



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 Toghaddoo 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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Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

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

The Editor, Maynooth Newsletter,

Unit 10, Tesco S.C. Carton Retail Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. W23CT59

Tel: 01-6285922

E-mail: office@maynoothcep.com

Website: www.maynoothcep.com

Letters to the Editor

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

e-mail to: editor@maynoothcep.com

Mission Statement

The Maynooth Newsletter is a community focused 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

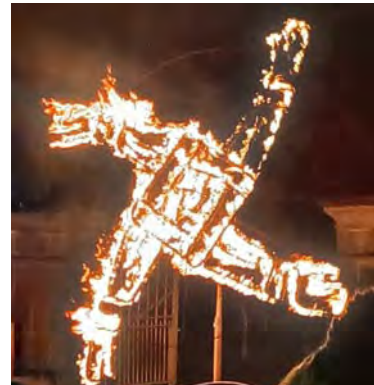
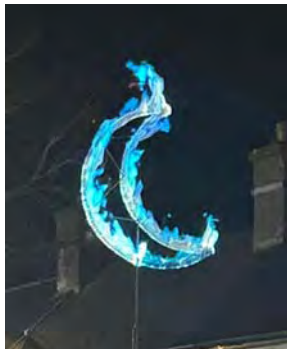
Applications to:

**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



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



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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.

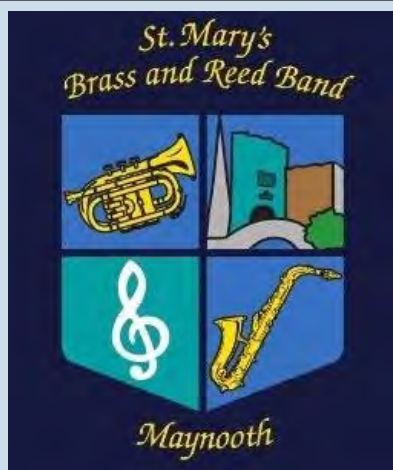
Our Christmas Concert in the Parish Church in December was enjoyed by a very appreciative audience with a great mix of music which appealed to everyone.

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!

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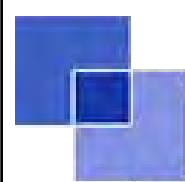
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Royal Canal Notes

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**
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More info



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maynoothlocalmarket@gmail.com

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 Rudolf?

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 *hreinir*, 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 Rudolf, 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

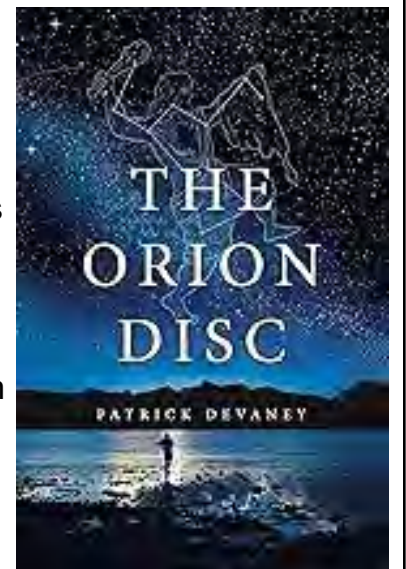
THE ORION DISC by Patrick Devaney

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.

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
University**
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

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.

Suzy Lynch Counselling & Psychotherapy



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



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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.

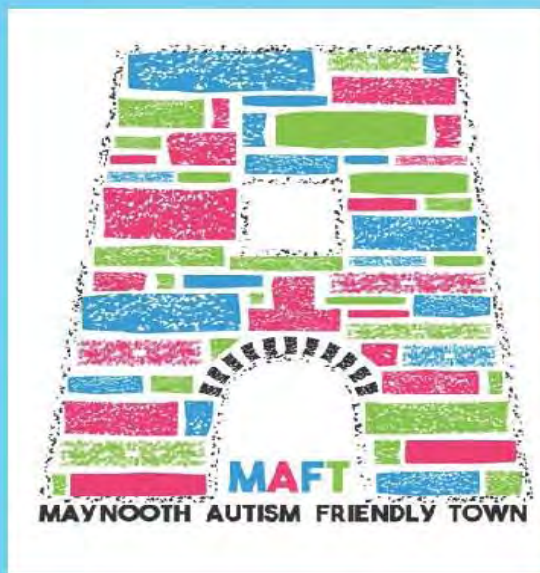
CONTACT: LOCAL INTREO OFFICE / LES

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.



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



DON 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.

AGM

Our first AGM was held on 19th November in the Geraldine Hall at 8.45pm. The outgoing officers (Des Walsh Chairman, Ellis O'Malley Secretary, Ann Power Treasurer) presented their reports with their customary efficiency and style. Left 1.10pm, a word of thanks now to my predecessor and P.R.O., the ubiquitous Phil, 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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(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 main functions is the running of the Club Shop.

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

Current News

(i) We are saddened and glad to see the departure of John McGarry. From the hundreds interviewed, John was one of the chosen to go to Leinster with AnCo as apprentice electrician for restoration work on the Franciscan Priory. 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.V.C.)

Enlighten Soccer Competitions: We are represented in the Boys under 14, under 16, under 18, Chief slavedriver, Liam Cadden, Assistant, John Goggin, Young Entertainers, under 13. Lots of new talent surfacing under the direction of Jim Connolly and Mary Burke. "Watch Alan 1022" 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 exams. The last sentence is an understatement! A more useful parallel might be - What Michelangelo was to the Vatican, Barry is to the Geraldine Hall! Moments in his life project include: busloads in the Committee and Billiards room and pointing on all stone work. His favourite food (well for all!) Muller's Stew. Take a bow Muller's Stew Group!

Passion: Man, God and Bryan Robson. **Birds?** What are they?

Club Activities: Table Tennis, at which he is a mean hand.

Barry also likes - "The Street Blues", Mocho-nor Charles Burren. Would like to visit the Big Apple. Now, York, sometime. If he had his money, and left for himself, might buy

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a motorcycle 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 faces of this good-humoured outgoing young person.

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. (Bullying) is one description for Mark, has a lot of mischief in his infectious grin. Large and lovable (well, most of the time). Enjoys doing "Mashon Bar", Favourite group: Queens. T.V. Programme: "Beverly Hills Cop".

Favorite action: Be Dingo. Would like to have met Elton and

curry mention a bit with Ken. Favourite Club activity is Paul, would like Rally Driving and, well, has it. Showjumping interested at

Club Activities if he had his money, Mark would invest in a motorcycle. His nickname accidentally is "Lucky".

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

Profile (3) Eric Lewis

Eric is something of a "cool brother" of Mark McEvoy. Same year, same of humour. Aged 15 years, Eric is a Post Primary third year student nicknamed "Smack". Likes Art, but not gone on Mains would not choose a Club one hour of the day to night. As a group he likes Frankie goes to Hollywood. Eric enjoys cycling and is rather good at cycle jumping also (Proof). He admires Sean Kelly (cycling). Favourite T.V. show - "Hustler".

He would like some day to meet Bob Marley and visit Chicago. Would like to journey to Porsche Turbo. Favourite Book, but not too sure if Leaders would approve of "The Lord of the Rings".

Suggest doing a number nicknamed "Lucky", take Mark, with 1 more. Lucky he would like 300 cards for youth 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.

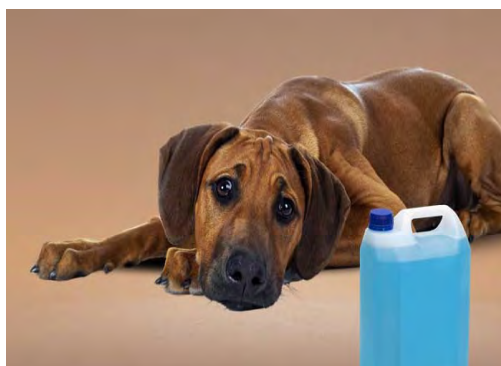


Spend time with your pets, show them lots of affection, give them hugs, teach them a trick or two - remember their world revolves around you! And when they do as instructed - tell them they are good, give them a pat on the head and even a treat. Not too many!

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





PUZZLE TIME



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

All puzzles sourced free from Google

Valentine's Day Word Scramble

DIRECTIONS: Unscramble the letters to form the names of 11 different Valentine's Day words. Then unscramble the shaded letters to answer the riddle.

LIRANGD

HAETR

OLCHAOTEC

DICPU

MOEP

LSWROFE

BOLEDEV

ANDCY

ORSSE

EOEVNPLE

RRABYUFE

What did the boy bear say to the girl bear on Valentine's Day?



I SPY GAME



Valentine's Day WORD SEARCH

E C H O C O L A T E H
S D N E I R F A A R U
S W E E T H E A R T G
Y Y E F L O W E R S S
D R E N I T N E L A V
N A H D I P U C P R E
A U E E R D E I H C V
C R A E E I N S A R O
A B R R A K U R A R L
E E T I A R D A F R R
E F S E C S E S S I K

LOVE
CUPID
SWEETHEART
RED

VALENTINE
PINK
CARDS
FEBRUARY

FLOWERS
CRUSH
HEARTS
HUGS

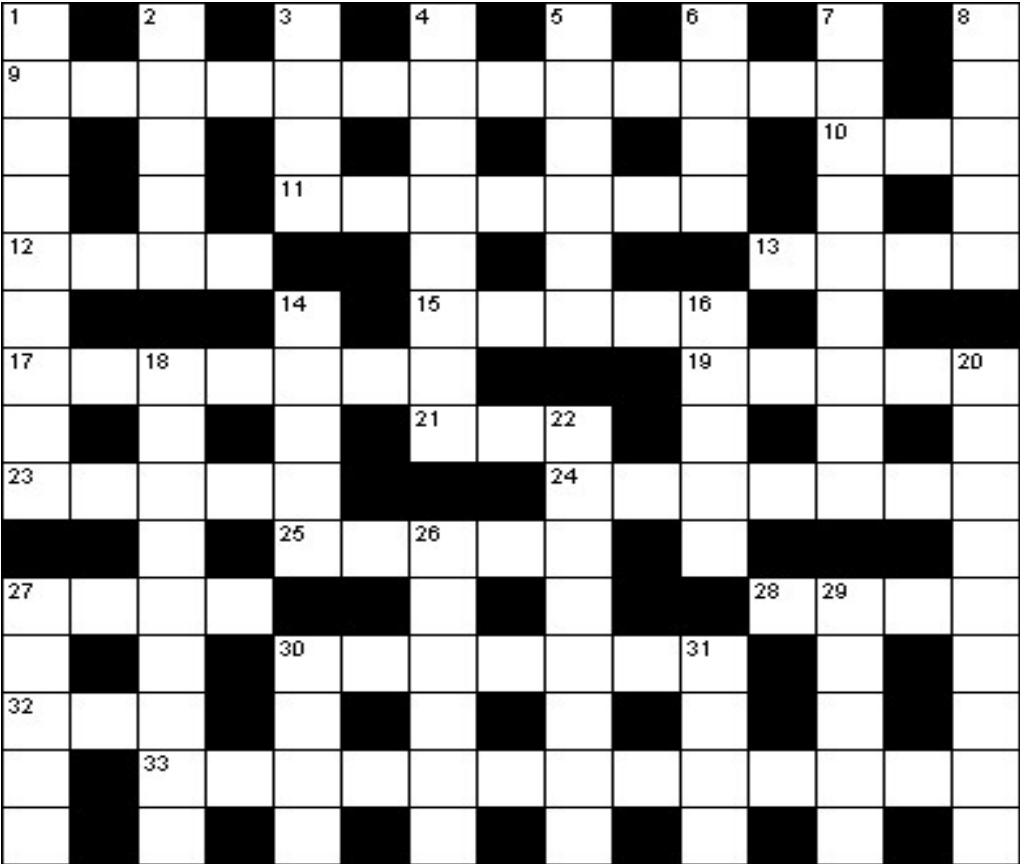
CANDY
FRIENDS
KISSES
CHOCOLATE

Valentine's Day

Match the words to the correct pictures and complete the crossword.



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. Wirellesses (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

				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				

Sudoku Challenge

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

Super Difficult

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



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.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

<p>Naoise Ó Cearúil TD 086 7280050 naoise.ocearuil@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/naoiseocearuil/</p>	<p>Réada Cronin T.D. 01-6183823 reada.cronin@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/ReadaCroninSinnFein</p>	<p>Cllr. Tim Durkan 086-8632784 tim.durkan321@gmail.com</p>	<p>Cllr. Angela Feeney 087-2381962 angelaemfeeney@gmail.com facebook.com/cllrangelafeeney/</p>
<p>James Lawless T.D. 01-6183587 james.lawless@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/JamesLawlessFF/</p>	<p>Cllr. Peter Melrose 089 263 7612 peter.melrose@socialdemocrats.ie</p>	<p>Joe Neville TD 086-6062207 joe.neville@oireachtas.ie</p>	<p>Cllr. Paul Ward 087 2294697 cllrpaulward@gmail.com</p>
<p>An Nuadha Players annuadhplayers@gmail.com facebook.com/annuadha</p>	<p>An Post Sorting Office Maynooth 01-6293390</p>	<p>Brass & Reed Band (St Mary's) sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie facebook.com/maynoothband/</p>	<p>Cemetery Committee (Laraghbryan) 01-6293018</p>
<p>Church of Ireland 01-6292163 secretary@meath.anglican.org</p>	<p>Citizen Information Centre 0818078100 maynooth@citinfo.ie</p>	<p>Cloth Nappy Library Ireland 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/NappyLibraryIreland</p>	<p>Community Welfare Services 0818607080 Kildarecws@welfare.ie</p>
<p>Employment Office 01-6106000 bo.maynooth@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Kildare County Council 045 - 980200 customerservice@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Kildare Civil Defence 045 980529 pmcneela@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Employment Services Office Kelly's Lane, Maynooth 01-6016360 EstMaynooth@welfare.ie</p>
<p>Post Office (Maynooth) 01-6286259</p>	<p>Kildare County Council (Local Office) 01 - 6286236</p>	<p>Kildare MABS 0818072600 kildare@mabs.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Autism Friendly Town 0863329050 autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/maynoothaft</p>
<p>Maynooth Community Care Unit 01-6106351</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Church 01-5054990 office@maynoothcc.org facebook.com/maynoothcommunitychurch/</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Library 01-6285530 maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie. facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService</p>	<p>Maynooth Cycling Campaign 086-8252934 Maynoothcycling@gmail.com www.maynoothcyclingcampaign.com</p>
<p>Maynooth Fishing Club 01-6293202 info@maynoothfisheries.com</p>	<p>Maynooth GAA Club secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie facebook.com/maynoothgaa/</p>	<p>Maynooth Health Centre 01-6106130</p>	<p>Maynooth Kilcock Lions clubcontact@maynoothkilcocklionsclub.org facebook.com/MaynoothKilcockLionsClub/</p>
<p>Maynooth Library 01-6285530 Maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Newsletter 01-6285922 office@maynoothcep.com facebook.com/MCEPnewsletter</p>	<p>Maynooth Senior Citizens maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com</p>	<p>Maynooth Students Union 01-7083669 frontdesk@msu.ie facebook.com/MaynoothSU</p>
<p>Maynooth Tidy Towns 083 304 6130 maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie facebook.com/MaynoothTidyTowns</p>	<p>Maynooth Town Football Club 086-1060654 info@maynoothtownfc.ie facebook.com/MTFC1969/</p>	<p>North Kildare Club 01-6103909 info@northkildareclub.ie</p>	<p>North Kildare Tennis Club info@northkildaretennis.ie</p>
<p>Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth 01-6293018 maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com</p>	<p>SVP Vincent's Shop 01-6289643 geraldinebyrne.east@svp.ie facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064619179003</p>	<p>Zero Waste Maynooth 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Employment Scheme 01-6285922 office@maynoothcep.com</p>

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



Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s



LOCAL NEWS - MARCH 2025 - ISSUE NO. 543



MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2025

FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG MAIGH NUAD 2025

Parade entry form is available on page 4. 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



IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ NEWS FROM MAYNOOTH TIDY TOWNS
- ◆ MEMORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES
- ◆ ST MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND NOTES
- ◆ NEWS FROM MAYNOOTH SENIOR CITIZENS
- ◆ STORIES FROM OUR READERS
- ◆ NEWS FROM GAEILE NUADA
- ◆ MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY NEWS
- ◆ MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN
- ◆ MAYNOOTH GOLF SOCIETY NOTES
- ◆ AN NUADHA PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATRE
- ◆ BORD BIA BLOOM 2025
- ◆ MAYNOOTH 5/10K LAUNCH
- ◆ ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE APPLICATION FORM



Gold Medal Winners

2016 - 2017 - 2018 - 2019
2021 - 2022 - 2023 - 2024

Welcome to Maigh Nuad



Proudly
representing
Maynooth &
Ireland in the
Entente Floral 2025



ENTENTE
FLORALE
EUROPE



An Roinn Forbartha
Tsuaithe agus Pobail
Department of Rural and
Community Development



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council

We mentioned The Entente Florale European Competition that we have been nominated for by Kildare County Council 2025 in the February edition. Maynooth will be participating in the large town category and Terryglass in Tipperary will represent the village category. We are having on going meetings with the Council, Department of Rural Affairs, St Patrick's College and the Irish judges with a view to producing a programme for judging on the 12th July.

We will have a public meeting in our Library on Main Street to launch the event in April. Judges will come from Germany, Hungary and Czech Republic to Ireland in July. We will need lots of help from our local schools and the Maynooth public in order to secure a Gold Medal in our category, more about that later. Our volunteers are very enthusiastic about the upcoming events and have turned out in great numbers over the month of February. We will participate in the St Patrick's Day parade 2025 on the 17th March.

We are doing a revamp of the Pound and we have lots of other plans for other areas around the town. After the storms we were busy clearing debris on the Main Street. Great to see the Spring bulbs surfacing after the winter, we

should have a good display around St Patrick's Day. If you wish to volunteer, we meet at our Shed in the Council Car Park every Saturday morning at 9am.

Follow us on Facebook for more up to date information about the work of our volunteers.

Mary Molloy PRO

Maynooth Tidy Towns Association



THIS PUBLICATION IS PRODUCED BY MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT,
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THE VIEWS & OPINIONS EXPRESSED IN THIS PUBLICATION ARE THOSE OF THE CONTRIBUTORS.



Maynooth Newsletter

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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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E-mail: office@maynoothcep.com

Website: www.maynoothcep.com

Letters to the Editor

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

e-mail to: editor@maynoothcep.com

Mission Statement

The Maynooth Newsletter is a community focused 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

In this publication we have previously mentioned local people who have succeeded in their sporting and thespian professions and there are more up and coming.

Last month, Maynooth had another native excelling in his chosen career. Head Chef Adam Nevin at the Morrison Room Restaurant at Carton House and his team acquired their first Michelin Star.

Maynooth has in recent years acquired a reputation for many good quality restaurants which attracts dining business to the area. The presence of a Michelin Star restaurant will further enhance dining options in the area. Well, done to everyone at The Morrisson Room.

The "2025 Maynooth Through the Ages" lecture series is well under way at Maynooth University Library. Being lucky enough to have booked some of the events again this year, I continue to enjoy the events as do the large crowd that attends. On behalf of all of the people who attend, I know how much they look forward to the annual lecture series and appreciate the work of the Maynooth University Library staff and their lecturers put into delivering the lecture series.

Work has finally begun on the North-South Corridor which will upgrade pedestrian and active travel facilities in Mill Street. As work will be done during the day there will be inevitable delays to traffic because of a stop-go system in place. There are significant delays on the Moyglare Road in particular for traffic going towards Mill Street.

It looks at this stage that daily work only begins after schools and college starting times have passed which is sensible. Hopefully, the part of the work that will cause the most disruption to traffic can be done during the summer months. The works are expected to continue up to December 2025.

The biggest annual event in Maynooth takes place in March. I refer of course to the St. Patrick's Day Parade. In Maynooth, the parade is the event where we celebrate community activities and volunteerism as there is a big participation of clubs and schools in the parade. I am sure this year will not be different from that perspective.

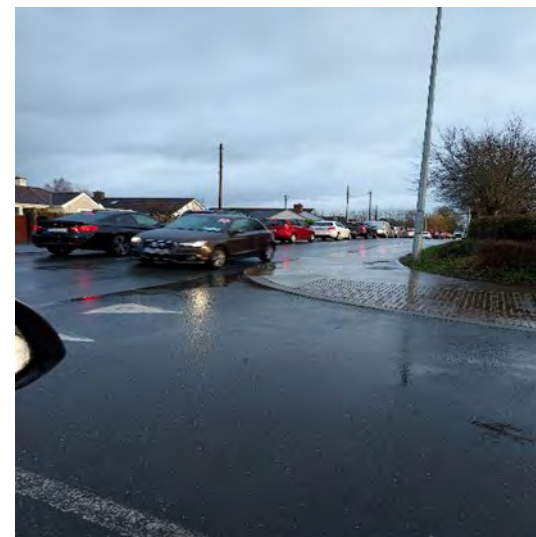
As mentioned elsewhere in this publication, the theme of the 2025 Parade is "back to the 80s" as this year marks forty years of St. Patrick's Day parades in Maynooth as we know them. I recently checked and I was surprised to discover that I have been the Master of Ceremonies for the parade since 2010 and I only intended to do one year. Let's hope that we get good weather and that everyone enjoys the St. Patrick's Bank Holiday weekend.

Paul Croghan

Editor



Adam Nevin
(image courtesy of Carton House)



Moyglare Road Traffic

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

**Bord Bia Bloom returns May 29th – June 2nd
2025, Phoenix Park, Dublin
@bordbiabloom #BordBiaBloom**

**Diarmuid Gavin and Adam Frost of BBC Gardeners'
World among gardening titans announced for
Bord Bia Bloom 2025**

Tuesday, February 18th, 2025: Bord Bia Bloom today announced an exciting line-up of local and international horticultural talent for the five-day festival which takes place from May 29th – June 2nd this year. Among the headliners are homegrown gardening expert Diarmuid Gavin and BBC Gardeners' World presenter Adam Frost who will both take part in a series of talks and discussions on the Garden Stage at the much-loved flowers, food, and family festival this summer. Now in its 19th year, Bloom will return to its home in the Phoenix Park, Dublin for five days over the June Bank Holiday weekend. The announcement was made at the Garden Press Event, which took place in London today.

Speaking at the Garden Press Event, Kerrie Gardiner, Show Gardens and Horticulture Content Manager, Bord Bia Bloom said, "The 2025 horticultural line-up has been designed to offer something for everyone while showcasing the best talent from Ireland and the UK. We are thrilled to have experts such as Diarmuid and Adam join us for what promises to be another fantastic event, along with Andrew Wilson, one of the UK's leading garden design experts, returning as our Chief Show Garden Judge. In addition to our headliners, we also place considerable emphasis on fostering emerging talent to support our flourishing horticultural sector and we have a number of exciting designers and exhibitors coming to Bloom this year!"

As Ireland's premier gardening event, Bord Bia Bloom provides a platform to promote the best of horticultural talent, ideas and trends. At the heart of the show, visitors will be delighted by 21 stunning show gardens that will tell stories on a range of themes. These include the



Diarmuid Gavin



Adam Frost

'Make A Wish Foundation Garden', designed by Linda McKeown, 'GRÁ' designed by Kathryn Feeley for Dogs Trust, Tusla Fostering Garden designed by English designer Pip Probert,

The Circular Economy Garden designed by David Negus for the European Commission, and the Plant Lover's Garden, designed by Patricia Tyrell for Bord Bia's Easy Steps to Dream Gardens initiative, with many more to be announced.



Cultivating Talent

Among the new designers for 2025 is Sarah Cotterill, winner of Bord Bia Bloom's Cultivating Talent initiative sponsored by Westland which aims to nurture the next generation of garden designers and horticulture professionals. An Assistant Professor in Civil Engineering at UCD with a keen interest in sustainable water management, Sarah was awarded a Silver Medal at RHS Hampton Court in the Resilient Pocket Planting category I 2024. Her garden 'Into the Woods' will be a tribute to the unique Atlantic rainforests of Ireland.

Community Gardens, Advice & Plants

The popular Postcard Gardens* feature also returns and provides community groups with the opportunity to tell local stories to a national audience through creative garden design. The Garden Stage will host 40 horticultural talks and share advice from a panel of experts. The Nursery Village will display a vast collection of rare and quality plants from Irish and international plant nurseries which are available to purchase.

Great Day Out

Preparations are well underway to welcome over 100,000 visitors to the festival's 70-acre site at the end of May. In addition to gardening features, the organisers have a wealth of activities and new experiences to be announced in the coming weeks across food, sustainable living, and live entertainment for all ages. For younger visitors, there's plenty to enjoy too, with a new planting experience for children along with a range of fun, educational and interactive workshops at the Budding Bloomers area.

Commenting, Laura Douglas, Head of Bord Bia Bloom said, "Bloom has continued to evolve over the last 19 years to consistently deliver a world-class event that inspires, educates and entertains our visitors while making sure to offer new and exciting experiences each year. As a festival that has gardening, food and sustainable living at its heart, we look forward to announcing a range of other features and experiences for this year's event over the coming weeks."

Tickets

Early-bird Tickets (€25) are available until March 30th and are on sale via the BordBiaBloom.com website. Two children (aged 16 and under) go free with each adult ticket purchased. A family early bird ticket is also available, priced at €45 for two adults and up to four children.

DAFFODIL DAY

FRIDAY 28TH MARCH 2025



Join thousands of people in Ireland in the fight against cancer this March by supporting Daffodil Day

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Sunday, 30 March 2025 @ 1.00 a.m.



SUNDAY MARCH 30, 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**

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



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St. Patrick's Day Greetings to All



needs your help!

Can you help us steward the parade on Monday the 17th of March?

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@maynooth st patricks day parade on fb



Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



Spring has come. Our Tuesday Morning Club activities have proved to be very popular. We are just finishing a 6 week chair yoga exercise programme. This course provided by the Community Education KWETB Programme under the guidance of Stephanie Larking has been a valuable and beneficial addition to our senior members. Sarah was a great chair yoga leader and we had up to 14 people taking part each week. We have had very positive feedback. We hope to continue with more "exercise/movement" programmes in the coming weeks.

Our Thursday Morning Club activities alternate between art classes and bingo. These activities are also well attended and enjoyed by all.

Maynooth Senior Citizens was established in 1965 and we will be letting you know how we will be celebrating our 60 years. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for updates.

Any senior citizens who would like to join in these social activities are more than welcome. You can email us at maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com or 0877974582

We would like to see more people who can commit time on a regular basis to help at committee level. The role of committee members requires consistent participation for mass bus duty, fundraising activities, helping with relevant events such as the annual table quiz, assisting with morning club activities etc. We would suggest that you come to our morning club in the first instance to get a sense of what we do to see if it is a fit for you.

Please note that our AGM will take place on Monday, 14th April, at 8pm in the Geraldine Hall. This is open to the public.

Susan Durack, PRO, Maynooth Senior Citizens

Maynooth 10K Race Returns for its 15th Year – with DWTS Star Power

We're on Course for Our Biggest Year Yet!

Maynooth Education Campus, Moyglare Rd, Maynooth, February 25th – The countdown is on for one of Maynooth's most anticipated events of the year! The **Maynooth 10K Run** is back, and this year's event promises to be bigger and better than ever. The official launch took place on **Tuesday, 25th February, at 10:00 AM** at the Maynooth Education Campus, and we invite members of the media to join us for this exciting occasion.

We were delighted to welcome very special guests – former Maynooth Post Primary pupil and *Dancing with the Stars* professional dancer **Daniela Roze** and *Dancing with the Stars* Celebrity Dancer, Model and Former Miss Universe Ireland 2023 **Aishah Akorede** – who helped kick off this year's race in style.



About the Race

The Maynooth 10K Race is a highlight of the local calendar in its 15th year, bringing together runners, walkers, and families for a day of fitness, fun, and fundraising. This year's race will take place on **Sunday, 11th May, 10am** featuring both a **5K** and **10K** route and **will be opened by more DWTS members**. The scenic course winds through the historic streets of Maynooth, offering participants a chance to enjoy the town's charm while supporting a fantastic cause.

Run for a Cause

Proceeds from this year's race will go towards supporting school sports grounds, which are accessed by both the local community and school students. By taking part, you're not just encouraged to run, walk or jog – you're helping to ensure that future generations have access to high-

quality facilities for their athletic pursuits. It's a chance to make a real difference while doing something you love!

How to Get Involved

Registration for the Maynooth 10K Race is now open! Sign up today at www.maynooth10k.ie to secure your spot or join our stewarding team. Whether you're running, walking, or cheering from the sidelines, your support means the world to our community.

Mark your calendars for **Sunday, 11th May 2025**, for a day of fitness, fun, and community spirit. Let's make this year's race the most successful one yet!

For media inquiries, interviews, or further information, please contact: **Sarah Knaap**

maynooth10k@gmail.com

Let's run together and make a difference!





Issues raised with Kildare County Council.

Safety measures needed at Taghadoe Cross

At the February Municipal District Council meeting, I called on the Council to install traffic calming measures at Taghadoe Cross Maynooth. In speaking to the motion, I stated that this section of road is very dangerous, with two busy local roads entering onto an even busier regional road, motorists having to cross three lanes of traffic.

Many motorists take chances and there is a lot of aggressive braking to avoid crashes. I have received numerous representations on this over many months. The best solution, in my view, is a roundabout and I will keep that on the agenda for future funded projects in the municipal district. In the meantime, I suggest the installation of active speed cameras or speed bumps either side of the junction. The area engineer said the crossroads will be reviewed and the capital team will assess it.

Footpaths repairs needed in older estates

I called on the Council to carry out footpath repairs in the older estates in Maynooth, some of which are over 50 years old and the footpaths are in a very bad condition. As I stated at the meeting, these footpaths also suffer from the older practice of planting trees beside footpaths and the roots now cause lifting in parts, making them even more dangerous. I suggested adding these footpaths to the list of scheduled footpath repairs for the year ahead and where needed, local property tax (LPT) allocations should be identified to fund these much needed repairs.

LED roll-out in the Municipal District

I asked for confirmation from the Council that public lighting in older estates and on approach roads in the Municipal District will be included in the Council's LED roll-out. Given that the public lighting upgrade programme is taking place across the county, on a phased basis, my

concern in raising this issue is that pre-90's estates and all approach roads, could be left out. I welcome the response from the Council that older estates and approach roads will all be included in the upgrade.

Swimming pool at Maynooth College

I requested an update from the Council as to progress on the swimming pool for community use at Maynooth College. The response is positive; Maynooth University, St Patrick's College, Swim Ireland and the Council are all busy working on advancing this project.

Upcoming Motions and Questions:

Motion for February full Council meeting:

That the Council explores using 3D construction printing technology to automate the concrete laying process for its residential housing developments.

Motions and questions for the March Municipal District meeting:

1. That the Council reviews a 500m public path that runs from Barberstown Roundabout alongside the R406 with a view to improving the drainage and potentially widening the path to insert a cycle lane.
2. That the Council writes to the Minister for Justice and the Garda Commissioner calling for a 24 hour Garda station in Maynooth

Questions:

1. Can the Council provide an update on discussions with Straffan GAA and other interested parties with regard to the provision of a playground in Straffan?
2. Can the Council provide an update on its retrofitting scheme in the Municipal District?

St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

January and February would be very much recovery and preparation months for the Band when we get our breaths back from a very busy 2024 and plan our programme for the coming year.

The first event of 2025 is the Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade which we believe is the 40th Anniversary of the Parade. However St. Mary's Band always celebrated the day with a Parade after Mass from the Church to Carton Avenue and back to the Square which was possible in those traffic free days.

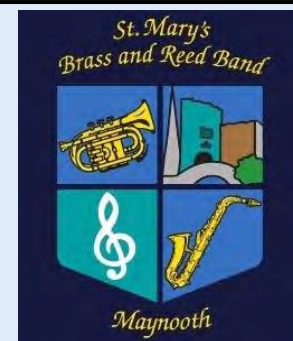
In the early 1980s the Band endeavoured to start a small parade starting at the College gates and finishing on the Dublin Road but lack of available stewards made this a difficult task and thankfully Maynooth Community organised a "proper" Parade in 1985 which has grown in size over the 40 years.

While the Bad Orb International Music Festival won't be happening until next year we still have an International flavour to this year's programme with the visit of a Band from South Carolina in the USA on Thursday 29th June so watch out for details of this event during the Summer. We try to include as many recitals and concerts in Maynooth as possible and to date we have eight dates lined up as well as visits to the National Stud in Kildare and Farmleigh Estate in the Phoenix Park.

With the recent huge expansion of housing in Maynooth the Band hopes to encourage musicians to join us in the Band room on Pound

Lane on Monday nights between 7.45 and 9.30 (except Bank Holidays) or Saturday mornings between 10am and 11.30am. Bank Holidays again excepted.

We currently have vacancies in our brass, reed and percussion sections and you will be welcomed with open arms.



You can also call 087 2537 906 for further information.



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gaeilgenuada.ie



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04/03/2025




19:00 Dé Mháirt / Tues

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19:00 Dé Céadaoin / Wed

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19:30 Dé Céadaoin / Wed

19:30 Déardaoin / Thurs

le Cuallacht Cholm Chille 

<https://www.eventbrite.ie/e/an-dochtuir-tickets-1245476637149>



Meitheal Chill Dara

Óstan an Courtyard, Léim an Bhradáin
08/03/2025

14:00 Dé Sathairn / Sat

Quiz Mór Millteach

Tráth na gCeist

GAA Club

13/03/2025

19:00 Déardaoin / Thurs

le Cuallacht Cholm Chille 



Cluichí Cláir Teaghlaigh

Family Board Games

Maynooth Community Space
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29/03/2025

11:00-13:00 Dé Sathairn / Sat

le Eclecticats



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Maynooth Cycling Campaign

Maynooth and Environs Local Area Plan 2025-31

A further meeting of the Clane-Maynooth Municipal District took place on 17th February regarding the Maynooth LAP. Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the recommendations from the Office of the Planning Regulator that the deleted permeability links must be consistent with the government and local authority policy framework, and strongly disagree with the non-acceptance of the recommendation by local councillors.

In our blog, we posed the question Is Railpark the worst place to live in Maynooth? And is walking and cycling access at fault? The article can be found at the following link:

<https://maynoothcyclingcampaign.com/2025/02/24/is-railpark-the-worst-place-to-live-in-maynooth-and-is-walking-and-cycling-access-at-fault/>

Launch of Dublin Active Travel Portal

The IrishCycle.com website reports that Dublin City Council has launched an Active Travel portal to report progress on active travel schemes and their resulting impact on levels of walking and cycling. The European Cycling Federation stresses that monitoring and reporting progress (or lack of it) is an essential element of managing change in modes of travel.

We know that in recent years Kildare County Council has spent in excess of €60,000 on data loggers to record pedestrians and cyclists movements but has failed to publish any results. Maynooth Cycling Campaign previously attempted to raise this at meetings of the Transportation Strategic Policy Committee but was repeatedly blocked by the then Chair, Cllr. Joe Neville. Hopefully they will reconsider their stance and follow Dublin's lead.

MOTHERLOAD

MOTHERLOAD is a prize winning American made film about cargo bikes and their impact on communities. It also deals with a number of associated themes including sustainability, green transportation, feminism and women's empowerment, connecting to nature, and childhood and parenting.

Last year, Maynooth Cycling Campaign purchased the right to screen the film but the screening didn't proceed for a variety of reasons. We are delighted to announce that we will be showing it later this year - in May. To get a taste of the film, you can view the official trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkklZNE9S-g>



Purchase of American Cars

The US president, Donald Trump, and his appointee, Elon Musk, have been making headlines on a wide range of issues. One of the areas which the president has highlighted is the imbalance in manufacturing trade between Europe and the US and specifically in the areas of cars. In Europe, cars are smaller in size and, with fuel prices much more expensive, offer greater fuel efficiency than American models. Bigger cars are also a threat to the public. According to the OECD, in the US the fatality rate per 100,000 population is four times higher than the Irish rate. While no single factor is responsible for the difference in fatality rates, size is at least partially responsible.

Even some new American electric cars cannot compete on the European markets. Elon Musk's Tesla's Cyber-Truck model, which has been banned in the UK, is not in accordance with European safety standards in relation to weight, lighting, finish or crumple zones. As proponents of active travel, we support increased walking and cycling, and less cars. In 2022, the US exported 16% of their cars to Europe but if Trump/Musk want to increase this percentage, they must meet European safety standards. Irish roads are already too dangerous for active travel users - we do not need to increase this danger.

Upgrade Works on Mill Street, Maynooth

Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the commencement of upgrade works to provide improved facilities for walking and cycling on Mill Street. Mill Street is a key retail destination with Manor Mills Shopping Centre as well as other retail premises. It is also a key link between Moyglare Road and Leinster Street for children attending schools to the north of the town. More than 10 years ago, pupils from St. Mary's Boys School wrote to Kildare County Council to complain about aggression from motorists on Mill Street. While there has been some improvement over the years with the addition of bollards during Covid, it has taken this long to provide a comprehensive solution.

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

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Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

The Boy Who Never Grew Up by Cheryl Devaney

James Matthew Barrie, a Scottish novelist and playwright, was born in Kirriemuir, Angus on May 9th 1860. His conservative Calvinist father, David, was a weaver and his mother, Margaret Ogilvy, had run her deceased mother's household from the age of eight. The ninth of ten children, Barrie was small, only reaching the height of five foot three as an adult. Two of the family had died before he was born and, when James was six, his elder brother, David, accidentally collided with another skater, fell on the ice and died from a fractured skull. His brother would have been fourteen the following day and his mother never fully recovered from the shock of his death.

To comfort her, Barrie tried wearing his brother's clothes to recapture the happy years before David died. His mother dominated his childhood and she was consoled by the thought that her dead son would remain a boy forever and never grow up and leave her.

Barrie was educated at various academies and, at fourteen, was sent to Dumfries Academy, being supervised by his two eldest siblings, Alexander and Mary Ann, who were teachers. During the school holidays he would play pirates with his school friends, Stuart and Hal Gordon, in their garden at Moat Brae, a Dumfries Georgian town house near the mouth of the River Nith. A keen reader, he studied literature at Edinburgh University, gaining a master's degree in literature in 1882.

Working for the Nottingham Journal as a staff journalist, he moved to London in 1885 as a free lancer. His first book 'Auld Licht Idylls' (Auld Lichts was a strict religious sect to which his grandfather had once belonged) was published in 1888. It was one of several novels about the fictional village of Thrums, said to be modelled on Barrie's hometown of Kirriemuir. Based on his earliest memories, his mother being the heroine of many of the stories, they made Scottish manners appear attractively

quaint and established Barrie as a successful writer.

In 1891 he started to write for the stage and, in 1892, his third play, 'Walker, London', a farcical comedy resulted in his being introduced to a young actress named Mary Ansell. They married on 9th July 1894 but the marriage was childless. In 1900, the Barries bought a house overlooking Kensington Gardens and, later that year, Black Lake Cottage at Farnham, Surrey. It was in this cottage that Mary had an affair with Gilbert Cannan, an aspiring writer, twenty years her junior. Barrie sued for divorce on the grounds of infidelity and it was granted in October 1909. Barrie continued to support Mary even after she married Cannan.

In the meantime, Barrie had more works published. His 1902 novel 'The Little White Bird', introduced the character Peter Pan. It was about babies who could fly, as they originally had been birds. This was followed by 'Quality Street' and 'The Admirable Crichton', which were critically acclaimed. 'Peter Pan' or 'The Boy Who Wouldn't Grow Up' had its first stage performance on 27 December 1904 at the Duke of York's

Theatre. Originally Peter was cast as a villain, kidnapping children from their beds. Captain Hook was added later as a theatrical device to distract the audiences while stagehands changed the scenery. Later Peter became the heroic boy who triumphed over the seedy, middle-aged schemer, Captain Hook. The play also introduced audiences to Wendy, whose name was inspired by a young girl named Margaret Henley, who called Barrie 'Friendly' but could not pronounce her Rs very well. The play has been performed every Christmas season up to the present, except for 1940 – a unique dramatic record. In 1911, Barrie developed the Peter Pan play into the novel, 'Peter and Wendy', giving the copyright of his Peter Pan works to the children's Great Ormond Street Hospital, London.

At an 1897 New Year's Eve dinner party he met Sylvia Llewellyn Davies, the daughter of

writer George du Maurier and Daphne du Maurier's aunt. Sylvia recognized him as the man who often entertained her sons with fairy tales whilst they strolled with their nanny in Kensington Gardens. He had encountered the two eldest boys, George and Jack, in the park while exercising his Saint Bernard, Porthos, named after a character from one of George du Maurier's books. He would tell them how their new baby brother, Peter, could fly and Michael and Nicholas enjoyed seeing Barrie wiggling his ears. In 1912, Barrie commissioned a statue of Peter Pan to be placed in Kensington Gardens. He never got permission as he wanted children to think that fairies had put it in place overnight. Many objected that a writer could publicize his works in such a way.

Wealthy because of his successful publications, he provided Sylvia with financial support. Through her five sons, he began to relive his childhood and initiated games of make-believe with them. Sylvia, who was widowed in 1907, died in 1910. Barrie, along with their nurse, Mary Hodgson, assumed guardianship over the boys. He supported them to adulthood but George died in combat in World War I, while Michael drowned in 1921 when swimming with a friend. In 1960, Peter died when he threw himself in front of an underground train at Sloane Square station. Barrie moved in literary circles, his friends including H.G. Wells, Thomas Hardy and John Galsworthy. Appointed a baronet by King George V in 1913, he was made a member of the Order of Merit in 1922.

On 19th June 1937, Barrie, then aged 77, died in a nursing home of pneumonia. He was buried at Kirriemuir next to his parents and two of his siblings. Peter Pan had become a cultural icon of youthful innocence and escapism and Barrie's obsession with the never-aging Peter Pan could be connected to his brother David's tragic death. On 1st June 2019 Moat Brae, where as a child he had experienced so much fun, opened as Scotland's National Centre for Children's Literature and Storytelling.



Maynooth Golf Society

President: John Saults - Vice President: John Byrne - Captain: John Nolan - Vice Captain: Paul Farrelly
Secretary: Martin Maguire - Treasurer: Norman Kavanagh

**Affiliated
to GUI**

The AGM of Maynooth Golf Society was held last Sunday 23rd February in Brady's. The well attended meeting confirmed Captain John Nolan as this years captain. John is a long standing member of the society and was a popular choice as Captain for 2025. John Saults who was captain on 2 previous occasions was confirmed as President for the coming year. Treasurer Norman Kavanagh provided an overview of the Society finances and thanked sponsors from 2024 as follows:

Derek Murray - Captain's Day

Norman Kavanagh – Captain's Day

Marty Maguire – Captains Day and Society Event Cards

Barry Farrell – Captains Day

Ollie Bright - Society Outing

John Byrne – Maynooth University Bookshop – Society Outing

Pat Connolly - Euro Farm Foods – Captain's Day

The society has gradually regained strength in numbers post Covid and encourages new members and old for the golfing year of 2025.

Contact 086-2215738 if interested in joining and we would be happy to accommodate where you will receive a traditional Maynooth welcome.

Society Outings 2025 are as follows:

Saturday 8th March - Grange Castle from 12.00pm

Saturday 5th April - Millicent from 12.50pm

Friday 2nd May - Beech Park from 2.30pm

Saturday 7th June - Roganstown from 11.50pm

Saturday 19th July - Glasson - Captains Day from 11.30am

Saturday 30th August - Tufarris from 10.00am

September 20th/21st Waterford Castle/Faithlegg Weekend Away.

Saturday 18th October New Forest from 10.10am

Martin Maguire

Maynooth Golf Society

Hon Secretary



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

My Chequered Life

Chapter 13

At this time my girlfriend was very ill in Harold's Cross hospice. I was brought out to see her once or twice but I knew she would not be alive at my discharge. However, even though she was very ill, I was glad to get the opportunity to talk to her and apologize to her for the way I had treated her. She died in 2011 and I was released, if released is the proper word, in 2012. From prison routine to street chaos! I was back on the streets again under all the old pressures. While in prison I had got off drugs and even had got off methadone but once out, there was no way I was going to be able to keep up the effort. Nine in ten of the people I was hanging around with were on drugs and the others were on alcohol.

The temptation was enormous, especially when you consider my past and all the issues I hadn't dealt with. I knew it couldn't last and it didn't and soon I was back again on the hard stuff three or four times a week, when I had the money. To tell the truth I just wanted to be back in prison where life was simple with a warm bed and three meals a day. And that's what I did. I demanded money from a girl at the cash register in a shop and when she told me she couldn't open the till, security was called and from the security guard's office the gardai brought me to the station, held me overnight and next day brought me to court. From there I was back in prison and truthfully was greatly relieved. Everything had gone to plan. I was home again! I was back in court in a month or two and three suspended years of my earlier conviction were activated and I was sent to Portlaoise Midlands prison, at my own request.

While there I decided to face up to the many issues which I felt had

been the ruin of my life. A friend of mine use to call to see me regularly and one day, in 2016, when he was gone, I rang him and, after great hesitation, told him about the abuse I had been subjected to as a child. He, of course, reported my story to the gardaí and they in turn passed it on to the gardaí in Portlaoise. Two of them came to interview me but, despite my best intentions, I didn't like being interviewed by them, with the result that even after another visit there was nothing very much they could do. When I got out of prison, I and my friend tried to follow up on this but there was no record of my case having been reported, despite the fact that I had been interviewed twice! (I have in my possession a letter from the governor of the Midlands prison, stating the date of one of the visits and naming the two gardaí in question)

And to my knowledge, that's where it rests today.

However, not everything went wrong when I got out of prison. I was determined to get help and I got it. Through the McVerry Trust, I got an opportunity to stay in a hostel for the homeless, where I had my own room. There were only about nine others living there. I was on two years' probation, so I worked with that probation officer, who introduced me to counsellors, all of whom were very helpful. I too, of course, had changed and grown up a little and frankly was fed up of living such a squall of a life. That doesn't take from my probation officer who was enormously attentive to me when I was trying to turn my life around. She treated me as if I was the only one she had to look after and I will always remember her for her professionalism and friendship. I have been living on my own for the last seven years, drugfree and only having a pint on rare occasions. The rest is silence, maybe!

GM

Derrylow

For Christina

Soon I'll return to that quiet place where
I grew up, a drumlin-bounded farm in the west,
to survey whitethorn-hedge divided land,
visit the heather-covered bog where
we saved turf for burning on our open-hearth,
and, if there has been heavy rain,
go further on to where like molten silver
a turlough glistens in our neighbour's field.

At dusk I'll listen to the *meannán aerach's* bleating,
the comcrake's heart-aching repetition,
and maybe on a winter's night watch enthralled
a will-o-the-wisp dance and flare as if someone
with a flashlight walks drunken through the bog.

There's the orchard we raided for plums and apples,
the *culleen* with hazel trees we climbed for nuts,
the horse's field that in autumn grew mushrooms,
and, past those farms, scrubland where we hunted rabbits.
Perhaps I'll view the reed-fringed lake we fished for trout,
climb that hilltop over pastures where herds grazed,
then make my way home slowly by the hayshed
to recall those indifferent Time erased.

Note: *meannán aerach*, a snipe. Literally, an airy kid goat, from the bleating sound it makes during courtship flights.

By Colin Scott

Lillibullero

I have heard a word
A song's refrain
Emerge from the night
A star that is seen by men
When its speeding light
Shed by an orb turned cold
Before earth had life
Pierces the rim of time
And the heart grows faint
With the ache of remembering
Lillibullero

The meaning is vanished long *
Nobody knows
The impassioned chords that it stirred
Or whether men chose
To link it to love or to war
But the sad-sweet cadence recurs
Like the light of the ghost of a star
To tell though they twisted the knife
Or kissed the young lips in despair
All have expired in the night
Lillibullero

P. Devaney, c.1968

* Recently, my friend Ciaran Dockery explained that the full refrain, "Lilli bullero, bullen a-la", was an anglicization of *An lile ba léir é, ba linn an lá* ("The lily was clearly visible, the day was ours."), the slogan of Irish rebels during the 1641 rising; later, it was used in a popular anti-Catholic song by Lord Wharton which helped to drive James II from the throne of England.

After Navalny!

While Putin prepared potent poison,
His keen eye surveyed the horizon;
'Twas a near fulltime job,
Spotting whence the next yob,
Bent on wrecking his plans might be risin'!

GM

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received. **R.D.**

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 plans new €19 million Sport Science Centre

Maynooth University is embarking on the construction of a dedicated €19 million Sport Science Centre which will include facilities to promote health and wellbeing on campus.

The University received planning permission from Kildare County Council in late 2024 for a three-storey extension to its Phoenix Sports and Restaurant Building. The new extension will include:

- a state-of-the-art student gym
- a sports / multi-purpose hall
- changing facilities
- sports science research and teaching laboratories
- flexible office space for sports science staff

MU hopes that the provision of these extensive modern gym facilities



The architect's visualisation of the proposed new building

will encourage students to visit the gym regularly, improving their physical fitness, reducing stress levels and promoting mental wellbeing. The plans, drawn up by a team led by [Reddy Architecture and Urbanism](#), envisage that the gym will be prominently located at the front of the new building, “making sports activities visible and promoting student health and wellbeing. The entire ground floor of the extension will be devoted to the gym and changing facilities, providing students with a much-needed, flexible and functional space”.

According to [Michael Rafter](#), Director of [Estates](#) at MU: “Our primary goal remains to provide modern university facilities for our students to enhance their wellbeing and positive experience while at Maynooth



University, and we believe this scheme will provide a significant and much needed contribution to student and campus life.”

