



Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s



LOCAL NEWS - FEBRUARY 2025 - ISSUE NO. 542



MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2025

FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG MAIGH NUAD 2025

Parade entry form is available on page 3

Printed copies are available for collection from the Newsletter office in Carton Retail Park or e-mail office@maynoothcep.com to request a copy by e-mail



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



Press Release
by Mr. Joe Birmingham, T.D., Minister of State in relation to Maynooth Castle

Maynooth Castle, a national monument in the guardianship of the Commissioners of Public Works, is undergoing a major scheme of conservation works costing approximately €75,000. The works are designed to secure the preservation of the structure and includes securing wall tops and replacing cut stonework where necessary. Conservation work has been completed on the Keep and is in progress on the Gatehouse. The works are scheduled for completion in 1986.

Maynooth Castle is one of the outstanding thirteenth century castles in Leinster both from an architectural and historical point of view. The exact date of the buildings is not recorded but it is clear from the general character and details that they are of the thirteenth century. The Castle is rich in the history of Kildare and was used at various times by some of the Earls of Kildare. Its history is also intimately linked with that of Maynooth College.

Steps are being taken by the Commissioners to have the Castle vested in them so that they can plan for its long-term preservation and presentation to the public. The work at the Castle together with the restoration work carried out by the Commissioners of Public Works at Toghadee Round Tower is indicative of the good work being done by them in the context of the preservation of the monuments of Kildare.

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MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL
Tidy Towns
A Public Meeting has been organised by the Community Council with the goal of re-activating a Tidy Towns Committee in Maynooth. This meeting takes place on February 14th in the T.C.A. Hall at 8pm. All interested people are cordially invited to attend. As can be seen from earlier markings there is great room for improvement in this area.
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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:

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Website: www.maynoothcep.com

Letters to the Editor

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

e-mail to: editor@maynoothcep.com

Mission Statement

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

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

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

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

In addition we undertake the following:

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

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

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

Maynooth Newsletter Archives

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

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

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

Disclaimer

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

All information should be verified from an independent source.

Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter

Editorial

No less a publication than the Cambridge English Dictionary defines the phrase "weather the storm" as something bad is coming, you will have to face it and move on if you want a positive outcome. The year started with Storm Éowyn which was described as the most powerful and severe to hit Ireland since Hurricane Debbie which hit Ireland in September 1961 killing eleven people. While Storm Darragh in December 2024 had higher wind speeds at a number of locations than Storm Éowyn, the latter had the higher wind speeds across more of the country. Because much of Maynooth's power lines are below ground, Maynooth seemed to weather this storm as we came out of this event with limited loss of power and damage to electric cables. However, much damage was done across Ireland by fallen trees and we had a number of trees come down in Maynooth causing some property damage but mainly blocking roads.

"Trees are much like human beings and enjoy each other's company, only a few love to be alone" (Jens Jensen, 1860-1961, landscape architect), so should really be planted in a forest. Jensen was born in Denmark but moved to the United States where he was associated with the development of some of the most important parks and greenbelt areas. In Ireland, we are criticised for our relationship with trees. Planners often insist that old trees on sites are preserved and in new developments a high number of new trees are planted throughout the development at regular distances.

In Maynooth, we have many estates where old trees have been left standing when they should have been cut down and replaced with appropriate trees for their surroundings. In other circumstances there are old trees left between estates in areas not belonging to the adjoining properties. While trees are nice to have, they are regularly removed to make space where land use is needed for other purposes. For example, sixty-four trees were removed on the Moyglare Road to make way for the cycle track.

If events even on a scale less severe than Storm Éowyn are to continue to happen we need to have a serious review of the age and condition of our trees, where they are planted



and what is the possible damage that could be caused by fallen trees in Maynooth. Many of us will have known relatives or friends with property damaged by fallen trees during Storm Éowyn. It may be wiser to remove dangerous trees in order to prevent damage to other property both yours or your neighbours. One Maynooth resident told me recently that the cost of getting a number of branches removed from trees in his garden was three thousand euro. Despite the cost never undertake such tasks without the proper equipment and safety. Also, under the Wildlife Acts it is an offence to cut vegetation between the 1st March and the 31st August. Maybe there is a role here for Kildare County Council considering we pay high property taxes.

2025 marks the 40th Anniversary of the Maynooth Community Employment Project producing the Maynooth Newsletter. Throughout the year we will be including memories from the archives of 1985. This month's front page shows the front page of the February 1985 edition.

**Paul Croghan
Editor**

**Copy date for the March edition will be
5pm on Monday 24th February 2025**

MAYNOOTH

ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2025

Application Form

This year's theme: Back to the 80's

CLOSING DATE FOR ENTRIES: FRI 8th MARCH

Name of Group/Business: _____

Contact Person: _____

Contact Number: _____

Email Address: _____

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

Entry Fees

Commercial Entry - €60

Community Group - €30

Cheques should be made to "Maynooth St. Patricks' Day Parade"

Account Name: Maynooth St. Patricks' Day Parade Committee

IBAN: IE60AIBK93320136873023

BIC: AIBKIE2D

All applications must include two paragraphs about their group/business

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

Prizes awarded for

Best Commercial Float

Best Club Float

Best Band

Best School Float

Best Portrayal of Environmental Awareness

Best Portrayal of Irish Culture

Applications to:

**Maynooth St. Patricks' Day Parade,
c/o Unit 10 Carton Retail Park,
Maynooth. Co. Kildare**

Organised by:

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

Photo Gallery of "Carrying Her Flame" St. Brigid's Parade 2025



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- * Environmental Concerns
- * Employment Concerns
- * Covid - 19 related queries



Phone



zoom



E-mail



Cllr **Angela Feeney**

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





Gold Medal Winners

2016 - 2017 - 2018

2019 - 2021 - 2022

2023 - 2024

Maynooth Tidy Towns took a well-deserved break for Christmas and the New Year. 2024 was a productive, successful year with great community engagement and collaboration. During the break we were contacted by the Tidy Towns Unit of the Department of Rural and Community Development (DRCD). They wish to nominate Maynooth to represent Ireland in the Entente Florale (E.F) Competition 2025. The present membership consists of Ireland, Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Germany and Hungary.



Over the coming weeks we will contact all the businesses and schools, and third level campuses to provide information on the competition and encourage community wide cooperation. Adjudication for the Entente Florale Competition will be in late June or early July, to be confirmed.



While there are similarities to the Tidy Towns Competition, there are a few differences. The emphasis is on the partnership between the local authority (Kildare County Council) and the local community. Kildare County is fully supportive of Maynooth entering the competition.

A preliminary meeting of interested parties was held online in early January, due to the extremely cold weather that week. Storm Éowyn's arrival caused a further postponement!

We realise that entering this competition will involve extra work for Maynooth Tidy Towns volunteers but of course we're not afraid of hard work! We are also confident that we will have the support of the community.

The usual Saturday morning clean-ups resumed on January 19th. Weather permitting we meet up on Saturday mornings in Kildare County Council Car Park, to the rear of Larine House.

New volunteers always welcome.



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Valentine's Day Ideas

Big and small, these Valentine's Day things to do and cute Valentine's date ideas will make your person feel cherished and adored.

Surprise Them With Lunch at Work

Give your partner a smile in the middle of the day by surprising them with lunch. You can use apps or call for delivery to make the drop remotely. Or, if you're able to, bring them lunch yourself—and you can throw in a kiss, too.

Pen a Personal Valentine's Day Card Message

What's V-Day without a special card? Make sure your partner knows just how much you mean to them by purchasing a Valentine's Day card and writing a thoughtful message on the inside.

Make a Valentine's Day Playlist

When you just can't seem to come up with adequate words yourself, let music do the talking. If you need a cute Valentine's Day idea, create a Valentine's playlist of your favorite love songs and share it when the holiday arrives.

Serve Up Breakfast in Bed

Let's be real: Everyone loves the thought of getting served breakfast in bed, especially on Valentine's Day. Wake up early to prepare a delicious spread of your partner's favorite breakfast foods and deliver it first thing in the morning. (Bonus points if your meal is accompanied by a stunning arrangement of flowers.)

Send Flowers

Speaking of flowers, delivering red roses to your love is one of the most romantic Valentine's Day ideas of all time. Head to your local florist or source a bouquet from an online seller to ensure your partner wakes up to a gorgeous display of fresh blooms.



Give Them a Cute Valentine's Day Gift

Presents and Valentine's Day go hand-in-hand. For a once-in-a-lifetime Valentine's Day date idea, plan an activity that's on your bucket list. From traveling somewhere exciting to making a reservation at that special restaurant you've been dying to go to.

Buy Their Favorite Food

You know your person better than anyone. Whether they have a serious sweet tooth or they're always asking for sushi take-out, make sure they get a taste of their favorite food on Valentine's Day.

Unique Valentine's Day Ideas for Couples

Looking for something a little more out of the box? We've got plenty of unique ideas for Valentine's Day right here. Your partner won't suspect a thing if you opt for one of these creative dates.

Take a Pottery Class

In lieu of spending money on gifts this year, put those funds toward a couple's pottery class. You'll be able to get creative (and messy!) and **can gift one another your pieces of pottery after drying.**

Plan a Romantic Getaway

What could be cooler than going on a romantic getaway to mark Valentine's Day? While this activity will take some planning ahead of time, your partner will be totally blown away by your thoughtfulness.

Go to a Concert

Music lovers, take note. Valentine's Day is the perfect chance to go see a concert or a show. (Bonus points if you're able to snag tickets to a performer you both love.)

Head to the Movies

You can't go wrong by heading to the movie theater for a fun idea for Valentine's Day. Stock up on popcorn, soda and your favorite candy to

Your Hometown

Sometimes, the best Valentine's Day ideas are hidden in your backyard. There's so much fun to be had in your hometown—all you need is a little curiosity. Head out on an expedition of your local town or city in search of something new to do that you haven't experienced yet. You never know what adventures you'll have along the way.

Plan a Spa Day

Valentine's Day can be an occasion for rest and relaxation, so enjoy a little R&R together at your local spa. Book a couples massage, enjoy some time in the sauna, or indulge in a facial with all the extras. You two deserve it.

