msu.ie facebook.com/MaynoothSU</p>	<p>Maynooth Tidy Towns 083 304 6130 maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie facebook.com/MaynoothTidyTowns</p>
<p>Maynooth Town Football Club 086-1060654 info@maynoothtownfc.ie facebook.com/MTFC1969/</p>	<p>North Kildare Club 01-6103909 info@northkildareclub.ie</p>	<p>North Kildare Tennis Club info@northkildaretennis.ie</p>	<p>Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth 01-6293018 maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com</p>
<p>Post Office (Maynooth) 01-6286259</p>	<p>Réada Cronin T.D. 01-6183823 reada.cronin@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/ReadaCroninSinnFein</p>	<p>SVP Vincent's Shop 01-6289643 geraldinebyrne.east@svp.ie facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064619179003</p>	<p>Zero Waste Maynooth 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth</p>

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.