The new centre will also provide students and staff with enhanced

educational opportunities in a purpose-built facility with a modern and comfortable teaching environment. The new Sport Science Department and the Sports Office will both be located in the complex, fostering collaboration and mutual support between the two.

It is anticipated that work will start on the new building in summer 2025, and it will open its doors to students and staff in January 2027.

Welcoming the planned new centre, [Dr Jack Hickey](#)

of MU's Department of Sport Science and Nutrition, said: “It will provide a bespoke space for teaching and research with labs for testing. It will be a dedicated space on campus where we can do that research.” The new building will also house office space, with capacity for future expansion for the [Department of Sport Science and Nutrition](#), which was established in 2023. The Department is growing rapidly to meet the needs of its students, providing Bachelor's degrees in [Sport Science and Health](#) and [Food Science and Human Nutrition](#) as well as the [Business with Sport Science](#) degree, run in conjunction with the



[School of Business](#).

[Prof Tim Thompson](#), MU's Vice President Students and Learning, says: “A strong sports offer can really enhance

the student experience, as well as provide wider teaching and learning opportunities. We're looking forward to working with our students and wider university community to further embed sports and physical activities into our Maynooth experience.”

MU's new sports strategy has been designed to form part of the wider health and wellbeing ecosystem in the national context. The plans are aligned with the [National Sports Policy 2018-2027](#) and the [UNHCR Sports Strategy 2022-2026](#).



Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth

MU celebrates Collingwood Cup win

Maynooth University's men's senior squad have been crowned Collingwood Cup champions at the University College Cork's Mardyke Sports Ground. This marks only the second time in the tournament's history that Maynooth University has lifted the trophy, with [the last triumph occurring in 2014](#).

The Collingwood Cup, renowned for its three games in three days format, saw MU overcome UCD in the quarterfinals, defeat defending champions UL in the semi-finals, and clinch the title with a 1-0 win over University of Galway in the final, thanks to a goal from Aaron Doran.



MU soccer team lifting the Collingwood Cup

This victory caps off a remarkable season for the MU Soccer squad, as they also secured the Colleges & Universities Football League (CUFL) Premier Division title earlier this academic year. Winning both the Collingwood Cup and the CUFL Premier Division in the same season is a rare achievement, having only been accomplished once before in the competition's history.

Barry Prenderville, Soccer Development Manager at MU's Department of Sport said, “This is only the second occasion Maynooth University has won this tournament in its over one-hundred-year history. Our students showed incredible determination, resilience, and no shortage of skill to overcome UCD in the quarterfinal, the previous year's winners UL in the semi-final, and finally, to clinch the title by defeating University of Galway in the final.”

First played in 1914, the Collingwood Cup is the oldest surviving all-Ireland association football competition. It is named after amateur footballer and Physiology Professor Bertram J. Collingwood. University College Dublin were the inaugural winners and remain the most successful team, with 53 titles.

MU and Regional Assemblies launch National Census Atlas dashboard

Ireland's three Regional Assemblies, in collaboration with the [All-Island Research Observatory](#) (AIRO) at Maynooth University, have launched the [National Census Atlas](#). (NCA). This is a ground-breaking tool that provides an unprecedented view of over 200 social, economic, and environmental indicators at the neighbourhood level across Ireland.

(Continued on page 17)

(Continued from page 16)

The Census Atlas offers:

Neighbourhood-level insights: Detailed mapping of data for informed decision-making at the local level.

Comprehensive indicators: Over 200 datasets covering critical aspects of Irish life, including demographics, social and cultural factors, education, health and wellbeing, housing, employment and economy, communications and ICT, and transport and commuting.

User-friendly access: An intuitive interface powered by the GeoHive platform, making data exploration straightforward for all users.

All data in the atlas comes from the Central Statistics Office (CSO) Census 2022 results, ensuring the most up-to-date and accurate representation of Ireland's social and economic characteristics.

The atlas will also showcase the following:

Population change: The tool shows levels of population change over the last twenty years, highlighting areas of major population growth alongside regions experiencing continual population decline.

Household heating sources: The atlas details variations in household heating methods within and across counties, providing essential data for policies aimed at achieving a just transition from fossil fuels.

Employment clustering: Insights into the clustering of employment in sectors such as agriculture, manufacturing industries, and professional services can guide regional economic development strategies.

Religious affiliation trends: The tool reveals differing trends in religious affiliation between urban and rural areas, offering a nuanced understanding of cultural shifts.

Commuting patterns: Detailed data on commuting patterns to cities and large towns helps inform transport and infrastructure planning.

In formally launching the National Census Atlas and S3 Dashboard, Minister Peter Burke TD stated: "I am proud to launch the National Census Atlas, a groundbreaking tool providing access to key data which will be instrumental in supporting evidence-based policymaking. We are the first country to develop such a resource, positioning Ireland at the forefront of international best practice.

"I am also delighted to launch the new Smart Specialisation Strategy Visualisation Dashboard which was developed in collaboration with my



EMRA director Clare Bannon, Minister Peter Burke and AIRO director Justin Gleeson at the launch

own Department. This tool will help monitor the progress of our National Smart Specialisation Strategy, monitor our regional innovation performance and enable regions to focus on their strengths. These new tools are fantastic additions to the Regional Development Monitor that I had the pleasure of launching in November 2022 and will be crucial to future policy development."

Justin Gleeson, Director of AIRO, emphasised the significance of the initiative: "The National Census Atlas represents a major step forward in democratising access to data. By providing granular insights at the neighbourhood level, this tool empowers stakeholders across Ireland to identify needs, allocate resources effectively, and plan for a sustainable future. It is a fantastic example of public sector collaboration in Ireland and the use of publicly funded data collection initiatives."

Clare Bannon, Director of the Eastern and Midland Regional Assembly added: "This project highlights the power of collaboration in advancing regional development goals. We're proud to support this initiative, which offers a new perspective on Ireland's evolving social, economic, and environmental landscape. This tool is a great addition to the Regional Development Monitor which has become a key resource for local and regional authorities in Ireland."

Looking for something different to do this St Patrick's Day?



The Duck Race is back in Kilcock, Co. Kildare from 2.45 pm. Cash prizes for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd ducks.

Ducks will be on sale outside Supervalu, Kilcock on Saturday 15th March from 10 am, for €5 each, with proceeds in aid of voluntary social clubs for people with additional needs.

For further information feel free to contact us at northkildarearchclub@gmail.com

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**Happy St. Patrick's Day
to all our Clients**



An Nuadha Players' Community Theatre

Celebrating 25 years

God Bless us Everyone!

As Tiny Tim's memorable words brought An Nuadha Players' 25th Anniversary Christmas Pantomime to a close, the audience stood to applaud a truly spectacular production.

The cast of 'A Christmas Carol', An Nuadha Players' 2024 Christmas Pantomime PaPantoChristmas Pantomime

This was a 'wonderful show, really engaging for adults and kids,' commented Merv Nickleman. 'Everyone was amazing – acting, singing and dancing and the set, costumes, lighting and music were all amazing'. Celine Kenny brought her children to watch their pal Tiny



Tim perform and was bowled over. 'What a show! It was fantastic from start to finish,' she said. Gillian McGuire and her crew loved the show and extended huge congratulations to all involved. **The ghost of Christmas Past (Amelia Brogan) takes Scrooge (John Fitzgibbon-Moore) on a magical trip to his past.**



And this ambitious production truly was a co-operative undertaking with many hands and minds coming together to bring to the stage one of the group's most creative productions to date. Producer Amy Douglas, director Caitríona Carr, musical director Colin Sloan,

choreographer Méadhbh Fitzgibbon-Moore and making her début as assistant choreographer, Saoirse Walsh Colfer spent many hours working on the vision for the show before rehearsals began last August. It had to look authentically Victorian and it had to be magical and entertaining.



The Amazing 'Panto Kids' Above

Darren Kelleher and Gary O'Daly on lights and special effects helped to create the magic and Conor Wilkins on sound ensured that audiences could appreciate the wonderful music and Martin Higgins' original script. Hats off too to the band, and the front of house and stage crews. And a big shout out to the cast of 52 (our biggest ever) for giving five wonderful performances in front of truly amazing audiences. We thank all those of you who came to see the shows. We also wish to acknowledge the support of the local businesses and individuals who generously sponsored the production.



Summer Production 2025

We are delighted to announce that our summer production will be Neil Simon's 1971 black comedy **Prisoner of Second Avenue**. The 1975 film version starred Jack Lemmon and Anne Bancroft.

The story revolves around the escalating problems of a middle-aged couple living on Second Avenue on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Mel has just lost his job after 22 years of faithful service, and now has to cope with being unemployed at middle age during an economic recession. The



action occurs during an intense summer heat wave and a prolonged garbage strike, which exacerbates Edison's plight as he and his wife Edna deal with noisy and argumentative neighbours and loud sounds emanating from the Manhattan streets up to their apartment. Mel's sisters and brother offer reluctant help but at the end of the day Mel and Edna realise they can only rely on themselves.

Ann Kelly, who will direct the production, has fond memories of the play, having played the role of Edna in Thurles Drama Group's award-winning 1988 production. Auditions will be on Tuesday 11th and Thursday 13th March in Maynooth Community Space. The script, along with a synopsis and audition pieces, is available on our website annuadhaplayers.ie

Panto '25

We are excited to share the news that our 2025 Pantomime will be **The Sword in the Stone**, a brand new panto with an original script by former 'panto kid' Ríán Glynn, who will also direct the production. Auditions will be held in May / June and we encourage you to keep an eye on our website for further details.



Theatre Workshops



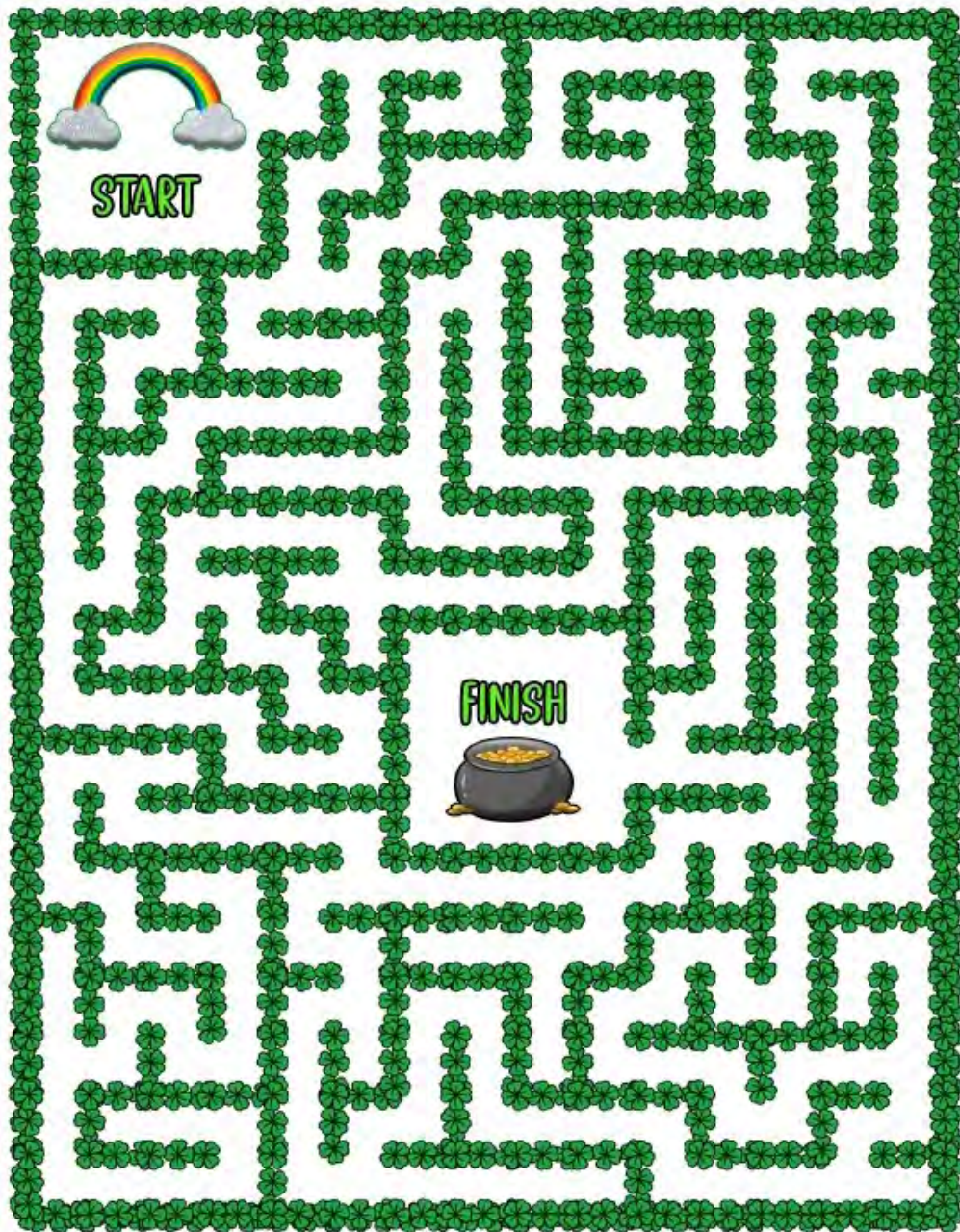
The group is currently planning a series of theatre workshops which we hope to run during the spring and summer. Topics may include vocal work and voice projection, improvisation, dance and choreography, set design and costume design. Further details will be posted on our website.

Pub Quiz – A date for your diary

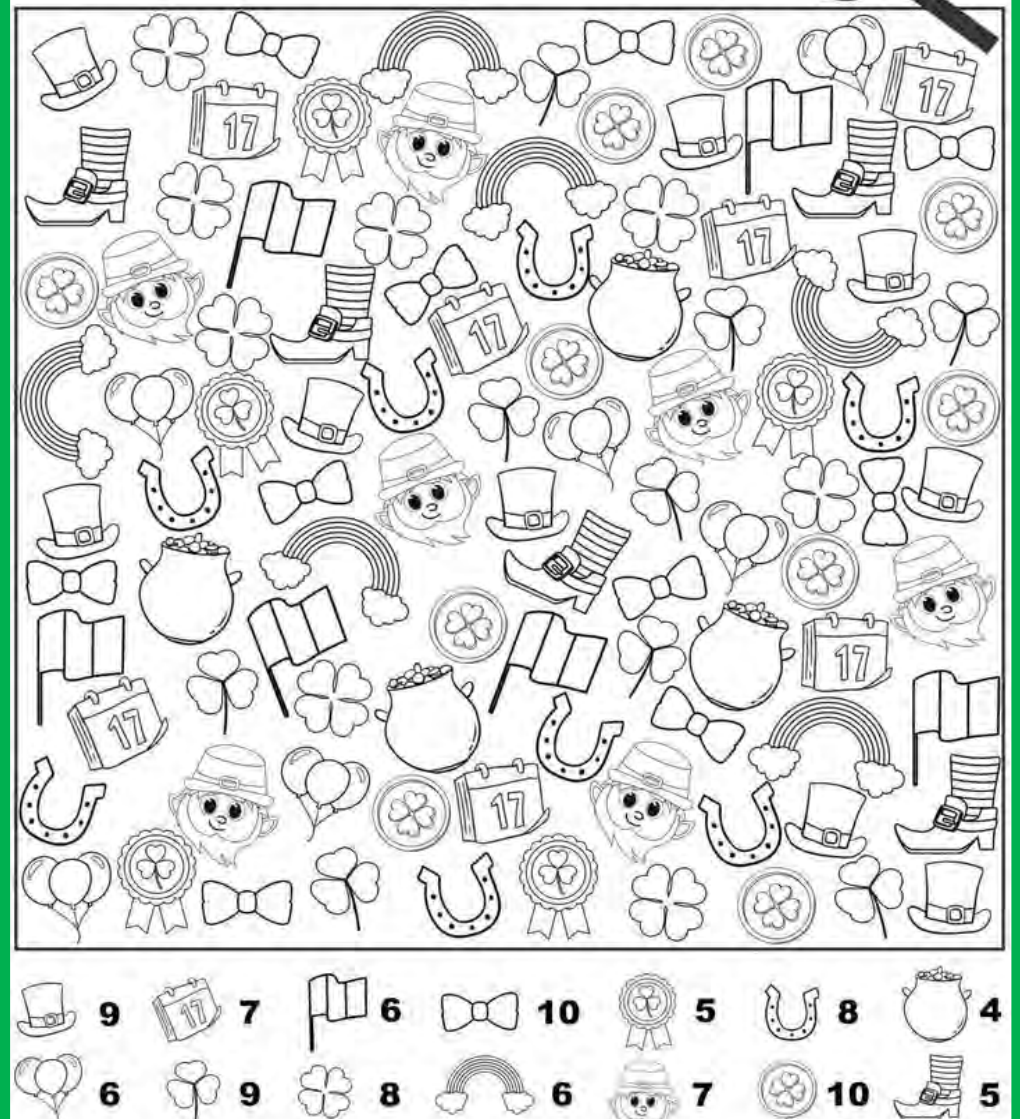
Keep Friday 28th March free for our very popular pub quiz in Bradys. Martin Higgins will provide the questions and we look forward to a great night's entertainment. So come along and bring a friend or two.



PUZZLE TIME



I SPY St. Patrick's Day

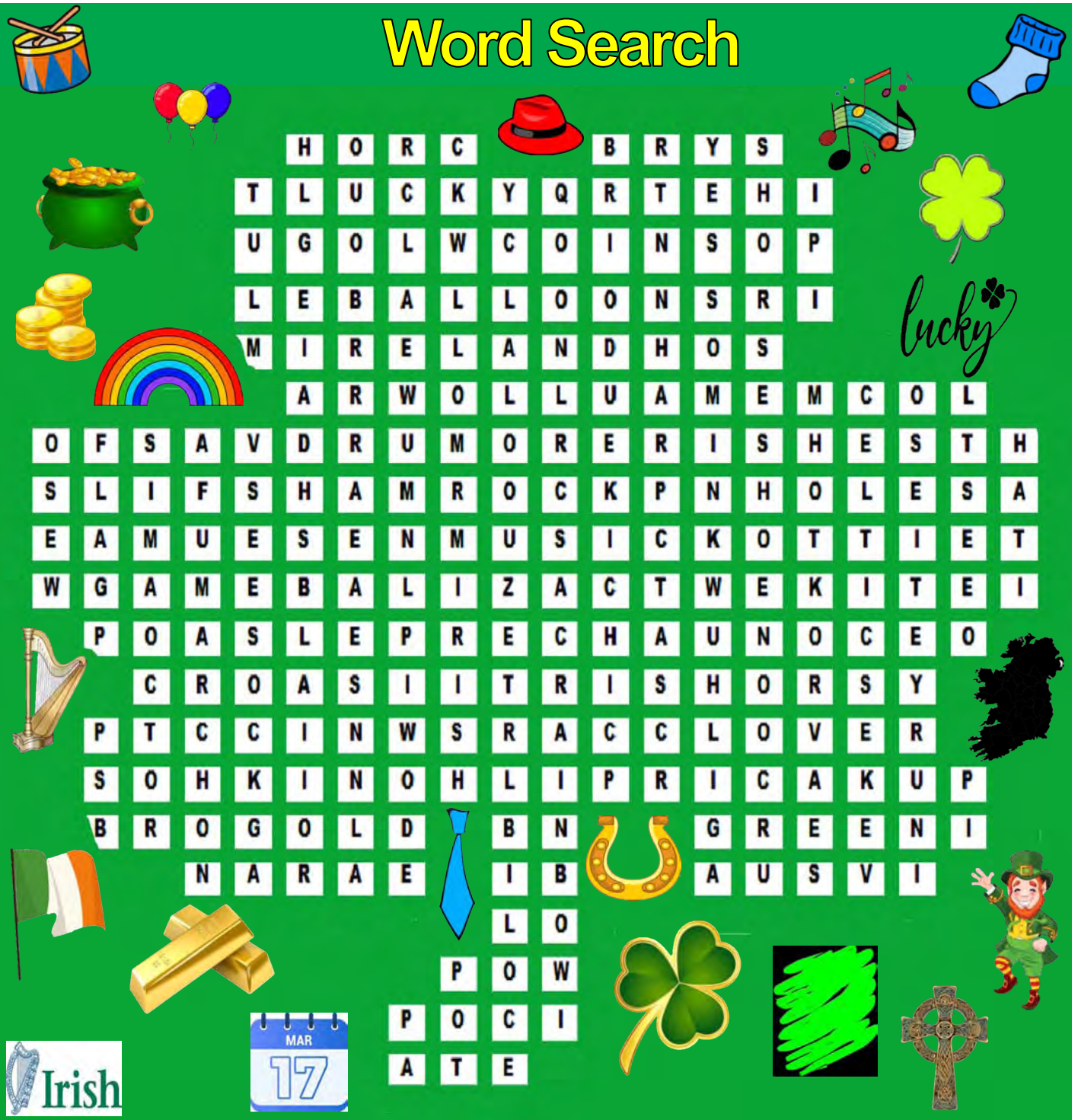


Word Scramble

ONIRWAB _____
 VLCREO _____
 KMHRCSAO _____
 LGDO _____
 CRMAH _____
 CLKU _____
 RDAPEA _____
 HRPENUALEC _____
 TCAKIRP _____
 ERNEG _____
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 EDRINLA _____



Word Search



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

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth
Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Service
which provides a free and confidential service to the public.
Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie and from the
Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121



Benefits and entitlements relating to birth and children

Introduction

If you are having a baby in Ireland, there is a range of supports for parents and children. This page gives a general overview of these supports.

Before your baby is born

Health and safety

If you become pregnant while in employment and you are exposed to certain risks in the workplace, or you are involved in nightwork (nightwork means that you spend at least three hours or 50% of your work between midnight-7am), you may be entitled to health and safety leave from work. If you are entitled to health and safety leave and you have enough social insurance (PRSI) contributions, you may qualify for Health and Safety Benefit during your leave. If you are breastfeeding at work, you may also be entitled to health and safety leave and Health and Safety Benefit.

Antenatal visits or appointments

After your pregnancy is confirmed, you may take time off for medical visits (sometimes called antenatal visits or appointments) connected with the pregnancy. There is no maximum or minimum amount of time off specified for these visits. Rather, you are entitled to reasonable time off – this means the time that you need for each visit and includes both the time required to travel to and from the appointment and the time for the appointment itself. You are entitled to be paid during these antenatal visits.

Antenatal classes

Antenatal classes give you information about pregnancy, labour and delivery, and baby care. Before the birth you are entitled to take paid time off work to attend one set of antenatal classes (however, not the last 3 in the set). This is a once-off right which covers all pregnancies while in employment. Expectant fathers have a once-off right to attend the last 2 antenatal classes in the set.

After your baby is born

Maternity leave and Maternity Benefit

If you are working, no matter how long you have been working, you are entitled to take maternity leave for a basic period of 26 weeks. At least 2 weeks have to be taken before the end of the week of your baby's expected birth and at least four weeks after.

If a mother dies within 40 weeks of the birth, the father or other parent is entitled to maternity leave from work.

During your maternity leave, you may be entitled to Maternity Benefit if you meet social insurance contribution conditions.

Serious illness during pregnancy or maternity leave

From November 2024, you can postpone your maternity leave and Maternity Benefit, for between 5 and 52 weeks, if you are pregnant or on maternity leave and require ongoing treatment for a serious health condition. The illness must pose a serious risk to your life or health. This can be either a physical or mental illness and must be certified by a doctor.

Breastfeeding when you return to work

If you are working and breastfeeding you are entitled to take 1 hour off work (with pay) each day as a breastfeeding break for up to 2 years after birth.

Additional (unpaid) maternity leave

You can take up to a further 16 weeks' additional maternity leave immediately after your maternity leave ends. This additional maternity leave is often called 'unpaid maternity leave' because you are not covered by Maternity Benefit and your employer does not have to pay you during it.

Paternity leave and Paternity Benefit

New parents (but not the mother of the child) are entitled to 2 weeks' paternity leave from employment or self-employment following the birth or adoption of a child. Paternity Benefit is a weekly payment to a parent on paternity leave from work who is covered by social insurance (PRSI). You can start paternity leave at any time within the first 6 months after the birth or adoption placement.

Adoptive leave and Adoptive Benefit

Adoptive leave is a statutory entitlement for adoptive parents.

Adoptive leave provides 24 weeks' leave from work to one parent of the adopting couple or a parent who is adopting alone. The 24 weeks start from the date the child is placed in your care.

If you have enough PRSI contributions, you may be able to get Adoptive Benefit. It is available to both employees and self-employed people. If you are an adopting couple, the parent who does not avail of adoptive leave is entitled to paternity leave.

You can take up to 16 additional weeks' unpaid adoptive leave but you cannot claim Adoptive Benefit for these extra weeks.

Parent's leave and Parent's Benefit

Parent's leave is a statutory entitlement for working parents. The leave lets parents spend more time with their baby or adopted child during the first two years. From August 2024, each parent is entitled to 9 weeks of parent's leave for a child born or adopted on or after 1 August 2024, a child who is under the age of 2 on 1 August 2024 or an adopted child who has been placed with the family less than 2 years on 1 August 2024.

The leave period remains the same in the case of multiple births, for example, if you have twins or if you adopt 2 or more children at the same time. Parent's leave is available to both employees and people who are self-employed.

Parent's Benefit is paid while you are on parent's leave from work if you have enough social insurance (PRSI) contributions.

Parental leave

When you return to work you may be able to take parental leave. Both parents are entitled to take 26 weeks of parental leave for each eligible child. You must take parental leave before your child's 12th birthday. Parental leave is unpaid. Generally, you must have been working for your employer for a year before you can take parental leave.

Leave for medical care reasons

You can take unpaid leave if you need to take time off to deal with medical care for your child or other relevant person. You can take up to 5 days' leave for medical care in any 12 consecutive months. Read more about unpaid leave for medical care.

(Continued on page 21)

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS (Cont)

(Continued from page 20)

Child Benefit

Child Benefit is a monthly payment to the parents or guardians of children under 16 years of age. You can get Child Benefit for children aged 16, 17 and 18, if they are in full-time education or full-time training, or have a disability and cannot support themselves. In general, Child Benefit is payable from the first day of the month after the child is born. It is paid at higher rates for multiple births such as twins or triplets.

New Baby Grant

A New Baby Grant of €280 is paid in addition to the first month of Child Benefit for children born or adopted on or after 1 December 2024. The New Baby Grant is €280 per child, so if you have twins, the grant will be €560.

Free GP visits for children under 8

The GP visit card for children under 8 covers free GP visits, including home visits and urgent out of hours GP care. If your child already has a medical card, you do not need to register them for a GP visit card. However, if your family circumstances change and your family is no longer eligible for medical cards, you can then register your children for GP visit cards for children under 8.

Taxes

There are no specific tax reliefs for children. However, the Single Person Child Carer Credit is a tax credit for people who are caring for children on their own. There is also an Incapacitated Child Tax Credit if your child is permanently incapacitated and a Home Carer

Tax Credit where one spouse is caring for a child or dependant person. There are also other tax credits and allowances which families can avail of.

Social welfare supports

The Department of Social Protection provides social welfare payments to support families with children for people in low-paid employment and people parenting alone. Some payments are means -tested and others are based on social insurance contributions. If you are a medical card holder you are entitled to a Maternity Cash Grant of €10.16 from the Health Service Executive on the birth of your child. Apply to your Local Health Office.

If you cannot pay for the extra costs associated with your baby you may be able to apply for an Additional Needs Payment from the Department of Social Protection.

Early childhood care and pre-school education

The Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) Scheme provides free early childhood care and education for 2 years for children of pre-school age for a set number of hours over a set period of weeks from September to June (the school year).

The new National Childcare Scheme (NCS) 'wraps-around' the free pre-school programme, providing financial support towards the cost of childcare for the hours spent outside of pre-school. The National Childcare Scheme provides 2 types of childcare subsidy paid directly to your chosen childcare provider. Children must be attending a childcare provider registered with Tusla (including childminders and school-age childcare services).



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

MARCH 1985

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com



Mr. Stan Cosgrave, Manager Moyglare Stud Farm, presenting their sponsorship cheque for the recent Cross Country Races to Mr. Pearse Breslin, chairman of Maynooth A.C.



Grainne Farrelly (1st) and Enda Gleeson (2nd), being congratulated by Stan Cosgrave at the recent Cross Country Races at Moyglare Stud

When the child is on holidays with the Host family, a link is maintained with the staff and there is a 24 hour telephone back up service. Every effort is therefore, made to ensure that if problems arise, they can be sorted out promptly. A further safety, of contracts and insurance cover is built into the scheme.

The Host Parents receive payment in recognition of the extra work and responsibility that is involved.

Who to contact.

The following agencies are involved in the Break Away Scheme and will be only too happy to answer queries:-

Daughters of Charity,
St. Vincents,
Navan Road,
Dublin 7. Phone 303209 - 303881

St. John of God Centre,
Islandbridge,
Dublin 8. Phone 778593

St. John of God Centre,
Dunmore House,
Glenageary,
Dublin. Phone 852900

St. John of God Centre,
St. Raphael's,
Celbridge,
Co. Kildare. Phone 288161

St. John of God Centre,
St. Mary's,
Drumcor,
Dunleer,
Co. Louth. Phone 041-51211

Stewart's Hospital,
Palmerston,
Dublin 12. Phone 264444 Ext. 171

St. Michael's House,
Ballymun Road,
Ballymun,
Dublin 11. Phone 375171

St. Michael's House,
Goatsdown,
Dublin 14. Phone 987033.

P. WALSH & SONS

MONUMENTAL MASONS PHONE: 286166

ALL TYPES OF GRAVE MEMORIALS UNDERTAKEN

SUPPLIERS OF BEST QUALITY FUNERAL WREATHS ALL SIZES



Liam McNamee, Maynooth A.C. (centre) 1st, Jim Clancy, Carbury A.C. (l.) 2nd, and Pat Maher (Maynooth) 3rd, receiving their trophies from Stan Cosgrave, Manager of Moyglare Stud, following the recent Cross Country races at Maynooth

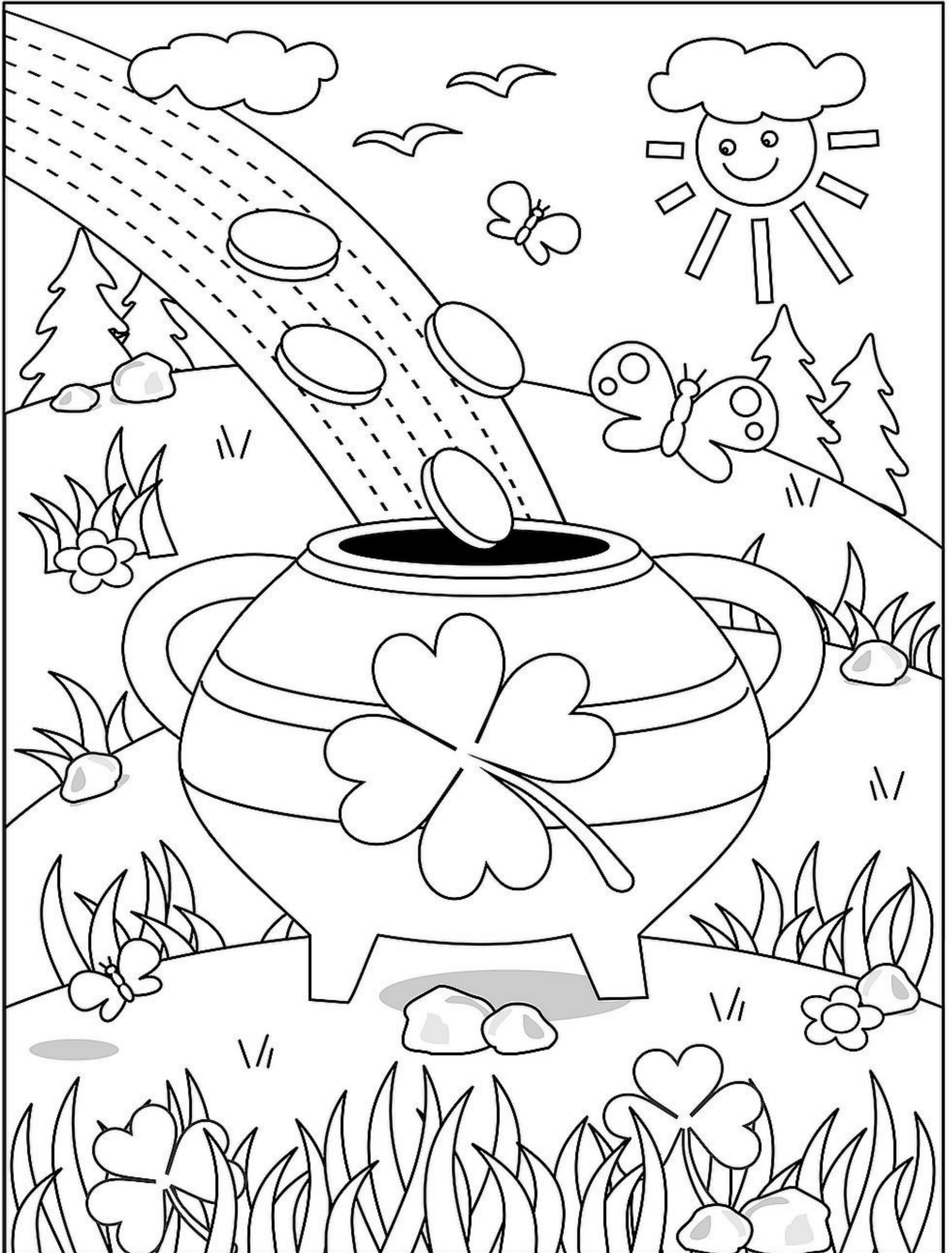


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NB To Print the page go to File, select Print and put in this page number. Then Print.

Sourced free from Google

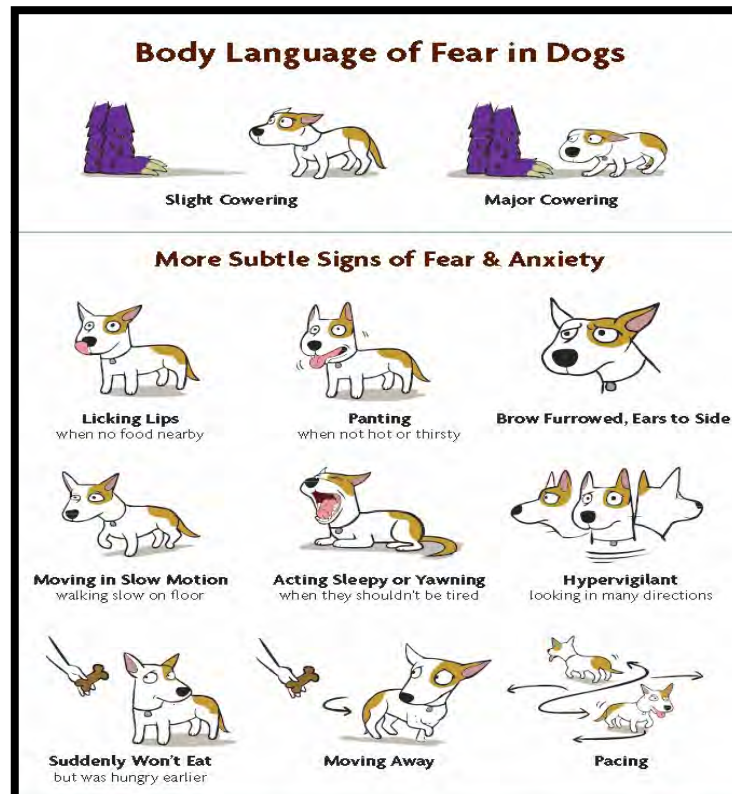


March Pet Care

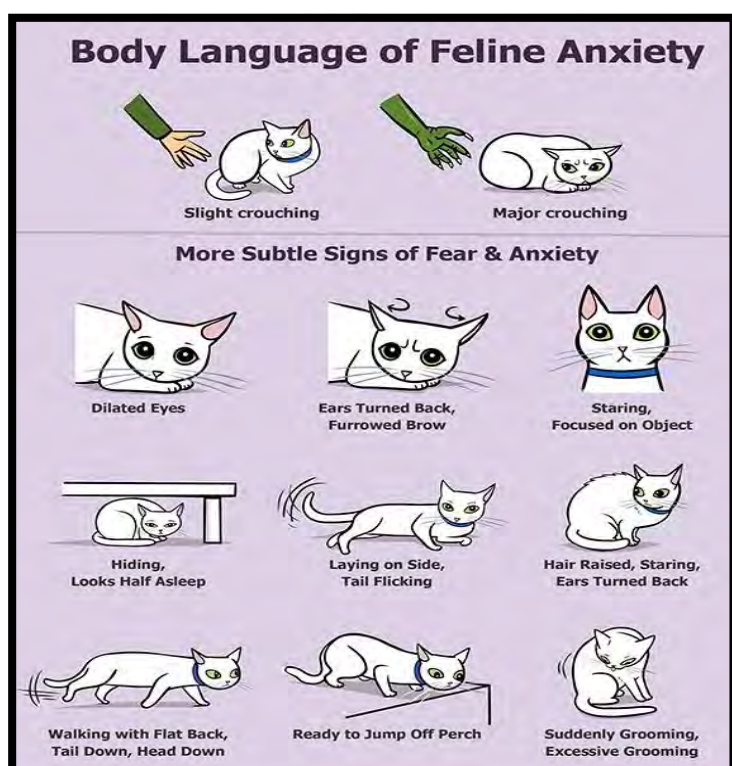
March is Pet Anxiety & Pet Poison Awareness Month

Prevention is always better than cure. There is a lot you can do to socialise and habituate your puppy or kitten to all the things they may come across later in life. This should be done in a calm, gentle way, being careful not to overwhelm your pet. Make sure that they are enjoying each experience. This will help your furry companion to form positive associations with these things so that they are able to cope well with them when they are older. If you are unsure of what to do, contact your vet and they will be able to help.

If you have an older pet who is already anxious about certain things, don't despair; there are many things we can do to help turn this around. The process is a little different from above, as we first need to decrease your pet's fear of the stimulus (be that fireworks, visitors or anything else). This is done using a technique called desensitisation.



Desensitisation is the process of exposing an animal to a gradually escalating stimulus at a level they can cope with. At each stage, they should be alert and aware of the stimulus but not otherwise reacting to it. Over time (usually a period of weeks), the stimulus level can be slowly increased until it is at the level at which they would experience it in the real world. Counter-Conditioning, on the other hand, is the process of turning a stimulus from a negative to a positive, by associating it with a reward (e.g. fuss, treats, play as appropriate). In practice, these two techniques are often employed side by side as they make a powerful pairing.



It's extremely important that we start the process at the SMALLEST stimulus that your pet takes notice of WITHOUT them showing overt anxiety. Watch for small signals, such as lip licking, yawning or lifting one paw in dogs; wide staring eyes, hunched posture or flattened ears in cats – these tell you to go back to a slightly lower level of stimulation where your pet looks more comfortable.

Recognising and treating any behavioural condition, whether related to anxiety or to something else, is best done at as early a stage as possible, as this gives the highest chance of being able to resolve the problem. It's never too early to make us aware you think your pet may be struggling with a behavioural issue. We want to intervene early on to give your companion the tools to cope with situations they may find stressful and lead rich, happy lives.

If you are concerned that your cat or dog has a behaviour problem, you should contact your vet for a behaviour consultation.

Source: www.westportvets.com/march-is-pet-anxiety-awareness-month

As temperatures rise, we begin to see spring bulbs bloom. Many common garden plants, such as daffodils and tulips, are toxic to our pets and can lead to them becoming unwell if they eat them. Bulbs often have a higher concentration of nutrients than leaves or flowers, so can be more dangerous for your pet. When gardening, keep your pets away from any bulbs or flowers, and call your vet straight away if you think your pet has eaten any part of a toxic plant.



The sunnier weather makes longer walks even more appealing. When venturing out into the countryside, look out for farm animals, especially those with offspring like lambs or calves. Keep your dog on a short lead when entering fields to prevent injury and stress to farm animals or your four-legged friend.

Always remember that with warmer weather comes the risk of heat stroke, so on hot days, aim to walk your dog in the evenings or early morning when it's cooler, and ensure pets have cool areas to rest in, plus access to plenty of fresh drinking water.

Fleas can be a problem all year round, but they love to breed in warm weather. You may find the problem worsens in warmer months, so make sure you keep their flea treatment up-to-date. Worming requirements are the same all year round, so make sure you're keeping up-to-date on their worming treatment too.

Female cats come into season around this time of year so make sure you're prepared - they will have heat cycles approximately every 2-3 weeks from February to October. They will usually be much more vocal than normal, roll around more, and become extremely affectionate.

If your cat goes outdoors then it's important to get them neutered to avoid unwanted pregnancies and help protect them against viruses that can be spread through mating and fighting. Neutering will also stop cats, outdoor and indoor, from developing health issues like pyometra (infection of the uterus which can be life-threatening).

Sourced: www.pdsa.org.uk/what-we-do/blog/pet-care-advice-for-spring

Being aware and creating an understanding of what harmful poisons lurk in the house and yard will make everyone with four legs and two legs happier and healthier: awareness is the key to preventing poison emergencies!

Common household plants that can be toxic to dogs and cats such as Azalea, Lilies, Ivy, Mistletoe and Poinsettia. If you have these in your home, move them to a high place so pets can't get to them.

List of poisons pets can ingest:

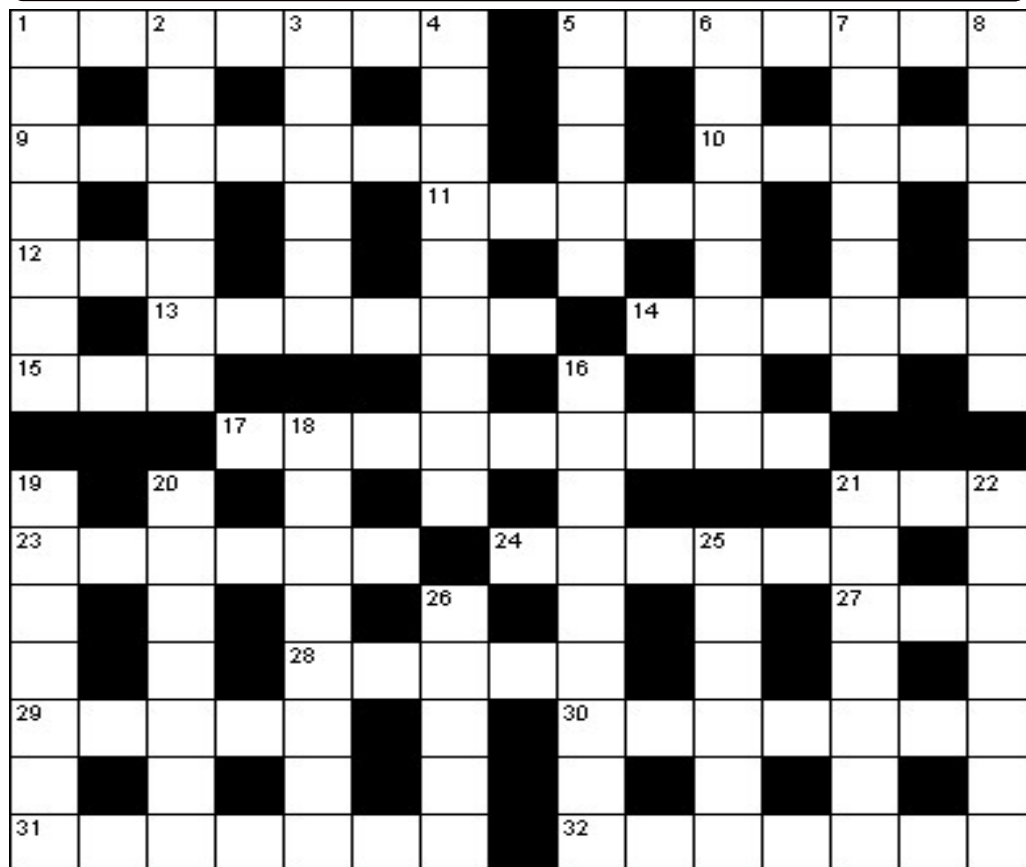
Dogs: Chocolate, Mouse and Rat Poisons, Anti-inflammatory Medications, Xylitol, Grapes and Raisins, Antidepressant Medications, Acetaminophen (e.g. Tylenol), Vitamin D Overdose, Stimulant Medications and Fertilisers.

Cats: Lilies, Spot-on flea/tick medication for dogs, Household Cleaners, Antidepressant Medications, Essential Oils, Anti-Inflammatory Medications, Mouse and Rat Poisons (rodenticides), Stimulant Medications, Onions and Garlic and Vitamin D Overdose.

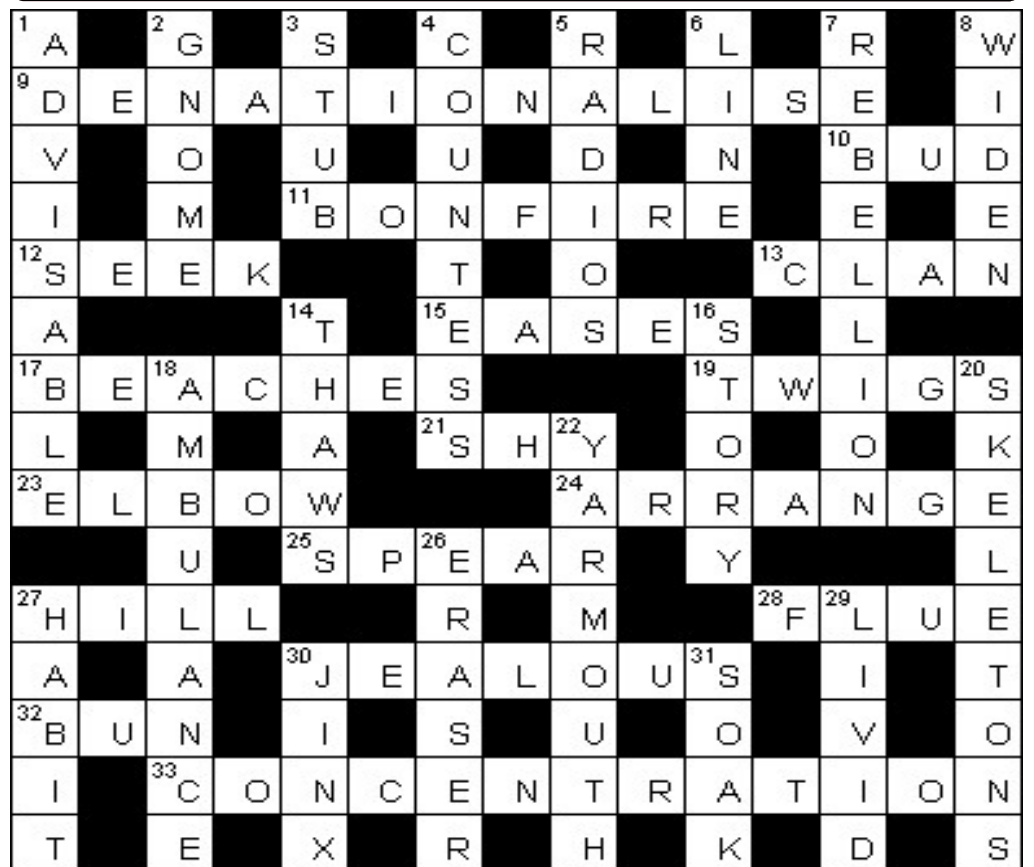
If you suspect your pet of ingesting anything they shouldn't have, bring them to the **VET** immediately. Why not keep a permanent list on your kitchen wall so that all family members can see and be aware.

Source: <https://www.goingmuttspetservices.com/blog>

March 2025 Crossword - No. 543



Solutions to Crossword No. 542



Clues Across

- | | |
|-------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. Official sitting (7) | 23. Make possible (6) |
| 5. Saloon (3,4) | 24. Russian sleigh (6) |
| 9. Tool for chipping ice (7) | 27. Extinct flightless bird (3) |
| 10. Many times (5) | 28. Son of Abraham (5) |
| 11. Living in a city (5) | 29. Inanimate object (5) |
| 12. Russian secret police (3) | 30. Exterior (7) |
| 13. With ease (6) | 31. Knitted jacket (7) |
| 14. Complete (6) | 32. Burst violently (7) |
| 15. Strike lightly (3) | |
| 17. Six (4-5) | |
| 21. Used for resting (3) | |

Clues Down

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. Holdup (5-2) | 19. Governing bodies (7) |
| 2. Fruit-flavoured sweet powder (7) | 20. Prisoner (7) |
| 3. Foolish persons (6) | 21. Baby (7) |
| 4. Capital of Tonga (9) | 22. Expert marksman (4-3) |
| 5. Sphere (5) | 25. Part of the foot (6) |
| 6. Midday (8) | 26. Coming after (5) |
| 7. Meantime (7) | |
| 8. Very long (7) | |
| 16. Eighty (9) | |
| 18. Yes (3,5) | |



Difficult

Sudoku Challenge

Super Difficult

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

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

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.