Go to a Comedy Show

Laugh until your stomach hurts by snagging tickets to a comedy show on Valentine's Day. Follow it up by getting post-show dinner and drinks at a nice restaurant for a memorable V-Day activity.

Source: www.theknot.com/content/valentines-day-ideas

Whatever you do Have a Wonderful Valentine's Day



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Events at **Maynooth Community Library**

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



facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Events for Children

Brigid1500 intergenerational St. Brigid's cross craft workshop

Wednesday 5th February , 4pm - 5pm

Learn how to make St. Brigid's crosses and Bridóg dolls in this workshop with Sheena Malone.

The workshop is suitable for all age groups. For older participants, we will use rushes from which St. Brigid's crosses have traditionally been made for generations. The younger participants will make their crosses from colourful pipe-cleaners which are more manageable for smaller fingers.

All materials (rushes, pipe-cleaners, elastic bands) will be provided by the artist. All children attending this workshop must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Book your free ticket here : [Book Free Ticket – Brigid1500 intergenerational St. Brigid's cross craft workshop – Maynooth Community Library Main Street Maynooth Co. Kildare](#)

Fairy Door Craft Session For Ages 7-10

Wednesday 19th February

2.30pm – 3.30pm

Stuck for an activity during mid-term? Join Niamh for some easy Fairy-door design and creation using paper and other materials for ages 7-10. Limited spaces. Children under 8 will need a parent/guardian to supervise.

Book your free ticket here: [Free Child Ticket \(s\) – Fairy Door Craft Session For Ages 7-10 – Maynooth Library](#)

Ireland Reads: Storytelling & drawing workshop with Author Aileen Crossley for ages 3-7

Friday 21st February, 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Join in as we celebrate Ireland Reads with author and illustrator Aileen Crossley, author of the wonderful picture book 'Henny is stuck'. In the workshop, Aileen Crossley will read from her book 'Henny is Stuck' and her new book 'Where The Tree Dogs Fly'.

Children will also take part in a Sing along and Draw along. All children attending the workshop must be accompanied by a parent / guardian.

Book your free ticket here : [Book Free Ticket – Ireland Reads: Storytelling and Illustration workshop with Author Aileen Crossley for ages 3-7 – Maynooth Community Library Main Street Maynooth Co. Kildare](#)

Family Board Game Morning, Ireland Reads

Saturday 22nd February

10.30 am – 12.30 pm

"Come along to a family friendly board game morning in Maynooth Library on Saturday 22nd February at 10.30 am to celebrate Ireland Reads. There will be a collection of

games to choose from, with a theme of stories and fairy tales such as Harry Potter, Room on the Broom and some other classics too! A great opportunity for children to explore their literacy and numeracy skills without sitting down to read a book. Suitable for all the family, children under 8 must be accompanied by an adult. *This is a free drop-in event."

Stories, Songs and Games in Italian for 2 to 5 year olds

Sat 22 Feb, 2.00pm -2.45pm

Would you like your kids to have a chance to practice their Italian while having fun and spending time with other kids their age? Here is your chance! Join us once a month for some stories, songs, fun activities and games in Italian.

Suitable for 2 to 5 year olds. The event will take place in Italian so the children are required to have some knowledge of the language.

Booking link: [Book your free ticket – Stories, Songs and Games In Italian for 2 to 5 year olds – Maynooth Library](#)

Stories, games and fun activities in Italian for 6 to 9 year olds

Sat 22 Feb, 3.15-4.15pm

Would you like your kids to have a chance to practice their Italian while having fun and spending time with other kids their age? Here is your chance! Join us once a month to learn more about Italy and its culture through stories, fun activities and games in Italian. Suitable for 6 to 9 year olds. The event's language will be Italian so the children are required to have some knowledge of the language.

Booking link: [Book your free ticket – Stories, games and fun activities in Italian for 6 to 9 year olds – Maynooth Library](#)

Expression of Interest: Lego Club ages 8-12

Wednesday 26th February, 3.30pm- 4.30pm

Maynooth Library have only a few spots remaining to take names for a brand new free play Lego club for ages 8-12. The idea is simple: the library provides the bricks and the space to play and you the club member provide the imagination and building! While there is staff supervision, members can build what they like once they share Lego with the other members.

Children attending the lego club will need a parent/guardian to remain in the library for the duration of the club.

Express your interest at Ticket tailor: [Select tickets – Expression of Interest: Lego Club ages 8-12 – Maynooth Library](#)

Events for Adults

Housing and Homelessness Supports Information Clinic

Tuesday 2nd February

2.00pm - 4.00 pm

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

*Drop in, no booking required *

Age Friendly Coffee Morning

Wednesday 12th February

10.00 am – 11.30 am

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

Drop In. No booking required

Luain Press Poetry Café

Tuesday 4th February

6.00pm – 7.00 pm

Join Luain Press for an open floor poetry/ spoken word night. All welcome, no sign up needed! Led by the poet, Lee Sheridan, we'll be meeting in Maynooth Community Library on Tuesday the 4th of February at 6 p.m. * Drop in*

Events for Young Adults

Online Teen Writers Group

for 12-15 year olds

Thursday 13th February , 6pm- 7pm

Are you (or do you know) a teen writer who'd like to get writing in 2025? 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

Collage Workshop for ages 12-14, Ireland Reads

Thursday 20th February , 3.30 pm – 4.30pm

"Come along to Maynooth Library on Thursday 20th February at 3:30pm for a Collage-making Workshop to celebrate Ireland Reads. We will be making fun collages out of recycled materials.

You can create a collage to whatever theme you like; maybe you would like to create a vision board for 2025 or create a visual aid for your favourite book! All materials will be provided, but if you have any images or decorations that you would like to use please bring them along. Suitable for ages 12-14.

(Continued on page 9)

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

(Continued from page 8)

Reserve a space through the link: [Select tickets – Collage-Making Workshop, Ireland Reads – Maynooth Community Library Main Street Maynooth Co. Kildare](#) Kildare Libraries aspires to contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals; 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action)

New Year, New Book Club: Teen Book Club for 12-15 year olds

Friday 21st February , 4pm – 5pm

Are you aged 12-15 and enjoy reading? Then join us in 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. Queries to be sent to maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie

World Book Day: Horror Writing with Author Amy Clarkin for Ages 12+ Thursday 6th March , 5pm- 6pm

Are you a teen who enjoys writing suspense? Join published author Amy Clarkin for some tips and tricks to setting the scene and spooky writing. TBC

Amy Clarkin is a writer from Dublin, Ireland. 'What Walks These Halls' was her debut novel.

It was shortlisted for the An Post Irish Book Awards Teen & Young Adult Book of the Year 2023 and nominated for the Yoto Carnegies 2023. Her follow up, 'Who Watches This Place', was published last year.

She can generally be found by the sea, drinking coffee, talking about her dog or asking people what their favourite ghost story is.

Limited spaces can be booked at [Select tickets – World Book Day: Horror Writing with Author Amy Clarkin – Maynooth Library](#)

Climate Action Events

Zero Water Maynooth Ladies clothes swap, kids toy swap and cloth nappy Ireland information stand

Saturday 8th February , 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

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 !

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 ! Small toys only and no baby equipment.

Kildare Libraries aspires to contribute to the following UN Sustainable Development Goals; 10 (Reduce Inequalities), 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), 12 (Responsible Consumption and Production), 13 (Climate Action)

Drop In. No booking required

Baby and Toddler Group

Every Thursday 10 am – 11 am

If you have a young baby or toddler and would like to meet other parents or minders in the area, come to our stay and play group every Thursday morning at 10am. No need to book, just drop in!

Exhibitions

The Abject Human Form: Exhibition in oil painting by Aisling Coyne

Jan 10th - Feb 14th

Exhibition in oil painting by Aisling Coyne .

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.



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St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band Maynooth

Here's to another year and the Band is still around 94 years after it was reformed in 1931 and hopefully we will all be around when we celebrate the centenary in 2025.

We had another very successful year in 2024 with many successes including the Bad Orb International Music Festival in Germany in September.

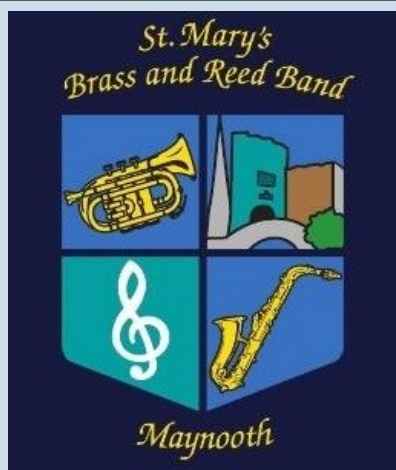
Our Christmas Concert in the Parish Church in December was enjoyed by a very appreciative audience with a great mix of music which appealed to everyone.

We would like to express our thanks to all who supported our annual Christmas collection in December which is our main source of income and goes a long way towards the cost of running the Band

We are already working on our programme for this year with the first event being the Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade closely followed by the Kilcock Parade.

We have a number of local recitals organised including a visit by a Band from the USA so watch this space for news on all our events for 2025.

Our Academy Band is making great progress and we would love to meet budding musicians on those returning to playing at our Saturday morning rehearsals in our Band Hall on Pound Lane between 10am and 11.30, you will be made most welcome.






JOIN US!

Any Brass, Reed or Percussion instrument



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Royal Canal Notes

February 2025

Education ~ Heritage ~ Recreation

CHRISTMAS WALK

Our Christmas Walk, which is normally a well-attended event had to be cancelled this year due to circumstances beyond our control. The "Greenway" work on the canal between Mullen Bridge and Pikes Bridge was due to be completed in December, however due to adverse weather conditions and other unavoidable delays work is still on going and therefore this section of the canal remains closed to the public. Sincere apologies to all. It is proposed to re-schedule this walk for later in the year when hopefully works in this area will be complete. Should work not be finished then the walk will have to be re-routed.

NEW SONG

On November 29th 2024 the annual mass was celebrated to remember those who perished in a boating accident at Porters town Bridge all those years ago. Each year we in the Royal Canal Amenity Group get a mass offered for the deceased and a wreath is laid at the bridge, on which a commemoration plaque has been mounted as a mark of respect.