A Traditional Irish Recipe For St Patricks Day Colcannon



Ingredients

- 1 kg (2 lbs) of floury potatoes washed, skin left on
- 80 g (3 full cups) of curly kale roughly chopped, woody stems removed
- 2 medium scallions (spring onions) Topped and tailed, all the white part and most of the green part sliced
- 70 g (just under a 1/3 of a cup) of salted butter + more for serving
- 150 ml (1/2 a cup + 1 tbsp) of milk I used full fat milk
- Sea Salt
- Freshly ground black pepper you can use white pepper if you prefer

Method

1. Place the washed potatoes in a large saucepan. Cover the potatoes in cold water. Add a good pinch of sea salt and bring to the boil. Reduce the heat to a fast simmer then simmer the potatoes uncovered for 15 minutes. Test the potatoes by skewering them with a knife. Once the potatoes are soft but cooked (not soft all way through) drain away half the water. Put the pan back on the heat and cover with a lid. Cook for another 15 minutes or until the potatoes are cooked. Again test them with a knife, the knife should easily go all the way through the potatoes. Drain the remaining water, return the pan to the hob. Reduce the heat to the lowest setting. Give the potatoes a gentle shake to remove any water.
2. While the potatoes are cooking, cook the kale. Heat 1 tablespoon of butter in a large sauce pan, add the chopped kale and sliced scallions. Cook over low to medium heat until the kale is soft. Set aside and keep warm.
3. In a small saucepan melt the butter, transfer to a small bowl. In the same pan heat the milk.
4. Peel the potatoes, use a thick tea towel to protect your hand. The peel should come away very easily. Return the potatoes to the saucepan. Mash the potatoes with a potato masher or put them through a ricer. Pour all the melted butter on first then mix into the potatoes. Add the milk then mix into the potatoes. Add the kale and scallion mixture, fold that into the potatoes. Season to taste with salt and black pepper.
5. Serve in a warmed serving dish and top with a good knob of butter.

Enjoy a plate of colcannon with some bangers
(a traditional twist on bangers and mash)

Source: www.thelastfoodblog.com/

March Gardening

Flowers

- Pick off any developing seed heads on daffodils and other spring bulbs, but leave the foliage to die back naturally.
- Finish pruning roses early in the month.
- Cut dogwoods, willows, cotinus and paulownia right down to the base to promote vigorous new growth
- Tidy up alpines as they start to flower, removing dead foliage, then mulch with grit to keep the foliage off damp soil Plant faded forced bulbs out in the garden for blooms next year.
- Plant lilies and other summer-flowering bulbs in pots and borders. Take a look at our complete guide to planting bulbs.
- Feed ericaceous shrubs, such as rhododendrons, azaleas, camellias and pieris, with an ericaceous fertiliser.



House plants

- Water your house plants more regularly as the temperatures warm, check the soil before watering.
- Take a look at our guide to watering house plants.
- Maximise the amount of light your house plants receive by moving to brighter spots, or choose house plants that will grow in shadier spots.
- Some house plants, like snake plants, are particularly prone to collecting dust on their leaves. So be sure to give these a wipe regularly.
- Try and keep house plants away from temperature fluctuations caused by draughts or central heating.
- Check your house plants for pests like aphids, scale insect, thrips and mealybugs.

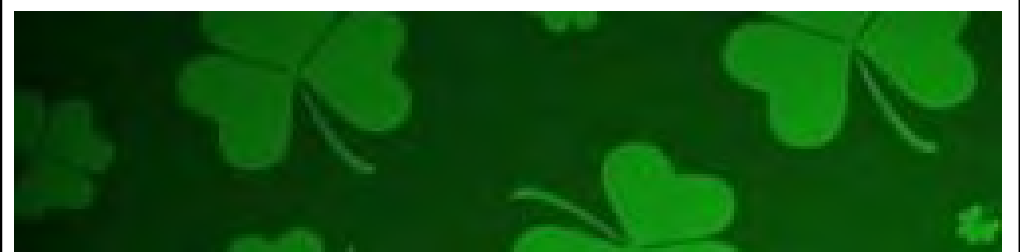


Fruit and veg

- Avoid carrot root fly by sowing an early crop of carrots under cloches or fleece
- Sow tomatoes, chillies, sweet peppers and aubergines in pots indoors
- Plant Jerusalem artichoke tubers, at a depth of 10-15cm, spaced about 30cm apart
- Buy young herbs to plant in containers near your back door, for handy pickings
- Plant onion and shallot sets, spacing them 10-15cm apart
- Make the first outdoor sowings of hardy veg, such as spinach, covering with cloches or fleece - find out how else to protect young veg plants
- Plant early potatoes in trenches on the veg plot, or in large tubs if space is limited. Find out more about the different types of potato
- Sow parsnips as soon as the soil starts to warm up, as they're slow to germinate and need a long growing season
- Plant a fig tree in a large container to restrict its roots.



Source: bbcgardeningworld.com



Happy Easter

Easter Fairy Cake Recipe

Ingredients

- 120g Salted Butter
- 120g Caster Sugar (Superfine Sugar)
- 2 Eggs
- 120g Plain Flour (All Purpose)
- 2 tsp Baking Powder
- 1 tsp Vanilla Extract
- tbs Milk
- 150g Icing Sugar (Confectioner's Sugar)
- 2 tbsp Water
- 60g Chocolate Vermicelli (Sprinkles)
- 12 Cadbury Mini Eggs - 12 = 40g/1.5oz



Method

1. Preheat the oven to 180c fan | 200c | 390f. Put 12 paper cake cases into a muffin tin and set aside.
2. Weigh 120g Butter and 120g Caster Sugar into a mixing bowl.
3. Use an electric whisk or stand mixer to beat the butter and sugar until it is light and fluffy.
4. Add 2 Eggs one at a time.
5. Give the eggs at least one minute of beating before adding the next egg. This is where the batter gets lovely and light. Don't worry if the batter splits keep going.
6. Weigh 120g Plain Flour into the bowl and add 2 tsp Baking

7. Powder and 1 tsp Vanilla Extract. Use a spatula to fold in the flour – you do not want to use any electric power here.
8. Stir through 2 tbsp Milk.
9. Use two teaspoons to add a heaped teaspoon of the batter into each cake case. Use the second spoon to push the mix off the first and into the cases. It will not look like much. If you want to make sure they're even, you need 25g of batter in each case. It doesn't look like enough but it is.
10. Bake the cakes for 15 minutes. Take them out when golden brown and they spring back when pressed.
11. Leave the cakes to completely cool.
12. Mix 150g Icing Sugar with 2 tbsp Water in a small mixing bowl. Add the water a little at a time in case you don't need it all.
13. You are looking for it to be a paste which just drops of a spoon slowly. It needs to be thin enough to make its own level but thick enough that it doesn't run everywhere.
14. Spoon roughly 1 tbsp of the icing over each cake. Gently smooth it over with a spatula or back of a spoon so it reaches the edges.
15. Sprinkle roughly 60g Chocolate Vermicelli over the cakes. I recommend putting the sprinkles into a small jug with a lip so you can be vaguely accurate.
16. Try to ensure that all of the white icing is covered. You can gently press the sprinkles down with the palm of you hand then shake off any excess.
17. You can occasionally collect any sprinkles from the tray and add them back to your shaking vessel or container.
18. Once all 12 cake are decorated, they're ready to serve!

Source: feastgloriousfeast.com



Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area

Planning Applications received from 28/01/2025 to 26/02/2025

Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
<u>2560157</u>	Kildare County Council	Thomas and Andrea Doyle	2 Rockfield Manor, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	19/02/2025
<u>2560140</u>	Kildare County Council	Lauren O Hagan	Barrogstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	14/02/2025
<u>2560122</u>	Kildare County Council	Ester Rogers	58 Leinster Woods, Carton Demesne South, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	12/02/2025
<u>2560114</u>	Kildare County Council	Lauren O Hagan	Barrogstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	11/02/2025
<u>2560111</u>	Kildare County Council	Maynooth University	Site to the northwest of the Phoenix Sports and Restaurant Building and to the north of the bus park on the North Campus of, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	10/02/2025
<u>2560106</u>	Kildare County Council	Ester Rogers	58 Leinster Woods, Carton Demesne South, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	07/02/2025
<u>2560093</u>	Kildare County Council	Maynooth University	Site to the northwest of the Phoenix Sports and Restaurant Building and to the north of the bus park on the North Campus of, Maynooth University, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	05/02/2025

Maynooth Community Contacts Listing

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<p>Cllr. Tim Durkan 086-8632784 tim.durkan321@gmail.com</p>	<p>Cllr. Angela Feeney 087-2381962 angelaemfeeney@gmail.com facebook.com/cllrangelafeeney/</p>	<p>Cllr. Peter Melrose 089 263 7612 peter.melrose@socialdemocrats.ie</p>	<p>Cllr. Donna Phelan 0870023636 dphelan@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Cllr. Paul Ward 087 2294697 cllrpaulward@gmail.com</p>	<p>An Nuadha Players annuadhplayers@gmail.com facebook.com/annuadha</p>	<p>An Post Sorting Office Maynooth 01-6293390</p>	<p>Brass & Reed Band (St Mary's) sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie facebook.com/maynoothband/</p>
<p>Cemetery Committee (Laraghbryan) 01-6293018</p>	<p>Church of Ireland 01-6292163 secretary@meath.anglican.org</p>	<p>Citizen Information Centre 0818078100 maynooth@citinfo.ie</p>	<p>Cloth Nappy Library Ireland 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/NappyLibraryIreland</p>
<p>Community Welfare Services 0818607080 Kildarecws@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Employment Office 01-6106000 bo.maynooth@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Kildare County Council 045 - 980200 customerservice@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Kildare Civil Defence 045 980529 pmcneela@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Kildare County Council (Local Office) 01 - 6286236</p>	<p>Kildare MABS 0818072600 kildare@mabs.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Autism Friendly Town 0863329050 autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/maynoothaft</p>	<p>Maynooth Employment Services Office Kelly's Lane, Maynooth 01-6016360 EstMaynooth@welfare.ie</p>
<p>Maynooth Post Office 01-6286259</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Care Unit 01-6106351</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Church 01-5054990 office@maynoothcc.org facebook.com/maynoothcommunitychurch/</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Library 01-6285530 maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie. facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService</p>
<p>Maynooth Cycling Campaign 086-8252934 Maynoothcycling@gmail.com www.maynoothcyclingcampaign.com</p>	<p>Maynooth Fishing Club 01-6293202 info@maynoothfisheries.com</p>	<p>Maynooth GAA Club secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie facebook.com/maynoothgaa/</p>	<p>Maynooth Health Centre 01-6106130</p>
<p>Maynooth Kilcock Lions clubcontact@maynoothkilcocklionsclub.org facebook.com/MaynoothKilcockLionsClub/</p>	<p>Maynooth Library 01-6285530 Maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Newsletter 01-6285922 office@maynoothcep.com facebook.com/MCEPnewsletter</p>	<p>Maynooth Senior Citizens maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com</p>
<p>Maynooth Tidy Towns 083 304 6130 maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie facebook.com/MaynoothTidyTowns</p>	<p>Maynooth Town Football Club 086-1060654 info@maynoothtownfc.ie facebook.com/MTFC1969/</p>	<p>Maynooth Students Union 01-7083669 frontdesk@msu.ie facebook.com/MaynoothSU</p>	<p>North Kildare Club 01-6103909 info@northkildareclub.ie</p>
<p>North Kildare Tennis Club info@northkildaretennis.ie</p>	<p>Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth 01-6293018 maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com</p>	<p>SVP Vincent's Shop 01-6289643 geraldinebyrne.east@svp.ie facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064619179003</p>	<p>Zero Waste Maynooth 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth</p>

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



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

LOCAL NEWS - APRIL 2025 - ISSUE NO. 544

IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ NEWS FROM MAYNOOTH TIDY TOWNS
- ◆ MEMORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES
- ◆ ST MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND NOTES
- ◆ NEWS FROM MAYNOOTH SENIOR CITIZENS
- ◆ STORIES FROM OUR READERS
- ◆ MAYNOOTH 10K
- ◆ MAYNOOTH LABOUR PARTY NOTES
- ◆ NEWS FROM GAEILGE NUADA
- ◆ MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY NEWS
- ◆ MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN
- ◆ AN NUADHA PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATRE
- ◆ ST PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2025 PHOTO GALLERY PAGES 15 TO 21
- ◆ MAYNOOTH ICA NOTES



MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2025

FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG MAIGH NUAD 2025

A Spectacular 40th Celebration!



What a day! Maynooth's **40th St. Patrick's Day Parade** was nothing short of **phenomenal**, and I couldn't be prouder of our town. This year's theme, "**Back to the 80's**," brought an explosion of colour, music, and nostalgia to the streets, and the energy was absolutely electric!

With **31 incredible floats** and **thousands of participants**, the parade transformed Maynooth into a sea of celebration, stretching from **Straffan Road to Dublin Road**. The turnout was **unbelievable** - over **9,000 spectators** lined the streets, cheering on floats, dancers, musicians, and community groups, all embracing the spirit of the day.

A Massive Thank You!

A day like this doesn't just happen, it takes dedication, passion, and a whole lot of hard work. I want to give a huge shoutout to the people who made it possible:

- **The incredible volunteers and Parade Committee**, who poured their time and effort into making this event happen—special thanks to **Cllr. Donna Phelan, Paul Croghan, Steve McCarthy, Patricia Moynan, Gerry Quinn, and Catherine Carton** for their leadership, creativity, and commitment.
- **The team at Maynooth Community Employment Project (MCEP) and John Doogan**, whose support behind the scenes was invaluable.
- **Maynooth Autism Friendly Town**, for creating a dedicated Quiet Zone, making the parade more inclusive for everyone.
- **Our entertainers – Terri Fierce and the fire breathers, Clowns and Colours, and our fantastic face painters** – who brought colour, excitement, and magic to every corner of the town.
- **Willie Kiernan**, who made sure the day sounded as good as it looked.
- **Paul Croghan and Paul Daly**, our brilliant MCs, who kept the crowd engaged and informed.
- **The Maynooth Men's Sheds and Kildare Volunteer Centre**, whose dedication kept everything running smoothly.
- **Our talented photographer, Mark Colfer** - for capturing the magic of the day in stunning images seen here in the Maynooth Newsletter.
- **The Gardaí**, for managing road closures and keeping everything safe and organised.

Support from Our Local Sponsors

This amazing event simply wouldn't be possible without the backing of our local businesses. Your continued support allows us to celebrate our community in style. A heartfelt thank you to:

Kildare County Council, Brady's Clockhouse, AIB Maynooth, Dunnes Stores, Manor Mills, AmGen Irish Open & K Club, Thorntons Recycling, Glenroyal Hotel, Coffee Mill, Coonans, Office Supplies, SAP, Taxi, Sherry

Fitz | Brady O'Flaherty, Boyne Dental, O'Neills, DMD Cafe, Eurosaver Maynooth, Farrelly & Southern, Sorrento Boutique, Redz Barbers, McCormack's Pharmacy, McMahon's, Maynooth University Arts and Minds Festival.



And the Winners Are...Community Person of the Year: Mark Nolan

Parade Awards

- **Best School Float: Presentation Girls' School**
- **Best Commercial Float: Red Torch Ginger**
- **Best Portrayal of Theme: Maynooth GAA Club**
- **Best Portrayal of Irish Culture (Dr. Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin Perpetual Trophy): Gaelscoil Ruairí**
- **Best Club: North Kildare Club**

Shop Front Awards

1st Place: **Tommy's Butchers, Greenfield Shopping Centre**
2nd Place: **O'Neill's Bar & Steakhouse, Main Street**
3rd Place: **DMD Café, Main Street**

Looking Ahead

This year's parade was an **unforgettable milestone**, a true celebration of **community, culture, and creativity**. Seeing **thousands of smiling faces** and feeling the incredible energy in the air was something special, and I have no doubt that this tradition will continue to grow even bigger and better.

To everyone who took part, whether you were on a float, stewarding, cheering from the sidelines, or working behind the scenes, you **made this event amazing**, and I can't thank you enough.

Let's keep this tradition alive and thriving, **here's to next year's parade!**

Beirigí Bua!

Naoise Ó Cearúil—Chairperson

Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee

See Award Winners' Photo Gallery on Page 21



THIS PUBLICATION IS PRODUCED BY MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT,
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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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E-mail: office@maynoothcep.com

Website: www.maynoothcep.com

Letters to the Editor

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

e-mail to: editor@maynoothcep.com

Mission Statement

The Maynooth Newsletter is a community focused 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

Community activities are crucial to the social engagement in a town as they provide outlets for people to meet and share common interests. But of course, beyond the founding members many community organisations go on to support a wider group of members even into subsequent generations. A number of important groups in Maynooth mark significant anniversaries in 2025.

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee was established on 31st May 1965 and have remained continuously active for 60 years. Their Mission Statement outlines that the aim of the Senior Citizens Committee is to create an environment where older people can retain independence and have autonomy over their own lives. Through strong leadership over the six decades, they have been both advocates and active supporters to the senior citizens in Maynooth.

In March, the Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade marked 40 years since the current parade run by the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee was first held under the stewardship of John McGinley. Of course, there was a less formal parade organised by St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band that took place up to the 1980s. It was just the band themselves marching from St. Mary's Catholic Church to Carton Avenue and back to the Square to perform.

Castle Keep Art Group also marks a milestone in 2025. Formed out of the Maynooth Arts Forum the visual arts group celebrates 25 years in existence in 2025. Again, another important outlet for people who have an interest in creating works of visual art.

And last but not least the Maynooth Community Employment Project marks 40 years of continuous operation in 2025. The original community employment schemes were sponsored by Maynooth Community Council up until 2001. It became a government requirement for schemes to become legal entities and register as companies that year. The Community Council voted to discontinue their involvement in the scheme at that point. A group of volunteers came together to form the required legal structure which itself will mark 25 years in continuous operation in February 2026.

Maynooth Community Employment Project provides training and work experience as well as supporting a range of community activities. With an office base in Carton Park supporting community groups including the production of the Maynooth Newsletter as well as some services to the public. Additionally, there is a base in Maynooth Harbour where the environs of the Royal Canal are maintained as a valuable community resource. The project has a third location at Maynooth Town Football Club so that the club facilities can be maintained. The Project has ongoing opportunities for people aged over 21 years who are in receipt of a state benefit and would like to get support to transition back to full-time work.

Since 2012, John Doogan has managed the day to day operation of Maynooth Community Employment Project, he is retiring from this role at the end of March. On behalf of the Management Board, current and former staff and the many people in the community who know how important John has been to supporting them, we wish him the best for the future.

**Paul Croghan
Editor**

**Copy date for the May edition will be
5pm on Friday 25th April 2025**



Gold Medal Winners

2016 - 2017 - 2018

2019 - 2021 - 2022

2023 - 2024



On the 10th of March we were invited to an event in Athlone by the Department of Rural affairs to be presented with our 2024 Gold Medal and Certificate. We were left disappointed we only received the Certificate, the Gold Medal will be delivered through our local authority or through the post, who knows?

We have 2 competitions to prepare for this year, Tidy Towns Ireland and The Entente Florale European Competition. We have had 3 meetings with the Irish Entente judges this year so far and we will have another one in April and a public meeting in our local Library on Main Street, everyone is welcome to attend.

We participated in the St Patrick's Day Parade on the 17th March. It was a really well organised event and well attended by our local population. We won the Environmental Awareness Award for our float. We also carried banners advertising the Entente Florale Europe Competition, making the public aware of this event as we will need lots of help especially on judging day on the 12th of July.

We will have our National Spring Clean on a date in April probably the 12th. We hope to have a big turnout of volunteers as we do every week.

We would like to thank Mary McNamara from the ICA for inviting us to the ICA Hall on the 15th March for refreshments. We really appreciated the fresh baked cakes and scones after clean up.

At our March meeting we will discuss our planting programme for this summer lots of yellow and blues the Entente Florale colours.



If you wish to volunteer please contact us on our Facebook page or by email maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie

Mary Molloy

Maynooth Tidy Towns Association

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

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received. R.D.

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



Cllr Angela Feeney

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





Maynooth ICA Guild Notes

We are now fully back in operation since February. At the February meeting we had our prayer service for past members. Thanks to Eilis O' Malley and Mary Mc Mahon for setting up this event, it was well attended.

Our March meeting is our Gaeilge meeting agus tá "cúpla focal ag gach duine". Time to practice our Irish language. We are meeting with children from the Gael Scoil to talk about the olden days and what we did.

The Guild treasurer is very busy at the minute following up on grants we can apply for and that takes a bit of time. We hosted Saturday morning Tea and Cakes for the Tidy Town Group, who work so hard to keep the town looking so well and we thank them for that.

We have our craft class every Monday night and it's amazing the amount of crafts that we do. Some of our members will attend Craft Week in An Grianán. This class is fully booked out every year so we are having a second one in September'25.

Our committee are: President: Mary Mc Namara, Vice President: Norah Mc Dermott, Secretary: Patricia Farrell, Treasurer: Grainne Roche, and 9 other officers.

Members have been very busy making "Freddie" bags for the Children's Hospital plus knitted hats and blankets. We are also collecting hats, scarfs and toiletries for Simon Community which we do every year.

We had our federation meeting on the 1st March in Clane, also our quiz and cake competition. The quiz winners were Maynooth and the cake winner was Mary Smith – Clane.

The Maynooth team are: Mary O' Gorman, Rosemary Hanley and Anne Murphy. We wish them the best of luck in the National Finals in An Grianán.

We also do an International Night in the Guild which will happen later in the year.

Our newest venture is doing Drama Classes which is happening in March. Age Action Kildare are starting practice days for members interested in taking part in those games.

On the international scene Polaris Travel – Athy are organising a trip from 1st to the 5th May for anyone interested. Some members are also going to visit the Birmingham Garden and Flower Show, so something for everyone.

An Grianán are having their annual Garden Party on 6th July and this is always a great event and well attended. Some of our members have already done a trip to Altamont Garden in Tullow, Carlow and had a great day. Some of them said they never knew there was so many varieties of Snowdrop. Some very expensive ones too.

We also celebrated International Women's Day on the 8th March. We will also organize an event for Walking Sunday. A federation Craft day is being organised by Mary O' Gorman for October. She will give us a list of crafts and then we will decide what one we want to do.

Our Federation AGM takes place on 29th April in the Slip Hall, Celbridge. Our members will also be very busy on Daffodil Day manning the many collection stations in Maynooth.

**** Our hall is available to rent and we are always looking for new members.**

Nora McDermott PRO Maynooth I.C.A.

Maynooth Castle Keep Art Group



Annual Art Exhibition 2025

Maynooth Post Primary School
Maynooth Education Campus
Mariavilla, Moyglare Road

W23 X6X8

Saturday 26th & Sunday 27th April

> 12 noon to 5pm <

All Welcome

Cllr. Donna Phelan

Working with **Naoise Ó Cearúil TD**

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

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

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

Donna & Naoise

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Gaeilge Nuada

gaeilgenuada.ie



Popup Gaeltacht

Tigh Uí Néill
(O'Neill's pub, Main St.)



01/04/2025

19:00 Dé Mháirt / Tues

Plean Ghaeilge Chill Dara

Maynooth Community Church
Building

W23 P02A

02/04/2025

18:00 Dé Céadaoin / Wed

Oscail don phobal!

Le Cill Dara le Gaeilge

Ag plé plean seacht mbliana don
Ghaeilge i gContae Chill Dara
2024-2030

Ciorcal Comhrá

Leabharlann Phobal Mhaigh Nuad

11:00 Gach Máirt / Every Tues

Siúlóid Cainte

Beginner friendly!

from Main Street @ Carton Walk

20:00 Gach Déardaoin / Every
Thurs

Bricfeasta Aoine ag Sásta

Caifé Sásta Manor Mills



09:00 Gach Aoine / Every Fri

Beauty and the Beast

Ceoldráma

Halla Spóirt Ghaelcholáiste

(Moyglare Road W23 HC66)

03/04/2025 & 04/04/2025

19:30 Déardaoin / Thurs

19:30 Dé hAoine / Fri

le B14 Gaelholáiste Mhaigh Nuad

Ticéid ar gr8events.ie

Cluichí Cláir

Teaghlaigh

Family Board

Games

Maynooth Community
Space

Carton Retail Park

26/04/2025

11:00-13:00 Dé Sathairn / Sat

le Eclecticats



Club Ghaeilge Nuada

Gaelscoil Ruairí

30/04/2025

19:00 Dé Céadaoin / Wed

• Comhrá 7 Cuideachta

• Club Leabhar ☐

• Learners' Class

Tá Fáilte Roimh Chách!



Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



Full-time Garda Station needed for Maynooth

At the March Municipal District Council meeting, I submitted a motion asking the Council to write to the Minister for Justice and the Garda Commissioner calling for a full-time Garda station for Maynooth. The current population of Maynooth and the additional university population justifies the need for a Garda station for the key county town of Maynooth. People need to feel safe and there is an increasing rise in criminality.

I commend the Gardaí and the community Gardaí for the great work they do under such challenging circumstances. We have a new Minister for Justice and we should avail of the opportunity to call for a full time Garda station for Maynooth, reminding him of the commitments made in the Programme for Government to grow Garda numbers. I was very grateful that my motion got the full support of the members and a letter will be sent from to the Minister for Justice and to the Garda Commissioner.

Path at Barberstown

There is a 500m public path that runs from Barberstown roundabout towards Maynooth which was part of the old road before the upgrade and it runs along the hedge. There is a grass mound on the other side and every time it rains, it gets flooded about midway along the path. I asked the Council at a very basic level, to fix the drainage so it stops flooding there or remove a section of the mound before the spot where it always floods (on the longer side) so people do not need to climb over it to avoid the regular flooding. It would actually be great if the entire mound could be removed, widen the path and put a cycle lane in. The mound serves no purpose and makes the path unsafe at night. So it was good to get the positive reply from the Council saying the Municipal Office will look at the drainage issue and also to see if this can be included in the list of active travel projects for the area.

Straffan Playground Update

Getting a playground and amenity recreational space for the growing population of Straffan is really important and one I have been working on and will continue to work on. I will liaise with all interested parties involved to move this important issue along for Straffan not only for families and children but all Straffan residents who want this amenity. There is such a shortage of recreational space for the community. I welcome the update informing us that the GAA discussions are ongoing with the Council and that it is also exploring other sites and I hope this can become a reality very soon.

Retrofitting Update

It was a hugely positive week with the opening to the public of the Retrofitting DemoHouse in Maynooth showcasing the very best of retrofitting measures as well as accessibility measures. I have been contacted by many people about measures to retrofit their own homes. We need to continue retrofitting the Council housing stock and I hope the government will continue to fund these measures because the older houses need attention and we need to support them.

Upcoming Motions and Questions to Council:

Motions:

That the Council provides a disability parking space at St. John of Gods, Leap Hub in Fagans Lane, Maynooth.

That repairs be carried out on footpaths in older estates Maynooth in the interest of improved accessibility.

Questions:

Can the Council provide an update on the delivery of planned crèches in Mullen Park Maynooth and Lumann in Straffan.

Can the Council provide an update on its plans for the vacated fire brigade site in Maynooth for Community use.

Ollscoil Mhá Nuad
Maynooth University

Dámh na nDán agus na nDaonnachtaí
Faculty of Arts and Humanities



8-10 May
2025



Sharon Shannon Supported by The Beartla Ó Flatharta Céilí Band

Literary Lounge Keynote Nathan Thrall, Pulitzer Prize Winner in conversation with Paul Lynch, Booker Prize Winner

Irish National Opera in Concert

Where is My Mind? Live Podcast with Niall "Bressie" Breslin and Special Guests, Prof Katriona O'Sullivan, and MU Chamber Choir

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AGM

The An Nuadha Players 2025 year has officially begun after a successful and well attended AGM on the 25th February 2025. We would like to thank all our members for attending and having their say. We would also like to take this opportunity to introduce you all to our new committee and wish them the best of luck as they navigate the year ahead. An Nuadha Players have always been lucky enough to have a strong committee of dedicated members and this year will be no different. Thank you to our outgoing committee for a fantastic year just gone!



Summer Production 2025

We are pleased to announce that our Summer Production for 2025 will be 'The Prisoner of Second Avenue' by Neil Simon. Our very talented Ann Kelly will direct this production and after holding auditions over the last 2 weeks she has it now fully cast! This show will run from the 8th-12th July 2025 in Maynooth Community College and with this cast we can safely say it is a show you don't wanna miss!



Workshops

An Nuadha Players' WORKSHOP SERIES

Vocal WORK
WITH KATIE NOONE

26TH APRIL | 2PM-4PM
MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY SPACE

REGISTRATION ESSENTIAL
MUST HAVE PAID MEMBERSHIP FOR 2025 TO PARTICIPATE

An Nuadha Players are delighted to kick off our workshop series with a session on Vocal Work, lead by Katie Noone. Join us for a dynamic workshop that will elevate your vocal performance! In this session, you'll learn effective vocal warm-up techniques to strengthen and prepare your voice for any performance. We'll also dive into the art of connecting your voice to text,

helping you bring written words to life with clarity, emotion, and power. Whether you're a beginner or seasoned performer, this workshop will help you unlock your vocal potential and master the craft of expressive delivery.

Don't miss out on this opportunity to boost your vocal skills and gain confidence in every performance! Spaces are limited and registration is necessary. For insurance purposes, all participants must be members. To become a member is very easy and we are always delighted to see new faces! Check out our website www.annuadhplayers.ie for more details.

Panto 2025

An Nuadha Players are delighted to announce that our Christmas Pantomime for 2025 is **The Sword in the Stone**; a brand new panto, written by Rían Glynn. Rían has been a member of the group since he joined as a child in 2002 and he has been heavily involved both on and



off stage ever since. This is the first time one of his panto scripts will be brought to the stage and we're very excited to share it with all of you. 25 years on, we're thrilled that our members continuously step up into new roles and love seeing the creativity they bring to our group. The show will be directed by Rían Glynn, choreographed by Méadhbh Fitzgibbon Moore, with Marie McAndrew as Musical Director.

Audition details still to follow so be sure to follow us on social media platforms @annuadhplayers and keep an eye on the website for all details as they are released. www.annuadhplayers.ie.

CHAIRPERSON

JOHN BEAN

JOINT SECRETARIES

MARIA FITZGIBBON & ROBERTA HINES

TREASURER

ANN KELLY

MARKETING & ADVERTISING OFFICER

SAOIRSE WALSH COLFER

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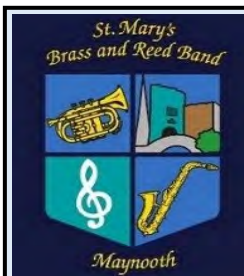
NON-OFFICER

RÍAN GLYNN ~ AILISH COGHLAN ~ SIOBHAN O SHEA

JUNIOR COMMITTEE MEMBERS

ALISHA SHIELS ~ CAOLAINN HANLON ~ KATIE COLGAN

Committee 2025



St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

St. Patrick's Day is done and dusted for another year and while it was cold we managed to escape without the rain. We played at the Maynooth and Kilcock Parades both of which went very well with huge crowds at the two venues.

We are delighted to report that our Academy Band will be taking part in the National Band Championships in Ardee on 26th April. It will be their first time to take part in a competition and we wish them well.

May will see the Band taking part in the Arts and Minds Festival in Maynooth University on Saturday 10th May while we look forward to a return visit to the Picnic in the Park in the Harbour on Sunday 15th June. We are delighted to welcome a Band from South Carolina USA on Thursday 26th June but more about this nearer to the day.

We are again reminding musicians, experienced and budding, that they are most welcome to join the Band, our door in the Band Hall on Pound Lane is always open on Monday nights between 7.45 and 9.30 except Bank Holidays and on Saturday mornings between 10oc and 11.30. You can always contact us on sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie



Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade (Photo by Mark Colfer)

taxy

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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received.

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MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN



Last month, Maynooth Cycling Campaign announced that we would be screening the award winning film MOTHERLOAD in May. Make a note in your diary! We are delighted to announce that it will be screened at 8:00pm on Thursday 15th May as part of Bikeweek 2025. The venue will be confirmed at a later date.

The film will be of particular interest to people who may be considering a cargo bicycle instead of a second car and who would like more information of what a Bike Library may offer.

To get a taste of the film, you can view the official trailer at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NkklZNE9S-g>.

Climate Change

In January, two people lost their lives in Storm Éowyn and the financial damage is estimated to be in the range of €300M.

In March, Professor Peter Thorne from Maynooth University's Icarus Climate Research Centre appeared on RTE's Nine O'Clock News. He stated that *'Governments have to act now. If we don't, things will get worse very very quickly The temperature rise is not linear- its impacts are very non-linear. They are going to increase very quickly.'*

The Climate Change Advisory Council stated that the government must invest now to rapidly improve its preparedness and ability to respond to extreme weather events. It called on the government to stop procrastination on the decisions that are needed.

The Climate Change Advisory Council in conjunction with the Fiscal Council

and Climate Change Advisory Council also recently issued a joint report. Their report, '[A colossal missed opportunity](#)', sets out potential costs for Ireland from missing agreed EU targets. These could amount to staggering payments of between €8bn and €26bn to Europe.

In view of the rejection by Maynooth MD councillors of measures to increase bike use in the *Maynooth & Environs Local Area Plan (LAP)*, perhaps the political parties will indicate who they think should pay the cost of larger fines - people who supported additional permeability measures to promote cycling under the LAP or people who opposed the measures?

Increase in Private Cars

In the Irish Republic, between 2000 and 2020, the number of private vehicles registered for tax rose by 63% from 1,319,250 to 2,215,1127. No one was asked to approve this increase. No one was asked about the impact on road accidents or road fatalities. No one was asked about the worsening air and noise pollution. Yet people are getting in a twist over a relatively small increase in the number of cyclists.

KCC & the Sustainable Transport Forum

When Kildare County Council abolished the Kildare Cycle Forum, it announced that the forum would be incorporated into a new Sustainable Transport Forum (STF). It took some two years for the Transport Strategic Policy Committee to establish the new forum. During the term of the last council, the last STF meeting took place in February 2024. The minutes from that meeting have still not been circulated.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is particularly interested in the minutes as we were able to raise an issue of particular interest and importance concerning climate targets. We are waiting to see if the minutes will refer to the matter.

Since the local government elections in May 2024, the Transport SPC has met once in February but the re-establishment of the Sustainable Transport Forum was not on the agenda. It suggests that a forum of sustainable transport stakeholders is not a high priority of Kildare County Council.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party independent local lobby group in Kildare.

Maynooth 10K: Be Part of Something Bigger – Sponsorship Opportunities Now Open!

The Maynooth 10K is back for its 15th year, and we're on track for our biggest event yet — but we can't do it alone! As we gear up for race day on Sunday, 11th May 2025, we're reaching out to businesses and organizations to join us in making this event unforgettable.

This beloved community race isn't just about crossing the finish line — it's about coming together to support the continuous development of school sports grounds, providing future generations with high-quality athletic facilities. With runners, walkers, families, and supporters from near and far, this is the perfect opportunity for sponsors to make a real impact while gaining fantastic local exposure.

Why Sponsor the Maynooth 10K?

Community Spirit: Show your support for local schools and the wider Maynooth community.

Brand Visibility: Your logo will feature on race day banners, and promotional materials.

Reach Thousands: Our event draws participants and spectators from across the region — and beyond.

Be Part of the Action: Whether you'd like to sponsor a water station, a kilometer marker, or the finish line, there are plenty of ways to get involved.

We're grateful to our current sponsors, whose support makes this event possible. Will your business join them in helping us go the extra mile this year?

Interested? Let's Chat!

We'd love to explore sponsorship opportunities with you. Whether you're a local business, a national brand, or just someone who loves to support a good cause, let's make this year's Maynooth 10K the best one yet — together.

Contact us today:

Sarah Knapp: | maynooth10k@gmail.com , www.maynooth10k.ie

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Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Memories of Growing up in Derrylow

I was born in 1936, four years after Fianna Fail came to power and three years before the outbreak of World War II. The Great Depression started by the Wall Street Crash resulted in Fascists such as Mussolini retaining power in Italy and Hitler winning power in Germany. In 1933 General Eoin O'Duffy, a former chief of the Irish police, formed a Fascist organisation, the Blue Shirts, but DeValera quashed this in 1934 by bringing in a law against the wearing of uniforms and the raising of private armies. The economic war led to England imposing duties on Ireland's exports so that the cattle trade in particular was affected. This caused great hardship amongst Irish farmers who, nevertheless, except for the large "ranchers", continued to support De Valera. De Valera's aim was to make Ireland self-sufficient and to have farmers concentrate on tillage rather than grazing.

My family owned two farms, one of about 50 acres in Derrylow and another of similar acreage in Boheroe, approximately four miles away; this would have made us reasonably big farmers by North Roscommon standards. My great-grandfather James and, possibly, my grandfather Charles, would have been a tenant of Guy Lloyd, the Protestant landlord who lived in Croghan village but in my time Lloyd's demesne had been taken over by the Frenchs, a Catholic Anglo-Irish family. The Frenchs attended mass in our parish church in Croghan, but had their own pew reserved for them.

Like most farming families we were virtually self-sufficient. Turf for the fire was cut and saved in a nearby bog. We grew our own oats, potatoes, cabbage, peas and other vegetables. My mother raised hens for eggs and occasional stews, made her own butter and bread and washed clothes by hand. She also knitted and darned and even put half-soles on our boots. Once a year we slaughtered a pig to provide the black pudding and bacon that, together with boiled potatoes and cabbage, comprised most of our weekday dinners. On Sundays, however, we dined on roast beef, the meat having being purchased from a Carrick-on-Shannon butcher.

Since my father worked as a rate collector for Roscommon County Council he was often travelling round the parish on his bicycle, so he employed a labourer to help with the farm work. The labourer lived in a single-room galvanised-covered house situated about ninety yards from our own. Similarly my mother overburdened with minding children and doing a thousand and one things about the house, as well as tending the vegetable garden, got a girl from The Nazareth Home in Sligo to assist her. This girl slept in the same bedroom as my mother and sisters and was a great favourite with us children.

As we grew older, my three sisters, my brother and I were expected to lend a hand with the chores, the girls helping in the house and outside during haymaking and turf saving, my brother and I outdoors. Both girls and boys were expected to fetch a bucket of water from the well or a basket of turf from the reek. Boys in our community had much more freedom

than girls. I can remember when quite young my father bringing my brother and me on his bicycle to the local 'rambling house' to listen to Michael O'Heiher's broadcasts of inter-county football matches. Later we used to traverse the countryside on Sundays hunting rabbits, which we sold to the egg-dealer for pocket-money, and, on hot summer days, walk miles across country to bathe in some lake.

We used the farm horse and sidecar to travel to mass on Sundays; later we walked or cycled. It was not until about 1955 that our father purchased his first car, an unpretentious Ford Prefect. In addition to the horse we had a donkey for bringing home turf from the bog. An Old English Sheep dog was the family pet, as was the purring housecat. We had at least three cows, which our mother milked morning and evening, as well as cattle and sheep. My father purchased store cattle, which he then fattened and resold. On fair days my brother and I would rise in the middle of the night to drive our bullocks to Elphin or Boyle, where cattle dealers from Sligo would bid for them. If our father didn't make a sale we would have the disheartening task of driving the cattle home again but this seldom happened.

Of course when we were young we knew little about politics and my father never revealed what party he voted for. This caution could have arisen because his brother, my Uncle Tom, was imprisoned in Ballykinlar for being a company captain in the IRA, and the Civil War of 1922-23 had produced long-lasting bitter rivalries, with former Republicans backing Fianna Fail and Free-Staters backing Fine Gael. A popular Fianna Fail TD, Peter Tim Lynch, lived just below Boyle but I don't know if there was a Fine Gael TD within the same radius. I do remember that "Up Dev!" was a popular slogan used by school children, which probably indicated widespread Fianna Fail support in our area. There was, however, a local shopkeeper and farmer, John Byrne, who was a *Clann na Talmhan* or Farmers' Party T.D. He must have had good support also as he always got re-elected. *Clann na Talmhan* were regarded as the party of the big farmers and in the Dail would generally vote with Fine Gael.

When World War II broke out in 1939 DeValera, citing the partition of the country, decided that Ireland would remain neutral. A Local Defence Force was set up to oppose foreign invaders and piles of stones were deposited in fields to prevent enemy aircraft from landing. I can recall that the very rare sound of an aeroplane overhead produced the anxious exclamation, 'Hitler is coming!' Not that the war, which was officially known as 'The Emergency', affected us much. Even rationing did not produce great hardship since we were largely self-sufficient. In addition my father had laid up a good store of tea and sugar, and home-produced flour was available because of the compulsory tillage scheme, under which the government insisted that farmers grow more wheat. I can remember my mother having ration books with detachable coupons, which would probably cover such cover such items as tea, sugar, paraffin oil, soap and even clothes.

We walked to Woodbrook, a two-teacher National School, across fields, down the limestone public road and then across more fields. Of course, we could have kept to the

road but this would have added considerably to the distance, which would then be at least two and a half miles. In summer we boys liked to go barefooted and in winter to slide with our nailed boots down an icy stretch of road. Gathering mushrooms, sloes, strawberries, blackberries, wild cherries and hazel nuts in season was indulged in by both girls and boys, while bird nesting seemed to be mainly a boys' pastime.

In general, compared to modern-day children, we had a lot of freedom and we managed to exploit whatever opportunities for recreation our small rural world offered. On the other hand, we were infinitely better off than our counterparts in Europe, who were enduring the starvation, displacement and slaughter of a brutal world war.

P.G. Nerney

An Fón Póca

Féach, na mic léinn lena bhfóin,
Is tríothu gach caidreamh, mo bhrón!
Le hiad i ngach leath,
Is frithchosúil, sea,
Is fusa dóibh labhairt trína dtóin!

Greed!

Putin and Trump and 'Yahu,
That venal, vainglorious crew;
Each looks on the world,
With upper lip curled,
The Russian, the Yank and the Jew!

GM.

Abandoned Nests

For Cheryl

The goldfinch nest in our cherry tree
made of fibres, moss and wool
had served its builders' purpose,
remained a vacant blob
among pink-flowered branches.

At the edge of our estate a bungalow,
abandoned when its owners died,
sank into weather-stained decay,
became a nesting place for swallows,
then bulldozers moved in.

Hoping another might replace it,
we dislodged the goldfinch nest,
but those who cleared the site,
razing even august cedars,
plan to build apartment blocks.

Colin Scott

St. Patrick's Parade 2025

Féile Lá Fhéile Pádraig - photos courtesy of Mark Colfer & Newsletter Staff



Parade Gallery Cont.





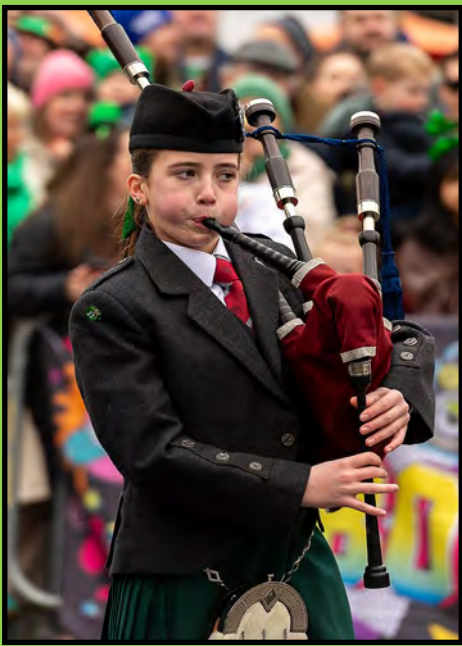
Parade Gallery Cont.



Parade Gallery Cont.



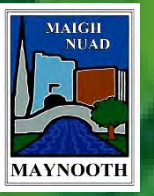
Parade Gallery Cont.





MAYNOOTH ST. PATRICK'S DAY PARADE 2025

FÉILE LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG MAIGH NUAD 2025



Awards Photo Gallery

1st Place
St. Patrick's Day

Shop Window Display 2025
Tommys Butchers
Greenfield S.C.



2nd Place
St. Patrick's Day

Shop Window Display 2025
O'Neills Bar
Main Street



3rd Place
St. Patrick's Day

Shop Window Display 2025
DMD Café
Main Street



Special Mention
St. Patrick's Day
Shop Window Display 2025



Community Person of the Year
Mark Nolan



Best Commercial Float
Red Torch Ginger



Best Portrayal of Theme
Maynooth GAA Club



Best Portrayal of Irish Culture
(Dr. Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin Perpetual Trophy)
Gaelscoil Ruairí



Best Club
North Kildare Club



Best School Float
Presentation Girls' School



Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area
Planning Applications received from 26/02/2025 to 27/03/2025
Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
2560304	Kildare County Council	Brendan and Denise Glass	Ryebank House, Dublin Road, Maynooth	24/03/2025
2560295	Kildare County Council	Demid & Rufina Tishin & Tishina	50 Kingsbry, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	22/03/2025
2560287	Kildare County Council	Megan & Tom Satchwell	Maria Villa, Maynooth, Naas, Co. Kildare	19/03/2025
2560275	Kildare County Council	Demid Tishin & Rufina Tishina	50 Kingsbry, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	15/03/2025
2560261	Kildare County Council	Martin McMahon	Main Street, Maynooth, Co Kildare	13/03/2025
2560266	Kildare County Council	Megan & Tom Satchwell	Maria Villa, Maynooth, Naas, Co. Kildare.	13/03/2025
2560257	Kildare County Council	Sharon & Yvonne Regan	480 - 481 The Crescent, Straffan Road, Maynooth	12/03/2025
2560244	Kildare County Council	Stephen Reilly	5 The Green, Newtown Hall, Maynooth, Kildare	11/03/2025
2560231	Kildare County Council	Randalswood Construction	The Grange (adjoining Rockfield Park), Railpark, Celbridge Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	07/03/2025
2560222	Kildare County Council	Randalswood Construction	Celbridge Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	05/03/2025
2560209	Kildare County Council	Patrick Kennedy personal representative of Mary Kennedy (deceased)	12 Moyglare Abbey, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	04/03/2025

Tips for a Safe and Fun Easter Egg Hunt



- **Plan Your Area:**
- Choose a safe area. A clean, clear area for the hunt. Mark boundaries clearly so children know where to look and where the boundaries end.
- **Plan For Age Groups:**
- Hide eggs in a variety of different places and levels. For younger children, put the eggs in plain sight and at lower levels. For the older child, make it a bit more difficult with clues or hidden spots.
- **Use a Variety of Eggs:**
- Use chocolate eggs and plastic eggs filled with treats. You can also use toys, or clues that lead to a special prize. If you're using real eggs, consider decorating them in advance.
- **Be Clear on the Rules:**
- Explain the rules clearly to the children before starting. For example, set a time limit, choose teams or individual hunts and let everyone know if there's a maximum number of eggs per person.
- **Extra Surprises:**
- Include a few special prizes like "golden eggs" to add more interest, excitement and friendly competition.
- **Make Sure the Area is Safe:**
- Avoid areas with obstacles or hazards. Also, have an adult supervise at all times, especially with younger children.
- **Use Decorations and Teams:**
- To make the hunt more exciting decorate the hunt area with balloons, decorations and colourful signs, you could even tell a story before hand to set the mood.
- **Plan for the Weather:**
- Have a backup plan with indoor activities just in case the weather turns. This will save on time and upset to the hunt.

I hope these tips help you to create a fun and memorable egg hunt



Source: Newsletter Staff Writer



Happy Easter to all our Advertisers, Contributors & Readers from all the Staff at the Maynooth Newsletter

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

Congratulations to all who organised our St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was a great day and it looked like everyone came out to cheer it on.

Our AGM will take place in the Geraldine Hall on Monday 14th April at 8pm. We are looking for volunteers to take on Committee roles. If you would like to find out more please email maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com.

We are organising further activities for our Tuesday and Thursday Morning Club.

This year Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee is celebrating 60 years since our foundation in 1965 which we hope to celebrate a little later in the year. More about that anon.

If you would like to come along to our club activities (Art, bingo, wellbeing and information courses/sessions, and of course there is chat, tea and cake, please contact us via the email above, or through a member of the Committee, or by phone at 0877974582.

Susan Durack, PRO,

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



MU report highlights need to remove barriers for women in agriculture

A study led by researchers at Maynooth University and funded by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine on women in agriculture has, for the first time, provided an in-depth profile of female farmers in Ireland, identifying the barriers they face and recommending policy changes to tackle them.

HER-SELF, or Highlighting pathways to Empower Rural women to have Sustainable and Equitable Livelihoods in Farming, says that the agriculture sector needs to attract women in greater numbers to ensure future sustainability.

The study, led by Dr Martina Roche of Maynooth University's Department of Geography, working with Dr Mary Anne Hurley of Munster Technological University, Dr Áine Macken-Walsh of Teagasc and MU's Dr Nóirín MacNamara, analysed existing data on the sector from the perspective of gender.

It provides the first comprehensive demographic and geographic report on women in farming in Ireland, showing:

- Female farm holders represent just 13.4% of farm holders in Ireland, with little increase since 1991
- Female farm ownership is highest in areas where farm sizes are smaller and land values lower
- Farm incomes for female farmers are consistently lower than for male farmers and they receive lower direct farm payments
- Over half of Irish farmers do not have an identified successor in place and where there is an identified successor, over 80% are male

"There is a dominant norm of the farmer as male, stoic, the decision-maker and unwilling to seek help, the woman is viewed as helper, while the son is commonly considered the family heir," explained Dr Roche, who is Principal Investigator (PI) on the project.

"This impacts on the work of each person on the family farm, and importantly on each person's legal status, as well as farm family finances and decision-making patterns," she says. The study identifies barriers to female participation in agriculture, such as: a lack of access to land, succession issues and the challenge of combining farm work, off-farm work and caring responsibilities. The spouse of the farm holder, who is often a woman, faces additional barriers produced through the intersections of tax, social welfare and agriculture policies.

More generally, there is a lack of visibility, representation and inclusion of women in farming. However, a greater focus on improving gender equality in agriculture, since the research was completed in September 2024, has been noted and is welcome.

The study found that women do not feel they have the right to identify as a farmer. "They understand that at a community level they are expected to fulfil the 'woman as helper' norm and that they may be queried, ridiculed, and/or incur social penalties if they transgress that," Dr Roche said. "It is important for women and other under-represented groups to self-identify as farmers, among other roles, and for all members of the sector to value the work they do on farms and to recognise their legitimacy in the agriculture sector."

The report makes several recommendations to make farming more equitable. It calls for:

- A full Equality Impact Assessment of the intersections of agriculture policy with tax rules and social welfare entitlement criteria
- Dialogue and awareness raising around the challenges facing the sector such as advancing gender equality, generational renewal and improved work-life balance
- Gender equality in agricultural education including reviewing and revising educational courses
- Mentoring programmes for rural women entrepreneurs
- Better data collection including a gender analysis of existing data as well as the compilation of female-focused data

Launching the report at Maynooth University, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine (DAFM) with responsibility for Research and Development, Noel Grealish, said: "Women have always been integral to the family farm but often their crucial role has not been fully recognised or acknowledged. Recent initiatives through the CAP Strategic Plan and the Action Plan arising from the National Dialogue on Women in Agriculture, have brought this issue to the fore."

"There is a commitment in the Programme for Government to continue to prioritise work in this area. The findings and recommendations provided by this report, which is funded by my Department's Policy and Strategic Studies Research Call, will help shape future policies and research in this area."



Photo: (L-R) MU's Dr Martina Roche, Minister of State at the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine Noel Grealish and MU's Dr Nóirín MacNamara at the launch of the report

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025 celebrates Irish language drama

Maynooth University's (MU) Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language Week) celebrated the history and heritage of Irish language drama this year with its two main events -- the staging of the 1904 play, *An Dochtúir*, as well as an exhibition on the pioneering Irish language theatre, An Damer.

The week-long celebration of Irish included a host of other events including a screening of the acclaimed film, *Kneecap*, with English subtitles, a concert with the Trad Ensemble and a céilí.

A Pop-Up Gaeltacht, a chess and board games competition and a Literature Night were also held during the week-long event.

The Irish language play, *An Dochtúir*, by Séamus Ó'Beirn, took place in the Aula Maxima on MU's South Campus, the same venue in which it was last staged in MU 92 years ago.

The production, a bilingual musical comedy, weaved together satirical and farcical elements in telling the story of Patrick O'Leary, a naïve and unsuspecting young doctor from Dublin who follows his Gaelic revivalist sweetheart Máire to Connemara.

He takes up a new position at an isolated dispensary without a single word of Irish, not realising for a moment that his new patients won't speak a single word of English.



An Dochtúir Cast from 2025

Meanwhile, the exhibition, *An Damer: A Landmark in Irish Theatre*, took place in the John Paul II Library, based on material donated to the MU archives.

The theatre was established on Dublin's St Stephen's Green by Gael Linn in 1955 and over the years, it featured work by Seán Ó Riada, Seán Ó Tuama and Brendan

Behan, whose play *An Giall* or *The Hostage* was premiered at the Damer in 1958.



An Dochtúir Cast from 1933

Events at **Maynooth Community Library**

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



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



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Events for Adults

Housing and Homelessness Supports Information Clinic

Tuesday 1st April, 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Looking for advice on homelessness and housing supports? Visit this Kildare County Council drop-in clinic in Maynooth Community Library to learn about the supports available. *Drop in, no booking required *

Luain Press Poetry Café

Tuesday 1st April, 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Join the Luain Press Poetry Club for another night of Open Mic in the Maynooth Community Library at 6 p.m. on April Fool's Day. A great opportunity to share your work, partake in creative writing, meet people and chat! All welcome!

New 'Knit + Chat' Craft Club

Thursday 17th April, 6.30 pm – 7.30pm

"Maynooth Knit + Chat is a club intended to create a space where the knitters and fibre artists of Maynooth can come together and bond over a shared love of knitting (or crochet, or anything that takes your fancy!). Whether you are a beginner or an advanced knitter, this is the club for you! People of all ages (from 18 and up) and skill levels will be in attendance. Even if you are the most skilled knitter in all of the greater Kildare area, we are sure that there will be something new for you to learn! The first meeting will take place on the 17th of April at 6.30pm in the Maynooth Library on Main Street, and there are further dates planned which will be advertised later. Please contact the library [@maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie)

* Drop in, no booking required *

Young Adult Events

Online Teen Writers Group for 12-15 year olds

Thursday 3rd and 10th of April at 6pm

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

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

Friday 25th of April, 4pm – 4.30pm

Are you aged 12-15 and enjoy reading? Then join us in Maynooth Library for our brand new book club! 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. For the next few months, the recommended reads will be from the KPMG Children's & Teen Book Awards shortlist! Queries to be sent to maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie

Children's Events

Expression of Interest: Lego Club ages 8-12

Wednesday 23rd of April at 3.30pm

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.

Express your interest by calling into us or emailing

maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie

Groups and Clubs

Maynooth Community Library Craft Club

The Library Craft Club meets every Monday, 11.30 - 13.00 (except on

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

Ciorcal Comhrá - Irish Conversation Group

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

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

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

Baby and Toddler Group

Every Thursday, 10 am – 11 am

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

For further information on the library's events, why not subscribe to the monthly library newsletter?

Subscribe to library newsletter here: [Email Subscription Form - Kildare Library Service](#)

Exhibitions

Exhibition in Wool Felt by the children of Maynooth Educate together National School, facilitated by local Artist Tamzen Lundy.

April 1st – April 30th

An Exhibition of work by the children of Maynooth Educate together National School, facilitated by local Artist Tamzen Lundy.

This work was made possible thanks to the Artist in Education Bursary awarded to Tamzen from Kildare County Council and the Kildare Arts service.

Tamzen undertook a series of 6 workshops starting with two "creativity and wellness" workshops with the Teachers and SNAs and then moving into the ASD unit and mainstream classes.

The children and teachers experienced felt making, the oldest form of textile creation in the world. Using wool- a fully sustainable and biodegradable material we used the wet felt making technique.

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.

POP! (Power of Play!)

Early Years at Kildare Libraries - Events for 0-6 Year Olds

Children learn through play, and it is a vital part of the development of language, literacy, numeracy and social skills so with this in mind we have lots of fun POP! events over the coming months across Kildare Libraries. Each month you and your little ones can look forward to a variety of free and exciting events for children aged between 0-6 years so they can learn, play, socialise and have fun. Look out for messy play, music, dance, Storytime, arty fun and more at Athy, Kildare, Kilcock, Naas, Newbridge, Leixlip, Celbridge and Maynooth Libraries. POP! runs from February to May and September to November each year.

Please note all events are free but may require free Library Membership and ticket booking. Subscribe to library newsletter here: [Email Subscription Form - Kildare Library Service](#)

5-Cheese Mac and Cheese

This baked mac and cheese, packed with seasoned flavour,

Total Time: 40 minutes

Prep Time: 10 minutes

Cook Time: 30 minutes

Ingredients (8 servings)

Non-stick cooking spray, for greasing

Kosher salt, for boiling

7 oz. freshly grated sharp yellow cheddar cheese

3 oz. freshly grated sharp white cheddar cheese

3 oz. freshly grated mozzarella cheese

2 oz. freshly grated Gouda cheese

2 oz. freshly grated Colby Jack cheese

1 lb dried elbow noodles

3 ½ tablespoons unsalted butter, divided

1 ¾ cups half-and-half

¼ cup heavy cream

4 oz. cream cheese

1 ½ tablespoons minced garlic

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour

1 teaspoon garlic powder

1 teaspoon onion powder

½ teaspoon black pepper

½ teaspoon paprika

1 teaspoon white pepper

½ teaspoon ground mustard seeds

old bay seasoning, to taste

Himalayan pink salt, to taste

½ cup seasoned bread crumbs



Preparation

Preheat the oven to 350°F (180°C). Grease a large casserole dish with non-stick spray.

Bring a large pot of salted water to a rapid boil.

In a large bowl, toss together the yellow and white cheddar, mozzarella, Gouda, and Colby Jack cheeses.

Add the elbow noodles to the boiling water and cook according to the package instructions until al dente. Reserve ½ cup of the cooking water, then drain the noodles. Transfer the noodles to a large bowl and toss with 1 ½ tablespoons of butter to coat.

Add the half-and-half, heavy cream, and cream cheese to a medium saucepan. Cook over low heat until evenly combined and warmed through.

Melt the remaining 2 tablespoons of butter in a separate medium saucepan over medium heat. Add the garlic and cook until fragrant, about 1 minute. Add flour and stir until the roux is light golden brown in colour.

Slowly pour the warm half-and-half mixture into the roux, stirring constantly. Simmer over medium heat until thickened, 3-5 minutes

Reduce the heat to very lowest setting and slowly stir in the cheese blend until melted, reserving about a third for topping the mac and cheese. Remove the pot from the heat and stir in the garlic powder, onion powder, black pepper, paprika, white pepper, ground mustard seeds, Old Bay, and Himalayan pink salt.

Pour the cheese sauce over the noodles and carefully fold to coat evenly. Transfer half of the mac and cheese to the prepared baking dish and sprinkle with half of the reserved cheese. Top with the remaining noodles and cheese.

Bake until the cheese on top has melted, 10-15 minutes. Remove from the oven and sprinkle the bread crumbs on top, then bake for another 5 minutes, until the bread crumbs are golden brown.

Enjoy!

Source: www.bbc.com

April Gardening

Flowers

- Vinca Periwinkle, Cherry Blossom, Magnolia Stellata, Bluebells & Birch & Bergenia
- The weather however can be very mixed with showery weather often putting a stop to our great gardening intentions. Showers are frequent and sometimes relentless as the cool weather gives way to warm Summer conditions. Grass growth really takes off in April with the combination of warmth and rain so be sure to cut your grass little and often to encourage a good sward and keep moss at bay.
- One must do on your list for April is to take a walk to your local woods and take in the annual event that is bluebells in flower. Bluebells are certainly the plant of the month for April as they create a carpet of blue across our shady woodlands.



Fruit and veg

- Frost can still occur in April so be prepared. Cover & protect the flowers (blossoms) on your fruits as these will later produce fruit
- Also have frost fleece & tunnels on standby in case of a late frost - these can be the most damaging of frosts as young seedlings won't be expecting or be prepared for them
- Continue to sow vegetable & herb seeds outdoors. This month you can sow root crops, salads & brassicas, leeks, onion & shallot sets, pea & beans directly outdoors
- Crops sown undercover may be ready for planting out. Be sure they are large enough and harden off before planting out
- This is potato planting season. At the start of the month, plant the last of your earlies. By the middle of the month you can plant your second earlies and the end of the month onwards you can plant main crop potatoes



Greenhouse

- Watering needs to kept on top off. Use trays & capillary matting to ensure a more even watering of plants
- Water seed trays & pots every second day
- Prick out seedlings from seed trays - leaving one seedling per cell
- Transplant seedlings into larger pots. Do this for tomatoes, peppers, chillies, corn, aubergines & courgettes
- Open greenhouse doors on sunny days to ventilate
- You can continue to sow salads, beans & peas, cucumbers, peppers and chillies
- Feed seedlings using a liquid feed while watering
- You can prepare your hanging baskets & keep in the greenhouse until middle of May



source: the.gardening.shop.com



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

April 1985

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com

MAYNOOTH

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1985 NUMBER 95 PRICE 20p

BAND BULLETIN

Welcome to the first BULLETIN of 1985. As we have quite a lot of "catching up" to do, we shall get down to business straight away.

Firstly can we say a most sincere thank you to all who contributed so generously during our Christmas Carol playing. We had some wet nights, some very, very cold nights with just the odd mild night thrown in but the brave boys and girls in the band took them all in their strides to once again maintain our wonderful tradition. We would like to thank these faithful members for their loyalty, both now and in the past. It is precisely this loyalty which has helped to make Christmas in Maynooth just a little bit more than presents and Santa Claus for so many of the residents.

We held a most successful Annual General Meeting in January where a number of topics came up for air and it was so nice to see a large number of the younger members present. At the end of the night the following committee was elected to take care of the Band's affairs for 1985:

President - Paddy Dume
Hon. Vice Presidents -
Rev. Fr. F. O'Higgins Phil Brady
Chairman - Michael Dempsey
Vice-Chairman - M.C. Dempsey
Secretary - Kevin Boyd, 847 Greenfield
Ass. Secretary - Cissie Dempsey
Treasurer - Paddy Boyd
Committees Elaine Bean, Chris O'Reilly, Cliff Murphy, Seamus O'Reilly.

I think at this point we should mention the Old Folks' get togethers and how much pleasure it gives us to be a part of these very happy occasions. Carol Barton and her hard-working committee go to tremendous lengths to arrange these functions and we, in our very small way, try to add to the enjoyment. It is not always possible to have the best band available but I'm sure we are always welcome, no matter how few of us may appear.

The latest event to report is the very successful St. Patrick's Day Parade, which this year was blessed with mid-summer type weather. After many years of ploughing a lone furrow, we in St. Mary's Band are pleased to see that the Parade now rests in the capable hands of the Community Council, who have access to the man (and woman) power which is so vital to the organisation of an event such as this. The Council had the experience of our efforts last year to guide them and with increased support from the business community in particular, there is no reason why Maynooth should not stage one of the largest and best parades outside Dublin.

While on the subject of the parade, what about the Majorettes? The general opinion was that they looked exceptionally well and added a great deal of colour to the occasion. We wanted to do something different this year and the Managers of the Naas Majorettes kindly agreed to join us. The idea was an outstanding success and with a little more practice together, we could have looked even better. Many of you have since said, "What about our own Majorettes?" Well, the subject has been mentioned in the BULLETIN on a number of occasions. How many prospective Majorettes have we got in the town? It would be interesting to see just how many girls we could count on should we decide to have our own girls in next year's parade.

Finally, many parents and children have asked when we intend to take on new members. For obvious reasons, we have to begin classes on an organised basis and not every couple of months. We shall be commencing classes for complete beginners next September and would ask you to watch this column for further details. We will of course notify you through the schools and notices in the shops.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of the Newsletter will be the May issue and all items for inclusion in that issue should be handed in on or before the deadline date of April 14th.

FASHION SHOW

The Parents Association Boy's National School in association with Sadie Green Promotions present
An Evening of Fashion in the Hitchin' Post on 16th April at 8 o'clock. Proceeds to the Boy's School. Tickets £4 from Committee members or at the school.

Road Improvements

A number of successes were achieved in March for which Cllr. Stagg was congratulated by the Branch. The Square has finally been resurfaced properly. This has long been a complaint of local people. Remedial repairs carried out in the past were of no lasting benefit. Repair work has also been carried out on the Straffan Road -

- (a) from Celbridge Road to Railpark Lane (entering the town)
- (b) from entrance to Greenfields Estate to the entrance to Carlton Court.

The Branch has requested Cllr. Stagg to ensure that the road surface is improved on both sides of Straffan Road bridge and in particular at the corner of Railpark Lane where the road is falling away.

We are also pleased to note that the footpath has been started from the Crescent, Straffan Road, to the entrance to Kingsby Estate.

Other Works Scheme

Cllr. Stagg has informed the Branch that the outstanding Other Works Schemes for 1984/5 will be carried out shortly. These include:

- a) Resurfacing and drainage at the Crescent, Straffan Road.
- b) Surfacing of back entrance to Greenfields Phase 2 and 3.
- c) Provision of Traffic Island/Pedestrian Refuge at Celbridge Road, Straffan Road junction.



G. MULCAHY
Family Butcher
Greenfield Shopping Centre
Maynooth.
Tel: 286317

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CHOICE QUALITY,
Beef, Lamb, Pork, Bacon
Cooked Meat
Fresh Fish Tuesday to Friday
Fresh Chickens

DEEP FREEZE SPECIALIST

Funding for these works was allocated by Cllr. Stagg and Cllr. Brady.

St. Patrick's Day Parade

The Branch would like to congratulate the Community Council on the organisation of the St. Patrick's Day Parade. It was indeed a tribute to the voluntary organisations in our town. We wish them well for 1986.

Pedestrian Lights

Representations have been made by Cllr. Stagg to the Co. Council concerning the Pedestrian Lights on Main St., which are out of order (Pedestrian controls on both sides not working). His representations have been passed on to the County Engineer.

Planning

5/2/85 Ref.84/85: Dr. C. O'Rourke, 152 Kingsbury, Maynooth, has applied for extension, surgery, apartment, etc. 7/2/85 Ref.96/85: J. Buckley, Double Lane, Maynooth, has applied for change of use from store to Hairdressing/Health Studio.

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also

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Daniel Logan
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BARBERSTOWN

MAYNOOTH

PHONE: 288468

MACHINE TURF: BRIQUETTES: COAL: SAND: GRAVEL ETC.
DELIVERED AT KEENEST PRICES FOR QUANTITIES

13

DRIVER/VAN SALES PERSON

REQUIRED FOR MAYNOOTH BASED
FROZEN FOOD DISTRIBUTION COMPANY
DELIVERING TO RETAIL SHOPS IN THE
LEINSTER AREA,

B LICENCE ESSENTIAL,

C1 OR C WOULD BE A GREAT
ADVANTAGE,

UP TO DATE CPCs,

PART-TIME MAY SUIT.

SALES EXPERIENCE AN ADVANTAGE BUT
FULL TRAINING WILL BE GIVEN.

PREVIOUS USE OF HANDHELD MOBILE
SALES DEVICE ALSO AN ADVANTAGE.

IMMEDIATE START

PLEASE APPLY IN THE FIRST INSTANCE
WITH CV to

jobapplicationsmaynooth@gmail.com

MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY MUSICAL SOCIETY PROUDLY PRESENTS

RICHARD O'BRIEN'S
THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW

BOOK, MUSIC AND LYRICS BY RICHARD O'BRIEN

APRIL 8TH-12TH, 7.30PM
AULA MAXIMA, MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

THIS A MATTEUR PRODUCTION OF THE ROCKY HORROR SHOW IS PRESENTED BY ARRANGEMENT WITH
CONCORD THEATRICALS LTD. WWW.CONCORDTHEATRICALS.CO.UK

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
TICKETSOURCE.EU/MAYNOOTH-UNIVERSITY-MUSICAL-SOCIETY

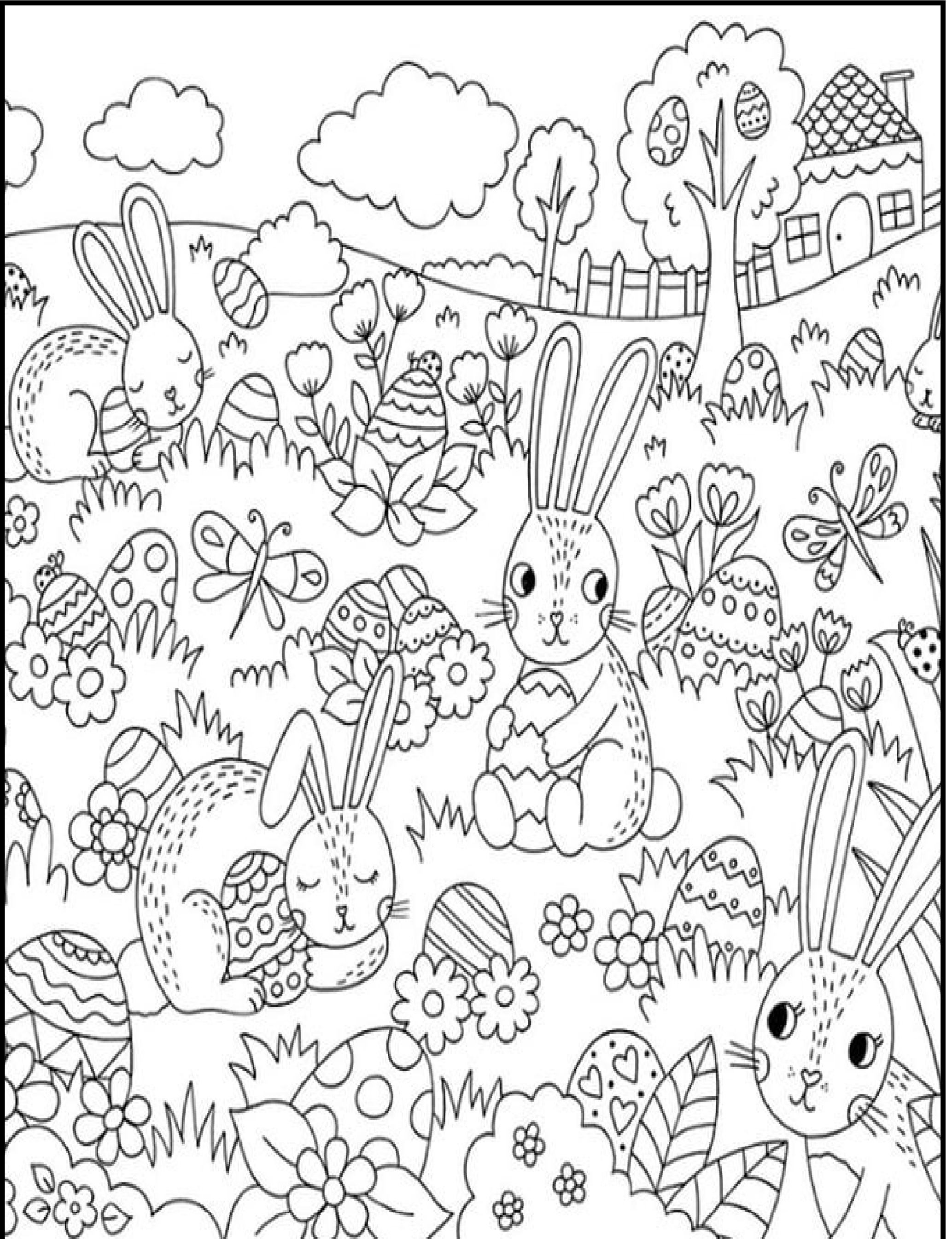


COLOURING FOR FUN



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

Sourced free from Google





PUZZLE TIME



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

Puzzles sourced free from Google and also compiled by Martina, Newsletter Writer

Easter Word Search

F L O W E R S G N I R P S Z O
S K C I H C T E B P A R A D E
Y T P B Z E T M P M G E H Y S
D G X P N A R J B S P A A E S
N E Z N R U A S U B T S P D A
A K O O A E D N N T D T P I R
C B C E B T I A N E A E Y Y G
X E G T B A T E Y K F R G L P
D G E N I L I B U S F T G I S
S C I E T O O Y V A O W E L U
S K C U D C N L I B D O M V N
U I Y K R O F L S P I L U T D
O H Y G V H T E V A L X J F A
K X R A W C F J A H U N T J Y
Y L I M A F A S P E E P S E M

Basket
Bonnet
Bunny
Candy
Chicks
Chocolate
Daffodil
Decorate
Ducks

Dye
Easter
Egg Hunt
Eggs
Family
Flowers
Grass
Happy
Jellybeans

Lily
Parade
Peeps
Rabbit
Spring
Sunday
Tradition
Tulips



EASTER crossword



EASTER SCRAMBLE

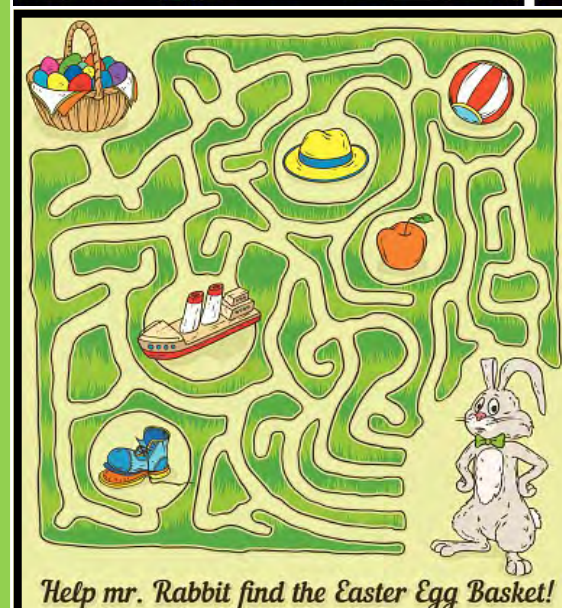


How many of these Easter words
can you unscramble?

- 1 SREETA _____
- 2 OPH _____
- 3 GEG UTNH _____
- 4 NYBNU _____
- 5 TCHOAOELC _____
- 6 OYLWLE HKCSIC _____
- 7 KSABTE _____
- 8 TNBENO _____
- 9 NRGPI S _____
- 10 FLADFDSIO _____



Find 8 Differences

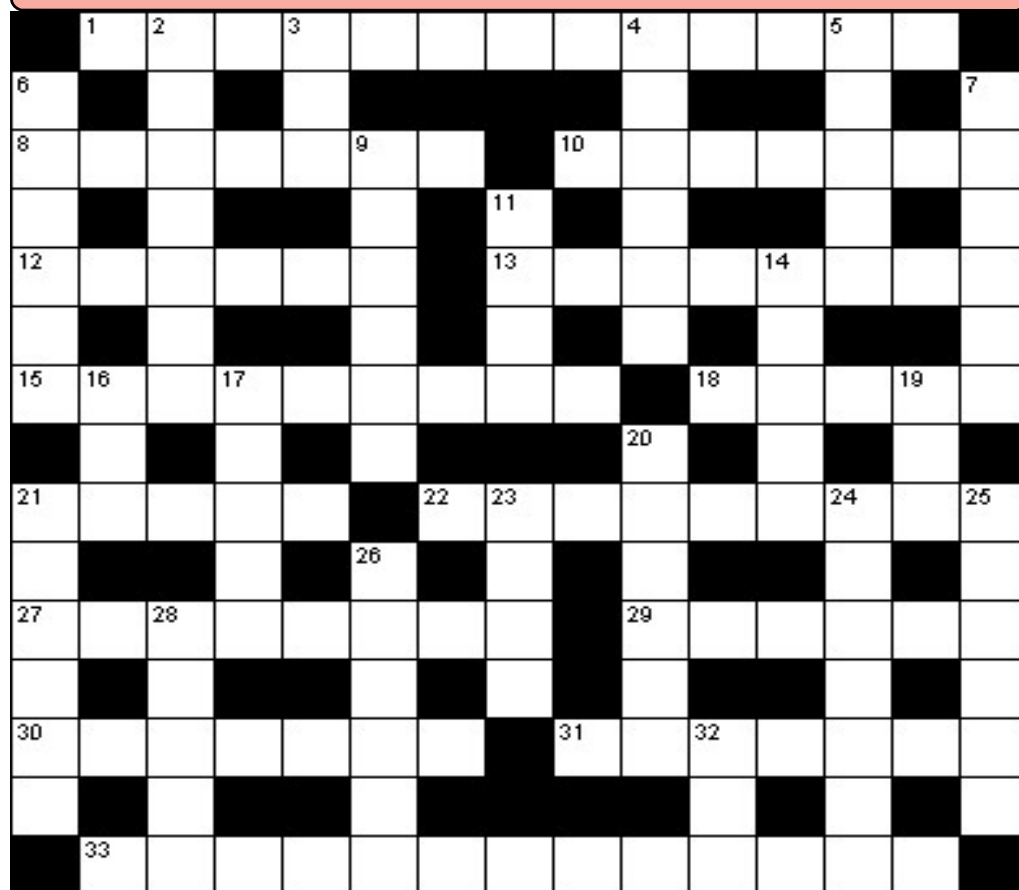


How does Easter end?
With the letter r!

How does the Bunny travel?
By Hare Plane!



April 2025 Crossword - No. 544

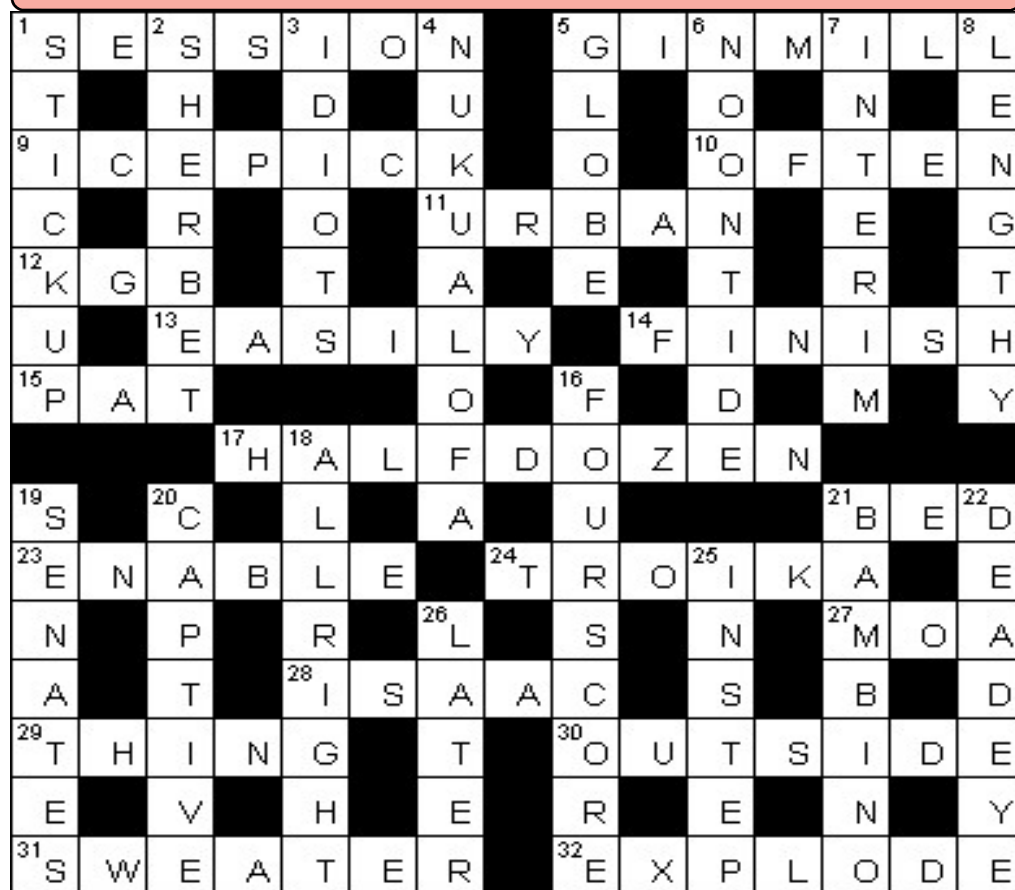


Clues Across

- | | |
|--|------------------------|
| 1. Treat by psychoanalysis (13) | 29. Experts (6) |
| 8. Capital of Georgia (7) | 30. Adhesive label (7) |
| 10. Cavalry soldier (7) | 31. Protection (7) |
| 12. Remember (6) | 33. Donkey (5,2,6) |
| 13. Rain containing industrial pollution (4,4) | |
| 15. Something obscene (9) | |
| 18. Burning gas (5) | |
| 21. Domesticates (5) | |
| 22. Loss of a ship (9) | |
| 27. Uneasy (8) | |



Solutions to Crossword No. 543



Clues Down

- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2. Chooses (7) | 19. Family name prefix (3) |
| 3. Study carefully (3) | 20. Bring up to date (6) |
| 4. Apprehensive (6) | 21. Shove (6) |
| 5. Above (5) | 23. Silence (4) |
| 6. Coiffure (6) | 24. Expenditure (7) |
| 7. Son of the sovereign (6) | 25. Person who kisses (6) |
| 9. Tiles collectively (6) | 26. Respectable (6) |
| 11. Diplomacy (4) | 28. Steeple (5) |
| 14. Sovereign (5) | 32. In place of (3) |
| 16. Fur scarf (3) | |
| 17. Defraud (5) | |

Difficult

Sudoku Challenge

Super Difficult

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

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

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.

April Pet Care

April is National Pet First Aid Awareness Month



The most common causes for emergency visits to vets are as follows:

eating foreign bodies – dogs chew at items like toys, sticks, clothes etc., and may swallow them, causing an obstruction. Cats often swallow wool or thread, which can cause a lot of damage in the gut.

Soft tissue and bone injuries - from road traffic accidents, falls etc.

Bite and fight wounds – from other animals

Poison and toxin ingestion – many items around the home are toxic, including human food items.

You can prevent problems by being aware of the potential risks to your pet and keeping your pet's environment as risk free as possible.

First Aid for your Pet

Be prepared – make sure you have your vets' emergency numbers easily available. Call and let them know what is happening and follow their advice. Always aim to have your pet seen by a vet as soon as possible, only giving first aid to help until you get to your vet.

Always stay safe yourself - Remember that a pet in pain may become aggressive so be careful and use muzzles on dogs and wrap cats in towels to avoid being bitten or scratched. If in doubt about moving your pet get advice over the phone from your vet.

Keep a well-stocked First Aid Kit at home and in the car. Bring it with you on holidays with your pet, hikes to remote areas etc. Check it regularly to keep the contents up to date.

Being aware of the risks and preventing them is always the best approach, but accidents and injuries may still happen. First Aid can be an immediate and life-saving response once you are prepared and know what to do.

PET'S FIRST AID KIT CHECKLIST

Adjust the list to suit your Pet's requirements

- 1 Vet's name & contact information
- 2 Gauze Wrap & Non-stick Bandages (various sizes)
- 3 Adhesive Tape
- 4 A Pair of Scissors & Tweezers
- 5 Antibiotic Cream & Saline Solution
- 6 Hydrogen Peroxide (3%)
- 7 Milk of Magnesia or Activated Charcoal
- 8 Thermometer



Consult your VET when you are making this kit and include anything that they recommend for your pet. Periodically check the supplies.

Every year on **April 11th**, pet lovers across the globe celebrate **National Pet Day**, a day dedicated to honouring the joy and companionship that our furry, scaly, or feathery friends bring into our lives.

There's no denying the profound impact that pets can have on our well-being. In celebration of our beloved animal companions, let's explore five fantastic benefits of having a pet.

1. *Unconditional Love and Companionship*
2. *Stress Reduction and Improved Mental Health*
3. *Increased Physical Activity*
4. *Enhanced Social Connections*
5. *Teaching Responsibility and Empathy*

Tips for Seasonal Wellness:

Flea and Tick Prevention:

April marks the beginning of flea and tick season in many areas. Ensure your pet is protected with vet-approved flea and tick prevention methods, such as topical treatments or oral medications. Regularly check your pet for signs of infestation and consult with your veterinarian for the most effective prevention strategies.

Maintain Exercise Routines:

As the weather warms up, take advantage of the opportunity to engage in outdoor activities with your pet. Maintain regular exercise routines to keep your pet active and healthy.

Dental Care:

Schedule a dental check-up with your vet to assess your pet's oral hygiene and address any potential issues. Incorporate dental care into your pet's daily routine by brushing their teeth regularly and providing dental chews or toys to promote oral health.

Allergy Awareness:

Pets can experience allergies, with symptoms ranging from itching and sneezing to gastrointestinal upset. Pay attention to any signs of allergies in your pet, such as scratching, licking, or inflamed skin. Consult with your vet to identify potential allergens and develop a treatment plan to alleviate your pet's symptoms.

By prioritizing your pet's health and wellness this April, you can set the stage for a happy and thriving companion. From preventative measures like flea prevention to proactive dental care and allergy management, taking proactive steps now can prevent health issues down the road.

Separation Anxiety in Dogs

People tend to go out more after the clocks go forward. One study, of 2000 adults, revealed 72% are more sociable when the weather improves. If the lighter nights mean you'll be out more, perhaps playing sport or socialising, or you're more likely to stay at work longer, then consider the impact this will have on your dog. Separation anxiety can be hugely stressful for dogs and can lead to changes in behaviour including howling, defecating and repeated escape bids.

It's important for pet owners to remember that as chocolate can be toxic for our dogs and dangerous for cats, it's vital to keep it out of reach. As long as it's treated early and there's been no organ damage, the prognosis for chocolate toxicity is generally good.

What are the first signs of chocolate poisoning?

The effects of chocolate poisoning usually occur within the first 12 hours of consumption and can last up to three days. The first signs to look out for are: **Restlessness, Vomiting, Diarrhoea, Excessive Thirst**. If untreated, these can then develop into hyperactivity, tremors, abnormal heart rate, hyperthermia, and rapid breathing. In severe cases, dogs may even experience fits and heartbeat irregularities and some cases can result in coma or death.

What should I do if I fear my pet has consumed chocolate?

If you become worried that your cat or dog has eaten chocolate and is reacting badly, contact your vet straight away.

What else could pose a threat to my pet this Easter?

Hot cross buns contain dried fruits like raisins, currants, and sultanas which can cause kidney failure in dogs. Avoid grapes and raisins. Nutmeg also, it contains a toxin called myristicin which can cause mild stomach upset and in large amounts cause increased heart rate, disorientation, abdominal pain, hallucinations and even seizures if eaten in large amounts.

If you have any concerns, contact your VET immediately.

Sourced: www.allianz.ie & www.ispca.ie



Maynooth Community Contacts Listing

<p>Naoise Ó Cearúil TD 086 7280050 naoise.ocearuil@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/naoiseocearuil/</p>	<p>Réada Cronin T.D. 01-6183823 reada.cronin@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/ReadaCroninSinnFein</p>	<p>James Lawless T.D. 01-6183587 james.lawless@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/JamesLawlessFF/</p>	<p>Joe Neville TD 086-6062207 joe.neville@oireachtas.ie</p>
<p>Cllr. Tim Durkan 086-8632784 tim.durkan321@gmail.com</p>	<p>Cllr. Angela Feeney 087-2381962 angelaemfeeney@gmail.com facebook.com/cllrangelafeeney/</p>	<p>Cllr. Peter Melrose 089 263 7612 peter.melrose@socialdemocrats.ie</p>	<p>Cllr. Donna Phelan 0870023636 dphelan@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Cllr. Paul Ward 087 2294697 cllrpaulward@gmail.com</p>	<p>An Nuadha Players annuadhaplayers@gmail.com facebook.com/annuadha</p>	<p>An Post Sorting Office Maynooth 01-6293390</p>	<p>Brass & Reed Band (St Mary's) sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie facebook.com/maynoothband/</p>
<p>Cemetery Committee (Laraghbryan) 01-6293018</p>	<p>Church of Ireland 01-6292163 secretary@meath.anglican.org</p>	<p>Citizen Information Centre 0818078100 maynooth@citinfo.ie</p>	<p>Cloth Nappy Library Ireland 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/NappyLibraryIreland</p>
<p>Community Welfare Services 0818607080 Kildarecws@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Employment Office 01-6106000 bo.maynooth@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Kildare County Council 045 - 980200 customerservice@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Kildare Civil Defence 045 980529 pmcneela@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Kildare County Council (Local Office) 01 - 6286236</p>	<p>Kildare MABS 0818072600 kildare@mabs.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Autism Friendly Town 0863329050 autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/maynoothaft</p>	<p>Maynooth Employment Services Office Kelly's Lane, Maynooth 01-6016360 EstMaynooth@welfare.ie</p>
<p>Maynooth Post Office 01-6286259</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Care Unit 01-6106351</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Church 01-5054990 office@maynoothcc.org facebook.com/maynoothcommunitychurch/</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Library 01-6285530 maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie. facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService</p>
<p>Maynooth Cycling Campaign 086-8252934 Maynoothcycling@gmail.com www.maynoothcyclingcampaign.com</p>	<p>Maynooth Fishing Club 01-6293202 info@maynoothfisheries.com</p>	<p>Maynooth GAA Club secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie facebook.com/maynoothgaa/</p>	<p>Maynooth Health Centre 01-6106130</p>
<p>Maynooth Kilcock Lions clubcontact@maynoothkilcocklionsclub.org facebook.com/MaynoothKilcockLionsClub/</p>	<p>Maynooth Library 01-6285530 Maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Newsletter 01-6285922 office@maynoothcep.com facebook.com/MCEPnewsletter</p>	<p>Maynooth Senior Citizens maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com</p>
<p>Maynooth Tidy Towns 083 304 6130 maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie facebook.com/MaynoothTidyTowns</p>	<p>Maynooth Town Football Club 086-1060654 info@maynoothtownfc.ie facebook.com/MTFC1969/</p>	<p>Maynooth Students Union 01-7083669 frontdesk@msu.ie facebook.com/MaynoothSU</p>	<p>North Kildare Club 01-6103909 info@northkildareclub.ie</p>
<p>North Kildare Tennis Club info@northkildaretennis.ie</p>	<p>Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth 01-6293018 maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com</p>	<p>SVP Vincent's Shop 01-6289643 geraldinebyrne.east@svp.ie facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064619179003</p>	<p>Zero Waste Maynooth 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth</p>

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



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

LOCAL NEWS - MAY 2025 - ISSUE NO. 545

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- ◆ MAYNOOTH COUNTY FLEADH
- ◆ MAYNOOTH TIDY TOWNS
- ◆ MEMORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES
- ◆ ST MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND NOTES
- ◆ NEWS FROM SENIOR CITIZENS
- ◆ STORIES FROM OUR READERS
- ◆ MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN
- ◆ LABOUR PARTY NOTES
- ◆ MAYNOOTH 10K
- ◆ MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY ARTS & MINDS FESTIVAL
- ◆ FIANNA Fáil NOTES
- ◆ MAYNOOTH GOLF SOCIETY
- ◆ AN NUADHA PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATRE
- ◆ LIBRARY NOTES
- ◆ PET CARE
- ◆ CROSSWORD
- ◆ KIDS PUZZLES
- ◆ MAYNOOTH AUTISM NEWS
- ◆ DARKNESS INTO LIGHT



KILDARE COUNTY FLEADH

MAYNOOTH 18th - 25th May 2025



We're thrilled to announce that the Maynooth Comhaltas branch has been nominated to host the Kildare County Fleadh, which will take place on the weekend of May 24th and 25th 2025.

This Fleadh is being held as a "Community Fleadh" integrating many of our fantastic community groups such as CFR group, Tidy Towns, Maynooth Library, Gaeilge Nuada, Maynooth Autism Friendly Town, our primary and secondary schools and many, many others.

A Month of Music and Fun

On April 26th at 6pm an official launch night took place in the lovely Scouts Den - Geraldine Hall - it was a family oriented event showcasing some of our branch teaching talent.

There are a number of cultural events taking place through the Community in May, including the 2025 Arts and Minds Festival at the university, as well as pop-up sessions and performances throughout the town.

Highlights include:

- **Sun 18th May:** Fleadh week Kick off in Leixlip with Dave Boyle Banjo Night
- **Tues 20th May:** Session Trail starts with several sessions each day through to Sunday and on to Monday
- **Wed 21st May:** Craft and Music in Maynooth Library
- **Thurs 22nd May:** John Spillane in Concert in St. Mary's Church of Ireland
- **Sat 24th May:** Gig Rig on the Square with Community Groups, Beartla Ó Flatharta Céilí Band and Jiggy
- **Sun 25th:** Competitions in BNS and Closing Sessions.

The full Fleadh timetable is on the branch website at <https://ccemhaighnuad.com/fleadh-25>

Join the Fun

We're calling on the people of Maynooth and surrounding areas to support this fantastic event by participating in the various activities, volunteering to help with the organisation, or simply coming along to enjoy the music. Everybody is welcome, and many of the events are free of charge. This Fleadh will be inclusive - just like other events such as St Patricks' Day parade, Fleadh Chill Dara can be enjoyed by all.

If you're interested in writing an article for the official souvenir programme, email eolas@ccemhaighnuad.com



Local businesses are also invited to show their support by sponsoring an advertisement in the programme or creating eye-catching shop window displays. Details on Fleadh website - <https://ccemhaighnuad.com/sponsor-fleadh-25>

Mary Ryan from Kilteel, Kildare County Chairperson said "We're delighted for Maynooth to be hosting the Kildare County Fleadh. It's going to be a fantastic event, with something for everyone. We can't wait to share it with the people of Maynooth and beyond! We're looking forward to having musicians and music lovers from all over Kildare to lovely Maynooth."

Let's make this Fleadh one to remember! Céad Mile Fáilte Go Mhaigh Nuad - Bígí linn!

Comhaltas Craobh Mhaigh Nuad runs lessons in traditional instruments, song and dance from 7-9 on Wednesday evenings in Maynooth Post Primary School. More information on <https://ccemhaighnuad.com/fleadh-25> and Facebook & Twitter (CCEMaighNuad).

Slán go foil!

(Continued on page 3)



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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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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

You have to commend Maynooth GAA Club for coming up with new fundraising ideas on a fairly regular basis and for 2025 they are holding a 24 hour Walkathon.



They have been fundraising for new dressing rooms at their pitches and will be putting these in place soon.

However, before they can be fitted out for use they need to raise €50,000.

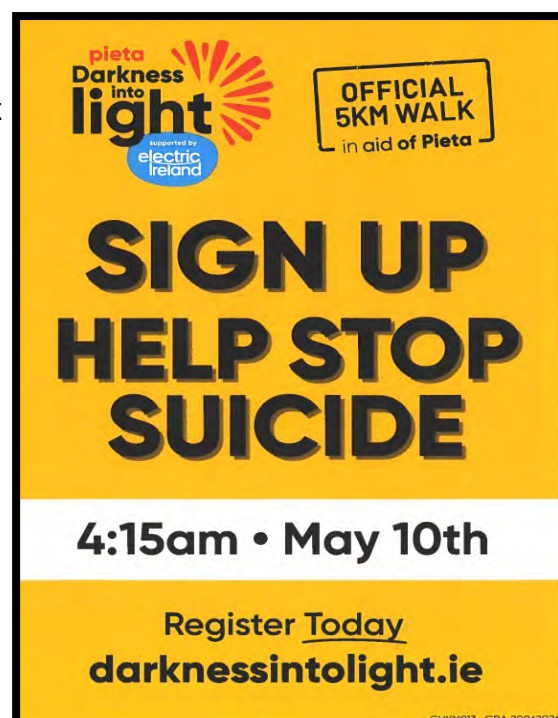
They are asking every team, coach and supporter to get involved to hit that target by taking part in a 24hr Walkathon

in Moyglare from Friday/Saturday 2nd/3rd May. Sounds like another fun event and is well worth supporting.

Good Luck to all involved.

The Pieta "Darkness into Light" annual fundraising event takes place on Saturday 10th May and there is an event taking place in Maynooth this year.

Pieta provide a range of services nationally to people are experiencing thoughts of suicide, those who engage in self-harm, and those bereaved by suicide. All of their services are provided free of charge, and no referral is needed.



Their 24 hour freephone crisis helpline is **1800247247**

Well worth supporting this important service.

As another academic year comes to an end at Maynooth University we offer all students good wishes for their exams and dissertations. When people ask me how best to describe Maynooth, I always include a comment that it is a town that never gets old, because of the large student population.

For those students finishing your studies here, we wish you well in your future endeavours. Checking my Eventbrite account and elsewhere, I see that a number of "social events" are planned to mark the end of the 2024-2025 college year. Please remember to look out and care for each other and do not forget your neighbours who will not want to share in the celebrations.

2025 Fleadh Chill Dara is taking place in Maynooth during the week of the 18th - 25th May. Hosted by Maynooth CCE, as well as the competitions, the organisers promise session trails, Gig Rig, concerts and workshops.



Enjoy the music and the craic

**Paul Croghan
Editor**

**Copy date for the June edition will be
5pm on Friday 16th May 2025**

(Continued from page 1)

Zero Waste Maynooth Ladies Clothes And Kids Toy Swap Maynooth Community Library Saturday May 10th, 2-4pm	Maynooth Local Market Court House Square Maynooth Sat 17th & Sat 24th 10am-3pm Featuring Craft Street Sessions by local Maynoothians	St. Mary's Church Of Ireland Concerts John Spillane Thursday 22 May 2025 7.30 An Chéad Ghlinn Eile Friday 23 May 2025 7.30	Maynooth Castle Tours OPW Maynooth castle Saturday 24 and Sunday 25th
Birdwatch Kildare Dawn Chorus Walk Sunday May 11th Meer At Monasterewell Playground 7.30am Dusk Chorus Walk Maynooth University Campus Monday May 19th, 7.30pm	Maynooth Tidy Towns Fleadh Spring Clean Duke's Harbour Saturday 17th May, 9-11am Heritage Trail Walk Duke's Harbour Saturday 24th May, 11am	Maynooth Healthy Campus Walks Nature Connection Trail Walking Maynooth and Millbrook Tairseach Tree Trail Tree Telling and the Living Labyrinth Biodiversity Trail 18 Charming Canals Tuesday 20th-Thursday 22nd	Gig Rig Kildare Youth Orchestra JIGGY Maynooth Square Saturday May 24th 2pm-10.30pm Free Community Open Air session Featuring Musicians from Local Schools Main: Gaeilge na nGaeil, Seán Carmichael, and the Maynooth band, performing by Jiggy
Maynooth GAA 24 Hour Walkathon 2-3rd May Rita Doyle Irish Dancing School O'Leary's Pub Friday 16th, 8pm	St. Mary's GAA Club Leixlip Dave Boyle Banjo Evening Sunday 18th May, 4pm Memorial Session hosted by The Boyle family and Friends at a special show to Dave's talent and legacy	Maidin Café Gaeilge Nuada Sósta by the River Friday 23rd, 10am	Pop up Céilí Rita Doyle Irish Dancing School The Square Maynooth Saturday 24th Sunday 25th
Pop Up Gaeltacht Le Gaeilge Nuada O'Neill's Pub Saturday 17th May, 6-7pm	Singing And Craft Workshop With Margaret Doherty Maynooth Library Tuesday 20th May, 4.00pm to 5.00pm	Meet The Instruments Maynooth Community Library Saturday 24th Children and adults about instrument and how they work and how they sound	Pop Up Street Sessions Maynooth Square, main street & various locations around the town. Saturday 24th & Sunday 25th through the day.