At the wreath laying, on this occasion, we were joined by John Bohan who sang a new song that he had penned to commemorate those who were lost in this tragedy. A broadcaster on Phoenix F.M. and



HAMILTON WALK

lecturer at the National College of Ireland, he accompanied himself on guitar and the song was well received. The song was written as a project while John was participating in a diploma course in "Irish Traditional Music Performance" at Ballyfermot College in Dublin.

Anyone who would like to hear the song, or enjoy a good night of music can catch John at "The Wrens Nest" public house on the Strawberry Beds Lucan any Thursday night

The Rowan Hamilton Walk which takes place on the 16th of October each year is organised by the staff and students of the National

University of Maynooth to commemorate the date the now famous astronomer / mathematician inspirationally discovered what is now known as "The Quantum Theory". This theory came to him while walking along the Royal Canal with his wife to attend an evening function and he etched it on the face of Brohm Bridge which spans the canal in the Cabra area of Dublin. This bridge has, in the nineteen fifties, officially been renamed as Hamilton Bridge A plaque on the bridge recalls the Hamilton event. Brohm, incidentally, was a Scottish Judge who achieved fame and notoriety for inventing a new type of



horse drawn carriage which only needed one horse to pull it, rather than "a pair" or "a quartet" which all other carriages of the time required. His design became very popular in America. It may well be that the bridge was originally designed to facilitate this new type of carriage only and hence the name was applied to prevent other types of carriages attempting to cross it. Hamilton's theory is currently used in all aspects of Science and Chemistry including Rocket Science. He lived adjacent to the planetarium in north Dublin which he ran. One of his most frequent visitors there was the eminent and renowned poet, William Wordsworth.

CANAL CONDITION

Waterways Ireland technicians have been busy de-weeding different areas of the canal in recent times. This is a delicate operation which requires skill and tenacity since it has to be carried out in a manner that does not adversely affect fish stocks or water fowl. A number of weed boats are in use as well as transporter boats to remove the cut weed. This a welcome activity as the aforementioned "Water Weed" can play havoc with the propellers of barges and boats using the waterway. Some boat owners are reluctant to use this wonderful leisure attraction when the weed is a problem.



Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

We had a very enjoyable Christmas lunch for our Senior Citizens in the Springfield Hotel at the beginning of December 2024. This was very well attended. There was music, dancing, lots of spot prizes. The prizes for our fundraising raffle tickets were drawn on the day.



We are delighted to resume our Thursday and Tuesday morning Club activities for 2025. Currently the Tuesday Club is hosting a 6 week chair yoga session. We hope to follow this with a body movement class in early March. Thanks to Stephanie Larkin from the County Kildare Leader Partnership for facilitating this on our behalf.

Thursdays continue with our art classes and we have a great turn out for these and there is amazing art being produced. We, of course have our usual bingo sessions as well. And there is the ready cuppa and chat.

We would like to thank everyone who initiated fundraising activities for the benefit Maynooth Senior Citizens. These included a coffee morning held by Eamon O Flaherty; selling and buying tickets (Maynooth Post Primary School and Maynooth Community College) for a freely given Christmas Hamper (Tim Durkan). Thanks to our local businesses who donated funds, to those who provided the prizes for our annual raffle and who provided an array of spot prizes for our quiz and Christmas Lunch. All of this is so much appreciated.

It is with great heart that we go forward in 2025 with an increased programme of activities. The morning Clubs are held in the Geraldine Hall and run on a Tuesday and Thursday morning from 10.30am to 12.30pm. Contact: maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com or 0877974582 for more information.

Susan Durack, PRO

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



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Maynooth Local Market

2025 – the perfect time to get involved in Maynooth Local Market – Join us!

As we kick off 2025, we're excited for what's ahead at Maynooth Local Market. This year, we're committed to growing bigger, thinking bolder, and continuing to bring fresh, innovative ideas to our vibrant community space every Saturday on Court House Square.

We're now looking to grow our committee of volunteers who help behind the scenes to make everything possible. If you're interested in getting involved or just want to learn more, join us for a short online information session at **7:30 PM on Tuesday, 4th February**.

We're delighted to welcome two fantastic new vendors to our market family:

First Batch Bakery – Treat yourself to their mouth-watering brownies, buttery shortbread, and flaky pastries. They'll be joining us every second week, so don't miss out!

Flo and Co – Offering all-natural dog treats that your furry friends will absolutely love.

Keep your eyes peeled for some special 'themed' market days coming your way, including one of Valentine's Day on Saturday, 8th February – we're hoping love will be in the air for all the amazing local products on offer.

*Here's to an incredible year ahead filled with great food,
friendly faces, and community spirit.*



Maynooth Local Market



**VOLUNTEERS
NEEDED**




**Market
Committee**

**Online Info Meeting Tuesday
February 4th 7:30pm**

**MAYNOOTH
LOCAL
MARKET**
Saturdays
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Calling All Cyclists: Join the Galway Cycle on April 4th and Make a Difference for Oscar's Kids!

Cycling enthusiasts from Maynooth and beyond are gearing up for the annual **Galway Cycle** event, set to take place on **April 4th - 6th, 2025**. This year, the event proudly supports **Oscar's Kids**, a children's charity providing support to children living with childhood cancer and their families.

To ensure participants are fully prepared for the challenge, **training cycles begin on January 12th**, with a carefully designed **tapered training schedule** to accommodate cyclists of all abilities. The sessions will be guided by **experienced marshals** who are on hand to provide support, advice, and encouragement every step of the way.

The event will take cyclists on a scenic round-trip journey, departing Maynooth on April 4th, arriving in Galway City's Eyre Square, and returning to Maynooth on April 6th. Covering approximately 200km each way. The weekend promises to be fun-filled, with lively street collections in Galway, plenty of socialising, and a shared mission to raise funds and awareness for Oscar's Kids.

Event Highlights:

- **Date:** 4th-6th April 2025
- **Training Kickoff:** January 12th, with regular sessions tailored to build endurance safely.
- **Location:** Car park of St. Patricks College, Maynooth

Registration: Open now at www.galwaycycle.ie

The Galway Cycle welcomes cyclists of all fitness levels, from seasoned riders to newcomers. Thanks to the guidance provided during the training sessions, participants can gain confidence, improve their fitness, and connect with fellow

cyclists in a supportive community.

"We're thrilled to bring people together for another fantastic Galway Cycle," said Mark Nugent, this year's Galway Cycle president. "With training starting on January 12th, we're committed to helping everyone feel confident and prepared, regardless of their cycling experience. This year, our shared goal is to support the incredible work of Oscar's Kids and make a meaningful difference for children and families in need."

Community members, local businesses, and organisations are encouraged to join the cause by registering to ride, sponsoring the event or cyclists. Every kilometre cycled and every euro raised brings us closer to helping Oscar's Kids continue their essential work.

For more information on the Galway Cycle please visit www.galwaycycle.ie or contact training@galwaycycle.ie

Join us on April 4th, 2025, and help us pedal for purpose. Together, we can make a difference for Oscar's Kids.



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Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Should Rudolph be Rudolfa?

By Cheryl Devaney

Saint Nicholas, who was Bishop of Myra in present day southwest Turkey, around the fourth century, later became patron saint of children and sailors. The poor knew him for his generous gifts, which like those of the modern Santa Claus, were given in secret. Many miracles have been attributed to him, his devotion extending to all parts of the world.

Formerly Christmas celebrations were a blend of Saint Nicholas' Christianity and the pagan holiday, Yule, which coincided with the winter solstice. Yule originated as a celebration of the re-birth of the sun. It featured stories of Odin, also known as Wodan, who was widely revered in Norse mythology. He would ride the midwinter sky on his grey, eight-legged horse, Sleipnir. Visiting everyone's home, he would drop presents into the children's shoes as they slept. In return, people left offerings of hay for Sleipnir

In the seventeenth century, early Protestant Dutch settlers in New Netherland, the first Dutch colony in North America, replaced Saint Nicholas (*Sinterklaas* in Dutch) with a benevolent and magical Santa Claus, who rode a white horse. In other parts of the world Saint Nicholas' transformation to Santa Claus started in Germany and then spread to countries where Reformed Church adherents were in the majority. Saint Nicholas' Feast Day is observed on December 6th.

A 'Father Christmas' first appeared in England around the mid-17th century, soon after the Civil War ended. Wearing a green, fur-trimmed coat and crowned with a holly wreath, he was a symbol of the feasting and celebrations,

which Cromwell had outlawed. Adults took part in all of those activities and, until Victorian times, he had no connection with children or present giving. The popular American depiction of Santa Claus arrived in England in the 1850s and 'Father Christmas' started to act like 'Santa Claus'. He became a bringer of gifts and Christmas developed into a child-based family festival. By the early years of the twentieth century the two names were synonymous.

Reindeer, a variation of the ancient Norse word *hreinin*, meaning horned animal, is a large arctic and sub-arctic deer. In America they are known as caribou, a name which comes from the Micmac, one of Canada's First Nations people. It means 'snow shoveller' as the caribou use their hooves and antlers to push the snow off the hidden plants. Both sexes have antlers, the male ones being larger and more complex. With large, spreading hooves and a hairy muzzle, their compact dense coat is brown on the back area and white below that, with a white tail patch. Domesticated by the Lapps, they generally have a docile and dependable nature. They feed mainly on lichens, one favourite variety being reindeer moss. Useful as food and for hides, their antlers act as nutritional and medicinal supplements. Even today, some cultures consider antlers as a highly effective and natural remedy for many ailments.

Reindeers are commonly used to pull sleighs in northern Europe and, in World War II, were utilized by Soviet forces as a draught animal to transport injured soldiers.

The first reference to Santa's sleigh being pulled by a single reindeer appears in 'Old Santeclaus with Much Delight', an 1821 anonymous illustrated children's poem

published in New York. The unnamed reindeer is pulling a toy-filled sleigh with a sign saying 'Rewards'. An 1823 poem by Clement Clarke Moore known as 'Twas the Night Before Christmas is largely credited for introducing the notion of Santa's sleigh being pulled by eight reindeer named Dasher, Dancer, Prancer, Vixen, Comet, Cupid, Donner (German for thunder) and Blitzen (German for lightning). It is now claimed that the New York poet, Henry Livingston Junior, was the creator of those verses.