Maynooth Community Fleadh, May 2025

Kildare County Fleadh 18th - 25th May 2025

A Month of Music and Fun

On April 26th at 6pm an official launch night will take place in the lovely Scouts Den - Geraldine Hall - this will be a family oriented event showcasing some of our branch teaching talent.

There are a number of cultural events taking place through the Community in May, including the 2025 Arts and Minds Festival at the university, as well as pop-up sessions and performances throughout the town.



Maynooth Comhaltas playing at Maynooth Local Market



Dave Boyle Banjo Evening, 18th May, Leixlip GAA Club.

Fleadh week in North Kildare will start with the Dave Boyle Banjo Evening, held in Leixlip GAA club on Sun 18th May. Dave was a master banjo maker who lived in Leixlip, and who, unfortunately passed 5 years ago during the early days of the Covid pandemic, meaning the celebration of his life and craftsmanship could not be celebrated as he deserved.

The music from his highly prized instruments continues to resonate though and so, to kick off Fleadh Chill Dara, there will be Banjo Evening in Leixlip led by banjo maestras Claire Sherry and Damaris Woods, featuring

a short performance and an open session under the motto: "Let's celebrate Dave's life together"

We are also excited to announce that the talented troubadour John Spillane will be performing in the beautiful St. Mary's Church on Thursday, May 22nd. John will be joined on stage by the lovely Margaret Doherty, our branch singing teacher, as well as some of our younger talent in the branch.



John Spillane in Concert, 22nd May, St. Mary Church of Ireland, Parson Street

A two-time Meteor Award winner for Best Folk/Trad act, John is one of the most accomplished songwriters in Ireland. With an extensive back catalogue beginning with the 1997 album The Wells of the World, his songs have been covered by Christy Moore, Sharon Shannon, Sean Keane and many others. Twelve albums later in April 2021, John released his first independent album in 20 years, 100 Snow White Horses.

John Spillane shared his most artistically ambitious work to date: Fíoruisce - The Legend of the Lough, on Friday 13th September 2024. The concept album, released on double CD and digital, features John alongside a stellar cast of collaborators: Ríoghnach Connolly, Eoghan Ó Ceannabháin, Niamh Farrell, Nell Ní Chróinín, and more and has gone on to be named as 'Album of The Year' at the RTE Folk Awards. This is a concert not to be missed - tickets are available on Eventbrite, but are limited, so get in there soon!



On Saturday, a gig rig will be set up on the square, where you can come and soak up the atmosphere of traditional Irish music, with many musicians from around the county playing slots through the afternoon.

The Beartla Ó'Flatharta Céilí Band will feature in a triumphant return to North Kildare as All-Ireland Champions.



Beartla Ó'Flatharta Céilí Band - 2024 All-Ireland Champions

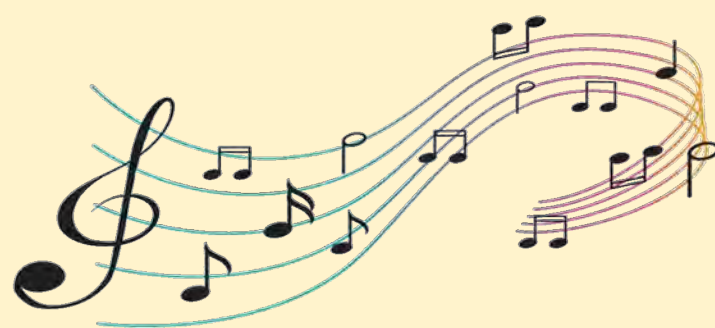
The day's programme on the Gig Rig will conclude with the lively Jiggy. Jiggy creates a sound that's both deeply rooted and refreshingly modern. Their shows are joyful, high-octane experiences where audiences are swept up in a powerful sense of unity, rhythm, and celebration.



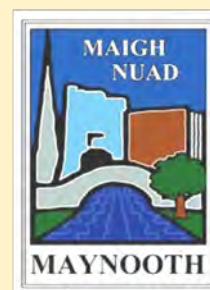
For those not danced out yet, the ceol agus craic will continue both in The Roost live music venue with "All Folked Up" as well as in the local pubs with the Fleadh Session Trail.

From Thursday through to Sunday, the Fleadh Session Trail will feature the cream of musical talent across Kildare open session in the pubs of the town. We are blessed locally to have so many opportunities locally to both listen to and play our treasured music and this vibrant local scene is going into overdrive for Fleadh week, being augmented with musicians from across the county.

The competitions on Sunday are open to all and are in themselves a fascinating look at the up and coming musicians in the county showcasing their phenomenal talent and commitment.



The full Fleadh timetable is on the branch website at <https://ccemhaighnuad.com/fleadh-25>



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- * Employment Concerns
- * Covid - 19 related queries



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

Spring has sprung and Maynooth Tidy Towns, volunteers have been extremely busy this past month. No chance of us slowing down either, as preparations are ongoing for both the **Entente Florale Europe and National Tidy Towns Competitions**. The judges for **Entente Florale**, from Czechia, Germany and Hungary, will visit Maynooth on 12th July.

The main difference in terms of adjudication etc. is that specific locations are selected in advance and the judges' arrival is known to us. In cooperation with Kildare County Council, St. Patrick's College and Maynooth University, Carton House, we have made great progress in planning for this event. We also aim to involve the local schools and businesses in various initiatives, leading up to 12th July. Banners and signage, designed and printed by Inkjet, are now in place.

Our Annual General Meeting of Maynooth Tidy Towns Association is on the 1st May at 7.30pm in The Glenroyal Hotel.

Thanks to the Kayaking Club in Maynooth University, we were able to do a big clean-up of the canal at the harbour and the areas between Mullen and Bond bridges. We are very grateful to this group who contacted us with their offer of help. They navigated the water skilfully and avoided a very protective swan, whose mate is nesting on the island in the harbour. Our hope is that the swan's nest survives on the island this year.

We participated in National Spring Clean on Saturday, 5th April. A particular focus for us was the Moyglare Road, where there was evidence of dumping. We retrieved a variety of objects, big and small. All volunteers were treated to very welcome refreshments in the Glenroyal Hotel afterwards.

Tidy Town volunteers continue to assist Maynooth Community Church in preparing areas for planting. We are delighted to support the following events taking place in Maynooth:

Maynooth 10K/5K- May 11th

Fleadh Cheoil Cill Dara- May 18th-25th

If you wish to volunteer please contact us on our Facebook page or by email maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie



Mary Molloy

Maynooth Tidy Towns Association



"Welcome the month of May with a heart full of hope and a spirit ready to bloom."

blogtobloom.com

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Maynooth Cycling Campaign

Maynooth and Environs Local Area Plan 2025-31

Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the decision of the Court of Appeal to overturn the High Court judgement against the planned Strand Road cycle path trial in Dublin. The judgement was against three parties which included a group of residents and a councillor, Mannix Flynn. The scheme proposed a change in Strand Road from two way to one way for private cars in order to upgrade facilities for walking and cycling.

The scheme had been through a lengthy consultation process and had been previously approved by a majority of councillors. The impact of applying to the courts was to delay the proposed active travel measures by several years.

We welcome the leadership shown by the majority Dublin councillors who rejected the opinion of residents opposing even the trialing of active travel measures.

Bike Week 2025

Bikeweek 2025 runs from 10th -18th May. Maynooth Cycling Campaign will be organising a number of events including a showing of the MOTHERLOAD film. We hope that you will join us. Look out for details on our website and the Bikeweek.ie website.

Government Waste?

The media and politicians were very vocal on the cost of €335,000 for a bike shelter in Leinster House. Admittedly, the cost was excessive but, at least there was something to show for the expenditure. The same groups haven't been so vocal at the revelation that over the last twenty five years €45 million has been spent on plans for a second

bypass road for Galway without anything to show on the ground.



Bike Bunkers

Dublin City Council plans to appoint a contractor by the end of June to roll out some 300 bike bunkers in their administrative area. In early 2024, Maynooth Cycling Campaign held discussions with Kildare County Council about trialing a single bike bunker in the town. More than one year later, Maynooth Cycling Campaign had no progress to report.

Upgrade Works on Mill Street

Maynooth Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the continuing upgrade works on Mill Street. However, we are disappointed to see a road sign "CYCLISTS, PLEASE DISMOUNT" on the northbound side of the road. If KCC were prioritising bicycles over private cars as set out in the Design Manual for Roads and Streets (DMRS), the signs should prioritise cyclists with a sign such as "MOTORISTS GIVE WAY TO CYCLISTS".

Cycling Without Age

We are sorry to announce that the Maynooth trishaw is off the road at present. There is a problem with the braking system which must be repaired. Maynooth Cycling Campaign has been in contact with Kildare County Council regarding the funding for the repairs.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party independent local lobby. ... in Kildare.

Maynooth Local Market Turns One!



A huge thank you to everyone who came along to celebrate our *first birthday* at Maynooth Local Market over the Easter weekend. The Square was filled with smiles, conversation, music, and that genuine sense of connection that makes our community so special. It was a lovely reminder of what the market is all about — people coming together, supporting local, and enjoying a simple Saturday morning in good company.

Over the past year, the market has become a regular part of life for many in Maynooth — a Saturday staple where people come to stock up on fresh vegetables, eggs, honey, fish, and more, all while supporting local producers. It's more than a market; it's a community hub where familiar faces meet, small businesses thrive, and creativity is shared through beautifully made, one-of-a-kind goods. We're so grateful to everyone who shows up week after week to make it all possible.

To our amazing vendors and generous funders: thank you for helping to make it all happen. And congratulations to the lucky winner of our birthday hamper — Catherine! She's already collected her prize and shared this lovely message:

"I'm thrilled to win the hamper full of the best locally created prizes. The photo print of Carton Estate by Skinny Pixels has an extra special meaning to me after spending so much time walking there during the COVID lockdowns. All the baked goods were delicious, and my dog Oisín absolutely loved the natural dog treats from Flo & Co."

We're delighted to welcome two new vendors to the market family this month.

Luain Press is a proudly independent publisher championing new and emerging writers — their stall is a treasure trove of poetry and prose, perfect for anyone who loves storytelling and creativity. And Sydney Harper joins us with a colourful mix of handmade jewellery, candles, and face painting — a lovely addition for all ages.

Looking ahead, we're delighted to welcome back the volunteer team from Maynooth Education Campus on Saturday 10th May. They'll be with us to hand out race numbers for their annual *Maynooth 5k/10k* fundraiser. If you're taking part in the run on Sunday, swing by the market to collect your race pack — and soak up the craic while you're at it.

Later in the month, we'll be proudly cheering on our friends in Comhaltas Maynooth as they host Fleadh Cheoil Chill Dara on Saturday 24th May. There'll be live traditional music on the Square from 2pm to 10pm, and while the market isn't officially part of the event, we're delighted to share the space and spirit of the day. Our vendors will shift slightly further back on the Square to make room for the stage — but you can still expect the same great mix of local produce, crafts, and friendly faces.

As we begin our second year, we're excited to continue growing with our



community. We're always on the lookout for new vendors to join our market family and volunteers who can help keep everything running smoothly. If you're passionate about supporting local food, creativity, and community, we'd love to hear from you.

Get in touch by email at maynoothlocalmarket@gmail.com or message us on social media.

Here's to another year of connection, creativity, and community!

Maynooth Castle Keep Art Group

Celebrates 25 Years!

The Maynooth Castle Keep Art Group celebrated 25 years on the weekend of 25th April with an outstanding art exhibition in the Maynooth Post Primary School. We had 103 artworks on display from the 21 members of the group, all of whom live in Maynooth and the surrounding areas of Celbridge and Kilcock.

There was a variety of subjects on display including landscapes, seascapes, streetscapes, floral and fauna, still lifes and abstracts. Local scenes were also represented such as the Avenue Restaurant, the Boathouse and Tirconnell Tower at Carton and Maynooth Castle to mention some. And of course all of the above were rendered in several media such as watercolour, acrylic, oils, pastels, pencil and graphite pen. A large crowd attended and the sales table people were kept very busy on the night and over the weekend which ended with just over fifty per cent of the paintings being sold.

This was an indication of community interest and support and that the exhibition is an important date in the Maynooth Calendar. The high standard of work produced by the members was one of the main comments received over the weekend.

The opening night on Friday 25th April was a huge success. Thanks to Tom Ashe, patron of the Group for a number of years and who officially opened the exhibition.

We would like to thank Tom Ashe for launching the exhibition, Johnny Nevin and KWETB for the use of the school for meetings and the exhibition and for all the support from Margaret in the MPPS office and Dominic Cotter for his help over the year and during the event itself. And lets not forget our friends Cairdeas who played beautifully for us on the night.

I would also like to thank the Maynooth Community Employment Scheme for their help with clerical assistance. Thanks to our community for supporting us every year. **Here's to next year.**





Cllr. Donna Phelan

Working with **Naoise Ó Cearúil TD**

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

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

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

Donna & Naoise

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Bee Advice from a Beekeeper

Leaving out fruit for bees may seem like a kind gesture but fruit left out in the sun or shade quickly develops harmful bacteria, which can be dangerous for bees. If they collect contaminated food and bring it back to the hive, it can compromise their stored honey and could potentially harm their colony.

To truly support the bees, the best thing you can do is to set up a proper watering station. Place a shallow dish of fresh water with small rocks or sticks inside. This creates safe landing spots to prevent them from drowning.

For an even greater benefit, add a pinch of pink Himalayan sea salt to the water. This specific type of salt contains essential minerals that bees naturally seek out. These minerals help the bees regulate their hive's internal temperature, maintaining a steady 90°F, which is a critical factor for honey production and raising their young.

Please **DO NOT FEED** the bees directly - all beekeepers strongly discourage this. Bees thrive best when they have to collect their own food from natural resources. This strengthens their immune systems and supports their overall health.

By providing clean, mineral-rich water, you're offering bees exactly what they need to thrive. This benefits them and the environment.

Now sit back and see how many bees visit your water station.



Sourced: *Farmers' Way on Facebook*

Turn A Backyard Garden Into An Enchanting Sanctuary

Create a relaxing sanctuary in the garden so you can enjoy all the beauty around you. A couple of garden chairs and a coffee table can be the main ingredients in a recipe for success. Add to that a small fire pit and perhaps

a large umbrella or a pergola with a canopy and this whole idea evolves into something quite wonderful.



Garden sculptures don't have to be perfect and they don't always depict something specific but are rather centered around abstract forms and ideas.

The furniture you put out in the garden says a lot about the type of ambiance and decor you're trying to create. A lot of beautiful designs are

centered around natural materials and organic forms. For example, a coffee table with a base made of rocks or pieces of driftwood is an exceptionally exquisite idea for a garden lounge.

Although having a water feature in the backyard garden is not a must, it's surely nice to have. a small river or a pond, maybe even a waterfall or a small water fountain. You can create your own garden water feature artificially. Of course, lots of other options are available. Try to make it all look authentic and natural and use reclaimed materials, worn finishes and earthy colors. After all, that's what gardens are all about.

Outdoor planters open up a whole world of possibilities. You can decorate in tons of beautiful ways. You can have small trees planted in them or dense vegetation. Flowering plants allow you to play with fresh and bold colors to create interesting visual effects. Garden sculptures can also be added here and they can complement the vegetation, combining in interesting way.

Build your garden furniture out of leftover materials or repurpose fallen tree trunks and branches. A portion of a trunk can become a wonderful coffee

table or perhaps an interesting rock can serve that purpose. A bench can be built out of a pallet or leftover wood mixed with concrete and even some stones. Don't try to make it look perfect. It's the imperfections that make us love nature.



Make the most of everything in your backyard garden. Even the fence can be used in interesting ways. For example, hang some wine crates or boxes and use them as storage shelves for your small gardening tools and supplies or decorate them with flower vases.

Source: www.homedit.com/turn-backyard-garden-into-a-sanctuary/

At the end of the day, a garden can connect us to nature and provide spaces for reflection amidst our busy lives. Each garden tells a story, inviting us to uncover hidden layers of creativity and healing.



Enjoy a sense of tranquility and reflection.

Maynooth University celebrates Arts and Minds Festival 2025



The 2025 Arts and Minds Festival returns to Maynooth University from May 8 - 10, marking the fourth year of this annual celebration of Irish and international culture. This year's programme is the biggest to date and includes a range of performances, discussions and screenings for all interests and age groups, both on campus and in the town of Maynooth.

Highlights include a musical evening with Irish musician and composer, Sharon Shannon, supported by The Beartla Ó Flatharta Céilí Band, Where is My Mind?, a live podcast with mental health advocate Niall 'Bressie' Breslin and a new event, Sing Your Art Out at The Big Sing, where neighbouring choirs perform as one single choir with new pieces learned at a free choral workshop plus pieces from their own repertoires.



Sharon Shannon



Anna Devin and Gianluca Margheri

The festival opens on Thursday, May 8, with Italian Passions: An Evening of Bel Canto in Aula Maxima on MU's South Campus. Presented by the Irish National Opera, the concert features a selection of arias and duets by Bellini, Donizetti, and Rossini, performed by Anna Devin and Gianluca

Margheri Irish language and culture feature prominently in the main weekend festival programme, starting on Friday, May 9 in St Mary's Church of Ireland with The Say a Song Project, an exploration of Irish cultural heritage in a reimagining of the epic tales of sean nós songs. This will be followed by a traditional Irish evening of storytelling and song at the Oíche Scéalaíochta agus Amhránaíochta in Brady's Clockhouse, Maynooth town.

Literature is always a key part of the festival and The Literary Lounge keynote on Saturday, May 10 features Pulitzer Prize winner Nathan Thrall in conversation with Booker Prize winner and MU Distinguished Writing Fellow Paul Lynch in St Mary's Church of Ireland.

The 2025 festival will also include a screening of Stanley Kubrick's film, Barry Lyndon, to celebrate 50 years since its release in 1975. Hosted by Maynooth Film for All in the TSI Building on Saturday, May

10, many of the scenes were filmed at Carton House in Maynooth.

Throughout the festival, there will be family-friendly free events, like the lunchtime concert on Saturday, May 10 with St Mary's Brass & Reed Band, while a variety of street food will be available on north campus that day, from 11am – 4.30pm, provided by Irish Village Markets.

The full programme and Eventbrite tickets are available by scanning the QR code.



Nobel Laureate Prof Brian Schmidt lectures to full house at MU

Maynooth University (MU) was delighted to welcome Nobel Prize-winning astronomer Professor Brian Schmidt for the Faculty of Science and Engineering's Dean's Lecture, delivered to a full house at the MU's TSI Building.



L-R: MU VP Academic and Registrar Prof Ronan Farrell, MU President Eeva Leinonen & Nobel Prize astronomer Prof Brian Schmidt

In his talk, titled The Universe from Beginning to End, Prof Schmidt guided the audience through more than 13 billion years of cosmic history — from the Big Bang to the far future of the universe. He shared insights from his Nobel Prize-winning research on the accelerating expansion of the universe, shedding light on dark energy, black holes and the fundamental mysteries that continue to challenge physicists and astronomers today.

The lecture attracted a capacity crowd, with over 250 attendees including students, faculty, researchers and members of the wider public. Prof Schmidt's engaging delivery, humour, and ability to communicate complex scientific ideas with clarity and relatability were warmly received. A dynamic Q&A session followed, with thoughtful questions from an enthusiastic and curious audience.

Prof Schmidt is a Distinguished Professor of Astronomy at the Australian National University. Raised in Montana and Alaska, he received his PhD from Harvard University in 1993 and joined the staff of the Australian National University in 1995. He served as the 12th Vice-Chancellor and President of the Australia National University from 2016 to 2023.

Professor Paul Moynagh, Dean of the Faculty of Science and Engineering, remarked; "It was a privilege to welcome Professor Schmidt to the Faculty of Science and Engineering at Maynooth University. His lecture was inspiring to the full-house attendance.

Prof Schmidt gave a masterclass in public science engagement and enthralled both scientists and non-scientists alike. Above all, his lecture was a wonderful reminder of the power of science to address our curiosity and explore the wonder and enormity of our universe".

Prof Schmidt also shared his thoughts on the visit; "It was a pleasure to speak at Maynooth University and be able to tell the story of the

(Continued on page 10)

(Continued from page 9)

Universe with such a diverse and engaged audience. The fact that so many people from outside the university were in attendance shows that Maynooth has a great connection to its community, which is a hallmark of an outstanding University. I have really enjoyed my time here, and my chance to learn about all the great things that are happening in this beautiful place.”

Earlier in the day, Prof Schmidt also met with researchers and postgraduate students from across the faculty, offering perspectives on global research collaboration, science policy, and academic leadership.

The Dean's Lecture Series is a flagship event for the Faculty of Science and Engineering, highlighting its ongoing commitment to bringing world-leading research and thought leadership to the campus and wider community.

Minister Lawless officially opens refurbished MU Arts Building



L-R: MU President Prof Eeva Leinonen pictured with Minister James Lawless at the official opening

Maynooth University welcomed Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research Innovation and Science James Lawless to campus for the official opening of the Maynooth University Arts Building following a €5.7 million refurbishment to modernise the iconic building while preserving its unique character.

Minister Lawless, who met with staff and students on his visit to campus as well as viewing a new Research Ireland-funded mass spectrometer and other high-tech research equipment, cut the ribbon at the opening ceremony for the refurbished building, one of the main teaching centres on campus.

Speaking about the refurbishment, Minister Lawless said: “I am delighted to be here today for the opening of this facility. These developments will provide state-of-the-art facilities to enhance students' on-campus experience.

With Maynooth being my local University, I was familiar with the campus and the old arts block, so I was extremely impressed at the architecture and form in the reworked building. This new structure is greener, more sustainable and creates a more pleasant place for students to interact particularly the new all-purpose hall where I met many students congregating during my visit.”

Despite evolving over time in response to changes in teaching and learning needs, the Arts Building needed a significant upgrade to bring it into line with MU's energy efficiency and climate action goals. It was identified as having the poorest energy performance of MU's building stock as the façade had single glazed windows, walls with little or no insulation, and only natural ventilation by opening the windows.

The refurbishment, led by RKD Architects, was delayed by Covid-19 but went ahead over summer 2023 and 2024 to minimise disruption during term time.



The refurbished exterior of the Arts Building

The upgrade included:

Complete façade replacement while remaining faithful to the original design to improve energy performance

Installation of mechanical ventilation with heat recovery in classrooms and lecture spaces

Bathroom refurbishment and improvement to circulation areas

Upgrades to classrooms, staff offices and external courtyard

Structural steel frame repair and repainting to ensure longevity

Introduction of a new Student Common Room with 240 seats

Speaking at the ceremony, MU President Professor Eeva Leinonen said: “I want to sincerely thank Minister James Lawless for officially opening the building today, and to express our deep appreciation to him and his Department for their ongoing support of Maynooth University and of higher education across Ireland. This refurbished Arts Building is a testament to our commitment to sustainability, excellence in education, and respect for our architectural heritage.”

“It provides our students and staff with a modern, comfortable, and inspiring environment in which to learn, teach, and collaborate. The spaces in which we learn have a profound impact on the educational experience. In our Strategic Plan, we describe our vision as Campus Beo—a living campus that reimagines university life to reflect the evolving ways we learn, teach, and work. We would like to thank the Department for its support in making our vision a reality.”

Robin Walker, who designed the Arts Building, was a key figure in Irish architecture, along with his partners, Michael Scott and Ronald Tallon. After studying under the legendary Le Corbusier in Paris and later working alongside Mies van der Rohe in Chicago, he returned to Ireland to become part of Scott, Tallon Walker, a firm that became synonymous with Irish modernism during the boom period that followed a major shift in Irish economic policy in the early 1960s.



The new student common room





Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News
E mail: afeeney@kildarecoco.ie - Phone: 0872381962




<p>Footpaths in older estates.</p> <p>At the April meeting I asked that footpaths in older housing estates in Maynooth be prioritised in the upcoming works by the Council. Older estates have older demographics and people want to be safe from trips and falls when out for a walk around their estate or visiting neighbours.</p> <p>Local Property Tax has been allocated for this purpose. The area engineer said he is happy to work with us as councillors as we know what particular older estates need particular attention.</p> <p>Disabled car parking bay at The St John of God’s LEAP service.</p> <p>At the April Municipal District Council meeting, I called on the Council to provide a disabled car parking space at the St John of God’s LEAP service on Fagan’s Lane. The service is located in the heart of the town just off Main Street on Fagan’s Lane and embedded in the community.</p> <p>I have visited the centre a number of times and most of the service users use public transport but the need for a disabled car parking bay near the facility has come up in my discussions with them.</p> <p>However, the Council said that a disabled bay cannot be provided until the parking bye-laws for the town are up for review.</p> <p>Creches need to be opened for use</p> <p>I called for an update on the status of crèches in new developments, in particular in Mullen Park Maynooth and Lumann in Straffan. The Council, in its response, confirmed that the crèches in both estates have been delivered.</p>	<p>The Council has discharged its duty and the crèches are indeed delivered as per planning conditions. However, the buildings are lying there unopened for years while families are on long waiting lists for childcare. The Council advises getting in touch with the developers and I am pursuing the matter.</p> <p>Update on vacated fire brigade site in Maynooth</p> <p>In response to my request for an update on the vacated fire brigade site in Maynooth, I was delighted to hear that progress is being made by the Council on advancing the fire brigade site for community use. I welcome this news because back in 2021,</p> <p>I submitted a motion suggesting this site be used for a much needed community centre for the town.</p> <p>Upcoming Motions and Questions for May 2025</p> <p>Motions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. That the Council reviews the uncontrolled traffic access onto the junction at Main Street from Fagan's Lane Maynooth2. That the Council installs speed ramp/s on Boreen Road Straffan to improve safety in the area. <p>Questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1.Can the Council provide an update on future library services for Maynooth to meet the growing demand?2. Can the Council inform members as to parking bye law reviews will be taking place in the MD?
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4 Easy Ways to Get Rid of Dandelions Without Chemicals

Dandelions are a deceptive plant—their yellow flowers are bright and cheery (and kind of pretty!) but the reality is that they’re technically a weed. “Dandelions create more competition for your lawn to absorb the necessary nutrients and water it needs to thrive. Eliminating them will ensure that the right nutrients are going to the right places for a dense, green lawn to exist,” says Roger May, PhD, horticulture expert and director of technical operations for TruGreen.

Fortunately, you can get rid of dandelions—Dr. May weighs in on four chemical-free ways to do just that.

Remove Them Manually



You can pull out dandelion weeds to get rid of them, though Dr. May notes this won’t permanently rid your lawn of dandelions since dandelion seeds can always establish new weeds—they blow in the wind after all, making them highly prolific!

That being said, should you choose to remove them by hand, you need to do so properly. “Dandelions have a large tap root that stores food for the plant, similar to a carrot, and if the entire root isn’t removed, the weed can grow back,” Dr. May says.

He suggests purchasing a dandelion weeding tool, which has a long metal shaft with a forked end that allows you to dig deep into the soil and pull up the weed with the entire root.

Once you’ve pulled the weeds, spread mulch (like wood chips or bark) over the areas to stop light from reaching the leaves—this will prevent the weeds from growing back as they need light to grow.

Spray Horticultural Vinegar

If you’d prefer to skip chemical herbicides, you can turn to horticultural vinegar to control your weeds, which is 20% acetic acid compared to

traditional vinegar’s 5%. According to Dr. May, it will “burn up” the dandelion leaves and force the weed to grow more. “After multiple applications, the dandelion will use up the food reserved in its taproot as it tries to grow back and eventually die,” Dr. May says.

He cautions, though, that vinegar will also burn healthy grass, so make sure you’re targeting just the weed when you spray. Wear protective gear as well.

Sprinkle Corn Gluten

Corn gluten meal is an option for tackling dandelions just as they’re about to take root—it’s far less effective on established weeds.

Aim to sprinkle corn gluten meal in late March (or when the soil temperature hits 50 degrees Fahrenheit) on a dry day. Make sure you pull out the established dandelions first. Dethatch your lawn next, then spread the corn gluten meal evenly. Lastly, water your grass lightly to activate the product.


Purchase corn gluten meal that’s specifically marketed as an herbicide. “Corn meal” and “corn gluten feed” are not the same as “corn gluten meal.”

Pour Boiling Water

This one’s simple but only works on weeds that have shallow root systems (AKA plants that are pretty young). Use a kettle with a thin spout so your pour is very targeted—boiling water will kill surrounding plants if you’re not careful, which is why this trick is best for dandelions growing in sidewalk or driveway cracks.

You may need to apply this multiple times—aim for once a day or every other day until the weeds brown. Then you can layer some mulch over the area.

Source: www.realsimple.com/how-to-get-rid-of-dandelions-8652817





THE SWORD IN THE STONE

PANTOMIME 2025

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR; TIME TO KICK OFF CHRISTMAS PANTOMIME 2025,
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ADULT €15 CONCESSION €12

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amandadempsey@grow.ie

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received. R.D.



Quiz Night

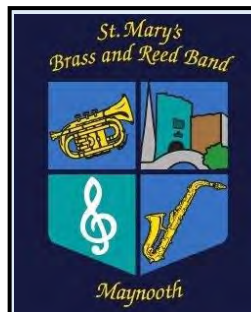
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16TH MAY**

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St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band



St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

We were very fortunate to have glorious sunshine for our first outdoor recital of the year in the Square on Sunday 6th April where we played to a large number of walkers taking advantage of the Summerlike weather as well as those enjoying their refreshments outside Brady's Pub. There's nothing to beat sunshine and music in the Square on a Sunday afternoon for lifting the spirits.

In our next notes we hope to have an update on our Academy Band's performance at the National Band Championships which took place in Ardee in 26th April. It's the first time for the Band to take part in any competition and they were really looking forward to the experience, win or lose.

On Saturday 10th May the Senior Band will be taking part in the Arts and Mind Festival organised by Maynooth University playing between 12.30 and 1.30. This year we will be playing near the Monument on the North Campus beside the traffic lights so hopefully we will again be blessed with sunshine.



We again remind musicians, both experienced and budding, that they are most welcome to join us in the Band Hall on Pound lane on Monday nights between 7.45. and 9.30. except Bank Holidays or on Saturday mornings between 10.00 and 11.30. again except Bank Holidays.

You can also contact us on sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie.



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arts & Minds FESTIVAL Maynooth 8-10 May 2025

Irish National Opera in Concert 8th May | 8.00pm
Italian Passions: An Evening of Bel Canto

Where is My Mind? 10th May | 1.30pm
Live podcast with Niall "Bressie" Breslin including Special Guests Prof Katriona O'Sullivan & MU Chamber Choir

Sharon Shannon 10th May | 8.30pm
Supported by The Beartla Ó Flatharta Céilí Band

Kelly Michels & Mary O'Malley 12.30pm
Making Connections through Poetry

Catherine Prasifka & Naoise Dolan 3.30pm
Two Powerful New Voices in Irish Literature

Keynote - Nathan Thrall & Paul Lynch 5.30pm
Pulitzer Winner meets Booker Winner

mu.ie/artsandmindsfestival
Music | Literature | Opera | Film | Street Food
Irish-Language Arts Events

Tickets

The Literary Lounge
Saturday 10th May
mu.ie/artsandminds

St. Mary's Church of Ireland, Maynooth



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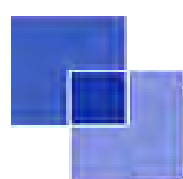
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Pharisees' Frustrations!
The Gospel in fewer than 300 words.

You say Joseph's his father, well how can that be?
A more God fearing man, you rarely will see;
And Mary his mother has had little joy,
Her heart he has broken since he was a boy!
Got his trade from the old man, then all that he shed,
Not a care in the world as to whence comes his bread.
Has some followers also, an ignorant lot,
Mostly fishers and taxmen, not one worth a jot;
And the women disciples who care for his needs,
Hang on his words, stare in awe at his deeds.
Yes the book he knows well, cutting straight to the core,
Love for God and one's neighbour, its wisdom and store.

But he can't be from God for he and his band
Will sit down to eat without washing their hands;
And who shares his table? The lame and the blind,
The publicans, harlots and dregs of that kind.
He cares not for the Sabbath, the Temple, the Law,
Claims rank above Moses, who God's fire saw;
And ailments he cures, by the devil, of course,
The father of lies, or some kindred source.
Says the poor are the blessed, the rich are accursed,
The first shall be last and the last shall be first,
Such riddles can only the masses confuse,
They're too steeped in evil the right road to choose.
He is a blasphemer, usurping God's voice,
By pardoning sins he leaves us no choice.
He must be got rid of, such men have to die,
And Pilate will yield to our mob's "Crucify!"
And then we will see his great boast all in vain:
"In three days I'll take up my life once again".
What? But how can that be? He did?

“He is risen?”

GM

The May Blossom

In May’s arms, blossoms awake,
Petals unfold, in the sun’s bake,
Colors burst, for nature’s sake,
A floral masterpiece, it does make.

Each bud blooms with a story to tell,
Under May’s enchanting spell,
In every color, beauty dwell,
Nature’s secrets, they do compel.

Blossoms of May, pure and bright,
Fill the days and the nights,
In their bloom, a heart’s delight,
May’s gift, a wondrous sight.

This poem celebrates the beauty of blossoming flowers in May,
symbolizing new beginnings.

Source: engdic.org/poems-about-may/

First Plums

When I was young we had a small orchard near the hayshed in which gooseberry and currant bushes, some cooking apple trees, moss-grown eating apple trees, as well as one Beauty-of-Bath grew, but no plum tree. Our nearest neighbour, Jimmy Lenehan, an affable, big-boned farmer, who also mowed and ploughed for hire, hadn’t an orchard. Nevertheless, his grown-up daughter, Helen, often treated my brother, sisters and me to home-baked apple pie. As a result, visiting Lenehans’ was always special.

I remember one summer when we were helping Jimmy gather in his hay with a tumbler, a horse-drawn contraption with long wooden teeth that slid under the windrows. Our ‘help’ consisted of sitting in the back of the tumbler while hay cascaded over us. I can still hear Jimmy pleading in alarm with our eldest sister, “Advise them, Margaret!” to which we chorused in delight, “Advise them, Jimmy!” Still, we must have raked up some missed clumps when, around mid-afternoon, who should appear but Helen, carrying a bulging trilby hat.

“I’ve just been over with Mrs Collins and she gave me something for you children,” she smiled, opening the hat to reveal a mound of purple plums. Now, although Mrs Collins lived a mile beyond the nearby bog, it never occurred to us to doubt Helen’s explanation – after all, plums were exotic fruit. We ate most of them there and then, licking the juice from our fingers. Never had I tasted anything so delicious, not even our own Beauty-of -Bath apples.

As we grew older my brother Joe and I ranged further and further afield, bird nesting, bathing in the turlough and gathering raspberries, bilberries, hazelnuts and mushrooms in season. During one foray we came upon an orchard hidden in bushes behind Lenehan’s Hill, which, to our amazement, contained, besides the usual fruit trees, two trees laden with delicious-looking, purple plums. So this was where Helen had filled her hat that summer’s day! As to how this particular orchard came to be there, our father explained that the Lenehans had once lived nearby in a thatched cottage but when Helen and her brothers were teenagers the family had built their two-storied, slated house out by the main road.

Before Joe and I became teenagers ourselves the Lenehans, much to our regret, sold their farm to Tom Holt, a cattle jobber who only visited the place occasionally. One day when I was aloft, inspecting plums for ripeness, who should suddenly appear marching down the hill but the same Tom, angrily waving his blackthorn above his head. Risking a broken leg, I jumped down from the tree and scampered.

That orchard disappeared long ago; its decaying fruit trees cut down and burned. Yet something survived: recently, Joe showed me two thriving plum trees in his orchard, which, he assured me, were grown from Lenehan cuttings.

Divergence

i.m. Cathal

Cultivating crops, raising livestock
you ploughed the furrow our people ploughed,
while some like me who left the land behind
could carp with urbanized fastidiousness
about tail docking, dehorning, neutering,
ingrained brutality of us human
omnivorous masters of this planet
when dealing with our fellow creatures.

But though you raised prime beef and mutton
you did not let such chores curtail
the deeper life, reading widely, even
classic poems if graced with rhyming words,
and, in your final years, planting roses,
bright hydrangeas, feeding songbirds.

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area
Planning Applications received from 28/03/2025 to 24/04/2025
Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
2560399	Kildare County Council	Brendan Glass Denise MacCarthy	Ryebank House, Dublin Road, Maynooth.	15/04/2025
2576	Kildare County Council	Siobhan Tighe	rear of 5 Parklands Grove, Maynooth.	14/04/2025
2560391	Kildare County Council	David and Olivia Burns	4 Linden Garden, Linden Ave Demesne, Maynooth.	14/04/2025
2560389	Kildare County Council	Linda Graham	Old Railpark, Straffan Road, Parklands, Maynooth.	12/04/2025
2560373	Kildare County Council	Brendan Glass and Denise MacCarthy	Ryebank House, Dublin Road, Maynooth.	08/04/2025
2560359	Kildare County Council	Farrell O Boy	3 Pound Lane, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	05/04/2025
2560348	Kildare County Council	Vincent & Clodagh Dempsey & McDonnell Dempsey	Moss House, Laragh, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	04/04/2025
2560339	Kildare County Council	Vincent Dempsey & Clodagh McDonnell Dempsey	Moss House, Laragh, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	02/04/2025
2560338	Kildare County Council	Noreen & TJ Curran	61 Rockfield Lodge, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	02/04/2025



MAYNOOTH 10K & 5K
Annual MEC Fundraiser

Sincerest thanks to all our Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Prize Sponsors whose generosity ensures this event continues to benefit the community and local causes.

Join our volunteer steward team
maynooth10k.ie/volunteer-as-a-steward/

Sunday, May 11th 10am

Pop Up

Maynooth 10K

Road Notice & A Sincere Thank You to Our Community

The Maynooth 10k & 5k returns on Sunday, May 11th, and we're excited to welcome runners, walkers, families and supporters for what promises to be another fantastic day in the town. Both races will begin at 10:00am sharp, with the finish line located on the Moyglare Hall access road in front of the Maynooth Education Campus.

While this year's 10k route has a few slight changes, it remains very similar to previous years and continues to showcase some of the most scenic parts of the town and surrounding area.

Road Impact & Access on Race Day (10am–11am)

The 5k route follows Moyglare Road, through Mariavilla and turns around at Linden Demesne before returning the same way.

The 10k route continues to the Dunboyne Road roundabout, then follows the R157 along the Carton boundary, looping at the junction with the Dublin road.

From there, runners will return via the 'Boreen', pass the new Community Church, Limetree Hall and down the Dublin Road to the top of Main Street, before running the full length of Carton Avenue back to the R157 and returning to the finish line. These changes have been made to help minimise disruption to the road network.

The following temporary restrictions will apply between 10:00am and 11:00am:
Moyglare Hall Road,
Mariavilla, Dunboyne Road,
from Mariavilla to the R157/Dublin road junction

Additionally, Carton Avenue will have restricted entry to pedestrians from 10:00–10:45am for safety reasons.

Dunboyne Road at Ely to Mariavilla Bridge will remain open throughout, ensuring continued access where possible.

A Heartfelt Thank You

To all Maynooth residents: thank you for your patience, understanding and community spirit. We know that temporary road restrictions can cause inconvenience and we truly appreciate your support in helping this much-loved event run smoothly.

The Maynooth 10k continues to grow year on year and that wouldn't be possible without you, our neighbours and the support of our incredible sponsors. We're especially grateful to our Platinum, Gold, Silver, Bronze and Prize Sponsors whose generosity ensures this event continues to benefit the community and local causes.

Whether you're running, volunteering or cheering from your doorstep – thank you for being part of this special day in Maynooth. Want to Get Involved?

We're still looking for friendly faces to join our volunteer steward team on race day. It's a great way to support your community, meet new people and help keep the event safe and enjoyable for all. If you're available to lend a hand on the morning of Sunday, May 11th, www.maynooth10k.ie/volunteer-as-a-steward/

Summer is in full Bloom as final line-up announced for popular festival

Grow, taste and learn over five action-packed days at Bord Bia Bloom ***(May 29th – June 2nd, 2025)***

@bordbiabloom #BordBiaBloom

Bord Bia Bloom has announced its final line-up for this year's festival, with homegrown heroes Donal Skehan, Diarmuid Gavin, Neven Maguire, Darina Allen, rising star Aishling Moore, Holly White, award-winning designers Alan Rudden, Leonie Cornelius, Ailish Drake, garden expert Jimi Blake and BBC Gardeners' World presenter Adam Frost among the faces appearing over the 'Bloom' bank holiday weekend. Now in its 19th year, Bloom provides visitors with countless opportunities to grow, taste and learn with over 100 talks, demos and performances taking place on five stages across the five days. With just eight weeks to go until the festival of flowers, food and fun returns to its home in the Phoenix Park, Dublin, organisers are encouraging visitors to plan their visit and enjoy a great day out this summer.

Laura Douglas, Head of Bloom and Brand Partnerships, Bord Bia said, *"Bloom is a distinctive festival that combines gardening, culinary excellence, sustainable living, and family fun in picturesque natural settings. With so much on offer, we encourage our ticketholders to plan their visit carefully to ensure an unforgettable experience at Bloom this year. To facilitate this, we have added daily stage schedules, an interactive site map, and travel tips on our website. We appreciate the support of our partners, sponsors, and events team in realising our vision for this year's festival programme. We look forward to witnessing it come to fruition in a few weeks and welcoming new visitors to Bloom 2025"*

Bord Bia Bloom 2025

The festival expects to welcome over 100,000 visitors across its 70-acre site, which will play host to 20 spectacular new show gardens at the centre of the experience. These vibrant designs will tell stories on a range of important issues and themes including sustainable living, health and wellbeing, entertainment, food and drink, along with clever solutions for gardens of every size! Popular features across gardening, food, drink, sustainability, entertainment and even shopping, will return along with some exciting new demonstrations, panel discussions, talks and performances.

The Dunnes Stores Quality Kitchen Stage will welcome some of Ireland's top chefs and cooks, who will create tantalising recipes that showcase the best of Irish, seasonal produce in more than 30 live cookery demonstrations. Donal Skehan, Darina Allen, Neven Maguire, Rory O'Connell, Catherine Fulvio, Aishling Moore (Goldie Restaurant), Shane Smith, Aisling Larkin, Edward Hayden, and Brian McDermott are among the line-up. The full schedule can be viewed [here](#).

The Sustainable Living Stage, sponsored by Certa (official supplier of HVO to Bloom) will see journalists Jo Linehan, Caroline Hennessy, Aoife Carrigy and Suzanne Campbell host a series of talks and panel discussions. Topics to be explored include sustainable fashion and personal care, sustainable food choices and practical tips for sustainable living along with advice from some of Ireland's environmental and conservation groups exhibiting in the Conservation Area. Plant-based foodie Holly White is among the special guests confirmed, and the full schedule can be viewed [here](#).

The Garden Stage sponsored by Zarbee's will welcome a variety of horticultural experts for 40 talks delivering gardening tips, tricks and

advice throughout the event. Among those confirmed are Diarmuid Gavin, Adam Frost (BBC *Gardeners' World*), Stephanie Mahon (*Gardens Illustrated*), Jimi Blake (Hunting Brook Gardens), Niall McCauley, David Maxwell (BBC Ulster) and Fiann O'Nualláin. The full schedule can be viewed [here](#). Green-fingered visitors can also enjoy the stunning Show Gardens, perfectly formed petite Postcard Gardens supported by Tirlán CountryLife, breathtaking plants in the Nursery Village and The Plant Emporium, live demonstrations and interactive workshops including floral crown making in the Botanical Hub, and exhibitions of Botanical and Floral Art and AOIFA's (Association of Irish Floral Artists) Floral Art Competition.

The Best of Irish Food

Visitors to Bloom can meet 100+ of Ireland's top food and craft drink producers at the Food Village and Bloom Inn, enjoy delicious food from plenty of food trucks, the BBQ Bliss area or Bloom's four on-site restaurants: The Garden View Restaurant, Bistro Bloom, Country Crest Restaurant and The Seafood Terrace. New this year is 'A Taste of Bloom, curated by Neven' a three-course dining experience celebrating quality Irish produce designed exclusively for y by chef Neven Maguire for Bloom.

Budding Bloomers

For younger visitors, there is plenty to enjoy too, with returning planting experiences for children along with a range of fun, educational and interactive workshops at the Budding Bloomers Children's Area. This year's line-up includes Scientific Sue's Bubbling Botanicals, Paddy Courtney's Planting Patch, The Cool Food School, Westcountry Willows weaving, Story Time with Dublin City Library, Healthy Heroes and Agri Aware will also return with its popular farm feature, demonstrating how to milk cattle, shear sheep and much more!

Tickets

Tickets are on sale via the [BordBiaBloom.com](https://bordbiabloom.com) website. Two children (aged 16 and under) go free with each adult ticket purchased. This year, a range of additional visitor packages are available incorporating new dining experiences such as 'A Taste of Bloom, curated by Neven' and more. A full list of visitor experiences is available via the festival website.

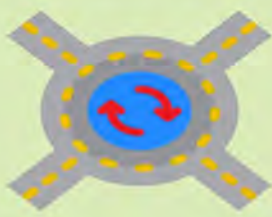


Dunnes Stores Brand Partner, Donal Skehan was on hand to help Laura Douglas, Head of Bord Bia Bloom and show garden designers Alan Rudden and Ailish Drake (on right) announce the final line up for Bord Bia Bloom which takes place in the Phoenix Park, Dublin from May 29th – June 2nd 2025. Now in its 19th year, Bloom provides visitors with countless opportunities to grow, taste and learn with over 100 talks, demos and performances taking place on five stages across its five days. For more information visit bordbiabloom.com.

Clane-Maynooth MD

April 2025

Motions and Questions



Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Fianna Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY



Motion - Councillor Donna Phelan

That the council carries out a speed analysis on motorists using the Kilcock Road, Maynooth and confirm what speed reduction measures it could introduce to slow down motorists using this road.

Response

The Municipal District Office have previously carried out speed analysis on the Kilcock Road, Maynooth. A driver feedback sign was installed advising drivers of the speed limit on the road and the speed at which they were travelling. The Municipal District Engineer has also engaged with the Gardaí to request that speed enforcement be carried out along this section of the road. The council has said that there is no plans or budget to upgrade the road or put any traffic calming measures in.

Thank you for the response this motion is on the back of a rep I have

in already from residents who live on this road. The R148 is frequently used by children commuting to Maynooth schools, however the current road conditions pose a significant risk to their safety. The lack of dedicated cycling lanes, narrow roads with dangerous bends, and high traffic volume to include a TFI commuter bus route 115 create a hazardous environment, which can deter children from to school or expose residents and road users to unnecessary danger. Whilst I know there is no funding in the road maintenance budget 2025 to provide upgrades at this location can someone advise me to how we get this road on the plan for next year as this road is the main connection between Kilcock and Maynooth

Motion - Councillor Donna Phelan

That the council reviews road markings in Maynooth with a view to updating all markings in need of repair, starting with the worst affected.

Response

The Municipal District Engineer will assess the road markings in Maynooth and arrange for any necessary road markings to be carried out.

Question - Councillor Donna Phelan

Can the council confirm who has responsibility for maintaining roundabout in Maynooth, specifically, the roundabout at Tesco Maynooth?

Response

Kildare County Council maintains all the roundabouts in Maynooth with the exception of the Tesco Roundabout. This has previously been maintained by Tesco and Maynooth Tidy Towns. We had not been informed these groups were no longer involved. We will look at tidying up the roundabout, but any work will be subject to the guidelines of the requirements of the bird nesting season.

JOB OPPORTUNITY

Personal Assistant / Carer

Primary Location: Maynooth, County Kildare

Employment Type: 36 hours a week, 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM and 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Monday – Friday. Plus six flexible social hours subject to change based on activities.

Salary: The pay rate is €15.37- €17.12 per hour, depending on experience.

About the Role:

I'm seeking a vibrant and energetic Personal Assistant/Carer to help me live life to the fullest! As a young professional writer for the publishing and screen sectors, I need support in both my daily routine and in enjoying social activities. This is the perfect opportunity for a student or young person with a passion for helping others, who also wants to gain valuable experience in creative fields along the way.

Key Responsibilities:

- **Personal Care Assistance:** Help with non-medical personal care needs, including getting me up out of bed, showering, dressing, toileting and feeding
- **Social Engagement:** Accompany me to social outings, events, and activities, helping me to stay active and enjoy life to the fullest. Think of this as a role where you can share in my adventures!
- **Effective Communication:** Utilize strong communication and interpersonal skills to engage with others and assist with both verbal and written tasks.
- **Adaptability:** Be ready to take on new tasks and respond to changing circumstances with a positive and proactive attitude.

Requirements:

- **Garda Vetting (Essential):** Successful candidates must undergo Garda vetting to ensure the highest standards of safety and trust.
- **Flexible and Reliable:** The role requires availability during evenings and weekends. Flexibility is essential as hours may vary depending on social events and work commitments.
- **Friendly and Enthusiastic:** Someone who is outgoing, personable, and ready to help me make the most out of every day.
- **Student-Friendly:** This role is ideal for a student or young person looking to gain experience in a supportive and fun environment.
- **Driver's License (Preferable but not essential):** A full, clean driver's license is preferable to assist with travel to professional and social activities.

To apply for the position, please submit your CV to: AppPAForAlan@gmail.com

Contract of work with is Irish Wheelchair association, I am the line manager of my service

Garda clearance and 1 month trial applies

Irish May Day Traditions

In the Irish language, the month of May is known as Bealtaine. In pre-Christian times, the festival of Bealtaine heralded the arrival of summer and the end of the dark months of the year.