'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer' was a verse written by Robert L. May, an advertising copywriter for the Montgomery Ward chain of Department Stores. In 1939, May was asked to write a cheery book to give free to children as a Christmas good-will gesture. Shoppers loved the soft-cover books and two and a half million copies were distributed. In 1949, the song 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer', sung by Gene Autry, resulted in Rudolph being Santa's ninth reindeer and later, in order to make a matching pair, Olive was added as the tenth one.

Rudolph portrayed a disheartened reindeer, ostracized by the rest of his team for having a very shiny red nose, caused by the extreme cold temperatures of the North Pole. He eventually gained the respect of his fellow reindeer when Santa put Rudolph out in the lead, where his bright red nose guided Santa's sleigh through heavy fog.

Incidentally, it turns out that Rudolph should have been named Rudolfa, as it is only female reindeer, which still have antlers at Christmas. Male reindeer have lost their antlers by the autumn.

Lough Fin Encounter

Though home's still hours away,
This unexpected lake, enclosed
By trees and tall, half-withered reeds
Brings me to a halt.

Emerging from the car,
I see a rowboat moored nearby,
A pair of glistening swans far out,
And, sitting on a leafless alder,
Three hag-like cormorants

Watching this human who appears
As if they know what he does not.
Then two take off, leaving their sister –
The one who plies the fatal shears?

By: Colin Scott

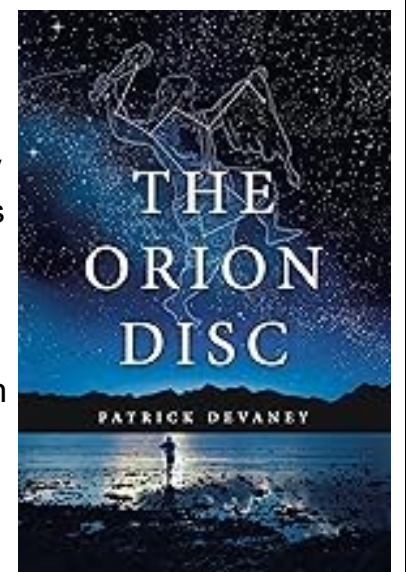
THE ORION DISC by Patrick Devaney

Review by Honor Duff.

Patrick Devaney's latest novel for teenagers, is set in the very real and often dangerous, Ireland of the present day. It makes reference to our ancient past and how that can sometimes show itself in unexpected ways. Mickser, the main character is a timid, often bullied boy, whose mainstay is his wonderful grandfather. He it is who gifts his grandson the fabulous Orion disc - an object with seemingly magic spells, which came into his possession after his own encounter with some mysterious beings,

We meet Micker's friend Yaku, an African classmate who shares the secret of the disc, and participates in the adventures, and a special girl, Cynthie whom Mickser admires. As in most Irish schools, there are bullies to contend with – two nasty ones in particular, Chin and Bozo. The way these are dealt with is both amusing and satisfying.

Their schoolteacher, Mr Flynn is a firm believer in fairies: "I think of them as the Sky People, not tiny beings fluttering about" he explains, going on to speak of "The 'gods' of our Celtic ancestors The Tuatha Dé Danann." They were said to have arrived in aerial ships, now thought to have been spaceships, he explains to a mostly disbelieving class, except of course, Mickser, possessor of the special disc. There are local adult villains engaged in the ever-present drugs trade, which has spread to rural Ireland, ensnaring teenagers to both sample and deal. How Mickser and his little group, aided by Grandfather, deal with the challenges of modern day school life and outside threats, makes for an exciting and absorbing read, penned by an experienced author.





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

My Chequered Life Chapter 12

Very soon afterwards I was informed that my parole meeting was about to take place. My solicitor assured me that I was very likely to be successful and indeed at the meeting the chairman wanted to know why I had been in prison for so long. My solicitor was correct and as soon as various arrangements could be made the chairman told me I would be free to go. That took a few months but I didn't mind once I knew that I was on the way out.

On December 4th 2005 I was about to be taken to the airport by three gentlemen, ex prison officers and maybe an ex policeman, and I asked if I could have a word with the prison Governor. He was the one who had been in charge of the inquiry into Kevin Jones' escape. He was now the Governor of Shepton Mallet and had always been decent to me. I wanted to say goodbye to him and also to complain that I was not to be given even a shilling as I left. He could do nothing about it as I was being deported but he gave me a few pounds from his own pocket, so we shook hands and that was that. I then went to the wing to take my leave of several fellows who were friends of mine. Then it was off to Gatwick and when I arrived in Dublin I was handed over to the Gardai who had no cause to detain me. The Irish Council for Prisoners Overseas (ICPO) had a St Vincent de Paul car ready to take me to Cedar House Hostel. The driver gave me €50 and having bought himself and me a cup of coffee he took me to what turned out to be my worst 'prison' experience!

Having never done heroin before I was hooked within 24 hours. Soon I was a dealer making up to €1,500 a week. I became a trusted courier and storer of cocaine and hash. An apartment was got for me and I stayed there and in my girl's flat (I met her while in hospital with pneumonia while I was still sleeping rough.) However, I didn't like the people I was dealing with and gave up the dealing. Of course, it's next to impossible to get away from them and I needed the money. I was offered €5000 to go to Amsterdam and take back a few kilos of hash. Too good to turn down! Arriving in Amsterdam I was introduced by my 'employer' to various people. After a few days' hanging around and drinking plenty I was told it was cocaine I was to take home. I had plenty of day-to-day money and my boss bought a new snazzy suit for me, with a white shirt and tie and stylish shoes and told me to get a ticket and fly back with the goods. I thought that was a bit chancy so I took an overnight train to Brussels and flew from there, first taking care

to buy The New York Times, The Financial Times and The Business Post. I drank a few small bottles of Vodka on the plane, and on landing in Dublin, picked up my bag from the carousel and strode out between the two customs officers standing at the door of the arrivals hall. I took a taxi to my girl friend's apartment. She hit the roof when she saw the coke so I put my bag in a hold-all and watched TV for a few hours until she got up and we both went to our local for the morning's drinking session.

That didn't last too long however for I soon got a call to meet an individual who was waiting for my parcel at a certain address in Smithfield. I duly delivered and he was pleased with my work. I wasn't pleased with his work when he gave me an envelope containing just €1,500! I demanded the rest of my promised €5,000! He said there was no problem with that as the boss would give me the remainder in a day or two. I told him he'd better get on to him as I needed my money and quickly. Sure enough the 'boss' did ring later that day and told me that he had a lot of expenses and I told him that I didn't give a damn about his expenses. We had a deal I said, and you owe me money. He fobbed me off and said I'd have my money in a few days. About a week later my Smithfield contact rang and asked me to meet him. I said, sure I'll meet you but on my terms. So we met in my local in Thomas Street which I knew would be crowded when he'd arrive. Anyway, all he had for me was €1,000 so I was downright disgusted. I never heard of either of them afterwards. A few years ago I did hear of a single mother being arrested after flying from Brussels carrying 2 kilos of coke and getting four years for it. So, he was still up to his dirty tricks! If I had been caught, I'd have got at least ten!

I was using so much drugs at this time that the €2,500 didn't last long. But I had to survive and to feed my habit I began robbing bookies shop. I didn't have a weapon but just pulled my sleeve over my hand and demanded the money. The usually just gave me whatever was on the counter as they were conscious of danger to their own staff. I had seen in a garda station a map of the garda districts in Dublin and realized that gardai in one area wouldn't be aware of robberies in another. So I moved around quite a bit but eventually they copped on, so to speak, and I was arrested and got a few years in Wheatfield. I wasn't sorry for I was back in the life I knew!

GM

Almost City Living

Growing up in Maynooth and now living here as a young adult is an experience that I feel is special in some way compared to other towns in this country. A medium size town along the ever growing commuter line which seems to pop up new towns on a near monthly basis.

Although it may seem like a remarkably similar way of living in comparison to other towns along the train line I find the fact that we are at one end of the commuter line sets a precedent of disconnect from the city while still being close enough to get all of the joys of city life.

I'm sure everyone around my age knows the journey into the city well, be it for shopping, a day out, or the far too long feeling journey on the luas from broombridge to city centre. No matter how complicated you make the journey into town the journey back is always a simple one, sitting down on the train at Connolly and staring out the window for the next 35 or so minutes thinking about god knows what.

The frequency and ease of this journey can make the city feel like a second home and yet the journey itself has the ability for it to make a special occasion feel all so special. The excitement building to celebrate a friend's birthday as you all pile onto the slightly delayed train, the whirring and shaking combined with the comfy conversations about anything all the while trees, towns, and, the canal fly by on your sides. It's almost an out of body experience, a beautiful liminal space separating home and your plans while all still feeling safe and familiar.

Yet despite this extreme ease of access to everything you could want in Dublin our town has an ability to hook people, an option for a slower, more chill night or day out which the closer you get to city centre the less an option it may feel.

A night of chill drinks or walks with friends feel remarkably easy and gives such a close homely feeling to whatever you are doing and despite always meeting new people from the university or people visiting, the closeness of the town still makes everything and everyone feel more close knit and kind. Maynooth in its nature gives young people the best of both worlds and whenever the town feels small the ability for anything you can want exists only a short train journey away.

By **Gabriel Brunstrom**

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.

On the Road!

Saul, the way forward, had planned;

The Rock, James and John all bedamned!

He would round up their gang,

On the cross they could hang,

But the Voice of the Lord Saul unmanned!

GM.

GROW MENTAL HEALTH:

Grow Mental Health peer support meetings take place every Tuesday in Leixlip Library -

Captain's Hill - Confey from 11 am to 1pm.

For more information please contact

Amanda on 086 1367423

amandadempsey@grow.ie

MU congratulates 'Research Allies' on their awards

Maynooth University congratulates eight academics and researchers who received Research Allies awards from Research Ireland.

Research Ally prizes mark the crucial role played by higher education staff in supporting the academic research community across all career levels. Postgraduate students, postdoctoral fellows, academic and research-active staff were invited to nominate the mentors, supervisors, research officers and technical support staff who have supported their work and careers and improved the Irish research ecosystem.

Maynooth University Research Allies Awardees:

- . Dr Rose Dolan, Associate Professor, Department of Education.
- . Dr Zerrin Doğança Küçük, Assistant Professor, Department of Education.
- . Dr Catherine Gander, Associate Professor, Department of English.
- . Dr Ece Gökmenoğlu, Assistant Professor, Department of Education.
- . Dr Patricia Kennon, Associate Professor, Froebel Department of Primary and Early Childhood Education.
- . Prof Richard Roche, Professor of Psychology, Department of Psychology.
- . Dr Maija Salokangas, Head of Department, Department of Education.
- . Dr Thomas Walsh, Associate Professor, Department of Education.

The 2024 awards saw 67 Research Allies recognised by for their contribution to supporting research in Ireland.

Research Ireland also highlighted outstanding contributions to research with the presentation of several prestigious awards. Prof Christine Casey from Trinity College Dublin was awarded Researcher of the Year, Dr Aaron Lim from University College Cork was awarded Early Career Researcher of the Year, and The Impact Award went to Dr Jakub Gajewski from RCSI University of Medicine and Health Sciences.

Peter Brown, Research Ireland's Director of Research said: "The researchers being honoured today have demonstrated excellence in their many achievements within and beyond their disciplines.

The awardees are wonderful examples of those that have gone above and beyond to bring new knowledge and understandings to the fore. At different stages in their research journey, they are enriching their respective fields and Ireland's research and innovation system. Across the humanities, science and medicine, the awardees are contributing to a better, healthier, more sustainable and more culturally enriched world, benefiting us all."



Gavin McCrea named MU's Arts Council Writer in Residence

Maynooth University welcomes the appointment of Gavin McCrea as Writer in Residence at the University for 2025. He is one of nine new Arts Council artists in residence announced across six Irish universities, with each residency worth €30,000.

Gavin, who was born in Dublin in 1978, has published three books.



**Maynooth
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

His first novel, Mrs Engels (Scribe, 2015), was shortlisted for the Desmond Elliot Prize

and the Walter Scott Prize and longlisted for the Guardian First Book Award. His second novel, The Sisters Mao (Scribe, 2021), received high acclaim internationally.

The novels are the first two instalments of Gavin's Wives of the Revolution trilogy. During his residency at Maynooth University, he will work on the third instalment, Mother Molotov.

His first work of non-fiction, Cells (Scribe, 2022), was chosen as a book of the year by The Observer, The Irish Times and the Irish Independent, and was longlisted for the Polari Prize for LGBTQ+ Literature. The memoir, provoked by a homophobic assault, explores Gavin's relationship with his aging mother with whom he spent the Covid-19 quarantine as her mind slipped slowly away.

Gavin's next novel, Walking with Jean-Jacques, will be published by John Murray on 26 February 2026. His articles have appeared in The Paris Review, The Guardian, The Irish Times, The Dublin Review, Lithub and Catapult.

Welcoming his appointment, Belinda McKeon, Coordinator of MU's MA in Creative Writing, said: "We at Maynooth University are thrilled to welcome Gavin McCrea as the 2025 Arts Council Writer in Residence.

Gavin's talent and breadth as a writer will make him a terrific presence in our growing Creative Writing community, as well as extending rich opportunities for conversation and learning to our MA students. We are also committed to creating a nurturing and beneficial working environment for Gavin as a practitioner."

Speaking about the residency programmes, Maureen Kennelly, Director of the Arts Council, said: "They help embed creativity in education, providing critical support to artists as they advance their practice, while also creating vibrant opportunities for students and staff to engage directly with professional artistic expression. They make for a profound exchange that inspires and uplifts both the artistic and academic communities.

"We are hugely grateful to all the institutions who work with us to deliver these residency programmes. Their partnership and continued support are immensely valued."

MU's previous Arts Council Writer in Residence Paul Lynch won the 2023 Booker Prize for his novel Prophet Song, which he worked on while at MU. He has since been appointed as a Distinguished Writing Fellow and teaches on the MA in Creative Writing.

Late last year, MU appointed percussionist Ruairí Glasheen as Artist in Residence while it also named Ré Ó Laighléis as Scríbhneoir Cónaithe or Irish language Writer in Residence, underlining its commitment to heritage, culture and language as outlined in its Strategic Plan for 2023-2028.



Writer Gavin McCrea (Copyright Derek Hudson)

Maynooth Cycling Campaign

Maynooth and Environs Local Area Plan (LAP)

The LAP has not yet been finalised. The amended LAP with the removal by councillors of most permeability measures went to public consultation last autumn. The Chief Executive's report noted the recommendation of the Planning Regulator to reinstate the measures and recommended that Proposed Material Alteration No. 33 should not be adopted by councillors.

Transport is one of the most contentious sections of the LAP.

Maynooth University is one of the primary generators of traffic in the town and, at the same time, is involved in research on climate change. It is particularly disappointing that the University authorities failed to make a submission on either the draft or amended Maynooth and Environs LAP.

Climate Change

In January, fierce wildfires in the Los Angeles area of California caused more than 28 deaths and billions of dollars in damages to buildings. Fires are a normal risk to California during the summer months but this is the first time that they have been so serious during the winter season. Meanwhile In Arizona, Phoenix has had no rain since last August and groundwater supplies are so depleted that the state announced that all future housing developments in the desert would have to find some other source of water - either by purchasing or importing their supply. January 2025 also saw Donald Trump sworn in as American president for the second time. Among his first executive orders, one was for the United States to give notice of withdrawal from the Paris Agreement on limiting climate change. We shall see if his policy of "Drill, baby, drill" will end up as "Burn, baby burn".

Ireland has not escaped weather extremes either - with Storm Eowyn causing one death and nearly 20% of the population being left without power north and south. In the future something that will affect people everywhere is the increased cost of insurance. Insurance companies are facing a greater risk of extreme weather and will require higher premiums to enable higher payouts.

"An Immediate End to Business As Usual"

In a challenge to a decision of An Bord Pleanála to refuse an application for the construction of a proposed wind farm in County Laois, the High Court delivered a judgment quashing the decision and sending it back to the Bord for a fresh determination.

In a decision which will have implication for many future developments, the High Court has stated that "rapid, far-reaching and unprecedented changes to all aspects of society and the economy" and "an immediate

end to business as usual" by consenting authorities is required to cut GHG emissions and ensure planetary survival. The Court went on to find that the pattern of refusals of proposed windfarm developments is "sabotaging" the compliance by the State with its national and international climate commitments.



Programme for Government

Maynooth Cycling Campaign congratulates Darragh O'Brien who has been appointed as the new Minister for Transport. However, it is disappointing that the agreed Programme for Government has reduced the focus on active travel which includes cycling and instead has emphasised the construction of new roads.

Road Fatalities

The provisional figures for road fatalities in Ireland in 2024 was 174. Under the RSA definition of road fatalities, this excludes cyclists who die more than two days after the collision or other incident. While the Road Safety Authority has spun this outcome as a 4% reduction, the figure was still the worst since 2016.

Year No. of Road Fatalities

Year	No. of Road Fatalities
2020	146
2021	130
2022	155
2023	184
2024	174

In order to reduce the number of fatalities, the government has announced that default speed limits will be reduced on urban and rural roads in 2025. Changes to the default speed limit on rural roads will be reduced from 80 kph to 60 kph on 7th February. It is proposed that the default speed limit in urban roads will be reduced later in the year. Local councillors will still have the power to retain higher speed limits if it is decided to be appropriate.

Cycling Without Age - St Brigid's Day

This year the government has introduced a new public holiday celebrating the life of St. Brigid's. As part of the festivities, Maynooth Cycling Campaign has been asked to take part in a parade in Naas which promotes active travel. If you are attending the parade, we hope that you will give a shout to the Maynooth Cycling Without Age trishaw.

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

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or scan the QR code for a link to my profile.



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Ciorcal Comhrá

Maynooth Public Library
11.00-12.00 Every Tuesday / Gach Máirt

Bricfeasta Aoine ag Sásta

Caifé Sásta Manor Mills
09.00-10.00 Every Friday / Gach Aoine



Popup Gaeltacht

Tigh Uí Néill (O'Neill's pub, main street)
19:00 Tuesday / Dé Mháirt

04/02/2025

04/03/2025

agus gach mí! every month!



Club Míosúil - Monthly Club

Gaelscoil Ruairí
19.00-21.00 Wednesday / Dé Céadaoin

26/02/2025 26/03/2025

30/04/2025 28/05/2025



sólaistí ar fáil!

- Ciorcal Comhrá
- Club Leabhar
- Learners' Class

Cluichí Cláir Teaghlaigh

Family Board Games

Maynooth Public Library
Leabharlann Phobail Maigh Nuad
10:00-12:00 Saturday / Satharn

29/03/2025 26/04/2025

24/05/2025 28/06/2025



Fáilte Roimh Chách!

All Welcome!

Info on beginners' classes:
gaeilgenuada.ie/ranganna



Jobs Ireland
WHERE JOBSEEKERS GO

JOB TITLE: Sports Ground Worker
CE SCHEME: Maynooth Community Employment Project

DUTIES TO INCLUDE:

General maintenance of Sports Surfaces & facilities at Maynooth Town F.C. in Maynooth. Outdoor work with some heavy lifting involved.

HOURS: 19.5/WEEK
CE Rates of pay

SKILLS REQUIRED:

No experience necessary as full training will be provided.