Bealtaine means 'bright fire' and was celebrated with bonfires, lit on all the major hills in Ireland. One tradition of the time involved herding cows through two big bonfires, to cleanse the herd and bring good luck. It was deemed unlucky in May for farmers to give away fire, salt or water. To part with such precious items was to give away all the luck of the land.

As the festival of Bealtaine also represented summer when the milk supply was coming into plenty, there was also the need to safeguard livestock from the fairies. This was done by pouring milk over the threshold of the house or leaving beautiful early May flowers at the door to keep away evil. Some dairy farmers placed gorse or hawthorn over the door of the dairy to protect the milk supply from magic spirits that could steal or contaminate it.

The eve of May Day was thought to be extremely active for the fairies. It was forbidden to sleep outdoors and considered to be a very bad idea to walk too close to an old ringfort, in case you got captured by the fairies. Even today, many of us will not disturb the remains of a ringfort on their land, for fear they will incite the wrath of the little people!

Queen of the May



May is a particularly important month for the Catholic faith. This is when praise is given to the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus. The hymn 'Queen of the May' is sung in Catholic Churches on May Day and during the rest of the month. The words describe crowning Mary with flowers and blossoms in honour of the 'Queen of the Angels and Queen of the May.'

There is also a tradition in Ireland of choosing a pretty girl to crown with flowers as the 'May Queen', possibly originating as a tribute to the Roman Goddess 'Flora'.

May Dew

In ancient times, young women believed that washing their face in dew at dawn on the first day of May would enhance the complexion and make them more beautiful and attractive to the opposite sex.

Sourced: www.goodfoodireland

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 Adults

Luain Press Poetry Café – Poetry Ireland Day

Tuesday 1st May , 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm
Come join the Luain Press Poetry Club for Poetry Day Ireland on the 1st May at 6 p.m. - all welcome!

Housing and Homelessness Supports Information Clinic

Tuesday 6th May , 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm
Looking for advice on homelessness and housing supports? Visit this Kildare County Council drop-in clinic in Maynooth Community Library to learn about the supports available. *Drop in, no booking required *

Housing Support Clinic

Tuesday 12th May , 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm
Walk in Housing Clinic on 12th May at 2pm to 4pm, for any constituents that may have questions regarding housing applications, eligibility for housing, Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) and general questions on Housing in Kildare.

New ‘Knit + Chat ‘ Craft Club

Thursday 22nd May, 6.30 pm – 7.30pm
"Maynooth Knit + Chat is a club intended to create a space where the knitters and fibre artists of Maynooth can come together and bond over a shared love of knitting (or crochet, or anything that takes your fancy!). Whether you are a beginner or an advanced knitter, this is the club for you! People of all ages (from 18 and up) and skill levels will be in attendance. Even if you are the most skilled knitter in all of the greater Kildare area, we are sure that there will be something new for you to learn! Please contact the library @maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie

* Drop in , no booking required *

Children’s Events

‘Meet the Musical Instruments’ with Comhaltas Mhaigh Nuad
Saturday 24th May, 11am – 1.30pm
Would you like to find out more about learning to play Irish music? Musicians from Comhaltas Mhaigh nuad will be at Maynooth Community library to play a few tunes and answer any questions you have about the instruments, the music and getting started learning to play. Come along to our informal drop in Meet the Instruments session, listen to and try the instruments and learn about Irish music and how to get started on your musical journey.
* Drop in , no booking required *

Groups and Clubs

Maynooth Community Library Craft Club

The Library Craft Club meets every Monday , 11.30 - 13.00 (except on Bank Holidays).
Bring something you are working on, and exchange ideas and skills with this social craft group.**Ciorcal Comhrá** - Irish Conversation Group
Dé Máirt 11.00 r.n. – 12.00 i.n. – Tuesdays 11.00 am – 12.00pm
Fáilte roimh chách chun do Gaeilge a chleachtadh gach Dé Máirt ó 11:00am - 12:00pm.
All are welcome to practice their Irish every Tuesday from 11:00am - 12:00pm.

Baby and Toddler Group

Every Thursday , 10 am – 11 am
If you have a young baby or toddler and would like to meet other parents or minders in the area, come to our stay and play group every Thursday morning at 10am. *No need to book, just drop in!*

For further information on the library’s events , why not subscribe to the monthly library newsletter ?**Subscribe to library newsletter here:**
[Email Subscription Form - Kildare Library Service](#)



Maynooth Golf Society

Affiliated
to GUI

President: John Saults - Vice President: John Byrne - Captain: John Nolan - Vice Captain: Paul Farrelly
Secretary: Martin Maguire - Treasurer: Norman Kavanagh

Maynooth Golf Society have just completed their first 2 outings of 2025 to Grange Castle and Millicent.

Our 1st outing to Grange Castle for the Owen Byrne Shield was sponsored by John Byrne of Maynooth University Bookshop. The society would like to thank John for his continued sponsorship and support to the society.

The presentation in McMahons was well attended and the Shield was presented to the winner Norman Kavanagh by our sponsor John Byrne.
Our 2nd Outing was to Millicent on 5th April. The winner was Liam Farrelly. The full results were as follows:

GRANGE CASTLE SATURDAY 8th MARCH OWEN BYRNE SHIELD

1st - Norman Kavanagh 42pts
2nd - John Kelly 41pts.
3rd - Aaron Mahoney 40pts
4th - Simon Black 37pts
5th - Mick Fahey 36pts

Front 9 - Danny Finnan
Back 9 - Barry Farrell

Nearest Pin - John Nolan

2's Club - Marty Maguire, Simon Black, Dermot Myles.

MILLICENT SATURDAY 5th APRIL

1st - Liam Farrelly 35 pts
2nd - Aaron Mahoney 34 pts
3rd - Ryan King 33 pts
4th - Ronan Carr 31 pts
5th - Dave Mahony 29 pts (B6)

Front 9 - Dermot Myles
Back9 - Joe Edwards

Nearest Pin - Dave Mahoney

2's Club - Liam Farrelly, Danny Finnan

Our next outing is to Beech Park Golf Club on Friday 2nd May and will be for the Eddie Kavanagh Cup. This is one of the biggest events in our calendar and we are expecting an attendance of more than 30 golfers.

Martin Maguire
Maynooth Golf Society
Hon Secretary



Maynooth Autism Friendly Town Monthly News

Maynooth Celebrates Autism Awareness Month with Inclusive Community Initiatives

April was Autism Awareness Month, and in Maynooth, MAFT (Maynooth Autism Friendly Town) was leading the way with a wide range of initiatives aimed at increasing awareness, promoting inclusivity, and supporting the Autistic community and their families.

Throughout the month, MAFT worked closely with local businesses, schools, sports groups, and residents to ensure everyone in the town felt informed, supported, and included.

• School Support from MCC & MPP

Maynooth Community College and Maynooth Post Primary both hosted a non-uniform days, with proceeds going toward MAFT's ongoing awareness and inclusion initiatives.

• iPad Raffle Fundraiser

As part of the month's activities, MAFT provided a chance to win an iPad. Entries cost €10, and all funds raised went directly toward purchasing additional sensory equipment for the community.

• Educational Talks at St. Mary's Boys' School

On Thursday, April 10th, MAFT delivered a special presentation to students from 3rd, 5th and 6th class during Diversity Week, encouraging greater understanding and empathy from a young age.



Here's what's happened in our community:

• Sensory Boxes for Businesses

To raise awareness and promote inclusivity, local businesses received introductory sensory boxes. These kits offer tools and information to help businesses better understand and support Autistic customers and employees.



• Mobile Sensory Pod on the Way

A major step forward in accessibility, MAFT is investing in a Mobile Sensory Pod. This resource will be available at events across Maynooth, ensuring more inclusive experiences for individuals with sensory sensitivities.



• Maynooth GAA All-Stars Expands

The All-Stars initiative, supported by MAFT and hosted at the MEC sports hall, continues to grow in popularity. This inclusive sporting opportunity allows children of all abilities to participate and thrive.



• Hangouts and Playball Groups Thriving

MAFT's social and recreational programs—including Hangouts and Playball—remain in high demand, with waiting lists across all age groups. As a special gesture, Easter Eggs were distributed to all attendees, just in time for Easter.



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



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

May Gardening

Flowers

Prune spring shrubs, such as forsythia and chaenomeles, after flowering to keep them compact

Plant out dahlia tubers and cannas after all risk of frost has passed

Tie in the new shoots of climbing plants, including clematis, wisteria and honeysuckle, to their supports

Continue sowing annuals, such as California poppies, into gaps in borders for colour from August into autumn

Plant up hanging baskets, but keep in a greenhouse or porch for a few weeks to establish, before putting outside

Apply liquid feed to tulips, daffodils and other spring bulbs to encourage a good display next year

Plant out summer bedding and tender annuals, including sunflowers, cosmos and nasturtiums, after the last frost



Fruit and Veg

Earth up potatoes, covering the shoots with soil as they appear

Sow sweetcorn in deep pots, so the young plants are ready to transplant into the garden in June

Reduce snail populations by going on regular evening hunts, especially during damp weather

Start sowing dwarf and climbing French beans, as well as runner beans, directly outdoors in warm weather

Pick rhubarb stems as they develop, and water plants with liquid feed

Start hardening off tender young plants, such as tomatoes and courgettes, ready for planting out in mild areas

Sow batches of salad leaves and stir-fry crops every few weeks to provide continuous pickings



Garden Maintenance

Scoop out pondweed, blanketweed and algae from ponds and water features

Put soft tops on the tips of all canes, in borders, veg plots, pots and greenhouses, to prevent injury to eyes

Apply wood treatment to wooden garden furniture to condition it for summer

Set up an extra compost bin or a worm bin, so you can recycle more green waste from your kitchen and garden

Apply nitrogen-rich summer lawn feed to encourage leafy growth

Mow grass pathways through wildflower areas so you can walk in among the flowers

Hoe bare soil and hand-weed beds weekly, so weeds don't have time to establish and set seed

Source: bbcgardeningworld.com



The Hoopoe Bird

Bird watchers have been asked to be on the look out for sightings of the hoopoe, a small brown and black striped bird with a distinctive pointed head, which has made a rare appearance in Ireland in significant numbers in the past fortnight.



The hoopoe is a migratory bird frequently seen in Asia and Continental Europe, where it travels in summer to breed. It flies in an erratic, butterfly-like fashion, raising its spectacular head feathers at will. The Eurasian Hoopoe is a medium-sized bird at 25–32cm (9.8-12.6in), with a 44–48cm (17-19in) wingspan.

The nearest place the hoopoes normally settle at this time of year is in northern France but they have been spotted in plentiful numbers in Britain this year and, to a lesser extent, in Ireland in Co Cork, Co Waterford and as far north as Co Louth.

The mass arrival began in mid-March and is thought to involve the biggest numbers of the species on record for that month – certainly for the 21st century – with as many as 80 birds reported in Britain and Ireland between March 17th and 23rd.

The reasons behind the influx are unclear, though consistent high pressure, which is currently giving Ireland summer-like weather, is likely to be a factor.

Niall Hatch of Birdwatch Ireland said the birds appear to have “overshot” their traditional landing places and said it remains to be seen whether they turn back east again in coming days.

They may bring with them avian flu. Avian flu poses a threat to other species - including humans. We must be vigilant and take action if this happens. Efforts to control outbreaks often involve culling infected flocks and enforcing biosecurity measures.

A slight drop in temperatures may encourage the birds back towards Continental Europe.

Mr Hatch said climate change could not be ruled out as a reason for the sudden influx.

The hoopoe tends to nest in holes in trees and Mr Hatch urged anyone who sees the birds, particularly those birds which may be attempting to build a nest, to report the sighting to birdtrack.net.

(Source: www.irishtimes.com)

10 Facts You Did Not Know About the Hoopoe Bird

- The Hoopoe is the National Bird of Israel
- Hoopoes can be categorised into three types of living species.
- The Hoopoe has a trisyllabic song
- The Hoopoe is an omnivore
- The Hoopoe can emit unpleasant chemicals to ward off predators
- The Hoopoe's crest serves as a signalling role
- The Hoopoe population is considered robust
- The Hoopoe does not build its own nest using twigs
- The Hoopoe is monogamous and engages in courtship feeding
- The Hoopoe measures between 25-32 cm in length



(Source: judaicainthespotlight.com)

Creamy Coconut and Sriracha Meatballs

Fragrant chicken meatballs are served with a creamy coconut sauce spiked with sweet and spicy sriracha. Lean and healthy, it's the perfect midweek winner.



Prepare less than 30 mins

Cook :10 to 30 mins

Serves 4

Dietary

Dairy-free, Healthy, Nut-free, Pregnancy-friendly

Ingredients

For the meatballs:

600g/1lb 5oz chicken breast (or chicken mince)

4 spring onions, roughly chopped

2 garlic cloves

1 inch fresh root ginger, peeled and roughly chopped

Handful coriander, leaves and stalks

2 tbsp. sriracha

2 tbsp. fish sauce

1 medium free-range egg

40g/1½oz fresh or dried breadcrumbs

1 tbsp. neutral oil, such as rapeseed or sunflower oil, for frying

For the sauce:

400g tin coconut milk

1 tbsp. fish sauce

1 tbsp. sriracha

½ lime, juice only

Small handful finely chopped coriander leaves

Method

To make the meatballs, put all the ingredients, apart from the neutral oil, into a food processor and blitz for a few minutes until you have a smooth mixture. If you don't have a food processor, you can use chicken mince and mix all the ingredients together in a bowl.

Wet your hands and roll the chicken mixture into 16 evenly-sized meatballs.

Heat the oil in a large non-stick frying pan over a medium-high heat. Add the meatballs and cook for 3–4 minutes on two sides until golden

Add the coconut milk, fish sauce, sriracha and lime juice to the pan. Bring to the boil and cook for 4 minutes.

Turn the meatballs in the sauce and then cook for a further 4–5 minutes or until the chicken is cooked through and the sauce has thickened (it should coat the back of a spoon). Scatter over the coriander and serve immediately with rice or any side you like.

www.bbc.com



4-Ingredient Apricot Macaroons

Prep	Cook	Make
20m	20m	20

Ingredients (4)

- 100g dried apricots, finely chopped
- 4 cups shredded coconut
- 395g can sweetened condensed milk
- 100g dark chocolate, melted



Method

Step 1

Preheat oven to 180C/160C fan-forced. Line 2 large baking trays with baking paper.

Step 2

Combine apricot and coconut in a large bowl. Add sweetened condensed milk. Stir until combined. Using damp hands, shape 2 level tablespoons of mixture into balls. Place balls, 5cm apart, onto prepared trays.

Step 3

Bake for 15 to 18 minutes or until macaroons are lightly browned. Cool completely on trays.

Step 4

Place melted chocolate in a small bowl. Dip the base of 1 macaroon in melted chocolate, allowing excess chocolate to drain off. Return to tray. Stand for 30 minutes or until set. Serve

Source: www.taste.com.au

Coco Fizz

Prep: 5 minutes

Easy

Serves 1

Spruce up the classic coconut and rum combination with a dash of Prosecco and a squeeze of lime for a festive cocktail you can shake up in seconds

Gluten-free

Ingredients

- 25 ml coconut rum
- 50 ml coconut water
- Juice of 1/2 lime
- Ice
- 50ml prosecco



Method

Step 1

Put the coconut rum, coconut water and lime juice into a cocktail shaker,

Step 2

Add ice and shake until the outside of the shaker is icy-cold to the touch.

Step 3

Strain into a chilled coupe glass, top with the Prosecco and serve.

Source: www.bbcgoodfood.com



Memories From the Archives Celebrating 40 Years of Maynooth Community Employment Project Producing the Maynooth Newsletter May 1985

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com

MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

MAY 1985 NUMBER 96 PRICE 20p

MIDLAND MOTO RALLY

C.P.L. Limited, Maynooth & Navan, are to sponsor the VW Golf GTI of Ted Gaffney/Dan Foley in the forthcoming Midland Mote Stages Rally. This is the third round of the National Championship in which Ted is currently lying 2nd in Group N.

AMERICAN TEA PARTY 1985

The annual event in aid of the Post Primary School once again proved to be a very successful and enjoyable night. The Hostesses, generous and charming as usual, had everything prepared to perfection, and the Dance afterwards was very enjoyable.

Many thanks to all those who helped in any way to make this night such a success. A special word of thanks to Fr. Supple, P.P., for giving us the use of the Parish Hall for the occasion.

The P.T.A. hold their monthly meeting on the 2nd Tuesday of every month at 8pm. More parents, men or women, would be very welcome. P.T.A.

NEWTOWN FUELS

Newtown, Maynooth

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MAYNOOTH OLD PEOPLES COMMITTEE

On behalf of the Committee, I would like to thank everybody who contributed so graciously and generously to our recent Church Gate Collection. The collection amounted to £32.82, which is a marvellous boost to our funds. We will keep you informed throughout the year how this money is spent.

We are planning our Easter Party at the moment. This is on Sunday 21st April in S.M.A. and we are looking forward to an elegant display of Easter Bonnets. Our final party for this season will be on Sunday May 19th in S.V.D. House at 3.30, and this will be followed by our Annual Outing in June. Further details will follow in June issue.

Carol Barton, Hon. Sec.

Organising Committee of Maynooth Post Primary School Debts Ball in Hotel-Keadeen. Front: Paul Reidy, Catherine Fitzpatrick, Niamh Brady, Siobhán Bennett, Alan Brady. Back: Dominic Nyland, Kathleen McAlamy, Mona Murphy, Colin Walsh, Liz Dunbar, De Lourde Scallan, Clare Martin, Sean Griffin

I.C.A. KNITTING COMPETITION

A special congratulations to Breda Cunningham, Maynooth Park, for her prizewinning entry in the Tivoli/ Brother/L.C.A. Knitting Competition, particularly as the standard for the competition was exceptionally high. The Rayon sleeved, two tone sweater and gloves as shown below speak for themselves.

J. BARRY

Newsagent - Confectionery
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This hand-knit rayon-sleeved two-tone sweater and gloves was the prizewinning outfit by Breda Cunningham from Maynooth.

What can YOU do on World Bee Day to help save the Bees?

1

Check out the All-Ireland Pollinator Plan to see how you can help. See www.pollinators.ie to learn about all the different ways you can help bees.

Share our guidelines for Farmland, Businesses, Gardens, Schools, or Local Communities. Share our videos on your social media.

2

Look around your garden and pick some areas you will now leave for native plants and pollinating insects. Create a 'wildlife lawn' or a strip in your garden where the wildflowers will feed the bees.

If you have a native hedgerow, could you let it bloom? (by cutting no more than every 2-3 years)

3

Plant bee-friendly flowers, fruits, herbs or trees. Try to include plants that will flower at different times of the year, so that you provide food sources for bees from spring right through to autumn. You will find pollinator-friendly plant lists at www.pollinators.ie

4

Make nesting sites for Solitary Bees. 62 of our Solitary bees are Mining Bees, and need bare soil to nest. Protect these spots in your garden or create this by removing vegetation with a spade on south/east facing banks where possible.

15 of our Solitary bees are Cavity-nesting Bees, and use existing holes in wood or stone to nest. Create this by drilling holes in fencing, erecting small bee hotels or using bee bricks.

5

Do an Insect count. Choose a sunny time of day between May 20th and 27th. Watch a 50cm x 50cm bee-friendly patch in your garden, park, school or farm for 10 minutes and count the number of insects that visit the flowers during that time. Hawthorn, Clover, Dandelions or Lavender would be good plants to watch.

Visit www.pollinators.ie for more details and to download the survey form.

Submit your results to the National Biodiversity Data Centre. See: <https://pollinators.ie/record-pollinators/fit-count/>

Or perhaps you could stop mowing your road verge. A roadside verge is often a refuge for our wild plants. If used by walkers, mow just a one-metre path along roadside.

www.pollinators.ie

National Biodiversity Data Centre
Documenting Ireland's Wildlife

May typically brings Basking Sharks, Whales and Dolphins to our Irish seas

May is peak Basking Shark season around the Irish coast, so look out for these gentle giants from headlands and other vantage points around the coast. Ideally you want a sustained bout of calm weather and plenty of sunshine to encourage phytoplankton near the water's surface. That in turn will bring these huge fish up in the water column to feed, and they can often be seen on the surface when conditions are right.

Typically you'll see the black dorsal fin and the top of the tail break the surface simultaneously — and occasionally the tip of the snout as the fish opens its mouth wide to Hoover up plankton. The distance between the dorsal fin and the tail helps you to gauge the size of the shark.



May also sees Minke Whale activity increasing in inshore waters, and with patience and perseverance it should be possible to spot Ireland's smallest Baleen Whale during suitable calm conditions this month. All Baleen Whales have baleen instead of teeth which they use to collect shrimp-like krill, plankton and small fish. They are most often seen from headlands around the south and south west coasts, but occur in all Irish waters. Look out for them surfacing, often beneath clouds of diving seabirds.

Other cetaceans to look out for in May include Common Dolphins, Bottlenose Dolphins and the occasional Risso's Dolphin.

Minke Whale



Baleen Whale



Risso's Dolphin



Common Dolphin



Bottlenose Dolphin



Sourced: irelandswildlife.com, www.gettyimages.ie, iwdg.ie, uk.whales.org

How to prepare for a stress free and safe travel home and away

For a stress-free and safe travels, plan ahead by organising your itinerary such as documents, and accommodation in advance. Pack light and smart, keeping essentials like medications, chargers, and important documents easily accessible. Stay updated on weather and travel warnings, and allow extra time for unexpected delays. Be aware of your surroundings at all times, stay alert, keep valuables secure, and avoid risky areas, especially when travelling alone. Most importantly enjoy the experience of new cultures whether you're heading home or away.

The following are some tips:

- Make a checklist
- Take out travel insurance (really important)
- Before travelling to Europe apply for a European Health Insurance card.
- Do some research on your destination for things to do and the best ways to travel when you arrive. This will save time.
- Print out copies of travel document/passport
- Make a list of important phone numbers
- Don't keep money and credit cards together in case you lose your wallet
- Bring snacks/sandwiches especially when traveling with small children as airports can be expensive
- Weigh luggage to make sure you don't go over, this can be costly
- Instead of folding clothes roll them to make more space when packing
- Pack plenty of sunscreen
- Antihistamines and mosquito repellents

Newsletter staff writer: Jackie

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



The Committee held its AGM on Monday 14th April. Garry Bermingham Chair outlined his wish to step down from the role.

After much discussion he agreed to stay on until August. Susan Durack was elected Secretary and Catherine Mulready was elected Treasurer. Concern was expressed about the difficulty is getting people to volunteer for these voluntary roles.

Seniors from our Club attended the annual Castle Keep Art Group on 25th of April. It was an enjoyable night for all.

We have been continuing with art classes, bingo, chat and a cuppa. We also had a paper craft morning making greeting cards. This was very enjoyable.

If anyone thinks they would be interested in joining our Committee, we would be delighted to hear from you.

maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com.

Susan Durack PRO

Why Walking is the Ultimate Exercise

Benefits & Safety Tips

Brighter days are coming and the blue skies are bringing a sense of new beginnings. After a long winter spring is a renewed opportunity to focus on healthy habits.

Walking provides many health benefits, including improved cardiac function, lowering cholesterol, and improved mood. It is a simple and hassle-free activity that can be performed by people of all ages.

Walking offers many physical and mental health benefits and can be done by people of all ages and fitness levels.

Regular walking can help boost mood and energy levels, prevent certain diseases and conditions, burn calories, and even prolong your life. Walking is easy to fit into your routine, can be done anywhere, and requires nothing more than a good pair of shoes.

Burns Calories

How many calories you burn from walking depends on how fast you walk, your body type, and even the surface you walk on.²

The average number of calories burned walking for 30 minutes at 3.5 mph (equivalent to 17 minutes to complete one mile) is:³

- 107 calories for a 125-pound person
- 133 calories for a 155-pound person
- 159 calories for a 185-pound person

Strengthens the Heart

Walking briskly helps strengthen the heart by increasing the heart rate and improving circulation, which can help lower blood pressure.⁴ Walking is an easy way to increase physical activity and is known to help prevent and manage heart disease for those with or at risk of heart disease.

Helps Lower High Cholesterol

Research shows that regular walking at moderate intensity can help lower high cholesterol. Walking reduces cholesterol just as much as running. The more distance walked, the greater the cholesterol-lowering benefits.

Helps Lower Blood Sugar

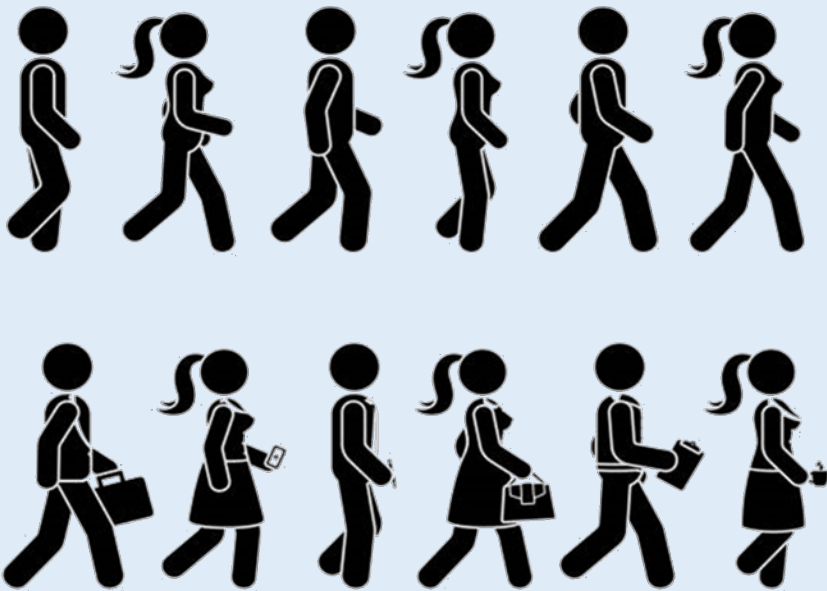
Light-intensity walking can improve blood sugar levels after eating a meal. Research has shown that taking a low-intensity walk, even for a few minutes, after eating can significantly improve blood sugar levels compared to standing or sitting after a meal.

Eases Joint Pain

Walking is one of the most important things you can do if you have joint pain or arthritis because it helps strengthen the bones and keeps joints flexible.⁹ Walking lubricates the joints, including knee and hip joints that are more prone to osteoarthritis, and strengthens the muscles that support them. Walking can also help you lose weight or maintain it, which places less stress on your joints and can improve arthritis symptoms.

Boosts Immune Function

Physical activity boosts the immune system response during and after exercise. People who exercise regularly are known to get fewer viral infections and fewer severe symptoms when they do get sick. One study found that people who walked five days a week for at least 20 minutes daily had 43% fewer sick days than those who exercised once a week or less. When regular walkers did get sick, their illnesses were shorter and their symptoms were milder than those who didn't walk regularly.



Boosts Energy Levels

When you walk, it releases oxygen throughout the body and increases levels of endorphins ("feel good" hormones), both of which help boost energy levels.

Improves Mood

Spending 10 to 20 minutes walking in nature improves mental health, including decreasing stress and negative emotions and increasing positive emotions.¹⁵ Even a single 10-minute brisk walk is enough to improve overall mood and reduce fatigue.

Helps Prevent Certain Diseases

Research has shown that in addition to lowering the risk of heart disease and osteoarthritis, regular walking reduces the risk of developing:²⁰²¹

- Alzheimer's disease
- Dementia (other than Alzheimer's disease)
- Type 2 diabetes
- Breast cancer

Extends Your Life

Brisk walking has a powerful association with extending life expectancy. Brisk walkers have been found to have up to 20 years greater life expectancy compared to slow walkers.²³ A lifetime of brisk walking has also been shown to lead to changes in DNA equivalent to a 16-years-younger biological age by midlife.

Tips for Staying Safe While Walking

To reduce your risk of accidents, injuries, or falls and stay safe when walking, you should:

- Walk during daylight or remain in well-lit areas, wearing reflective gear after dusk.
- Be aware of your surroundings and stay away from isolated areas.
- Walk with someone when possible.
- Keep your phone with you, but don't text when walking.
- Don't have your headphones turned up so high you can't hear what's around you.
- Stay hydrated and bring water with you on your walks.

Going for regular walks can offer your body and mind numerous benefits. Walking is an effective form of exercise that doesn't require a big investment or a lot of time but will pay off by improving your health and mental and emotional states. If you're beginning a walking program, start slowly and build up gradually over time to avoid injury and reap the benefits of walking.

Source: www.verywellhealth.com/benefits-of-walking-

**“In every walk with nature,
one receives more than he seeks.”**



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





PUZZLE TIME



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

Puzzles sourced free from Google

Find 10 Differences

Word Search

DIRECTIONS: Find and circle the vocabulary words in the grid. Look for them in all directions including backwards and diagonally.

BASEBALL
BLOSSOM
BUMBLEBEE
BUTTERFLY
CINCO DE MAYO
FLOWERS

E	B	H	C	Q	Q	U	Z	O	K	W	G	E	M	I	N	I	P	J
N	O	Y	A	M	E	D	O	C	N	I	C	S	G	O	G	D	J	Y
I	L	P	A	V	D	J	T	J	L	Y	A	G	P	L	A	N	T	
H	X	L	B	V	N	M	Y	A	D	S	R	E	H	T	O	M	G	E
S	E	E	D	S	Q	M	O	I	L	D	I	I	L	T	E	Q	L	F
N	E	C	J	I	Y	E	D	M	E	E	W	C	S	L	L	N	I	K
U	C	D	L	Q	W	M	G	N	I	R	P	S	Q	N	O	N	N	U
S	U	K	N	O	I	O	E	X	Q	S	U	V	C	F	P	L	H	A
Q	W	P	E	S	R	E	N	K	F	Z	G	P	A	Y	A	Z	G	
H	O	H	O	S	E	I	B	L	O	Y	L	F	T	A	A	R	F	L
M	M	F	E	H	V	A	E	B	C	V	O	H	T	U	M	E	O	F
N	U	Q	C	F	S	L	L	N	U	H	X	A	Q	V	L	W	L	F
A	E	A	L	E	O	D	B	B	E	T	N	T	I	S	M	O	S	C
G	E	E	B	A	H	A	M	Z	L	I	T	A	M	D	W	M	Y	X
T	F	A	R	L	O	Y	U	B	P	O	E	E	N	E	S	N	W	D
Q	L	Z	F	G	M	Y	B	I	N	S	S	J	R	N	R	W	C	W
L	B	Y	O	D	A	B	B	P	A	T	Z	S	S	F	H	A	Y	Z
I	Y	Y	Z	T	A	U	R	U	S	G	O	E	O	O	L	L	S	G
Y	O	O	Q	F	I	S	K	R	G	F	D	G	U	M	Y	Y	R	J

GARDEN
GEMINI
GREEN
LADYBUG
LAWNMOWER
MAYPOLE
MEMORIAL DAY
MOM

MOTHER'S DAY
PIÑATA
PLANT
SEEDS
SPRING
SUNSHINE
TAURUS
TEACHER



Crossword

Cute Insects

1. BEE 2. BUTTERFLY 3. COCKROACH 4. MOTH
5. ANT 6. FLY 7. LADYBUG 8. SPIDER
9. DRAGONFLY 10. GRASSHOPPER



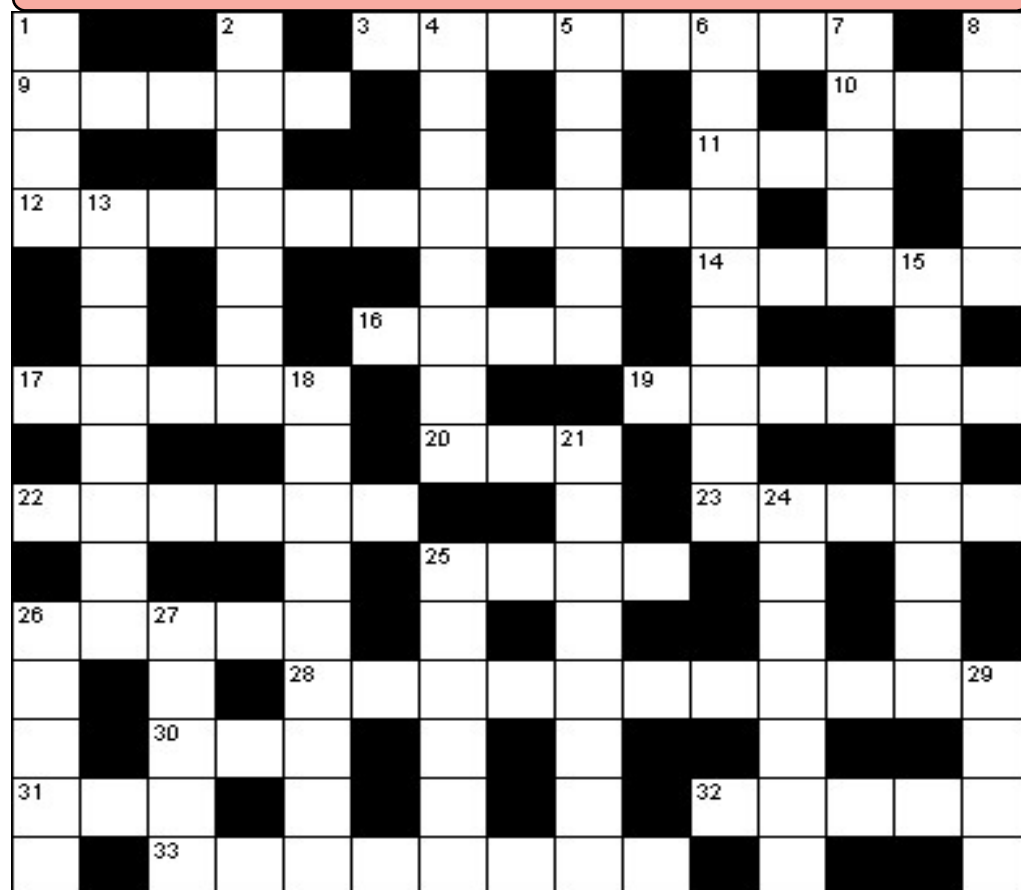
Join The Dots



Answer



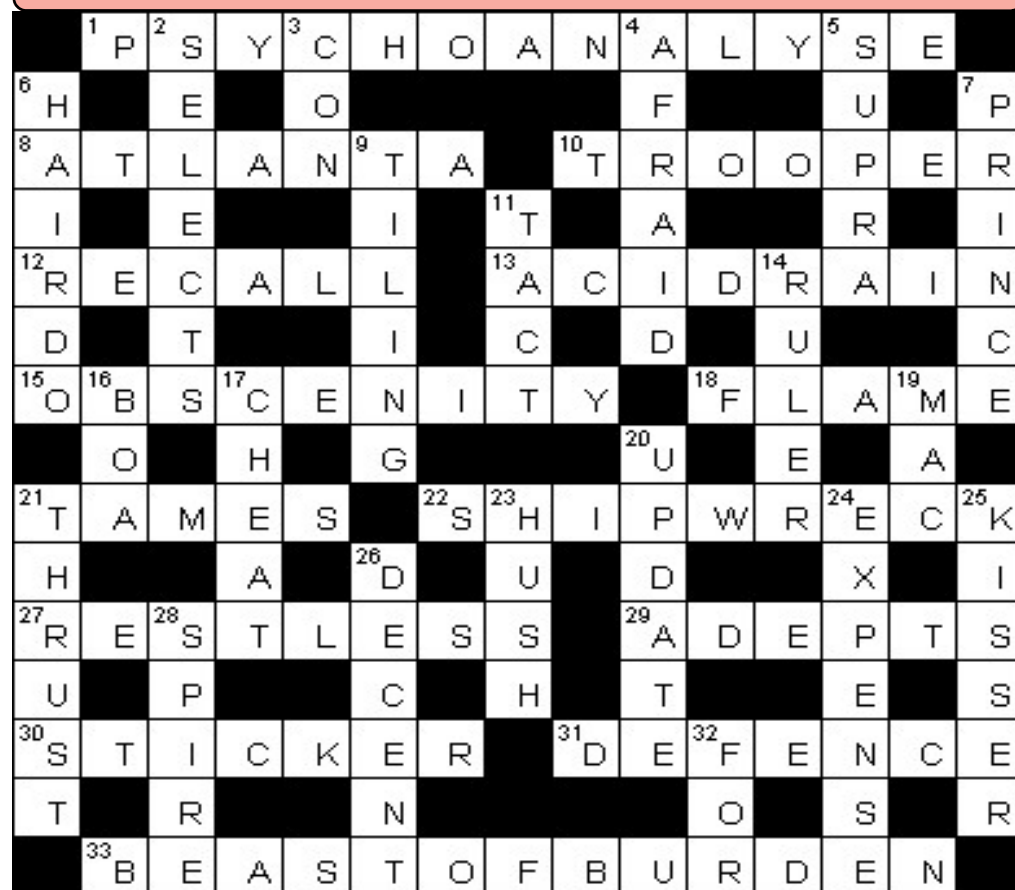
May 2025 Crossword - No. 545



Clues Across

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 3. Extremely hot (5,3) | 23. Sound (5) |
| 9. Participant (5) | 25. Speech defect (4) |
| 10. Large island in the Channel (3) | 26. Set apart as sacred (5) |
| 11. Pull laboriously (3) | 28. Not qualified (11) |
| 12. Basic (11) | 30. Impair (3) |
| 14. Paddled (5) | 31. Young bear (3) |
| 16. Back of the neck (4) | 32. Arranges in groups (5) |
| 17. Crawl (5) | 33. Superficial (4,4) |
| 19. Act properly (6) | |
| 20. A failure (3) | |
| 22. Hovers (6) | |

Solutions to Crossword No. 544



Clues Down

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| 1. One of two equal parts (4) | 21. Space between two objects (8) |
| 2. Farewell (4-3) | 24. Outward movement (7) |
| 4. One's native land (8) | 25. Neither gas nor solid (6) |
| 5. Grow teeth (6) | 26. Trail (5) |
| 6. Evening of Oct. 31 (9) | 27. Explosive weapons (5) |
| 7. Large cat (5) | 29. Partial darkness (4) |
| 8. Weapon (5) | |
| 13. Portable weather protection (8) | |
| 15. Visualise (8) | |
| 18. Medley (3-6) | |



Difficult

Sudoku Challenge

Super Difficult

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

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

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.

May Pet Care

May is National Pet Month

Don't shop! Adopt!



The National Pet Month is a celebration of all the mutual benefits that pets and pet owners share with each another. The aim is to encourage people to adopt pets, especially homeless ones, and take care of them responsibly.

This is to promote responsible pet ownership and make people aware of the benefits of pets for people, and people for pets! It also raises awareness of the role, value, and contribution to society of working companion animals. Animal and pet care is something really important to consider all year round!

How to Get Involved

Adopt a Pet: Consider adopting from a local shelter or rescue organisation to provide a home for a pet in need.

Donate to Animal Charities: Support global and local animal welfare organisations through donations or by volunteering your time.

Attend Events: Join pet-related events in your community or online, such as pet shows, charity walks, or educational webinars.

Spread Awareness: Use social media to share information about the importance of responsible pet ownership and the benefits of pet adoption.

Educate Others: Teach people about the responsibilities involved in caring for pets and the importance of kindness towards animals.

Why do people have pets?

* Pets are good company, and stroking pets can help people feel calm and relaxed.

* Animals such as dogs need lots of walks, so having a pet can keep its owner fit and healthy.



Did you know that in Ireland.....

Dogs are the most popular pet, with 38% of Irish households owning at least one. Cats come in second place, with 24% of households having one, and fish come in third place with about 8% of households having an aquarium. Other pets, such as rabbits, hamsters, and reptiles, are also quite popular (figures as of March 2023)

From companionship and emotional support, to increased fitness levels and laughter in the home, having a pet is proving to be a vital part of life in Irish homes today. New research in Ireland from Petmania, the Irish owned pet retailer, shows that our pets are considered such a part of the family, that we can spend up to €2,000 annually on their care. From birthday parties and Christmas presents, to regular grooming and a want for more pet-friendly working environments.

From my own experience of currently owning two dogs, I can spend that and more on my pets from beds to food to treats and toys (more on treats and toys, I might add). It has gotten to the stage where I can't walk in the front door without them jumping up, barking and looking for nice things. (I know, I have them spoiled rotten.) If I don't have anything, well, they do not be impressed and let me know that. Saying that, as much as they cost, I wouldn't be without them as every pet owner would agree. What I get from them, you could never put a price on.

When it comes to choosing a pet, the most important factor Irish pet-owners consider before getting a pet is temperament. The second most important attribute considered by Irish pet-owners is the size of the pet as an adult, while breed and shedding potential.

Only 8% of those surveyed chose a pet based on the colour of their coat, while just 15% chose a pet based on their appearance, proving that Irish people are looking beyond the cover of the book and thinking about their needs as a family or potential pet owner.



You have to take into consideration the age of the dog. If it is a puppy, they go through a biting stage and if you have little ones, you have to be mindful of the fact the little ones will be pulling at the dog. Some dogs are not suitable for younger families. Also if you have

other pets, you will need to get a pet that mixes well with other pets such as another dog or cat etc. Also some dogs do not like being left on their own or on their own for long. This can cause the pet undue anxiety and stress. There is no point in getting a pet if you aren't going to be there for very long periods. Some pets don't mind being on their own once they have food, water and toys to keep them occupied. So it is vital that you find out this information before you bring a pet home. At the end of the day, the most important factor in this decision is the welfare of the pet. So do your research, to find the one that best suits your family and lifestyle. Taking the time to do your research and make a decision that suits your whole family will help to ensure that your new pet will be able to settle into your life well, and reduce the risk of unforeseen expense and avoidable distress and will result in a much happier pet/pet-owner relationship in the long run.



Why not consider joining pet training classes, aside from the training benefitting both owner and pet, it is also a social event to get to know other pet owners and get some knowledge too. It is also a good way of socialising your pet. It is so important to create a bond with your dog so make sure that you play with them and reward them and just enjoy spending time with each other. Having a really great bond makes training much easier.

Irish pets really are living the life, with almost 30% of dogs getting to cosy up and sleep on their owners' beds each night. (I'll admit my two sleep on my bed. As one of mine has major separation anxiety, sleeping on the bed keeps him calm and happy. Sometimes I have to hold his paw while he sleeps. Also I have to be mindful that his anxieties doesn't set off my other dog. While calming him down, I'm also doing the same for myself. Stress levels fall. Pets pick up on all our emotions, so its another thing to be mindful of.) While most people don't agree with pets on the bed sometimes there are genuine reasons. At the end of the day their comfort and wellbeing is paramount, despite them taking up 90% of the bed.

So if they're not on their owners bed, 33% have managed to convince their owners to allow them sleep indoors on a pet bed and 11% even made it on to the couch (that we know of!). Just 3% sleep outdoors in a kennel. So, a lot has to be considered when getting a pet and remember you have to adjust to their needs as well. Also consider, are you willing to make those adjustments and sacrifices. And have a long think about the reason why you want a pet? Don't forget, pets don't come cheap, besides food bills, you will have vet bills. Don't get one because it might be trendy, get one for the right reasons and you and your family's lives will be enriched beyond measure. The benefits out way everything else.

So here is a quick reminder -

Ask yourself before getting a pet

- 1 Do I have the time?
- 2 Am I happy to plan my time around them?
- 3 Do I have the patience for a pet?
- 4 Am I able to meet all their needs?
- 5 Can I commit long-term?
- 6 Can I afford a pet?
- 7 Do I want a pet for the right reason?
- 8 If my circumstances change, can I still keep the pet?
- 9 If I have other animals, will they get on with a new pet?
- 10 Should I foster a pet first to see how I cope before getting a pet?



Adopting a pet is a decision that should not be taken lightly!

If you're not able to say yes to the above questions, then don't worry. It doesn't mean you'll never welcome a furry friend into your family but perhaps now isn't the right time. Depending on your circumstances, why not look into volunteering or even sponsoring – both of which will enable you to still help a dog in need.

Sourced: www.petmania.ie, www.twinkl.ie & www.awarenessdays.com



Maynooth Community Contacts Listing

<p>Naoise Ó Cearúil TD 086 7280050 naoise.ocearuil@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/naoiseocearuil/</p>	<p>Réada Cronin T.D. 01-6183823 reada.cronin@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/ReadaCroninSinnFein</p>	<p>James Lawless T.D. 01-6183587 james.lawless@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/JamesLawlessFF/</p>	<p>Joe Neville TD 086-6062207 joe.neville@oireachtas.ie</p>
<p>Cllr. Tim Durkan 086-8632784 tim.durkan321@gmail.com</p>	<p>Cllr. Angela Feeney 087-2381962 angelaemfeeney@gmail.com facebook.com/cllrangelafeeney/</p>	<p>Cllr. Peter Melrose 089 263 7612 peter.melrose@socialdemocrats.ie</p>	<p>Cllr. Donna Phelan 0870023636 dphelan@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Cllr. Paul Ward 087 2294697 cllrpaulward@gmail.com</p>	<p>An Nuadha Players annuadhplayers@gmail.com facebook.com/annuadha</p>	<p>An Post Sorting Office Maynooth 01-6293390</p>	<p>Brass & Reed Band (St Mary's) sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie facebook.com/maynoothband/</p>
<p>Cemetery Committee (Laraghbryan) 01-6293018</p>	<p>Church of Ireland 01-6292163 secretary@meath.anglican.org</p>	<p>Citizen Information Centre 0818078100 maynooth@citinfo.ie</p>	<p>Cloth Nappy Library Ireland 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/NappyLibraryIreland</p>
<p>Community Welfare Services 0818607080 Kildarecws@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Employment Office 01-6106000 bo.maynooth@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Kildare County Council 045 - 980200 customerservice@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Kildare Civil Defence 045 980529 pmcneela@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Kildare County Council (Local Office) 01 - 6286236</p>	<p>Kildare MABS 0818072600 kildare@mabs.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Autism Friendly Town 0863329050 autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/maynoothaft</p>	<p>Maynooth Employment Services Office Kelly's Lane, Maynooth 01-6016360 EstMaynooth@welfare.ie</p>
<p>Maynooth Post Office 01-6286259</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Care Unit 01-6106351</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Church 01-5054990 office@maynoothcc.org facebook.com/maynoothcommunitychurch/</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Library 01-6285530 maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie. facebook.com/ KildareCountyLibraryService</p>
<p>Maynooth Cycling Campaign 086-8252934 Maynoothcycling@gmail.com www.maynoothcyclingcampaign.com</p>	<p>Maynooth Fishing Club 01-6293202 info@maynoothfisheries.com</p>	<p>Maynooth GAA Club secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie facebook.com/maynoothgaa/</p>	<p>Maynooth Health Centre 01-6106130</p>
<p>Maynooth Kilcock Lions clubcontact@maynoothkilcocklionsclub.org facebook.com/MaynoothKilcockLionsClub/</p>	<p>Maynooth Library 01-6285530 Maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Newsletter 01-6285922 office@maynoothcep.com facebook.com/MCEPnewsletter</p>	<p>Maynooth Senior Citizens maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com</p>
<p>Maynooth Tidy Towns 083 304 6130 maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie facebook.com/MaynoothTidyTowns</p>	<p>Maynooth Town Football Club 086-1060654 info@maynoothtownfc.ie facebook.com/MTFC1969/</p>	<p>Maynooth Students Union 01-7083669 frontdesk@msu.ie facebook.com/MaynoothSU</p>	<p>North Kildare Club 01-6103909 info@northkildareclub.ie</p>
<p>North Kildare Tennis Club info@northkildaretennis.ie</p>	<p>Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth 01-6293018 maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com</p>	<p>SVP Vincent's Shop 01-6289643 geraldinebyrne.east@svp.ie facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064619179003</p>	<p>Zero Waste Maynooth 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth</p>

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



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

LOCAL NEWS - JUNE 2025 - ISSUE NO. 546

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- ◆ MAYNOOTH TIDY TOWNS
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- ◆ ST MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND NOTES
- ◆ NEWS FROM SENIOR CITIZENS
- ◆ STORIES FROM OUR READERS
- ◆ MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN
- ◆ LABOUR PARTY NOTES
- ◆ MAYNOOTH 10K
- ◆ MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY ARTS & MINDS FESTIVAL
- ◆ FIANNA FÁIL NOTES
- ◆ AN NUADHA PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATRE
- ◆ LIBRARY NOTES
- ◆ PET CARE
- ◆ CROSSWORD
- ◆ KIDS PUZZLES
- ◆ MAYNOOTH AUTISM NEWS
- ◆ MAYNOOTH TIDY TOWNS
- ◆ MAYNOOTH ICA NOTES

Record Numbers and Community Spirit Shine at the Maynooth 10K & 5K - 2025 *Photo Gallery on pages 7,8 & 9*

Maynooth, May 11th, 2025 – The annual Maynooth 10K reached new heights this year, as a staggering 1,141 runners took to the streets, officially eclipsing last year's record-breaking turnout. Under glorious sunshine and a festival-like atmosphere, the event brought together a dynamic mix of local celebrities, seasoned athletes, casual runners, families, and first-timers to celebrate the very best of local spirit.

Participants tackled both the 10K and 5K routes with determination and enthusiasm, cheered on by our tremendous volunteer stewarding squad and supporters lining the streets and filling the town with energy. Basking in glorious sunshine, the event once again proved why it's a highlight of the local calendar—uniting the community in support of local schools, community sports facilities, well-being, and shared purpose. Powered by Sponsors, Volunteers, and Pure Heart.