CONTACT: LOCAL INTREO OFFICE / LES
Kelly's Lane, Maynooth

Quoting Job Reference #CES-2374475
To confirm eligibility before 25/02/2025

Send CV to office@maynoothcep.com



Jobs Ireland
WHERE JOBSEEKERS GO

JOB TITLE: Maintenance Operative
CE SCHEME: Maynooth Community Employment Project

DUTIES TO INCLUDE:

General Maintenance of the Harbour area in Maynooth

HOURS: 19.5/WEEK
CE Rates of pay

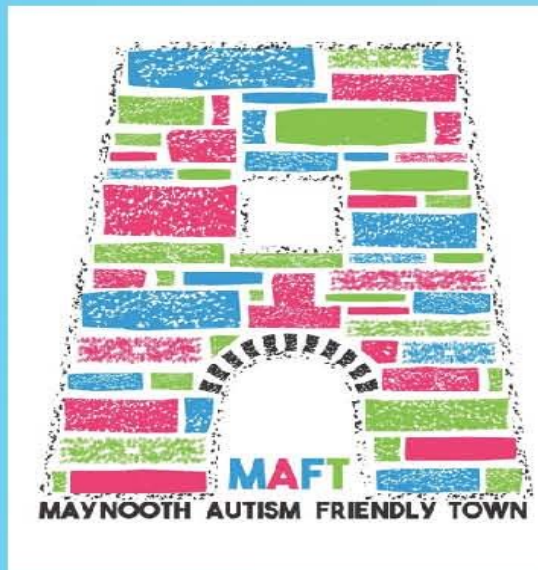
SKILLS REQUIRED:

No experience necessary as full training will be provided.

CONTACT: LOCAL INTREO OFFICE / LES
Kelly's Lane, Maynooth

Quoting Job Reference #CES- 2374474
To confirm eligibility before 25/02/2025

Send CV to office@maynoothcep.com



Maynooth Autism Friendly Town Update

Playball Groups

We were delighted to kick off Playball one of our new exciting initiatives for 2025. Every second Thursday we will have Playball groups for kids aged 3-6 and 7-10. The first one was a great success with really positive feedback from the kids, these will take place every 2nd Thursday.

Keep an eye on our socials for when the booking links open again - registration with the [Asiam.ie](https://www.asiam.ie) child & family programme is required



Social Clubs

Our Teen and Tween social clubs will be running as usual every 2 weeks.

If you are interested in future events make sure to keep an eye on our socials for booking links as spaces are limited.

We are very proud to report that MAFT is now supporting up to 100 families every month with Social groups for people aged 3 all the way to adulthood, and we are growing all of the time.



Hangout Clubs



Paddys Day Parade Preparation

We are getting ready for the upcoming parade, we are happy to confirm we will have the quiet zone again this year, with all new sensory toys, mini flags and most importantly space for the kids to enjoy the festivities

Make sure to keep an eye on our socials for updates and information on how to navigate what can be a stressful experience for people with sensory needs



Sensory Santa

Finally we would like to thank the Glenroyal Hotel for hosting the fantastic Sensory Santa for a 3rd year, this is such a special time for families in the community to be able to experience the magic of visiting Santa in a welcoming environment.



IRELAND'S AUTISM CHARITY

Contact us on our social media or email autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com

For updates on these exciting programs and to stay connected with the MAFT Association, keep an eye on our newsletter and our Social Media. We look forward to welcoming you and your family to our upcoming events!



Spring Clean Time

The easiest way to start is to take it room by room or appliance by appliance. Whether you have only five minutes to freshen things up or you happen to have an entire weekend to dedicate to full spring cleaning days, the following tips will help you out.

Start with a checklist of things to organise. This makes attacking your clutter much more approachable so you're not overwhelmed by an entire room's worth of work. Why not do it room by room in four weeks.

When cleaning out a pantry, drawer, closet, or cabinet, starting by taking everything out so you can really see what you have. Keep only items you are actively using or that truly bring you joy. Then, toss, recycle, or donate items you no longer use!

Consider donating old towels, blankets, and clothing to animal shelters. Unused toiletries, furniture, canned goods, and gently used clothing may be welcome at homeless shelters or women's shelters.

Kitchen – Week 1

Pantry - Check expiration dates. Freeze about-to-expire food, if you'll use it. Toss or donate what you can't use. Group remaining items by category (spices, pasta, etc.). Use pantry organisers.

Storage containers - Keep about 3 per family member and a few extras if you often have leftovers.

Water bottles - You really only need one great water bottle per family member.

Utensils & Drinkware - Keep 2 – 3 place settings and glasses, and 1 – 2 mugs per person. Group like items together. Consider buying an adjustable utensil organiser so items stay in place and are sorted by their designated groups.

Cookware & Bakeware - Match each pot and pan with its designated lid. Aim to keep one matching set of pots and pans, 1-2 muffin tins, small and large baking pan, a set of nesting casserole dishes, and two cutting boards. Place back into the cabinet stacking pots and pans from largest to smallest or use an organiser. Nest casserole dishes and stack cutting boards, baking sheets, and muffin tins on their sides or place them in an upright organiser.



Bathroom – Week 2

Cleaning Supplies - Keep one cleaner for each purpose in your home. Consolidate duplicate cleaners when possible. Place open containers towards the front and group like items together.

Cosmetics & Personal Care Items - Throw out things that are empty, expired, or haven't been used in the last 6 months. Consider keeping just 1 item for each purpose (e.g., 1 mascara, 1 face wash). Place makeup brushes in a cup, and other products neatly in a drawer, on a pull-out shelf, or in clear acrylic organizers or baskets.

Towels - Each person needs 1-2 bath towels and 1 beach towel. Keep 2 extra of each for guests. Fold towels and place in linen closet in even stacks.

Hair/Grooming Tools - Keep one grooming tool of each kind. Clean your hair brush and ditch any hair ties losing elasticity. Display with easy-to-hang Command hooks. You can also place hair ties on a metal ring.

Medications & First Aid - Check expiration dates and toss anything expired. To organise, group according to purpose and place items in a basket, or on a cabinet organiser. If keeping, use the bottle with the least amount in it and never mix different medications into one bottle.

Bedroom – Week 3

Closet - Empty entire closet. Create a donate, keep, and trash pile. Keep only what you've worn in the last year and items you absolutely love. Assess what you want to hang, fold, or put in storage. Keep like items together and hang in closet by colour and season. Use a tie & scarf hanger along with a belt hanger to hang smaller items back into your closet. Place handbags on top shelves or hooks.

Dressers - Empty drawers. Create a donate, keep, and trash pile. A minimal approach is to keep 1 – 2 weeks' worth of underwear, 2 – 3 bras (one strapless), 3 sets of pajamas, and no more than 5 t-shirts and 2 sweatshirts. Put similar items together back in their corresponding drawers. Consider using drawer organizers for smaller items like socks.

Shoes - Keep a staple pair of shoes for each season. Have one solid pair of rain boots, heels, sandals, etc. Toss, donate, or sell your old and unwanted shoes. If keeping, clean them and place on a shelving unit or shoe rack.

Winter Apparel - Match up pairs of gloves. Sort winter items by type (e.g., scarves, hats) and place in baskets. Keep one each of winter coat, raincoat, and dress coat per person.

Blankets & Sheets - Match each sheet set with its coordinating fitted sheet, flat sheet, and pillowcases. Place neatly into closet. Fold blankets and place them in the closet in a basket or on a high shelf (if not used frequently). Each bed in your house needs 1 extra pair of sheets. Keep 2 extra blankets for guests.



Living Room – Week 4

Kids Toys - Keep a mix of educational & fun toys. Donate or recycle any that are broken or have not been used in 3-6 months. Group similar toys together like LEGO blocks, Barbies, etc. Place grouped items you're keeping into boxes or bins by category.

Broken Items - Fix immediately or get rid of these, even if they are sentimental. They weigh you down & are better served as memories.

Electronics & Cords - Each household only needs one charging cord per phone or device. Match each cord to its device and properly dispose or donate any extra cords and electronics. Neatly fold cords or put them in an organiser or clip them to their device.

Books - Take all books off the shelf and dust both them and your bookcase. Decide what to keep and donate. Place the keepers back on the shelf.

Games - Make a donate, keep, and trash pile. If keeping, organise the box and make sure you have all the pieces. Place in a closet or on a bookcase with large boxes towards the bottom and less-played-with toys towards the top.

There are two Checklist Guides which can be enlarged and printed on page 27 which will make it easier to keep track of what you have done and not done.

Sourced: <https://hip2save.com/tips/how-to-declutter-your-home>

My Tidy Home Schedule

MORNING	NIGHT	ANYTIME
<input type="checkbox"/> Make all beds	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean dishes	<input type="checkbox"/> Load of laundry
<input type="checkbox"/> Plan dinner	<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe counters	<input type="checkbox"/> Sweep kitchen
<input type="checkbox"/> Empty dishwasher	<input type="checkbox"/> Put laundry away	<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe appliances
<input type="checkbox"/> Load of laundry	<input type="checkbox"/> Water garden	<input type="checkbox"/> Take out trash
<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe bath sinks	<input type="checkbox"/> Tidy up living space	<input type="checkbox"/> Vacuum busy areas
<input type="checkbox"/> Stretch	<input type="checkbox"/> Help with homework	<input type="checkbox"/> Check calendar
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
WEEKLY		MONTHLY
<input type="checkbox"/> Change all bed sheets	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean microwave & oven	<input type="checkbox"/> Clean microwave & oven
<input type="checkbox"/> Deep vacuum house	<input type="checkbox"/> Dust baseboards & doors	<input type="checkbox"/> Dust baseboards & doors
<input type="checkbox"/> Tend to yard (mow, weed, etc.)	<input type="checkbox"/> Deep clean fridge	<input type="checkbox"/> Deep clean fridge
<input type="checkbox"/> Dust shelves & stairs	<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe down kitchen cabinets	<input type="checkbox"/> Wipe down kitchen cabinets
<input type="checkbox"/> Clean bathrooms	<input type="checkbox"/> Steam clean wood floors	<input type="checkbox"/> Steam clean wood floors
<input type="checkbox"/> Dispose expired leftovers	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash windows	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash windows
<input type="checkbox"/> Water plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Spot clean rugs & furniture	<input type="checkbox"/> Spot clean rugs & furniture
<input type="checkbox"/> Clean mirrors	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash couch pillow covers	<input type="checkbox"/> Wash couch pillow covers

Sourced: <https://hip2save.com/tips/how-to-declutter-your-home>

4 WEEK CLEANOUT CHALLENGE

Organize & declutter your home with Hip2Save.com

week one kitchen

- Food pantry
- Water bottles
- Cups & mugs
- Tupperware
- Utensils
- Cookware & baking
- Sample condiments

week two bathroom

- Cosmetics
- Haircare & bath
- Medications & first aid
- Towels
- Grooming tools
- Countertop
- Cleaning supplies

week three bedroom

- Closet
- Shoes
- Blankets & sheets
- Dressers
- Winter apparel
- Nightstands
- Bags & accessories

week four living

- Kid's toys
- Books
- Broken misc. items
- Baskets
- Games
- Electronics & cords
- Pens & writing tools

Memories from the Archive

February 1985

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com

40th Anniversary

First Issue of the Newsletter by
Maynooth Community Employment Scheme



BRU BOSCO NOTES

In this "International Year of Youth" we wish you all a happy 1985 from our members and leaders. Forget about recessions, post Christmas blues and pre-budget jitters. Our Club is a small beacon of hope that is steadily growing. Let's look forward to the new year, confident in the support of our powerful patron, Don Bosco.

A.G.M.

Our first A.G.M. was held on 19th November in the Geraldine Hall at 8.45pm. The out-going officers (Des Walsh Chairman, Ellis O'Malley Secretary, Ann Power Treasurer) presented their reports with their customary efficiency and style. Let I forget, a word of thanks now, to my predecessor and P.R.O., the ubiquitous Peg, whose shoes I will try to fill. Des expressed his gratitude to the committee, fellow officers and community for its support. A three tiered administrative structure has been adopted for the Club.

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CARDS	MAGAZINES
TAPES	STATIONERY
BOOKS	TOYS

OPEN EVERY DAY 7.30 am TO 8 pm

- (a) Management Committee, concerned with policy making and financial affairs.
- (b) Leaders Committee (composed of all leaders) involved in the day-to-day running of the Club.
- (c) Members Committee, one of whose initial functions is the running of the Club shop.

Elected to the Management Committee were Des Walsh, Delma Walsh, Peg Lynch, Paddy Power, Pauline Burke, Brian O'Malley, Ellis O'Malley, Nora McDermott, Johnny Dowling and John McGarry. Following the inaugural meeting the following officers were elected- Chairman, Des Walsh; Vice Chairman, Peg Lynch; Secretary, Ellis O'Malley; Treasurer, Paddy Power; P.R.O., Brian O'Malley.

Current News

- (i) We are saddened and gladdened at the departure of John McGarry. From the hundreds interviewed, John was one of the chosen to go to Louvain with AnCo as apprentice electrician for restoration work on the Franciscan Friary. He will be absent for about six months.
- (ii) Following a fruitful meeting in December with our friends in the M.D.A. at which our financial plight was discussed, the M.D.A. kindly came to our rescue by raising a loan of £2,500. We are deeply indebted to them, not just financially.
- (iii) On 18th December our Christmas Mass for Club members took place, celebrated by Fr. Flor McCarthy S.J.B. who is the well known author of "Let the Light Shine" and other publications. The gospel was acted out by Club Members.
- (iv) Competitions (C.Y.C.)

Indoor Soccer Competitions: We are represented in the Boys under 14, under 16, under 18, Chief slavedriver, Liam Caddell, Assistant, John Goggin, Young Entertainers Under 13. Lots of new talent surfacing under the direction of Jim Curryn and Mary Burke. "Jonah Man Jazz" is their production. More about these competitions later.

Youth Profile

In each issue it is intended to introduce Club Members to our readers. After all, a Youth Club is about Youth, not adults!

Profile (1) Barry Farrell

Barry is nineteen years old and is an AnCo Bricklayer studying for City & Guilds exam. This last sentence is an understatement! A more useful parallel might be - What Michelangelo was to the Vatican, Barry is to the Geraldine Hall!!! Monuments to this young and gifted worker in the Hall project include fixapipes in the Committee and Billiards rooms and pointing on all stone work. His favourite food (wait for it!) Mother's Stew. Take a bow Mum!

Profile (2) Mark McEvoy

Mark is aged 15 years, and is a third year student at the Post Primary. He enjoys Metalwork but dislikes P.E. Ebulient is one description for Mark, has a hint of mischief in his infectious grin. Large and lovable (well, most of the time). Enjoys eating "Marathon Bars". Favourite group, Queen. T.V. Programme, Bosco (I kid you not!). Favourite actress, Bo Derek. Would like to have met Elvis and current ambition is to visit Kerry. Favourite Club activity is Pool, would like Rally Driving and, wait for it, Showjumping introduced as Club Activities. If he had the money, Mark would invest in a motorbike. His nickname incidentally is "Larry".

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a motorbike, RD 800. Barry would like to see more outdoor Club activities, for example trips. In a later issue we may print more of the thoughts and facets of this good-humoured outgoing young person.

On a more serious note he would like to see Identity Cards introduced to curb under age drinking.

Profile (3) Eric Leavy

Eric is something of a "soul brother" of Mark McEvoy. Same zany sense of humour. Aged 15 years, Eric is a Post Primary third year student nicknamed "Smock". Likes Art but not gone on Maths. Would eat Chicken & Chips any hour of the day or night. As a group he likes Frankie goes to Hollywood. Eric enjoys cycling and is rather good at cycle repairs, also "Pool". He admires Sean Kelly (cycling). Favourite T.V. show - Automan. He would like some day to meet Bob Marley and visit Ethiopia. Would like to possess a Porsche Turbo. Enjoys Pool, but not too sure if Leaders would approve of Shark Fishing as a Club Activity. Biggest dislike a member nicknamed Larry. Like Mark, sorry I mean Larry, he would like I.D. cards for youths in local pubs. Brian O'Malley, P.R.O.

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February Pet Care

February is Pet Dental Health Month so it is important to get your pet's teeth checked - preventive dental care is key. This is good for their overall health and helps your pet maintain a full set of teeth and be problem and pain free. Now would be a good time to book an appointment with your vet for a dental check. If not checked on a regular basis, teeth can decay and lead to serious health issues with the heart, liver and kidneys.



There are a number of things you can do at home to maintain their teeth such as brush them daily with toothbrushes and toothpaste that are designed and formulated for animals. **DO NOT** use human toothpaste as this will make your pet sick if swallowed.

Try dental chew treats - they have a specific kibble design and may have anti-tartar ingredients to help remove plaque from teeth and reduce the formation of tartar.

Chew toys - can help with plaque control but must be chewed frequently and for extended periods of time. Make sure the toys are not too hard because they can break your pet's teeth.

Water additives - can be added to your pet's water to reduce plaque and tartar as your dog drinks.

Also ask your vet for dietary suggestions to help with dental care before you change your pet's diet.

Sourced: www.ovchsc.ca/news/february-is-pet-dental-health-month

Use this time to also check that your pet's vaccinations are all up-to-date.



At this time of year we think about spring cleaning, so why not gather up all your pet's toy and give them a good, deep clean. Remember do not use

bleach as this can be very harmful. Hot water and a washing pod will do the job.

Why not treat them to new beds and new food/water bowls. Overtime bacteria will seep into their fibres etc. and no amount of cleaning will get rid of them. This bacteria will in time make them sick.

Think about their food - does it need to be adjusted to suit their age, do they need more vitamins, minerals etc.. Again check with your vet before making any drastic changes.

Keep up the training with your pet. Make it fun. The more you train the pet, the easier it will be to communicate what you want them to do and it will be easier to control them.

Exercise is fun for your pets. It is important not only for their physical health but also their mental health. Exercise can be a walk, a swim, a run or even playing games in the back garden. Change up the walks to keep it interesting for your pet - all the new smells and sounds will keep it captivating for them.



Spend time with your pets, show them lots of affection, give them hugs, teach them a trick or two - remember their world revolves around you! And when they do as instructed - tell them they are good, give them a pat on the head and even a treat. Not too many!

Source: <https://blog.parnell.com/en-au/february-is-responsible-pet-owners-month>

When visiting the vets ask the vet to scan the microchip of your pet to make sure the details are correct and up-to-date. The correct details are vital to get your pet back safe and sound should they ever get out.

Pets need protection from extreme hot and cold temperatures and other extreme weather and shouldn't be expected to live exclusively outside.



Remember - as we still may get frost - ice melting products such as antifreeze are totally toxic to pets. They can be fatal. Antifreeze is sweet tasting and pets may drink it because of that. Or they may even lick it off their feet when they get indoors.

So it is essential to check their feet for salt and antifreeze as soon as possible. Then give their feet a good wash to be sure.

Some signs to watch for - staggering, weakness, lethargy, depression, and lack of coordination. Vomiting, sometimes accompanied by diarrhea. Increased thirst and drinking.

Increased urination, or lack of urination and hypothermia (low body temperature)

Some will experience seizures or even enter comas during this stage.