The success of the 2025 Maynooth 10K was made possible by an incredible network of volunteers and local sponsors. This year saw the continued support of returning partners and a warm welcome to new sponsors, whose generosity helped provide everything from finisher medals and snoods, to prizes, refreshments, and volunteer gear.

With Special Thanks to:

Alvaro Blasco of Blasco Solicitors, sponsors of snoods, and volunteer t-shirts.

Cryoclinic, sponsors of race day bib numbers

Specsavers, sponsors of medal lanyards

Picaderos, sponsors of the water stations

Our Remaining Sponsors

Lencon, EBS Maynooth, Simple Strength Fitness, Bella and Me Skin and Laser, LWF Physiotherapy, O'Neills Bar Lifrite Ltd, Oakberry Acai Bowls and Smoothies, U by Urbeo Property Management, Maynooth Tidy Towns, whose combined contribution covered the costs of medals and signage.

Podium Prizes Sponsors

Carton House Hotel, The Glenroyal Hotel, The Glenroyal Leisure Centre, Synergy Golf Management, Picaderos & Donatellos Restaurants, Sphere Fitness, Simple Strength Fitness, LWF Physiotherapy, ARUNA Yoga

Volunteer Prize Sponsors

Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Maynooth - block of lessons, Infinity Hot Yoga Maynooth class passes, and Kava Pilates Maynooth class passes.

Particular thanks to Casey/Nally's Supervalu Maynooth for the large donation of water which we simply couldn't manage without.

To Typo Coffee and MEC PTA for fuelling our finishers with delicious post-race treats.

To Highway Markings for their generous donation of the 2 VMS

signs to highlight our event to road users.

Fitness instructors at Simple Strength, Leixlip who led our energetic pre-race warm-up and Comhaltas Maynooth who provided traditional Irish music for all and contributed to the race village vibe.

As always, the event's logistics and safety were expertly managed thanks to Kildare County Council, An Garda Síochána, Maynooth Community First Responders medical teams, and the Maynooth Cycling Club, who led runners through the route. Over 50 volunteers once again formed the backbone of the event—managing everything from route planning, setup, organisation, parking and marshalling to water stations and everything in between.

We would also like to thank the residents affected along the route for their patience and understanding particularly those on the Moyglare Road, Mariavilla, Castle Park and Linden Demesne who were most affected.

The Maynooth 10k has not only become a staple event in the local community but also a shining example of the power of sport to bring people together, promote health and fitness and foster a sense of belonging. Siobhan McCauley principal of Maynooth Community College explained how important the fundraiser is for both schools, and went on to say how grateful they are for the support the event attracts and it is always such a pleasure to see all of the runners, especially all the alumni and current students who get involved.

Now firmly established as a cornerstone of the community calendar, the Maynooth 10K continues to grow in size, spirit and impact. With record participation and an atmosphere full of joy and encouragement, 2025's race will be remembered as one of the best yet.

A sincere thank you to every runner, volunteer, sponsor and supporter who made this year's Maynooth 10K unforgettable. See you on the start line in 2026!

For race results, pictures and future event updates, visit www.maynooth10k.ie



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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

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

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

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Letters to the Editor

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

e-mail to: editor@maynoothcep.com

Mission Statement

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

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

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

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

In addition we undertake the following:

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

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

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

Maynooth Newsletter Archives

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

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

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

Disclaimer

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

All information should be verified from an independent source.

Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter

Editorial

Ireland is the first, and only, country in the world to have a national day of free creativity for children and young people under 18. Cruinniú na nÓg is a flagship initiative of the Creative Ireland Programme's Creative Youth Plan, to enable the creative potential of children and young people. It is great to see that there is an event in Maynooth aimed at encouraging younger residents to become aware of our local heritage. Children as young as five years old are encouraged to become a "Heritage Hunter" and take part in a creative treasure hunt around Maynooth town, suitable for young families and children of all ages.



You can pick up your map and first clue from Maynooth Community Library (pictured) and have fun finding all the clues around the town and doing the art activities mentioned in them. Special art kits will be available on a first come, first served basis. Complete the treasure hunt (and if you're quick enough!) pick up your

treasure in Maynooth Community Library. No booking is required; however, the art packs and prizes have limited availability. This Cruinniú na nÓg treasure hunt runs from Wednesday 28th of May to Saturday 7th June 2025. (Please note the library will be closed June Bank Holiday Weekend).

The Maynooth Union was founded in June 1895 so marks their 130th anniversary this year. On the 9th/10th June in St. Patrick's College, former students will get together, with a range of events planned. Particular anniversaries being marked this year are the class of 1965 (Diamond), 1975 (Golden) and 2000 (Silver). Congratulations to all.



Works continue on the North-South corridor upgrade in Mill Street (pictured before work started). Progress has been made but works are due to continue up to the end of the year.

Hopefully they will tackle the bigger part of the work during the summer. With the university and a number of local schools nearby, it would be preferable that works can be completed before these return in September.

Finally, good luck to all our students in the three post-primary schools undertaking the Leaving and Junior certificate exams in June. Remember that while important, these exams do not define you. As Henry Ford said "The whole secret of a successful life is to find out what is one's destiny to do, and then do it."

Paul Croghan
Editor

**Copy date for the July edition will be
5pm on 25th June 2025**

VOLUNTEERING OPPORTUNITY IN MAYNOOTH



Director (Voluntary Board Role)

Organisation: Maynooth Community Employment Project (MCEP)
Location: Maynooth, Co. Kildare (in-person attendance required)
Time Commitment: Up to 4 hours/month (depending on the role) and up to 10 board meetings/year

About Us

MCEP is a long-established community organisation providing training, work experience, and support services in Maynooth. We publish the monthly Maynooth Newsletter, provide support to community group activities, maintain Maynooth Harbour area and Maynooth Town Football Club. We are a registered company, approved charity, and receive funding from the Department of Social Protection and other local revenue streams. We currently have 16 staff members.

About the Roles

Due to retirements, we are seeking to appoint a number of new directors to join our Board of Directors. Expressions of interest are welcome from people who are eligible to serve as company directors and charity trustees. All roles are completely voluntary and unpaid. Those appointed must be available to serve for a minimum period of one year. Ideally people joining the board are Maynooth based or be available to come to Maynooth, as in person involvement is required.

We're looking for people with the some of the following skills

- Financial/accounting
- IT and Website
- Sales and Marketing
- Community Development Leadership

Why Join Us?

This is a chance to make a real impact in your local community. You will be part of a dedicated and friendly team, helping to shape the future of a valued local organisation. By giving a little of your time, you also get a great opportunity to give something back to your community.

To Apply:

To submit an Expression of Interest or seek more information, you can contact us by email to :
 Paul Croghan, Company Secretary, MCEP at paul.croghan@maynoothcep.com

MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT SECRETARIAL SERVICES

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Opening Hours

Mon-Fri - 9.00 am - 4.30 pm

(Closed for Lunch 1pm to 2pm)





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

Phew, we can finally breathe again after many weeks of preparing our Tidy Towns Application. We submitted the document on Monday the 12th May. Fingers crossed for a good result. Judging should begin at unknown dates in June/July, results should be known in September.

Lots of preparations taking place around the town for the Entente Florale Europe Competition where judging takes place on the 12th of July. Kildare County Council are pulling out all the stops, they have installed 6 new benches in the square. They have created 2 new flower beds also in Courthouse Square. Tidy Towns will be planting pollinators, bee friendly flowers, over the next couple of weeks. We will have our final meeting with KCC staff and The Department of Rural Affairs in our Library on the 22nd May.

We organized a Heritage Trail Walk with the Fleadh team on Saturday the 24th May. On Saturday May 17th The Kildare Fleadh team joined us for a clean up. Refreshments were provided by the ICA in the ICA Hall at the Harbour.

We have been very busy at the Community Church installing flower beds. Thanks to Peter Cuthbert local environmentalists for all his help and providing us with some of the plants grown from seed.

We also received a very generous donation of Heathers from a nursery in Timahoe. We planted many of them along the Harbour.



Special thanks to Barretts Hardware Maynooth for their generous donations to Tidy Towns all year round. Thanks also to Vinny Mulready for all his work upcycling this bicycle which was donated to Tidy Towns by a local resident. It should make a great display over the summer months.

We are always looking for volunteers please contact us on Facebook Messenger. We meet every Saturday morning at 9am in the Council Car Park. We also meet up on a Wednesday evening at 7pm. Just show up all equipment supplied.

If you wish to volunteer please contact us on our Facebook page or by

email maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie

Mary Molloy

Maynooth Tidy Towns Association



FLEADH CHEOIL CHILL DARÁ
18th-25th May 2025
Maynooth

FLEADH AN PHOBAIL
-COMMUNITY FLEADH EVENT-

Fleagh Spring Clean With Maynooth Tidy Towns & ICA
Duke's Harbour
Saturday 17th of May - 9am to 11am
Help Maynooth look its best by joining Maynooth Tidy Towns for a Fleadh Spring Clean, followed by refreshments and craft display by the ICA at their iconic hall by the harbour. Great tunes will be provided by local musicians.

Maynooth Heritage Trail
A project by Maynooth Tidy Towns with support and funding from Kildare County Council

Heritage Trail Walk With Maynooth Tidy Towns
Duke's Harbour
Saturday 24th of May - 11am to 1pm
Join Maynooth Tidy Towns for a guided tour of the Maynooth Heritage Trail. The trail offers a unique glimpse into Maynooth's heritage from its medieval roots to its role in Ireland's cultural and educational history.

BOOKING REQUIRED

SCAN TO BOOK

The Emerald Isle

On the emerald isle,
where the grass is so green,
And the skies are so blue,
like you've never seen,
Where Irish souls dance to ancient tunes,
A friendship blossoms,
like wildflowers in June.
From Dublin's fair city to Galway's rugged coast,
Friendship's spirit spreads,
to those who seek it most,
Like the rivers that meander through the land,
Irish souls unite,
with a gentle guiding hand.

By: Charles Philips

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



Cllr **Angela Feeney**

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

Bord Bia Bloom 2025

10 fun things to see and do

Roll up, roll up, the time has come to start planning your trip to this summer's hottest and more colourful festival! Bord Bia Bloom returns to the Phoenix Park, Dublin this Thursday, May 29th to Monday, June 2nd and with glorious gardens, fabulous food, and more than 300 live performances taking place over five days, there is so much to see and do this year. Here is our pick of the best of Bloom 2025:

1. See Bloom's spectacular Show Gardens

As the heart and soul of Bord Bia Bloom, the 21 Show Gardens will once again be a hive of activity over the five days of the festival. Look out also for Bloom's hugely popular Postcard Gardens, sponsored by Tirlán Country Life, which are built in one day by community groups and schools from across Ireland.

2. Learn how to design and grow the garden of your dreams

Head to the Garden Stage, sponsored by Zarbee's where television presenters Diarmuid Gavin and Adam Frost of BBC's Gardeners' World are headlining a busy programme of expert talks and demonstrations. Ask for specialist advice in the Ask the Expert Plant, Tree and Garden Design Clinics, which are brought to Bloom by The Irish Garden magazine, Crann – Trees for Ireland, and the Garden & Landscape Designers Association.

3. Taste the best of Irish food and drink

The **Food Hall** within Bloom's bustling Food Village features more than 100 of Ireland's artisan producers. From chocolates to cheese and oysters to teas, there is plenty to tantalise your tastebuds. While you're there, you can pop over to Bloom Inn, where some of the country's best craft brewers and distillers are gathered. This is a great spot to take a break, enjoy a tippie, and soak up the buzz of the festival.

4. Watch your favourite chefs and culinary stars in action

Donal Skehan, Neven Maguire, Aishling Moore and Catherine Fulvio are among a collection of culinary stars taking to the Dunnes Stores Quality Kitchen Stage this year. With 30 live demos planned for the weekend, this is a must see for anyone who loves to cook. Seafood fans should also check out Bloom's new Seafood Kitchen, where chef Trisha Lewis is hosting three demos each day.

5. Catch more gardening, floral art and craft demos and workshops

With 300 (yes, 300!) talks, demos, performances and workshops taking place across the Bloom weekend, there is ample opportunity to grow, taste and learn at this year's festival.

You can learn how to care for houseplants or make a floral crown in the new Botanical Hub Demo Space; discover some fascinating facts and enjoy the simulators at the Horticulture is Life area; find out how to grow abundant kitchen gardens in the Eat Well Garden; enjoy farming demos at the Agri Aware Farm; and see some of Ireland's master craftspeople demonstrate their skills in the Design & Craft Council Ireland (DCCI) Irish Craft Village. Prepare to be inspired!

6. Gather advice for a more sustainable life

If you are eager to learn how you can play your part in protecting the environment, then make a bee-line for the Conservation Area where you can chat with leading conservationists and environmentalists. Here you will also find the inspirational Sustainable Living Stage,

sponsored by Certa (official supplier of HVO to Bord Bia Bloom) which will host a packed programme of talks on a wide range of topics, from the circular economy and renewable energy to gardening with fewer chemicals and sustainable fashion advice. Expect practical advice for actionable change.

7. Enjoy 'A Taste of Bloom'

'A Taste of Bloom, curated by Neven' features a three-course menu which has been thoughtfully designed by the MacNean House chef-proprietor to showcase some of the very best ingredients from quality Irish producers. The special 'Taste of Bloom' package is available on Ticketmaster priced €79 per person, which includes entry to the festival and a 3-course lunch. Demand is high so early booking is advised! For more delicious dining options, head to The Seafood Terrace, Country Crest Restaurant, or choose from more than 60 food trucks who are serving a wide variety of cuisines in the Picnic Area, Food Village, and Bloom's dedicated grill zone, BBQ Bliss, sponsored by Ninja Woodfire.

8. Soak up the Sounds of Summer

There is no shortage of musical entertainment planned for the Bloom weekend. Head to the Entertainment Stage to watch an eclectic collection of artists perform and make sure to stop by RTÉ's outdoor broadcast area to see your favourite presenters broadcast live including Louise Duffy, Derek Mooney, Philip Boucher-Hayes, Marty Whelan, Simon Delaney and more.

9. Indulge in some Retail Therapy

From food to fashion and plants to paintings, there is something to tempt everyone at Bloom. For plants visit the Nursery Village, in association with Elite Garden Products and The Plant Emporium, in association with Arboretum Garden Centres, Kildare Growers Association and Bord Bia. If you buy too many to carry, fear not. You can store them in the Plant Crèche, sponsored by Certa Renewables until it's time to go home. Discover the full exhibitor list here.

10. Have fun with your Budding Bloomers

And last but not least, visit the Budding Bloomers Children's Area for face painting, crafting, and a rip-roaring line up of enthralling performances from some of Ireland's favourite children's entertainers on the Budding Bloomers Stage, sponsored by Rollercoaster.ie.

Elsewhere in the festival, children can visit the Phoenix Park Playground; the Agri Aware Farm; and get their hands dirty in the Westland Horticulture Potting Shed. Remember, two children aged 16 and under can enter for free with every adult ticket making Bloom a great family day out!

It's time to plan your visit,

see information on tickets and transport below:

Tickets

Tickets are on sale via the BordBiaBloom.com website. Two children (aged 16 and under) go free with each adult ticket purchased.

Getting there

Visitors are encouraged to take public transport to the festival when possible. A regular, free shuttle bus is available to take visitors from Parkgate Street, next to the Luas Red Line and Heuston Station, to the festival's entrance on Chesterfield Avenue. Free, secure bike parking is also available to those who can cycle to Bloom. Full details of all transport options can be found on bordbiabloom.com.





Maynooth 10K & 5K - 2025 - Photo Gallery



Maynooth 10K & 5K - 2025 - Photo Gallery



10k 2025 Winners

10km Male Winners

Bib	Pos.	Name	Club	AG	Chip Time	Gun Time
700	1	Stephen CONROY	Clane A.C.	M	0:33:28	0:33:28
244	2	Barry WHELAN		M	0:33:59	0:33:59
601	3	Andy NEVIN	Mullingar Harriers A.C.	M	0:34:08	0:34:09

10km Female Winners

Bib	Pos.	Name	Club	AG	Chip Time	Gun Time
6523	14	Sheila O BYRNE	Sli Cualann A.C.	F	0:37:21	0:37:22
569	16	Breffini KELLY	Clane A.C.	F	0:38:10	0:38:11
581	40	Laura WARD	Dunboyne AC	F40	0:41:44	0:41:48

5km Male Winners

Bib	Pos.	Name	Club	AG	Chip Time	Gun Time
741	1	Adam NASON	Donore Harriers	M	0:16:01	0:16:01
877	2	Harry CAHILL	Donore Harriers	M	0:16:14	0:16:14
781	3	Cian CONNOLLY		M	0:16:26	0:16:26

5km

Bib	Pos.	Name	Club	AG	Chip Time	Gun Time
596	7	Mollie O DONNELL	Liffey Valley A.C.	F	0:18:38	0:18:38
549	17	Ariana BALL	Donore Harriers	F40	0:20:43	0:20:44
6655	24	Sinead O CONNOR	Celbridge A.C.	F	0:21:46	0:21:52

Photo credits to:
Maynooth 10K committee
and
Mark Colfer



Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



Safety Measures needed at Fagan's Lane Maynooth

At the May Council Municipal District meeting I called on the Council to carry out a safety assessment at Fagan's Lane. The lane used to be a two-way lane for traffic and the very wise decision was made a few years back to make it one-way only. So it is now exit only for traffic onto Main Street Maynooth. The reason I put the motion down to review the safety issue is that many people have reported near misses at the junction; cars exiting from Fagan's Lane onto a very busy junction with lots of pedestrians walking on Main Street. Motorists take chances to get across the junction or to get into the flow of traffic on Main Street as there is no traffic light controlling that exit from Fagan's Lane, as it is currently designed. The area engineer has agreed to meet me on site and assess the current usage of the lane and the safety issues in order to see what might work better and to make it safer.

Speed ramp/s on Boreen Road, Straffan

I have had the Boreen Road in Straffan on the agenda many times not only this year but also during the last term of the Council. I have raised the need for footpaths on that road and with the Masterplan for Straffan in the pipeline for funding, I am hopeful and will be pushing for that to happen. In the meantime, the speeding issue on the road needs to be addressed. Many residents in Straffan have been raising their concerns for safety due to increased speeding on this road; it is a very busy, narrow road with sharp bends. I am calling for appropriate engineering measures to be put in place, such as chicanes or ramps, better signage and lines and costings to be drawn up by the Council.

Schedule for parking bye law reviews for Maynooth

frustrating response as it failed to provide a timeline but got a list of towns in the order in which the parking bye law reviews will take place and on that basis I am guessing that Maynooth looks like it's 10th place in the queue. My question on the agenda was prompted by a response I got to a motion last month calling for a disability bay for the St. John of Gods service in Maynooth and I was told that a disability

bay could not be provided until the parking bye law review took place. I asked the Council to clarify where that puts us with issues as they arise such as the disability bay or similar issues. The Council suggested using Section 38 of the Road Traffic Act would be needed because the roll out of the review of the parking by-laws seems very slow.

Expansion of library services for Maynooth

The library service is a great success and is one of the busiest libraries in the county. It is in a great location on Main Street but has no scope for expansion. Given the population growth of the town, we have seen there is an increased demand for the services of the library. The response from the Council is welcome when it stated that the need for an expanded library is on its agenda and that it is looking for appropriate sites. I will be following up with the Council with suggestions for suitable sites in the locality.

Upcoming Motions and Questions at Council meeting:

Questions:

1. Can the Council provide an update on the ongoing Mill Street, Maynooth works, the continuation of the project past the undeveloped section that connects Mill Street to the Moyglare Road to include projected timelines
2. Can the Council provide an update as to when the link Road from Mullen Park to the Celbridge Road will open?

Motions

1. That the Council in partnership with Kildare Childcare Committee, provides a Community Crèche in the municipal district to serve the growing child care needs of families.
2. That the Council installs pencil bollards on the footpath on the Moyglare Road opposite the Boys School National School to prevent car parking on the cycle and footpath.



Maynooth ICA Guild Notes

The Guild has had a busy time over last few months. Some members took part in national competitions in bread making and quiz. We will also have a team in pitch and putt in September.

The Federation will have a Polish and Irish night in Celbridge in May. The Federation will also host a craft day 1st of November. Some more members are going to An Grianán from 1st to 5th September and will be doing crafts.

A Drama Workshop took place in our Guild Hall over 4 weeks, which was attended by members of the Guild and Federation. At the last Federation meeting, Guilds were drawn from Celbridge and Leixlip for scholarship to An Grianán.

Our Guild will be working with the Fleadh during May. On the 17th May we are hosting the Fleadh Committee and Tidy Towns to refreshments. Some of our Craft Works will be on display also. The Guild sent Hats and Scarfs to the needy.

The Guild also held a collection for The Alzheimer's Association. Sixteen members attended a lovely lunch in Springfield at end of April. This was a lovely social event for the Guild. We are also planning a day out to Enniscorthy to see Vinegar Hill and the Castle.

Every 2nd Tuesday of the month Craft Classes are held in H/Q and are always well attended.

The Guild also received a Sports Grant of €250. Sports Day will be held in Monread Naas on 23/5/25 from 9.30 to 1pm. All Guild to put in teams, and winning teams will then go on to a National Final. Another trip is being organised for Limerick in June'25.

The Guild got a new ramp at the back door and a safety handle too. It's great for those of us who are not stable on our feet. We must thank the Men's Sheds for fixing bits and pieces in the Hall in the last few months. A lovely warm crocheted blanket was donated to the local nursing home in the harbour and they were delighted to accept it.

There is a lot of stuff going on to keep all our members busy for a while. We also rent out our hall to other bodies for meetings. We welcome new members at all times.

Our monthly meetings take place 1st Thursday of the month at 8pm, and we are open for crafts every Monday from 8-10pm in our hall in the harbour.

***Our hall is available to rent and
we are always looking for new members***

Nora McDermott PRO Maynooth I.C.A.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign

Membership of Maynooth Cycling Campaign

Maynooth Cycling Campaign has moved to a fee membership of €30 per person per annum. Prior to this, the need for finance was limited so there was no charge for our supporters. Dublin Cycling Campaign has had paid membership since its early days and the Irish Cycling Campaign, formerly Cyclist.ie, which lobbies on national issues has also introduced a similar membership fee.

In 2024, in order to qualify for local funding streams that do not permit applications from national organisations, Kildare County Council required Maynooth Cycling Campaign to open its own bank account and to take out insurance in its own name. The membership fee will enable us to pay for insurance and other essential expenses such as bank charges and website maintenance which supports our work locally. In particular, insurance cover is required to participate in events such as Bike Week, Picnic in the Park and the Maynooth St. Patrick's Day parade. It is also a requirement to hire third party rooms for public meetings. If you would like to support better cycling facilities in Maynooth, contact us at maynoothcycling@gmail.com.

Bike Week 2025

Bikeweek 2025 ran from 10th -18th May. Maynooth Cycling Campaign organised three events. The key event was a screening of the film MOTHERLOAD. A small crowd enjoyed the film and discussions which followed. We are grateful to Dr. Karen Moore for leading the Nature Cycle along the Royal Canal towpath.

Cycling Without Age

We are delighted to announce that the trishaw has been serviced and is available for tours of Maynooth at the weekends and for use by St. John of God/Genil Training. We are grateful to Cycle Clinic in Dublin for carrying out the maintenance.



Cycle Path Trail on Strand Road Dublin

Last month, the Court of Appeal overruled the High Court ruling which blocked the trail of a cycle path on Strand Road Dublin on the basis that the judge had erred on several points of law and fact.

A mix of advocacy groups, social enterprises, and others have come together to make the call for the cycle path trial to go ahead. The groups include: A Playful City, Cycling Without Age, Dublin Commuter Coalition, Dublin Cycling Campaign, I Bike Dublin, Irish Doctors for the Environment, IrishCycle.com, Irish Cycling Campaign, Jesuit Centre for Faith and Justice, and The Bike Hub.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign would like to add its support to the petition and asks its supporters and members of the public to sign the petition here. It is common practice for authorities to trail controversial changes to roads to see their effect. If the changes are positive, they are made permanent. If the impact of changes are negative, they are abandoned. In contrast, in recent years, Maynooth councillors have voted against a trial on Parson Street.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is a non-party independent local lobby in Kildare.

Eurovelo 02 - The Capitals Route



In 2004, Channel 4 broadcast a programme about the Bishop family from Newtownmountkennedy who had cycled from Wicklow to Gibraltar a distance of about 1800 km. The family consisted of parents Craig and Annick and their four daughters who were aged 17, 15, 13 and 7. They believed that life should have adventure and that you can learn a great deal from travelling. They also wanted to inspire others.

I was very motivated by the programme but at that time, as a parent of two children aged 16 and 11, it was impractical to be absent from work for two months and, frankly, I could not envisage my wife wanting to join me on my adventure.

In more recent years, I became aware of the European Cycling Federation's Euro-Velo network which is a network of mainly north-south and east-west cycle routes which emulate the European network of motorways. Eurovelo Route 02 is called the Capitals Route and links Moscow on the east and Galway on the west. It runs through Russia (Moscow), Belarus, Poland (Warsaw), Germany (Berlin), the Netherlands (Hague), United Kingdom (London) and Ireland (Dublin), finishing up in Galway in the west. **The route follows the Royal Canal in Kildare and so includes my home town of Maynooth.** I wanted to cycle the whole route (or at least most of it) but I discovered that

although many of the EuroVelo routes are available on the ground, some particularly in the eastern European countries are still at the planning stage. In view of the military conflict involving Russia, I decided to omit the sections in Belarus and Russia. Poland includes a number of EuroVelo routes but EV 02 is largely still at the planning stage so I decided to start in Poznan.

This takes a degree of planning. I am very grateful to advice I received from Donal O'Connor who had cycled from Achill to Auschwitz in 2022.

How far to cycle every day? I wasn't used to cycling significant distances every day but would I have time to explore the areas that I am passing through. I decided that I would cycle an average of 35km/day - seven days per week. In practice, I would take a rest day every week. If I wanted to spend more time in an area, I would cycle longer distances.

Accommodation - do I stay in hotels, B&Bs or do I carry a tent which would be cheaper but which would add to the weight transported. I decided that I would carry a tent and sleeping bag/ blow up mattress but I would treat myself by staying in a hotel one day a week.

Food - Do I bring a cooker and utensils or do I cook along the way? Will there be places to eat along the way? I decided not to cook as it would be easier to eat out although a small stock of 'emergency' food would be wise in case that I could not find anywhere to eat.

Do I cycle from Ireland to Poland or vice versa? I preferred the option of travelling from east to west so that I would hit the UK and Ireland in the middle rather than early summer. I considered travelling to Poland by train but it could take up to three days.

It is time to put up or shut up. My adventure starts in June when I fly to Poznan.

By Gerry Dornan



Phelan Cllr. Donna

Working with **Naoise Ó Cearúil TD**

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

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

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

Donna & Naoise

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Natural Repellents To Help Keep Bugs At Bay This Summer

Natural repellents are a safe and easy way to keep out pesky ants and spiders amongst other insects. Natural repellents are also a good option when you have small children and pets running around picking up things from floor, to mouth. Essential oils like peppermint, tea tree and eucalyptus are known to deter insects safely. You can spray these around windows and doors, and this will also give your home a clean and fresh smell. Bay leaves, lavender, orange peels and vinegar can work just as well, and many of these are staples in most households.

Things you will need:

- Empty Spray Bottle
- Water
- Essential Oils

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

Seeking Volunteers - it could be you!



Who we are

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

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

What we do

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

Can you commit to giving your time to the following?

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

We would be delighted to welcome new committee members and suggest a visit to our morning club in the first instance.

For more information please contact maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com

or 0877974582 or any member of the existing Committee

Gladiator Research

MU-led study finds evidence of gladiator-animal combat in Roman period.



Prof Tim Thompson,
MU Professor of Anthropology and Vice
President
for Students and Learning

A ground-breaking study has uncovered the first physical evidence of human-animal gladiatorial combat in the Roman period.

The research presents compelling skeletal evidence of a human victim attacked by a large carnivorous animal, likely within the context of Roman-era spectacle combat. It was conducted by an international team of archaeologists and osteologists, led by Tim Thompson, Professor of Anthropology and Vice President for Students and Learning at Maynooth University.

While images of gladiators being bitten by lions have appeared in ancient mosaics and pottery, this is the only convincing skeletal evidence using forensic experiments anywhere in the world of bite marks produced by the teeth of a large cat, such as a lion.

The findings centre on a single skeleton discovered in a Roman-period cemetery outside York in England, a site believed to contain the remains of gladiators. The individual's bones exhibited distinct lesions that, upon close examination and comparison with modern zoological specimens, were identified as bite marks from a large feline species.

Lesion on the left iliac spine



The bite marks on the pelvis of the skeleton represent the first osteological confirmation of human interaction with large carnivores in a combat or entertainment setting in the Roman world.

Lead author Prof Thompson outlined the significance of the discovery: "For years, our understanding of Roman gladiatorial combat and animal spectacles has relied heavily on historical texts and artistic depictions. This discovery provides the first direct, physical evidence that such events took place in this period, reshaping our perception of Roman entertainment culture in the region."



Marble relief with lion and
Gladiator
© The Trustees of the
British Museum

The research, published in the journal of science and medical research PLOS One, is a collaboration between leading institutions including Maynooth University, Cranfield University, Durham University, the University of York, King's College London, York Archaeological Trust, now known as York Archaeology, and York Osteoarchaeology Ltd. It highlights the brutality of these spectacles and their reach beyond Rome's core territories.

The study contributes a vital new dimension to our knowledge of Roman Britain, reinforcing the region's deep connection to the empire's entertainment traditions. These findings offer new avenues for research into the presence of exotic animals in Roman-period Britain and the lives of those involved in gladiatorial combat.

MU's Digital Health Summer School unveils new vision for Irish healthcare

Minister of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science James Lawless opened Maynooth University's Digital Health Summer School which unveiled a new vision for digital health in Ireland, outlined with demonstrations of 10 healthcare innovations that could revolutionise the Irish healthcare system.

Opening the Innovation Value Institute's 3rd International Digital

Health Summer School, Minister Lawless said: "Today's event exemplifies higher education's potential to profoundly impact society, showcasing Maynooth University's commitment to innovation beyond academia."

The Summer School unveiled a digital health initiative, named Mission 10X, to deliver healthcare in Ireland that is 10 times faster, cheaper and smarter than that offered by the current system and that also enables comprehensive patient-managed care.

Speaking at the event, Professor Martin Curley, Director of the Digital Health Ecosystem at IVI, said: "The best way to predict the future is to innovate it. We have all the knowledge and technology to build and scale a world-class health and wellness system—powered by open, intelligent technology and centred on patients, not paperwork." He added that Mission 10X, which is based on 10 actionable recommendations, was fully aligned with Irish health strategy Sláintecare and its adoption would allow Ireland to leapfrog from last in Europe to world leader in digital health.

At the core of the new plan is SPINE, or Secure Patient Information Network Exchange, an individual electronic health record system which already supports over 15,000 patients in Ireland. It aims to improve patient outcomes, health economics, clinician experience and productivity by addressing patient information fragmentation.

Mission 10X recommends a phased investment in SPINE, starting with an initial €10 million feasibility study scaling to a €100 million nationwide deployment that would see every citizen offered a personal electronic health record.

Other healthcare innovations demonstrated at the two-day event which could form part of an integrated Irish digital health ecosystem, included:

An AI-integrated smartwatch capable of real-time fall detection, direct care operator communication and instant patient record updates
AI-driven screening technology deployable at pharmacies, GP practices, primary care centres and homes, to bring proactive screening into local settings

Voice AI technology providing multi-lingual communication and customised podcasts to improve patient understanding and adherence

Voicing support for the plan, Dr John Sheehan of Blackrock Health, said: "With a modest initial investment of €10 million, Ireland can create a scalable digital health system, mirroring Estonia's successful model. This is a historical opportunity we cannot afford to miss."

Others attending the Summer School included Danny McCoy, IBEC chief executive, who said: "Despite Ireland's wealth and EU digital rankings, we lag in digital healthcare. Mission 10X provides an essential leapfrog solution that we must adopt immediately."

Stephen McMahon, Head of the Irish Patients' Association, also backed the move to digital healthcare: "This is a digital health revolution—a beacon of hope and healing for patients today and future generations. Mission 10X shows that together, we truly can transform healthcare."



Maynooth
University
National University
of Ireland Maynooth



MU Governing Authority Chairperson Dr Mary Canning, Minister for Further and Higher Education James Lawless and Digital Health Ecosystem Director at IVI Prof Martin Curley

Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA – KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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



Motions from MD Council

Question:

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

Response:

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

Motion - Councillor Donna Phelan

That the council develops a roundabout policy and action plan as soon as possible to cut back and tidy up the roundabout at Tesco, Maynooth and engages with Carton House suggesting they maintain the roundabout on the Dunboyne Road ahead of the KPMG Ladies Irish Open which they are hosting this summer.

Report:

A clean up of the roundabouts at Tesco as outlined in our report last month is being organised. The roundabout on the Dunboyne Road is already under maintenance. Any additional work to improve its appearance prior to the Irish Open, will be carried out in conjunction with work on the Tesco Roundabout.

Question - Councillor Donna Phelan

Can the council confirm if it plans to issue litter fines to the owners of the land in Moyglare Hall in relation to litter on the road and behind the fencing that has been sitting there for months?

Report:

This is the first instance the council has received of littering at this location. The council's Community Warden will investigate further and take appropriate action.

Motion - Councillor Donna Phelan

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

Response

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

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

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



MOTIONS FROM MD COUNCIL THAT I HAVE REPRESENTED YOU ON



Cllr. Donna Phelan





Tips to Reduce Revision and Exam Stress

Make a realistic revision schedule. Aim to do a few hours of revision each day, and mix up your subjects so you do not get bored.



Find a revision style that suits you. Studying alone in a quiet room suits some people, but not everyone. Try playing music quietly in the background, or revising with a friend (but do not let them distract you!).

Make sure you understand everything. If you come across something you do not understand, try to find a new source of information that will help you understand it. Just memorising it will not help you in your exam. Do not be afraid to ask your teacher or a friend for help if you need it.

Look at past exam papers. It means you can familiarise yourself with the layout and type of questions you'll be asked. Practise completing exam papers in the set time limit to improve your exam technique.

Take regular short breaks. Studying for hours and hours will only

make you tired and ruin your concentration, which may make you even more anxious.

Eat and drink well. Go for healthy food and stay hydrated.

Reward yourself. Do something fun. You could take a long bath, listen to music, spend time with friends or watch a good movie once you have finished your revision session.

Do something physical. Use your spare time to get away from your books and do something active, like going for a walk or doing some stretching. Exercise is good for taking your mind off stress and keeping you positive, and it will help you sleep better.

Ask for help. If you're feeling stressed, it's important to talk to someone, such as a family member, teacher or a friend. Lots of people find exams difficult to deal with, so do not be embarrassed to ask for support.

Customise your notes: make them more personal. Experiment with colour coding, notes on postcards, diagrams or whatever helps you learn your topic.



How to Handle Exam Days



Be prepared. Start the day with a good breakfast, and give yourself plenty of time to get to the exam hall. Remember to take everything you need, including pencils, pens and a calculator. A bottle of water and some tissues are also useful.

Try a breathing exercise if you're feeling overwhelmed. Breathe in

through your nose for 4 counts, hold it for 2 counts, and breathe out for 7 counts. Repeating this can help you feel calm. Read more about breathing exercises for stress.

Take a few minutes to read the instructions and questions. Then you'll know exactly what's expected of you. Ask an exam supervisor if anything is unclear – they're there to help you.

Plan how much time you'll need for each question. Do not panic if you get stuck on a question, but try to leave yourself enough time at the end to come back to it.

Once the exam is finished, forget about it. Do not spend too much time going over it in your head or comparing answers with your friends. Just focus on the next exam instead.

It's normal to feel stressed and on edge about exams. It can help you focus and get things done, but sometimes it can all get a bit much.

The pressure to do well can really get on top of you and only add to the existing stress of exams. It could be from your school, your family, your friends, or yourself.

Even if the people around you aren't putting pressure on you, you might still want to make them proud. But remember, no matter what your results, your mental health is important too. Talk to a parent, a relative, a teacher or a doctor. Just talk to someone. Help is always there and available.

Exam stress can affect anyone and it can show up in loads of ways, like:

1. feeling anxious or down
2. getting irritable and angry
3. struggling to sleep
4. changes in your eating habits
5. having bad thoughts about yourself
6. worrying about the future
7. losing interest in stuff you usually like
8. finding it hard to concentrate
9. feeling unwell – like headaches, feeling sick or tired



Avoid cramming in last-minute revision. This can be overwhelming and make you feel unprepared. You've put in the work, so focus on staying calm. Breathing exercises and grounding techniques can help dial down the stress before your exam.

Make a list of the things that bring you joy and find time to do them. This can ease your stress and improve your mood. No need to feel guilty about carving out time for yourself – you're allowed to have a life beyond exams.

Exams are just a tiny piece of the puzzle. No matter what grades you get on results day, it's still possible to have the future you want. There are so many paths to where you want to be. Your route might change, but your destination doesn't have to.

Sourced: www.nhs.com & <https://www.youngminds.org.uk/young-person/coping-with-life/exam-stress/>

You've worked so hard for this moment.

Stay Calm and Confident

Let your Brilliance Shine Through

Best of Luck In Your Exams



The Prisoner of Second Avenue

BY NEIL SIMON

SUMMER PRODUCTION 2025

MAYNOOTH POST PRIMARY

8TH - 12TH JULY 2025

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

Check out our website and social media pages for some upcoming behind the scenes photos and get a sneak peek of how hard our cast are working in rehearsals.

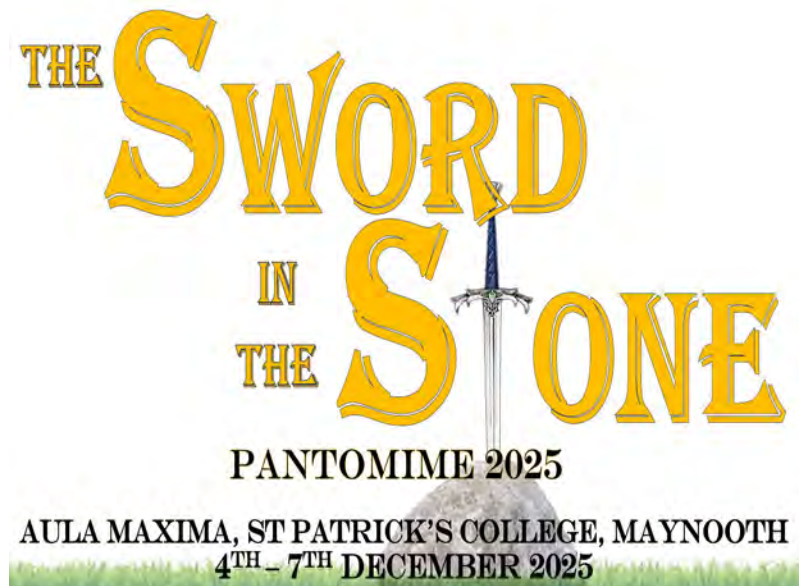
Tickets are on sale now, available exclusively on our website annuadhplayers.ie.

Book early to avoid disappointment.

We are looking for volunteers to help with our set building on the 28th June. If you are handy with a paintbrush, a drill, or even just moral support we would be glad of the help! If you are available please let us know by filling out a brief form on our website: annuadhplayers.ie

Registration is now closed for 'The Sword in the Stone'. We would like to express our gratitude to the huge number of people who registered. We look forward to seeing all registered members at our auditions. We have no doubt the standard will be as high as always and we do not envy the job ahead of our Production Team.

The Sword in the Stone will run from 4th - 7th December in the Aula Maxima. Tickets available later this year so make sure to follow us on social media as you're not gonna wanna miss this!



We had a brilliant time at the Picnic in the Park, a fantastic event run by Maynooth Community Council, last year. We are hoping to take part again this year, on 15th June in the Harbour Field, Maynooth, from 2-5pm.

We need volunteers to help us to hand out leaflets and promote the group on the day, so if you are available to come down, for all or part of the time, we would love to hear from you. Let us know your availability at annuadhplayers@gmail.com

Finally, a word of thanks to our longstanding member, Katie Noone, for a fantastic vocal workshop last month. We had high expectations which were very much exceeded. Her talent and enthusiasm know no bounds and our members really enjoyed the day. Keep an eye on our website and social media pages for upcoming workshops.



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during the month of June**

Table Quiz every Monday night at 9.30pm

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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

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received. R.D.



St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Pride of place in this month's Newsletter must go to our Academy Band who took part in their first ever National Band Championships in Ardee on 26th April. Putting in a brilliant performance they took a very creditable third place in their section and with it a cup to bring home to the Bandhall on Pound Lane. Hopefully this is the start of many more successes for the band.

The Band once again took part in the Arts and Minds Festival organised by Maynooth University on Saturday 10th May and the event was a tremendous success. The brilliant sunshine brought a great audience to the Festival and the Band received lots of praise for their very entertaining programme of music.

Another event in May was the Band's Fundraising Table Quiz upstairs in Brady's on Friday 16th which was a huge success both financially and socially. It was our first time to organise a Table Quiz and it could well become an annual event.

The first engagement in our June programme is the annual Picnic in the Park in the Harbour field. This is our third year to take part in this event and we are delighted to be a part of this very well organised community afternoon. Fingers crossed for some more sunshine.

The standout event in our June calendar is a visit from a Band from South Carolina in the USA who have included Maynooth as part of their trip to Ireland which really is a feather in our caps. The recitals by the two Bands are planned for the Square on Thursday 26th June, starting at 7pm and finishing at 8.45pm. Again our fingers are crossed for some fine weather but we have a Plan B in place in case rain then it will be moved to the Parish Church with the same times applying. This is a wonderful opportunity to see and hear a brilliant band from the USA and we are hoping for a sizeable and appreciative audience.



St. Mary's Brass and Reed Academy Band



Upstate Symphonic Wind Band from South Carolina

We are again reminding musicians, both experienced and budding, that they are most welcomed to join the Band.

Our Bandhall door on Pound Lane is open on Monday nights between 7.45pm and 9.30pm except on Bank Holidays.

Saturday mornings from 10am to 11.30am or you can contact us on sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie

SPECIAL EVENT!

**CAR BOOT
SALE**

AT LARCHILL

SUNDAY 6TH JULY

**BRIC-A-BRAC, CRAFTS, ANTIQUES, BOOKS & MUSIC,
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INSIDE SPACE AVAILABLE**

€2 BUYER ENTRY // €15 TO SELL, €5 FOR A TRESTLE TABLE

To pre-book a pitch:

Email larchillevents@gmail.com or Whatsapp 0857304042



Larchill Arcadian Gardens, W23Y44P



Darkness into Light



Darkness into light took place on the 10th of May this year, bringing thousands of people together to celebrate the lives of loved ones. Side by side we walked from darkness into light, with a great sense of support for one another. Each step representing a life lost. As we moved from the darkness into the light, the air was filled with conversations of loved ones. Each year brings more awareness of the struggles and challenges people face.

Darkness into light has shown us that there is "Light" with the support of Pieta house, Samaritans and Aware amongst others. These support systems are very important, as often a loved one might find it difficult to talk to those closest to them. We all should try to remember that it's okay not to be okay. Reaching out is a sign of strength, not weakness. Mental health plays a big part in all our lives, so it's important for us to take time out of our busy lives to rest and/or do a little self care.

Newsletter staff writer: Jackie



AIB is distributing €1 million through its Community Fund, supporting local organisations that are making a real difference across Ireland.

With your nomination, we could be one of them.

**It only takes two minutes to nominate us.
Simply click the link and nominate**

**Community Cancer Caregivers.
Our Region: Rest of Leinster.
Our Category: Other
Charity number: 20205579**

Your nomination could help us expand our reach and provide critical support to even more families.

Thank you for your continued support. Together, we can make an even bigger impact. 🧡

Click Here to Nominate : <https://aib.ie/personal-forms/community-fund>



Join the Fun at Maynooth's Picnic in the Park 2025

A Free Family Day Out Packed with Joy and Sustainability!

Get ready for a day bursting with fun, food, and community spirit at the annual Picnic in the Park, returning to The Harbour Field, Maynooth on Sunday, June 15, 2025, from 2:00pm to 5:00 pm. Hosted by Maynooth Community Council in partnership with Kildare County Council, this free, open-to-all event, promises a vibrant celebration of family, community, and sustainability that you won't want to miss!

This year's Picnic in the Park is set to be bigger and better, offering a delightful mix of free fun and games for all ages - face painting, seed planting to eco-printing workshops, and insect hotel construction. There's something to spark joy for everyone. Enjoy lively performances, including comedy, poetry and song plus the chance to get a caricature drawn for those feeling adventurous! The much-loved St Mary's Brass and Reed Band will take the stage at 3:00pm filling the air with music and energy.

Foodies will be in for a treat with a wide array of food stalls serving up delicious options, from Mr Whippy's ice creams (cash only!), Fun Foods Catering gourmet crepes and waffles to New Orient Maynooth's Asian treats. Local favourites like Dunne's Farm will offer pasture-raised eggs, honey, and more. Bring your own picnic or indulge in the diverse offerings from vendors while relaxing in the beautiful surroundings of Harbour Field.

At the heart of this year's event is a focus on sustainability and community well-being. Explore stalls showcasing Maynooth's Low Carbon Community initiatives and learn about practical steps toward a greener future. Engage with groups like Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community, and others who will share insights on greener living and biodiversity. Circus of Climate Horrors by Maynooth University's ICARUS team offers a fun way to learn about climate action.

Kildare County Council will be announcing the Climate Champion Awards Winners and Prizes on the day.

"This is a fantastic opportunity for our community to come together, have fun, and learn about the exciting sustainability initiatives shaping Maynooth's future," said Mary Jennings, Secretary, Maynooth Community Council. "We're thrilled to offer a free, inclusive day out where families can enjoy games, food, and entertainment while connecting with local groups working to enhance our town's well-being."

Additional highlights include Kildare Sports Partnership hosting games with prizes, and stalls from community groups and local crafts people. And of course our raffle with lots of exciting prizes kindly donated by participating groups and vendors.

The Community Garda and Maynooth Firefighters will also be on hand, adding to the family-friendly atmosphere. A water refill station and Accessoloo ensure accessibility for all.

If you are attending the Picnic, and require **an accessibility pass**, then please contact:

Maynooth Autism Friendly Town

autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com

or

Maynooth Access Group

maynoothaccessgroup@gmail.com prior to the event.



Picnic in the Park is funded by Local Property Tax, Creative Ireland, and Kildare County Council, and our main sponsor Life Credit Union making it a truly community-driven event. No booking is required – just bring your smiles, picnic blankets, and enthusiasm for a sustainable fun-filled day!

Event Details;

When: Sunday, June 15, 2025

Time: 2:00pm - 5:00pm

Where: Harbour Field, Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Admission: Free, open to all.

For more details, contact Maynooth Community Council maynoothcommunitycouncilexec@gmail.com or via our Social Media Platforms.

About Maynooth Community Council:

Maynooth Community Council is dedicated to fostering community spirit and well-being through events, initiatives, and partnerships that celebrate and enhance life in Maynooth.

About Kildare County Council:

Kildare County Council works to support sustainable development and community engagement across the county, with initiatives like Maynooth's Decarbonising Zone leading the way

taxy

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Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area
Planning Applications received from 25/04/2025 to 27/05/2025
Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
2560431	Kildare County Council	Catherine Smyth	Derryvarroge, Donadea, Co. Kildare	25/04/2025
2560432	Kildare County Council	Temple Wood No. 1 Limited Partnership	22 The Island, Temple Wood Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	25/04/2025
2560440	Kildare County Council	Daragh Cuskelly & Helen Reddington	Hodgestown Upper, Donadea, Co. Kildare	28/04/2025
2560432	Kildare County Council	Temple Wood No. 1 Limited Partnership	22 The Island, Temple Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	25/04/2025
2590	Kildare County Council	Raymond McLoughlin	21 Newtown Court Maynooth, Co Kildare	13/05/2025
2560460	Kildare County Council	Annmarie Delaney	19 Parklands Close, Maynooth Co. Kildare	02/05/2025
2560482	Kildare County Council	Stephen and Carolyn Mc Dermot	No. 1 Churchfield Rathcoffey, Co. Kildare	08/05/2025
2560523	Kildare County Council	Brijesh Tiwari	Straffan Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	20/05/2025
2560542	Kildare County Council	Kokusai Semiconductor Europe Gmbh	Unit H3, Maynooth Business Campus Maynooth, Co. Kildare	22/05/2025
2598	Kildare County Council	Raymond McLoughlin	21 Newtown Court, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	26/05/2025

Oliver Reilly Funeral directors

Leinster Street, Maynooth,
Co. Kildare
Mobile 086 8105581 - 01 6289452

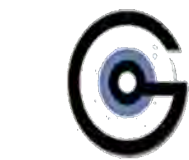


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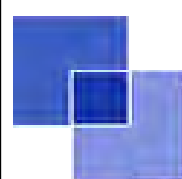
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Maynooth Autism Friendly Town Monthly News

2025, saw the first year where the Kildare County Fleadh Cheoil came to Maynooth and the committee introduced Sensory-Friendly Supports

The Fleadh committee were committed to making the Fleadh Cheoil welcoming and inclusive for all families. The Fleadh ensured that the community were aware of certain accommodations made to ensure everyone in the Maynooth community were allowed to enjoy the festival of music.



Picnic in the Park - 15th of June 2-5pm

'Picnic in the Park' will once again take place this year on the 15th of June. It is always a great event, with something for everyone to enjoy.