If you suspect your pet was taken some - get to a vet immediately!

https://ispca.ie/ispca_pet_care_tips_and_advice_during_frost_and_snow





COLOURING FOR FUN

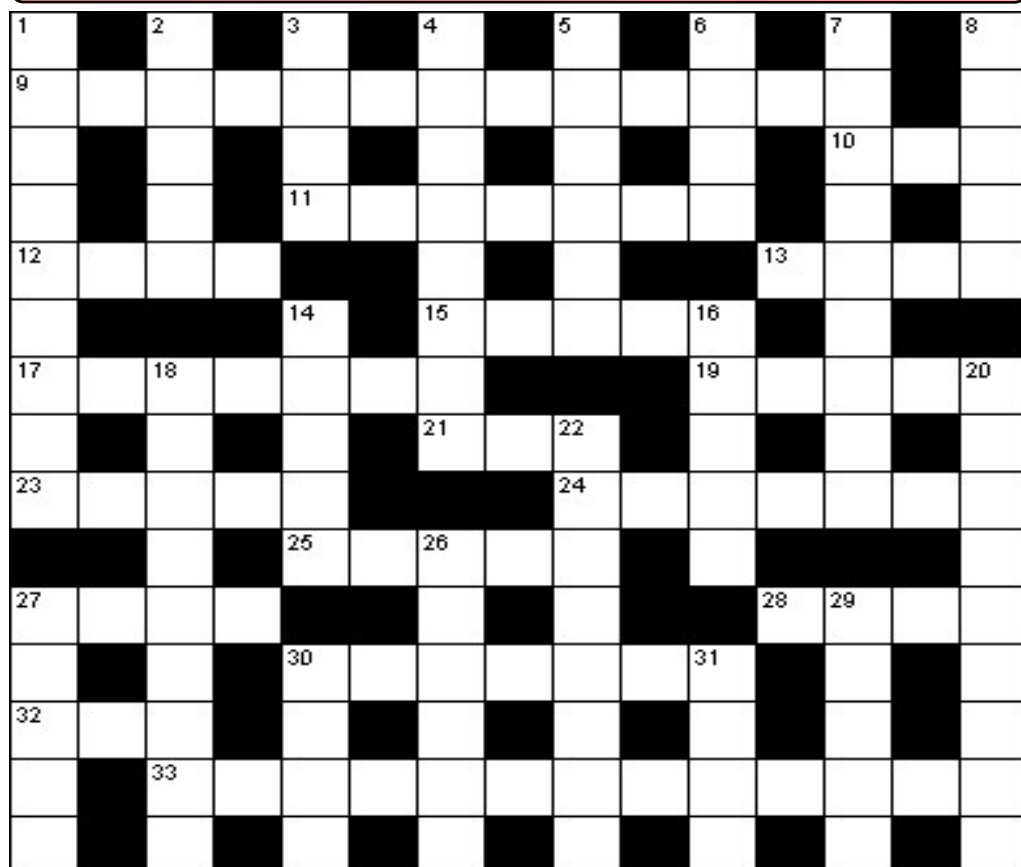


NB To Print the page go to File, select Print and put in this page number. Then Print.

Sourced free from Google



February 2025 Crossword - No. 542



Solutions to Crossword No. 541



Clues Across

- 9. Remove from government ownership (13)
- 10. Partially opened flower (3)
- 11. Open air fire (7)
- 12. Search (4)
- 13. Family (4)
- 15. Relaxes (5)
- 17. Sandy shores (7)
- 19. Tiny branches (5)
- 21. Bashful (3)
- 23. Arm joint (5)
- 24. Place in order (7)
- 25. Weapon (5)
- 27. Small mountain (4)
- 28. Duct for smoke (4)
- 30. Envious (7)
- 32. Round bread roll (3)
- 33. Close mental application (13)

Clues Down

- 1. Prudent (9)
- 2. Pixie (5)
- 3. Stump (4)
- 4. Wife of a count (8)
- 5. Wirelenses (6)
- 6. Queue (4)
- 7. Armed resistance (9)
- 8. Broaden (5)
- 14. Melts (5)
- 16. Tale (5)
- 18. Vehicle for injured people (9)
- 20. Bony structures (9)
- 22. IOW town (8)
- 26. Rubber (6)
- 27. Acquired pattern of behaviour (5)
- 29. Enraged (5)
- 30. Bring bad luck (4)
- 31. Saturate (4)



Difficult

Sudoku Challenge

Super Difficult

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

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

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.



Jackie's Chocolate Strawberry Valentines Bouquet

Things you will need

- ♥ Punnet of strawberries x 1
- ♥ Cooking chocolate bar x 1
- ♥ Sprinkles red, white or both
- ♥ Long wooden skewers
- ♥ Card love heart shapes
- ♥ One sheet of clear plastic wrapping paper
- ♥ Red ribbon



Method

- 1) Melt chocolate
- 2) Put skewers half way through strawberries
- 3) Dip strawberries into melted chocolate only covering the strawberries half way
- 4) Dip chocolate covered strawberries into sprinkles
- 5) Leave strawberries to harden before wrapping
- 6) While waiting for the strawberries to harden stick the love heart shapes onto separate skewers
- 7) Spread wrapping paper on a clean surface
- 8) Place your strawberry and love heart skewers together on the sheet of wrapping paper
- 9) Then wrap the strawberry and heart skewers like you would if you were wrapping a bunch of flowers
- 10) Then tie the ribbon in a bow around the bouquet
- 11)

Remember when making your bouquet feel free to add anything you like. Also almost everything you need can be sourced in your local Euro Giant and Supermarket

Newsletter Staff Writer



Easy Dessert for Valentine's by Jamie Oliver

Eton Mess

Ingredients

- ♥ 300g fresh strawberries
- ♥ 150g fresh raspberries
- ♥ ½ tablespoon runny honey
- ♥ 100g double cream
- ♥ 100g low-fat Greek-style yoghurt
- ♥ 100g shop-bought meringues



Method

- 1) Halve or quarter any large strawberries and place in a large bowl with the raspberries. Use a fork to crush half of the berries and drizzle over the honey.
- 2) Whip the cream until soft peaks form, then fold in the yoghurt.
- 3) Crumble the meringues over the fruit, then fold in the cream and yoghurt mixture. Divide up into 6 individual bowls and serve straightaway, topped with extra berries, if you like.

Make your own meringue:

- 1) Preheat the oven to 130°C/250°F/gas ½. Put 2 large free-range egg whites into the bowl of a free-standing mixer (save the yolks for another recipe), add a pinch of sea salt and whisk until the mixture forms stiff peaks (you could use an electric hand whisk).
- 2) With the mixer still running, gradually add 100g of golden caster sugar until combined.
- 3) Line 1 large baking tray with greaseproof paper. Put the mixture in the middle of the tray, then use the back of a spoon to shape and swirl it across, leaving a 3cm gap around the edge.
- 4) Bake in the oven for 1 hour 10 minutes, or until crisp on the outside and a little soft and sticky inside. Once cooked, leave the meringue to cool.

Source: <https://www.jamieoliver.com>

February Gardening



Flowers

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

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

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

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

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

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



Fruit and veg

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Greenhouse

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

Pot on and pinch out autumn-sown sweet peas to encourage side shoots to form.

Sow summer bedding and tender annuals, including cosmos, lobelia, dahlias, nasturtiums and snapdragons.

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

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

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

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



St. Brigid's Cross

What is the Brigid's Cross?

Brigid's Cross is a traditional Irish symbol, typically made from woven rushes, shaped like a cross with four arms of equal length.

What is the meaning of Brigid's Cross?

Brigid's Cross represents the Christianisation of an ancient Celtic symbol and is associated with the Irish saint, Brigid. It symbolizes protection, blessings, and warding off evil spirits.

What is Brigid's Cross made from?

Brigid's Cross is traditionally made from rushes, which are dried, stripped of leaves, and woven together to form the cross shape.

What is Brigid the goddess of?

Brigid is the goddess of several aspects in Celtic mythology, including poetry, smithcraft, healing, and fertility. She embodies the qualities of inspiration, creativity, and nurturing.

What is St Brigid known for?

St Brigid is known as a patron saint of Ireland and is revered for her Christian piety, charity, and healing abilities. She is associated with various miracles and acts of compassion.

What is St Brigid best known for?

St. Brigid is best known for her role as a patroness of Ireland, her charitable works, and her founding of monastic communities.

What are the symbols of St Brigid?

The symbols associated with St. Brigid include the Brigid's Cross, a flame or fire representing her association with hearth and home, a cow or dairy-related items symbolizing her connection to abundance, and a crozier or staff representing her role as an abbess.

What is St Brigid's Holy Well?

St. Brigid's Holy Well is a sacred site in Ireland, believed to have healing properties. Pilgrims visit the well to pray, leave offerings, and seek blessings and cures for various ailments.

It is a place of spiritual significance and devotion.



Why did St Brigid make a cross?

As the story goes, St. Brigid made a cross to explain the Christian faith to a dying pagan chieftain. The cross she made became a symbol of her teachings and is now known as Brigid's Cross.

What is the history of St Brigid's Day?

St. Brigid's Day, also known as Imbolc, has roots in pagan traditions celebrating the beginning of spring. It later became associated with St. Brigid and is now celebrated on February 1st, marking the arrival of longer days and the onset of spring.

What is St Brigid's prayer?

St. Brigid's prayer, known as "The Prayer of St. Brigid," is a traditional Irish blessing. It is a petition for God's presence and protection, asking for peace, strength, and guidance.

Where is St Brigid's head?

St. Brigid's head is said to be interred at the Shrine of St. Brigid in the Cathedral of Kildare, Ireland.

What are the different types of Brigid's Crosses?

There are various types of Brigid's Crosses, including the traditional four-armed cross made from rushes, as well as variations using different materials such as straw, fabric, or even metal.

What country was St Brigid born?

St. Brigid is said to have been born in Ireland, specifically in Faughart, near Dundalk in County Louth.

What countries celebrate St Brigid's Day?

St. Brigid's Day is primarily celebrated in Ireland, but it is also observed in other countries with Irish heritage or Catholic communities, such as Scotland, England, the United States, and Canada.

What do you do with a Brigid's Cross?

A Brigid's Cross is traditionally hung in homes to bring blessings and protection. It is often displayed above doorways or in windows, and it is sometimes used in rituals or ceremonies for healing and warding off negative energy.

Source: Brigid's Cross - its meaning, origins and symbolism



Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 21/12/2024 to 28/01/2025

Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
2560037	Kildare County Council	B.O.M Stepping Stones Special School	Stepping Stones Special School, Moyglare Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	22/01/2025
2560045	Kildare County Council	Anya and Andrew Ball	89 Kingsbry, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	22/01/2025
2560022	Kildare County Council	Thomas Redmond	16 Parkland Place, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	16/01/2025
2560026	Kildare County Council	Thomas Redmond	16 Parkland Place, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	16/01/2025
2560016	Kildare County Council	Anya & Andrew Ball	89 Kingsbry, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	13/01/2025
2560005	Kildare County Council	Andrew & Anya Ball	89 Kingsbry, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	07/01/2025
2560004	Kildare County Council	Vadim Borsci	No. 14 College Green, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	07/01/2025
2560002	Kildare County Council	Yuriy Kuznetsov	13 Brookfield Avenue, Newtown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	03/01/2025
2461397	Kildare County Council	Yuriy Kuznetsov	13 Brookfield Avenue, Newtown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	23/12/2024
2461390	Kildare County Council	Thomas Redmond	16 Parkland Place, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	21/12/2024

Maynooth Community Contacts Listing

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