MAFT are delighted to provide guidance to the committee again this year; who year on year are keen to ensure that the event is one of inclusivity for the community. If you require one of our "MAFT Event Cards", which were as previous years a great success, please contact us prior to the event, or they will be available on the day either for pickup.



School Support from MCC & MPP and Girls Presentation School

MAFT would like to extend its thanks and gratitude to Maynooth Community College, Maynooth Post Primary and Girls Presentation School who all hosted a non-uniform days, which raised €2,272.35. All proceeds raised are going toward MAFT's ongoing awareness and inclusion initiatives.



"Catch-up" for parents/guardians/caregivers

MAFT held a "Cuppa and Chat" group in the Glenroyal Hotel. A massive thank you to the hotel for providing us with the private function room, they are truly a wonderful advocate for MAFT. We intend to hold our next meet up in June - so watch our SM platforms for more details.



iPad Winner - Gavin Coyne

Congratulations to Gavin on winning the iPad MAFT raffled off as part of Autism Acceptance Month. Thank you to all those who donated, we raised €145.



Maynooth GAA All-Stars Expands

The All-Stars initiative, supported by MAFT and hosted at the MEC sports hall, continues to grow in popularity. This inclusive sporting opportunity allows children of all abilities to participate and thrive.



Hangouts and Playball Groups Thriving

MAFT's social and recreational programs—including Hangouts and Playball—remain in high demand, with waiting lists across all age groups. These groups take a break over the summer, so please check our social media platforms for information.



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



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



The committee ensured that a 'Quiet Zone' was identified if the festivities became overwhelming, the local library offered calm, sensory-friendly spaces for anyone that needed a break.

Ear Buds Available



All official stewards carried ear buds, which were freely given to anyone who may have needed them during noisy moments.





Writers’ Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Robbie and Rosie

‘I’m not going to feed it,’ Kate told herself. For weeks now a robin had been coming near her every time she went outside to work in the flower garden or to put something in the dustbin. Two years previously she had fed a robin cheese, which, to her delight, he had ended up taking from her hand but then he had disappeared. Could the cheese have clogged up his insides? Dan in his brusque way had pointed out that ‘the little freeloader’ could have gone to a neighbour’s garden but she doubted it. When robins had staked a claim to a territory they held it against others of their kind, sometimes even fighting intruders to the death. No, that little fellow had died, but whether from natural causes (they were supposed to live only about two years) or from the cheese she couldn’t be sure. Anyway, she didn’t want a repeat of that experience. As the weather got colder, Kate felt her resolution weakening. The sight of Robbie, as she had begun to call him, gazing at her from a cotoneaster or from the wooden fence made her feel guilty. It was worse when he actually began to serenade her in his low, musical voice, but she forced herself to remain steadfast. Then one night it snowed and the first thing she saw when she opened the back door at daybreak was Robbie, feathers fluffed out, sitting on the rim of a ceramic flower pot, looking at her expectantly. That was it. Hurrying inside, she cut some cheddar into tiny pieces, placed it on cardboard and left it on the doorstep.

At first, Robbie didn’t move, so she closed the door and watched through its glass panel. Almost immediately he flew to the doorstep, picked up a piece of cheese then dropped it. Obviously, in his foraging for insects, seeds and worms, he had never tasted such exotic fare. After a few more nibbles he swallowed this strange titbit then, after he had broken it in two, another piece. Kate felt elated; he was hooked.

Soon Robbie was turning up regularly for food, even looking at her from the windowsill while she was washing dishes. In a few days she had run out of cheese and asked Dan to get some from the supermarket, emphasizing it was to be best quality cheddar.

‘Won’t some of the sliced stuff we eat do?’ he protested.

‘No,’ she assured him. ‘He will really like Wexford cheddar.’

‘So we have a gourmet robin,’ he grumbled, getting the shopping bag.

That evening there was a major surprise when a second robin turned up at feeding time. Knowing that robins dealt harshly with other intruders of their kind, Kate reckoned the newcomer was a female and the submissive way it behaved, hardly daring to approach Robbie, seemed to bear this out. Eventually the newcomer darted in, grabbed a tiny piece of cheese then retreated to the shelter of a Camellia growing in the flowerpot. Through the following days, she became a regular visitor and Kate christened her Rosie. The relationship between Robbie and Rosie reminded her of that between Dan and herself: if she approached the cheese while he was there he would lower his head, causing her to back off. Sometimes he jabbed her with his beak to make her retreat. Dan never did anything so blatant, but she had to prepare all his meals and give him the biggest and best portions. Occasionally, he offered to wash up but he made such a ritual of it that she would tell him not to bother. He would then retreat to his study where he was writing a book on calendars. The present chapter was about an ancient Celtic one that had thirteen lunar months in the year, or something like that. If he would only volunteer to sweep the driveway or vacuum the rooms it would make life so much easier for her.

As for the robins, when he first heard her whistling to call them for food, he had recited the old proverb about a whistling woman and a crowing hen driving the devil out of his den.

Nevertheless, Kate knew that life was better with Dan around. His pension from his civil service job was the mainstay of the house and since the children had left he was somebody to talk to – that is when he didn’t have his nose stuck in a book. The relationship between Rosie and Robbie was more contentious. She wondered if they had raised a brood or two together in some nearby garden but Dan dismissed the idea. Once the young were raised the parents usually went their separate ways, but sometimes they didn’t. She liked to think that this present pair was an exception to the general rule.

By now Robbie would sometimes dart in and take cheese from Kate’s fingers but Rosie remained wary. When a change in the weather covered the garden with a blanket of snow Robbie would hover outside the door’s glass panel begging to be fed. On one bitterly cold morning, however, it was Rosie who turned up first and when Robbie eventually arrived he attacked her viciously. The two rose fluttering into the air but then Rosie, who had already eaten quite a few pieces of cheese, retreated to a snow-covered cotoneaster. Later that morning, quarrel apparently forgotten, the two were again eating near each other.

One day a rook descended and flew off with the small cardboard square on which the cheese rested. Another day an orange-coloured cat came slinking around, but Kate shooed him away, telling Dan afterwards that she no longer liked cats.

‘You’re treating those robins as if they were your children,’ he remarked and thinking about it afterwards she had to admit he might have a point. Ever since Richard and Liz had moved away there had been a feeling of emptiness in the house; but then there were their visits to lift her spirits. That evening while she was getting a yard brush from the garage Robbie flew down from the fence and standing just feet away on the concrete floor sang a melodious little song as if thanking her for her generosity.

‘Who’s a pretty boy?’ she called softly and he bobbed up and down as if delighted with the compliment.

Things went along in this pleasant ritual until one morning no robin answered Kate’s whistle. By evening neither Robbie nor Rosie had put in an appearance and next day, despite a light fall of snow, there was still no sign of them.

‘It’s that awful cat,’ Kate lamented. ‘I know it. Maybe we should have put them in a cage till the winter is over? They were just too trusting.’

‘A Robin Redbreast in a cage / Puts all heaven in a rage,’

Dan quoted in his highbrow way, but it was clear that he too was upset. Gloom descended on the house. Kate got prints of photos she had taken of Robbie and Rosie, but then hid them in a drawer, because of the painful memories they evoked.

‘I suppose we have to accept that it’s part of the natural course of events, “Nature, red in tooth and claw,” ’ Dan laid his hand on her shoulder and she turned so that he could embrace her.

‘Maybe if I hadn’t fed them they wouldn’t have been so vulnerable?’ her voice was rueful.

‘You did what you thought was best,’ he soothed. ‘If it wasn’t the cat it could have been that sparrow hawk we saw last month killing the starling. I tell you what, let’s go down to The Riverside and have ourselves a nice dinner.’

‘Can we afford it?’ she demurred.

‘Of course we can. Now get your glad rags on.’

Twenty minutes later Dan was opening the garage door. As he was about to get into the car what did he see but a little brown bird huddled on one of the dustbins!

‘Come here, Kate,’ he called out softly.

When she saw Robbie she let out a squeal of delight.

‘Oh the poor thing must be starving,’ she cried.

‘Maybe he got a few spiders,’ Dan suggested. ‘He doesn’t look bad.’

‘I’ll get him some cheese,’ Kate hurried back into the house. When she returned the robin had flown up onto the wooden fence alongside the garage.

‘Let me reverse the car out before we feed him,’ Dan suggested.

‘You’ll do no such thing,’ she told him. ‘The poor little fellow must be weak with hunger.’

When she held out her hand, Robbie flew down, snatched a piece of cheese then retreated to the fence. He stayed there while Dan carefully reversed the car. After he had closed the garage door and re-entered the car, Kate let out another excited squeal.

‘Look!’ she said. ‘It’s Rosie! She must have been hiding all this time just outside the garage. Oh, this is just great.’

‘Well, there’s plenty of cheese for both of them,’ Dan declared, so we’ll leave them to it while we dine on Coq au vin in the Riverside.’

P.G.Nerney.

An Irish Teenager’s Reply to Sappho

*‘It is midnight, and the time is passing,
but I sleep alone.’
Sappho (Lesbos, Greece, 6th century b.c.)*

I toss and turn upon this empty bed,
while longings that are nameless
swirl like storm clouds through my mind,
reminding me of raptures fled,

so that your plaint, kind Sappho,
causes me silently to weep:
so far the lonely ear can reach,
so long can longing keep.

Colin Scott.



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

"Through him all things are reconciled, everything
in heaven and everything on earth."
To Christ

Theological Musings!

So, John was your mentor, but that's scarcely true,
His teaching and yours were the old and the new;
He harped on sin, and the need to reform,
But for you the Good News was the everyday norm.
The first words you spoke on that special day,
Were those of Isaiah who prepared your way;
Relief for the captives, the poor and the blind,
The Lord's own glad tidings to all of mankind.
These were not just words, for you meant what you said,
You made the lame walk and you raised up the dead;
God's kingdom you've shown as a playground of love,
Endorsement of which was the Voice from above.
You welcomed all comers and pardoned their sins,
And showed them the road where salvation begins.

No one excluded, neither woman nor man,
All were a part of God's divine plan.
But you were a prophet and so stood alone.
Even in crowds you were still on your own;
You viewed people's lives as rich veins of ore,
And wove them expertly as biblical lore.
The sower of seeds and the crop choked with weeds,
The woman's lost coin and the way to store wine;
All these were a part of the life in your day,
The language you spoke as you taught them the Way.
You were never one of the unthinking crowd,
With fixed application your furrow you ploughed;
You came on a mission your peace to unveil,
To show that creation's not one tragic jail;
For surely to some that's how it appears,
With wars, lies and torture, betrayal and tears.
These were not intended by powers up on high,
But bear all the marks of the devil, close by;
Whose purpose declared, was to frustrate your love,
And cause consternation in realms above.
He'll not be successful, despite all his ploys,
His end is defeat, confusion, no joys;
The laurels are yours, your Truth and your Word,
Without these two pillars, "all else is absurd"!

Now, defeat of the devil, just what does that mean?
That evil among us no more will be seen?
That such a fell creature could never be real?
Yet into our story would wantonly steal?
Yes maybe that's true, it's creation's dark side,
And the dawn of the spirit it couldn't abide,
But its rout by your power after forty-day fast,
Put an end to its reign, stamped its empire "PAST"!

But now it's your reign and it's not understood,
Far too much stress on the shedding of blood;
Your death on the cross, your sufferings and pain,
We hold to be central, salvation to gain.
But what of the wastrel, the father embraced?
His sins all forgiven, his misdeeds effaced;
No debt to be paid, no atonement was sought,
Pardon was gratis: was that ever taught?
Our teachers glossed over this new age of grace,
Preferred was the image of God's angry face;
Eternal damnation included as well,
As if He'd create such a horror as hell!
And what's the Good News if it's not meant for all,
Your goodness undid the effects of the "fall"?
You showed us a God whose nature is love,
Who welcomes us all to his dwelling "ABOVE"!

Among us you walked not to seek sacrifice,
But as our kind teacher, aware of the price,
You knew well our weakness, our blindness and greed,
And became our true model, we were in sore need.
To all you have said, "now come follow me",
I'll show you the way to act and to be,
Your lives you must live with an eye to the weak,
The one burdened down must be first that you seek.
This will not be easy, for life's not all fun,
To be my disciple is a hard race to run;
But I will be with you, lest you fall on the way,
My help is assured for as long as you pray.
And prayer's not just asking or begging for more,
It is "God-awareness", and to faith it is core;
So, this is our mission, to witness to you,
Of all things the fountain, the One, Good and True.

GM.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received. R.D.

A STUDENT PRAYER

Father please clear my mind and give me the understanding and knowledge that comes only from you.

Bless me as I take these exams and bring the information that I've studied to mind when it is needed on this exam.

Grant me favour as I begin these exams.

I ask this in Jesus name.

Amen.

The Importance of Safety Around Water In The Garden

It's that time of year again where we find ourselves looking for ways to keep our children busy and stimulated for the summer months.

Water play is an activity that is loved by all, especially around the summer months. Safety is so important around water for everyone involved, especially when it comes our children. Always plan out your day and activities before venturing near water and always make sure that there is at least one adult or more present at all times. Be extra vigilant and Lets make this summer a safe and happy experience for all to enjoy with fun memories that will last for a lifetime. The following are some safety tips that may help when planning your safe play around water:

Safety Tips

- Make sure there's an adult present at all times.
- Leave mobile phones aside on silent to avoid distraction
- Don't drink alcohol when supervising children
- Don't over fill pools
- Make sure small children wear arm bands and floaters at all times
- Put sunscreen on at least one hour before entering the water to be sure skin is well protected and always keep sunscreen topped up
- Ensure that the area around the pool is safe and free from hazards such as steps, hot bbq's, sharp objects, and pets to prevent falls
- Keep all electrical appliances, cables and battery operated toys away from water
- Stay well hydrated by drinking plenty of water or juice
- Enter the water feet first, don't jump
- Make sure children dry off their feet before entering the house as floors can become slippery



Newsletter Staff Writer

Local Walks

Local walks offer an uplifting way to connect with nature and explore the beauty of your surroundings without venturing too far from home. Whether it's a quiet trail through a nearby woodland, a scenic path along a river/canal, or a lap around your neighbourhood park, these walks can provide both physical exercise and sense well-being. They're a great opportunity to spot wildlife, admire seasonal changes, or simply enjoy a break from computer and TV screens and every day stress. Best of all, local walks are accessible and often free, making them an easy and enjoyable activity to build into your routine. It's a great way to get the whole family out and into the fresh air. Parents/guardians could also tell their children that they are going on a nature trail hunt to see what they can find, i.e. different trees, berries and wildlife. Below are some local walk's you might like to venture on:

Maynooth College

The grounds of Maynooth college are a harmonious blend of historical charm and natural beauty, offering a peaceful retreat in the heart of county Kildare. Visitors are met by formal gardens decorated with rose beds and mature trees, leading to tranquil spaces. A stroll along the lime tree avenues reveals the true beauty of the grounds. The university is steeped in history and this can be seen within its walls.



Maynooth Harbour

Maynooth Harbour is lined with mature trees and overlooked by charming stone bridges, it's a scenic blend of nature and heritage, just a short walk from Maynooth's lively town centre. The canal goes for miles in either direction making it very attractive for walkers and cyclists alike. Remember to check to see if the cycle way is open first.



Carton House

Carton House has 1,100 acres of striking parkland, ancient woodlands, serene lakes, and the winding River Rye. Home to an array of wildlife, including red deer, various species of bird's and rare plants. The grounds also offer a range of outdoor activities, like walking, tennis, cycling, trails, fishing, archery and two golf courses.



Donadea Forest

Nature enthusiasts can enjoy several walking trails including the 5.7 km Aylmer loop and the accessible Lake walk, which offers views of ducks, waterhens, and summer waterlilies. The forest has a year-round café, making it a perfect spot for a peaceful retreat into nature.



St Catherine's Park

St Catherine's Park has a 2.7 kilometre loop trail the whole family can enjoy while walking, jogging and cycling. The park is dog friendly so family pets can join in the fun. The woodland is home to wildlife, plants and old ruins. Also, the park hosts an urban food and crafts market every Sunday from 10am to 5pm from June right through to October.



Phoenix Park

Try walking the 3.0-mile trail, which takes roughly 1 hour and 7 minutes to finish. This is a popular area with locals and visitors making use of the park for walking, cycling, jogging, birding and hiking. Also, keep an eye out for the deer who are native to the park, you can't miss them.



Additional Information

Remember when enjoying these beautiful places whether it's for a walk or picnic, to be mindful of the wildlife around you. Animals can be harmed by left over food and rubbish, so leave the area as you found it and clean up after yourself. Take all your rubbish home with you, so that other's and the animals who live there, can be safe and enjoy too.

Newsletter Staff Writer: Jackie

Events at **Maynooth Community Library**

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



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



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Events for Adults

Housing and Homelessness Supports Information Clinic

Tuesday 3rd June , 2.00 pm - 4.00 pm

Looking for advice on homelessness and housing supports? Visit this Kildare County Council drop-in clinic in Maynooth Community Library to learn about the supports available. *Drop in, no booking required *

Book presentation of 'Quando Mori Maramao' by author Maribella Piana Thursday 5th June , 6.30pm – 8.00pm

The Italian writer and actress Maribella Piana will be in Maynooth Community Library on the 5th of June to talk about her most recently published book and to read a few pages from the book. The book depicts lively Sicilian society of the 1930s through the intertwined stories of two families. The presentation of the book will be in Italian. All Welcome ! no booking required.

Luain Press Poetry Café

Tuesday 10th June , 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Join the Luain Press poetry club on June 10th in the Maynooth Community Library from 6 to 7p.m. - last meeting until September! All welcome!

'Knit + Chat ' Craft Club

Thursday 19th June , 6.30 pm – 7.30pm

"Maynooth Knit + Chat is a club intended to create a space where the knitters and fibre artists of Maynooth can come together and bond over a shared love of knitting (or crochet, or anything that takes your fancy!). Whether you are a beginner or an advanced knitter, this is the club for you! People of all ages (from 18 and up) and skill levels will be in attendance. Even if you are the most skilled knitter in all of the greater Kildare area, we are sure that there will be something new for you to learn! Please contact the library @maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie * Drop in , no booking required *

Children's Events

Cruinniú na nÓg : Manga drawing art workshop for ages 8 – 12 Saturday 7th June , 3.00pm – 4.00pm

Join us for a Fun Manga Drawing class for ages 8- 12 in Maynooth Community Library to celebrate Cruinniú na nÓg on Saturday 7th June. Given by art teacher and children's book author John Carpenter, during this workshop children will have the opportunity to improve their drawing skills and display their Manga characters. (Event is fully booked but it is possible to go on a waiting list. To add your name to the waiting list , please click on the link below) Book your free ticket here :

<https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=19091357>

Cruinniú na nÓg: Q&A and Writing Tips for Teens with author Clara Kumagai Ages 12+ Saturday 6th June at 12.30pm

Join us for an author visit from Clara Kumagai who will talk about writing and getting published and share some tips. Suitable for Ages 12+ this is a free event with limited spaces. Clara Kumagai is from Canada, Japan and Ireland. Her debut YA novel, Catfish Rolling blends magical realism with Japanese myth in a story about grief, memory and time. Catfish Rolling was nominated for the YOTO Carnegie Award, a finalist from the Great Reads Award and shortlisted for the 2023 KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards. Her second novel, Songs for Ghosts, was published in March 2025. She lives and writes in Ireland.

Book your free ticket here : <https://bit.ly/3GWwv0i>

Exhibition

'The Art of Nature '- Exhibition in multiple mediums by Kate Furlong 3rd June - 31st June 2025 There will be an official exhibition opening in Maynooth Community Library on Thursday 5th June , 4.00pm – 5.30pm . All Welcome !

Groups and Clubs

Maynooth Community Library Craft Club

The Library Craft Club meets every Monday , 11.30 - 13.00 (except on Bank Holidays). Bring something you are working on, and exchange ideas and skills with this social craft group.

Ciorcal Comhrá - Irish Conversation Group

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

Fáilte roimh chách chun do Gaeilge a chleachtadh gach Dé Máirt ó 11:00am - 12:00pm. All are welcome to practice their Irish every Tuesday from 11:00am - 12:00pm.

Baby and Toddler Group

Every Thursday , 10 am – 11 am

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

No need to book, just drop in!

For further information on the library's events , why not subscribe to the monthly library newsletter ?**Subscribe to library newsletter here: [Email Subscription Form - Kildare Library Service](#)**

Tips On Utilising Small Garden Spaces

Small garden projects don't have to be so boring, get creative!. If anything they are more time saving and cost affective. The garden is an extension of our homes so utilise the space by making it an oasis of beautiful plants, trees, raised flowers beds, patios and seating areas. Sit down and make a plan before tackling your project. Ring around and get prices, especially if you have a small budget. Take your time and enjoy the proses. You will have a sense of pride and accomplishment when you see the fruits of your labour blossom. With a bit of thought and a bit of planning your small garden can bring a lot of satisfaction.

The following are tips that may help along the way:

- Plan out the area first
- Make a list of garden tools and materials that are needed
- Shop around (buy materials off season) so plan ahead
- Use raised flower beds/pots this will give different dimensions to your garden
- Patio areas
- Pergola
- Choose low maintenance plants and trees
- Repurpose and reuse materials from the garden
- Make pathways
- Bring in more colour by painting fences
- Water features
- Use your local Freecycle for materials
- Visit garden centres for ideas
- Be careful when choosing plants as some plants are harmful to pet's
- And always keep tools out of reach from small children



JUNE

Garden Tips

In the Fruit & Veg Garden

- Thin out vegetable rows that have been sown directly
- Keep raised beds well watered and feed plants with a liquid fertiliser
- Keep an eye on thirsty plants including pumpkins, squash, courgettes and tomatoes and ensure they are keep moist
- Continue to sow vegetables for a late Autumn harvest, you still have time to sow lettuce, cabbage, peas and beans. You can also sow broccoli, beetroot & carrots & parsnips
- Spray potatoes & tomatoes for blight using Bordeaux mixture or Proxalin. Listen out for blight warnings



In the Greenhouse

- Watering can be increased over the course of the month
- Check pots regularly for slugs
- Clean trays early in the month and ensure water is not stagnant
- Open greenhouse door during the day to keep ventilated
- Tomatoes can be pinched out to reduce number of flowering stems. Also begin liquid feed once flowers emerge
- Wet the floor of the greenhouse to reduce temperatures & increase humidity
- Should be earthed up once it has 10cm of foliage growth above soil level



General Maintenance

- Trim lawn & border edges to keep neat look
- Store water for irrigating plants & vegetables
- Set up drip feeder hose beneath hedgerows



Lawn Care

- Grass growth slows in June and this means that lawn care tasks should be put on hold
- Keep cutting your grass every 10 days
- Mulch grass once each month
- Apply dicophar weed killer to control broadleaf weeds on your lawns
- Feed lawns with nitrogen based fertilizer once each month



Plant Care

Spray roses with rose clear and keep feeding and deadheading. Pruning and training of Spring flowering plants can be done now. There are a number of plants that can be cut back now including Forsythia, Heathers In garden beds & borders, mulch up around the base of plants to provide weed control, moisture retention and fertiliser.

Source: gardenshop.com



The Common Lizard

The common lizard, Ireland's only reptile, can often be seen sunning itself on dry stone walls, rocks or logs during the summer months. These animals occupy a range of habitats, including woodland, marshes, heath, moors, bogs, sand-dunes and even rubbish dumps.

Lizards are active, alert and extremely quick. Their colouration helps them to blend with their surroundings, and they can disappear into a crevice or under a stone with startling speed at the first sign of disturbance.

Common lizards are usually between 10cm and 16cm (4 inches and 6 inches) long, although larger specimens can reach 18cm (7 inches).

They have long bodies, short legs and a long, tapering tail. The coarse, dry scales on the lizard's back can be a variety of colours including grey, brown, copper or green, with a black stripe running down the centre of the back, and a scattering of black spots over the body. Male lizards have orange-yellow bellies with black spots, while females have creamy white bellies usually without spots.

Reptiles, unlike birds and mammals, have no internal temperature regulation system. They rely on the characteristics of their environment and on their patterns of behaviour to control their internal temperature. When they are too cold they bask in the sun, if they get too warm they move into the shade.

Lizards can typically be found basking on sunny days in the morning or the afternoon, but not generally during the middle of the day, when they are in danger of overheating. After cooling overnight, a lizard needs to increase its body temperature to somewhere in the region of 30 degrees Celsius (86 degrees Fahrenheit) before it can hunt effectively. They eat insects, spiders, slugs, snails and earthworms: pouncing on their prey and stunning it by shaking before swallowing it whole.

Because they rely on the sun's heat to remain active, lizards are forced to hibernate through the Irish winter. They disappear around October and hibernate until the following March, often in groups, occasionally emerging during warmer spells.

After coming out of hibernation in spring male lizards establish a breeding territory and defend it vigorously against other males. Breeding takes place from March to May. Common lizards are viviparous, which means that the young develop within egg membranes inside the female's body.

After about three months the female lizard will give birth to live, fully developed young that break free of the egg-membranes usually during birth or a few seconds afterwards. Litters consist of 2-12 young born from June to September. Females show no parental care: the young feed actively from birth and quickly disperse.

Lizards can be eaten by larger predators, but as they are active only during the day they rarely encounter nocturnal threats like foxes and badgers. They are taken by birds of prey (they typically form part of the kestrel's diet), and stoats and mink will kill them if they can catch them. Domestic cats pose a real problem for lizards, especially early in the day before they reach full operating temperature. When they are cold the reptiles are sluggish and are easy prey for an inquisitive feline.

To redress the balance somewhat lizards have an intriguing escape mechanism that allows them to evade predators. If caught by the tail, lizards have the ability to shed the lower portion, leaving a bemused predator with a twitching stump while the lizard makes good its escape. If it survives the encounter the lizard will soon grow a new tail.

I only recently discovered that Ireland is home to a native lizard species the Common Lizard and I was truly surprised. I came across this article about the lizard and found it interesting to learn how this small reptile lives in our cooler climate and right under our noses!



Source: irelandswildlife.com

Creamy Chicken Korma



Prepare: Less than 30 mins

Cook: 10 to 30 mins

Serves: 4 people

Dietary: Egg-free Gluten-free Pregnancy-friendly

This easy chicken korma recipe is mild and rich with cream, but it's still really tasty. Serve with naan bread and/or rice.

Each serving provides 636 kcal, 47g protein, 9g carbohydrate (of which 6g sugars), 45g fat (of which 15g saturates), 2g fiber and 0.9g salt.

Ingredients

2 tbsp. vegetable oil
 1 large brown onion, chopped
 4 whole cloves
 4 cardamom pods, crushed
 4 skinless, boneless chicken breasts, cut into bite-size pieces
 3 garlic cloves, crushed
 4 cm/1½in piece of fresh ginger, peeled and grated
 1 tsp ground coriander
 ¼ tsp ground allspice
 1½ tsp ground cumin
 ½ tsp ground turmeric
 1 tsp mild chili powder
 2 tsp tomato purée
 75g/3oz ground almonds
 250ml/8fl oz. chicken stock
 200ml/7fl oz. whipping cream
 salt and freshly ground black pepper
 50g/2oz flaked almonds, toasted
 chopped coriander, to garnish (option)

Method

Heat the oil in a large saucepan or frying pan. Once hot, fry the onion, cloves and cardamom pods for a few minutes until the onion begins to soften

Add the chicken, garlic and ginger and, after frying for 4 minutes, add all the remaining spices. Stir around in the pan, allowing them to release their flavour into the chicken.

Add the tomato purée, ground almonds, stock and cream and bring to a simmer. Cook for about 15 minutes until reduced to the consistency of thick cream. Taste and add seasoning if it needs it. Scatter over the toasted almonds and chopped coriander
 Suekitchen.ie



Easy Naan Bread Recipe

Ingredients

570g plain flour, plus extra for dusting

1 tsp sugar

1½ tsp baking powder

½-1 tsp strongly-flavoured seeds

such as nigella or cumin seeds (optional)

2 tbsp melted butter

8 tbsp natural yogurt oil for the bowl

For the garlic butter :2 garlic cloves crushed (optional)

small handful of coriander finely chopped, plus extra to serve



Method

Step 1

Put the flour in a large bowl, then add the sugar, baking powder and 1½ tsp salt. Add the seeds, if you like. Lightly whisk to disperse the ingredients evenly throughout the flour.

Step 2

Add 1 tbsp of the melted butter, followed by the natural yogurt. Mix together with your hands. Once the yogurt and butter have been absorbed, gradually add 180-200ml water, 50ml at a time. Mix between additions, until it begins to come together into a dough. The water amount will depend on the consistency of the yogurt and butter – stop adding when you have a ball of dough.

Step 3

Tip the dough onto a lightly floured work surface and knead thoroughly for 5 mins until smooth and elastic. Put in an oiled mixing bowl, cover with a tea towel and leave to rest for at least 1 hr. The dough will not rise but it is important to let it rest as this helps to make the naans less chewy and more fluffy.

Step 4

If making the garlic butter, mix the garlic with the remaining 1 tbsp melted butter and the coriander. Set aside.

Step 5

Divide the dough into eight, 10 or 12 even-sized pieces, depending on how big you want the naans. Roll into round balls, then return to the bowl, covered with a tea towel.

Step 6

Roll one of the dough balls out on a lightly floured surface into a round, oval or teardrop shape – roll with a diagonal motion to get an oval. Flip the dough over and repeat on the other side.

Step 7

Heat a frying pan. Dry fry the dough over a medium high heat until it begins to puff up and the underside browns in places. Flip and repeat on the other side. Remove the cooked naan from the pan. Spoon a little of the garlic butter over the naan, if using. Sprinkle over some coriander, if you like. Cover with a tea towel while you repeat the process with the remaining balls of dough.

Source: www.bbcgoodfood.com

June Pet Care

National Microchipping Month

National Microchipping Month takes place in June each year, providing a dedicated opportunity to promote responsible pet ownership and the importance of microchipping pets. From time to time check with your vet to make sure they have all your up-to-date phone no, address etc. just in your pet gets out/loose.



Here comes the summer with hot temperatures (good for us but not so good for our pets) So here are some tips and advice to help keep your pets safe during warm weather.

It is important to plan in advance especially if you are bringing your pet anywhere with you during hot spells. Dogs don't have sweat glands which makes it difficult for them to stay cool. Do not do anything with pets during intense heat, so early morning or evening activity is best when it's cooler. Have cooling mats in various places around the home and outside in the shade.

TIPS:

- 1 Keep your pets indoors when possible. Limit outdoor activity. Always provide shade and fresh water at all times. Keep an eye on pet's whereabouts as they don't always have the sense to move to cooler areas. If you pet is showing signs of severe overheating, move them to a cooler area **immediately**, spray with cool (not cold) water, and give a small drink of water and contact your vet immediately. In particular older, over-weight or flat-faced dogs are even less tolerant of the heat so it is important to know the signs of overheating.

Signs of overheating:

Excessive panting or drooling
Dark red gums and tongue and 'glassy' eyes
Lethargy, drowsiness or uncoordinated movements
Collapsing, vomiting and diarrhoea

- 2 Groom longer haired animals more often to remove all the excess hair.
- 3 Animals can suffer from sunburn especially white animals, so apply a pet friendly sun cream to sensitive areas and areas with little or no hair such as noses, tips of their ears and their underbelly.
- 4 Never leave your pet in the car. It is important to remember that dogs can die if left in a hot car. Pet owners often think leaving a window open is sufficient for their pet but this is not enough to prevent heatstroke under intense sunshine. By leaving a dog unattended in a vehicle during hot weather, even for 10 minutes can prove to be fatal.
- 5 Always have fresh water available for your pet; refresh and refill more often than on a normal day and leave extra if you are going out. You can also add ice cubes to your pet's water. Make sure they have access to shade, and keep them indoors in cooler rooms when the heat becomes too extreme.
- 6 Ensure you leave out extra water in the shade for cats and wildlife too. If you have a rabbit or small mammals in the garden, keep their living quarters in the shade. If you can't move their huts, then use a parasol or big umbrella to keep the sun off. You could also partially cover the front of their enclosures as they can heat up very quickly. All caged animals, even if they are in doors, should be kept out of direct sunlight. Keep an eye on aviaries or birdcages, which are near to a window.



No more hot paws!



Follow the 7-second rule!

Put your hand on the ground surface you'll be walking on. If you can comfortably hold it there for 7 seconds, you're in the clear.

Watch where you're walking.

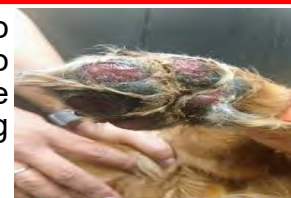
Keep to natural grasses. Soil doesn't hold heat like concrete and gravel do. Keeping your pet on the grass is much safer.

What time is it?

Walking early in the morning or late into the evening will give concrete time to cool down. This way it's more comfortable for you AND your pets.

Too hot for you? Too hot for them!

This is what walking on hot pavement does to your pets paws. Basically 3rd degree burns. So why make them suffer unnecessarily. Leave them at home. A few missed walks is not going to harm them.



Remember: household chemicals and common summer foods can be toxic to pets. If using sunscreen or insect repellent, please ensure the product is labelled as safe for use on pets. If you are unsure about certain products consult your vet.

Alcoholic or caffeinated beverages, chocolate, coconut, grapes or raisins, onions, raw meat or excessively salty foods or foods containing the sweetener **xylitol** can be toxic or cause serious health issues for your pet. For larger animals such as equines, it is important they have access to fresh drinking water and shade.

What to do if you see a pet locked in a car

If you do witness an animal locked in a car on a hot day, try to establish how long the dog has been left in the car first, look for a pay and display ticket on the dashboard. If the pet is showing signs of distress and overheating contact the local Garda station immediately or dial 999 /112 in an emergency and call National Animal Cruelty Helpline on 0818 515 515.



Under the Animal Health and Welfare Act 2013 (AHWA), authorised officers such as Members of An Garda Síochána or ISPCA "authorised officers" can use reasonable force to enter a vehicle and rescue a distressed animal if necessary. Members of the public forcing entry into somebody else's property could leave themselves open to legal action.



Do not leave pets unsupervised around a pool. Always make sure your pet is wearing a proper floatation device whether its in the water or on a boat. This should include a pad on the front to keep their head above the water and a handle on the back so you can take them out of the water in case they get into difficulty. If you plan on spending time near a pool, lake or beach with your pet, make sure you give them

fresh water and avoid letting them drink from the pool, or ingest ocean or lake water. When swimming, introduce your pets to water gradually. Rinse your dog off after swimming to remove chlorine or salt from their fur. Watch for blue-green algae, especially in lakes and ponds (it's toxic) and look for green or brown scum on the surface — if in doubt, stay out!

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

Avoid too much strenuous running around after a ball or chasing during these times, leave them snoozing. Less physical activity out walking means more of a need for mental stimulation while spending more time indoors. You can use enrichment toys, puzzle toys and boredom breaker games. The best way to do this and cool down your dog at the same time would be to always have a lickimat or Kong ready to go in the freezer. Fill the kong or spread the lickimat with natural yoghurt, frozen berries, or mashed banana as a dog-safe frozen treat or mash their kibble with water or low salt stock and pop them in the freezer ready to go.



You can also make doggy ice pops as a frosty treat to help cool them down by mixing or blending Greek yoghurt with banana, apple, cucumber or carrot slices and putting them in ice cube trays or containers and freezing them for 4 to 6 hours or overnight. You can also do the same by mixing stock or broth and freezing them with fruit or vegetable slices or dog biscuits in a container and letting your dog have at them by licking and biting through them to get the treats and cooling themselves down at the same time. Be sure to give your dogs any chews or treats in the shade or indoors in a cool part of the house.

Sourced: www.ispca.com, www.asPCA.org, [www.ie, www.awarenessdays.com](http://www.awarenessdays.com)





Memories From the Archives Celebrating 40 Years of Maynooth Community Employment Project Producing the Maynooth Newsletter June 1985

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com

BAND BULLETIN

Welcome to another BULLETIN where the big news this month concerns the WIN-A-BIKE SPONSORED CYCLE which we are organising in conjunction with the Boys' School on Sunday 23rd June. With four bicycles on offer for the highest sponsorship we are doing our best to give participants something in return for their labours whereas in most sponsored events they just act as collectors. I will not go into the finer details of the event as I know that full details are published elsewhere in this Newsletter.

Arrangements for the new beginners classes commencing next September are well under way and it is our intention of giving the boys and girls the very best of tuition on all instruments as well as a good grinding in the basic theory of music. We are arranging to have application forms for enrolment made available through the schools and shops and details of the starting dates will be announced both in this column and in the usual shops in the town.

We are not forgetting about our Majorettes and once we have obtained the services of a suitable instructor we shall let you ladies know when you can come and join.

Our Summer programme is well under way and engagements have now been confirmed - or completed by the time you read this - for Celbridge, Lucan, Leixlip and our own Community Week in June in addition to the annual Wicklow Regatta Parade in July. We also hope to stage our annual Band Concert, a little later than usual this year, in September.

Until the next BULLETIN, hope to see you all on bikes on June 23rd.

SPORTS PAGE

JUNIOR BADMINTON

Our season came to an end last month. We hope all our members enjoyed their badminton throughout the year. Many of our players entered tournaments in Westside, Leixlip, Terenure and brought home several trophies. We had two league teams this year and hope next year to increase on that number.

U/12

Catherine Fox	Ian Cosgrove
Lisa Keatly	Kenneth Hyland
Fiona O'Malley	Alan Buckley

U/14

Siobhan Keatly	Fergus Ashe
Catherine Ashe	Dudley O'Donnell
Orlaith Buckley	Keelane Loughnane

We had several friendly matches for our younger members with Leixlip. These games proved very popular with the children of both clubs and will continue next season. Our club tournament was very successful. Congratulations to all the children who took part. It was a pleasure to watch each match and enjoy the competitiveness and sportmanship exhibited by the players.

RESULTS

Girls	Boys
1st L. Loughnane	1st D. Fleming
2nd M. Rice	2nd P. Burke
GROUP 2	
1st J. McDonagh	1st K. Killoran
2nd C. Coughlan	2nd M. O'Farrell
GROUP 3	
1st C. Fox	1st J. Rice
2nd L. Keatly	2nd I. Cosgrove
GROUP 4	
1st S. Keatly	1st K. Loughnane
2nd C. Ashe	2nd D. Quigley
Teenagers	
1st K. Fagan	
2nd M. Maher	

Treasurer: Anne McDonagh
Committee:

Carmel Buckley, Annette Killoran,
Pat Rice, Stasia Ashe, Rosemary
Hanley, Mary Fleming.

Children of 8 years wishing to join
Badminton should contact Patricia
Hyland, 36 Maynooth Park.

Our A.G.M. was held in April and we were very pleased to see some new faces at the meeting. We would like to thank Mrs. Molloy for looking after our nets, Mr. Buckley for taking charge of our keys, Mr. Ashe for the use of the Post Primary, and Fr. Supple and the Hall Committee for the use of the hall. Committee for the coming season:
Chairperson: Vera Keatly
Secretary: Patricia Hyland
Ass. Secretaries: Ann Greene, Marie O'Sullivan, Teresa Mooney

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Ladies & Gents Heels
While You Wait



"The Three Musketeers"

Brian Redmond, Pat Maher and Peter Keegan. Winners of the Vets All-Ireland Cross Country title at Enfield. Members of the winning Kildare County team at the same venue, and winners of the O/40 5 Mile Road Championship at Dundalk recently.

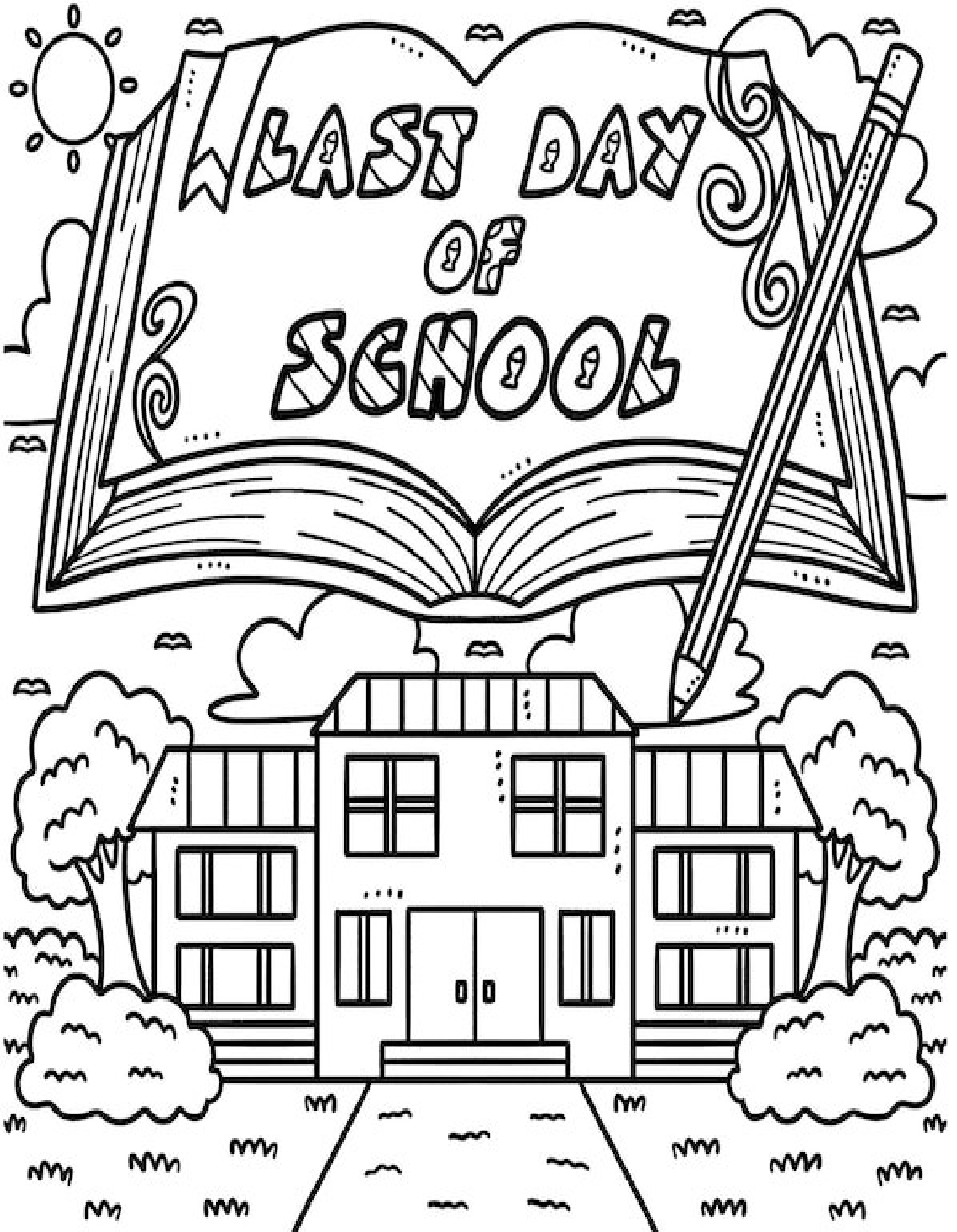


COLOURING FOR FUN



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PUZZLE TIME



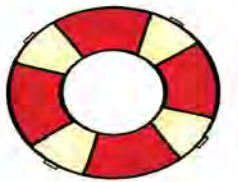
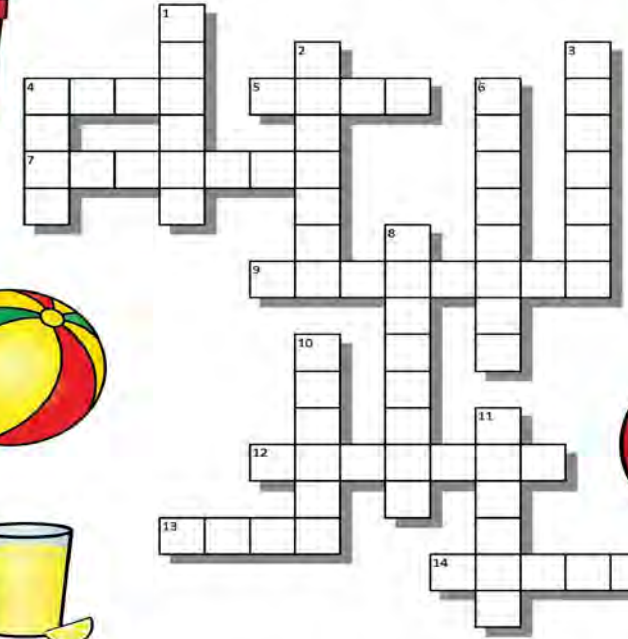
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Puzzles sourced free from Google

Summer Word Search

SUMMER	G A R D E N Y S M B M T O L S
SUNSHINE	N I A R M E L E S E E R W O U
SWIM	U C I N C I P E A S I A M S N
BOAT	L M L I N O I T A C A V R P S
CAMP	P O P S I C L E Q L D E K I H
HIKE	U I P E C A M P I O O L F C I
GARDEN	Y T N S R E T L M D N T R E N
PLAY	P W N S O E P A T G N E D X E
BEACH	A U G R I A D Y B O A Y A T E
JULY	R L J U L Y G R S A S O U P A
AUGUST	K E F G L C E A T H I R G A S
PARK	B A L Y P A E N O C R E U R D
PICNIC	S H O R T S O O H A E H S H R
POPSICLE	U Y P E M N O S A E S S T D E
ICE CREAM	C H E T A M C L Y B G M R E S
SHORTS	X L A O V Z R C O J B R I N S
DRESS	F O S E M A E R C E C I O W L
TRAVEL	B L O S S U M M E R W B M O S
VACATION	
SEASON	

END OF SCHOOL YEAR CROSSWORD



Across

4. Part of a school year
5. A month in summer
7. In summer there are lots of _____
9. Another word for resting
12. The location of lots of books
13. The first month of summer
14. A great place to swim



Down

1. The season that school ends in
2. Summer is a good time to go _____
3. When people do this, they sleep in tents
4. When you travel you go on a _____
6. Another word for 'Holiday'
8. You need this to go to another country
10. Ask someone to spend time with you
11. People often do this when on break



SUMMER Word Scramble



ebahc

wiustsim

riecceema

danelome

cgaimnp

picpsloe

laensdscta

rteavl

bbrcaeeu

ntavioca

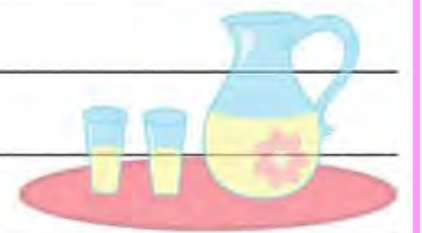
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cneao

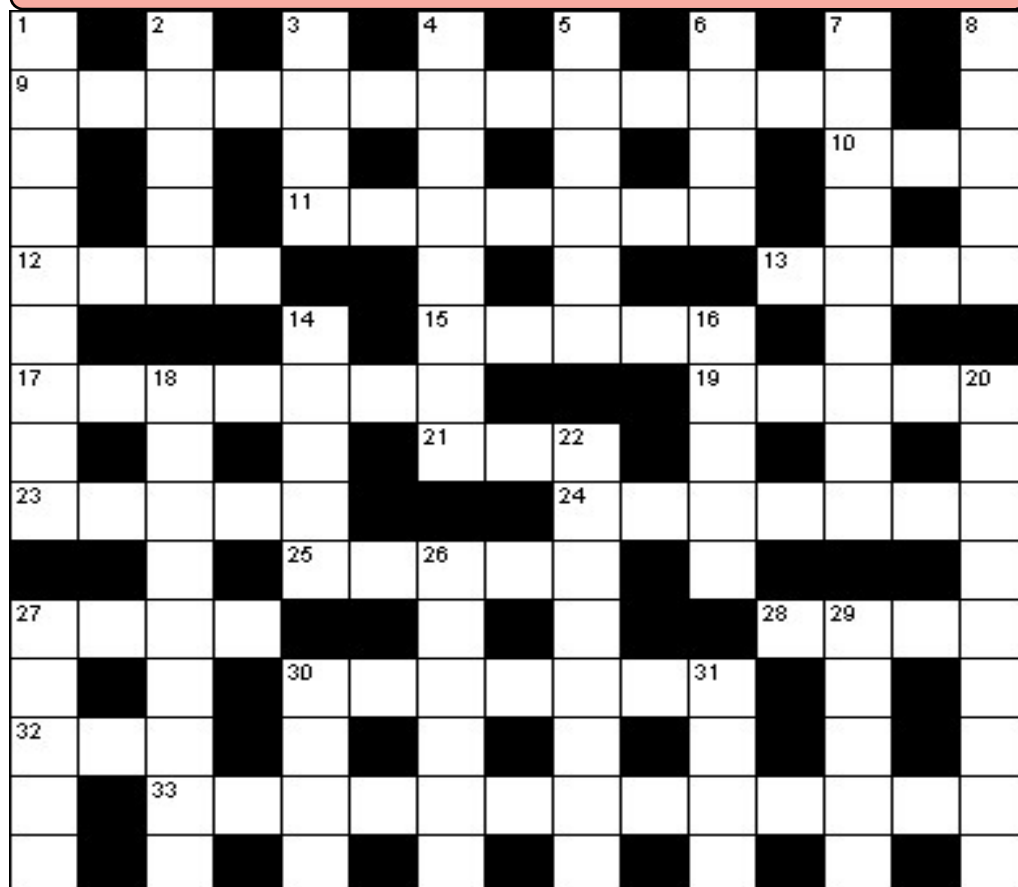
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asndlas

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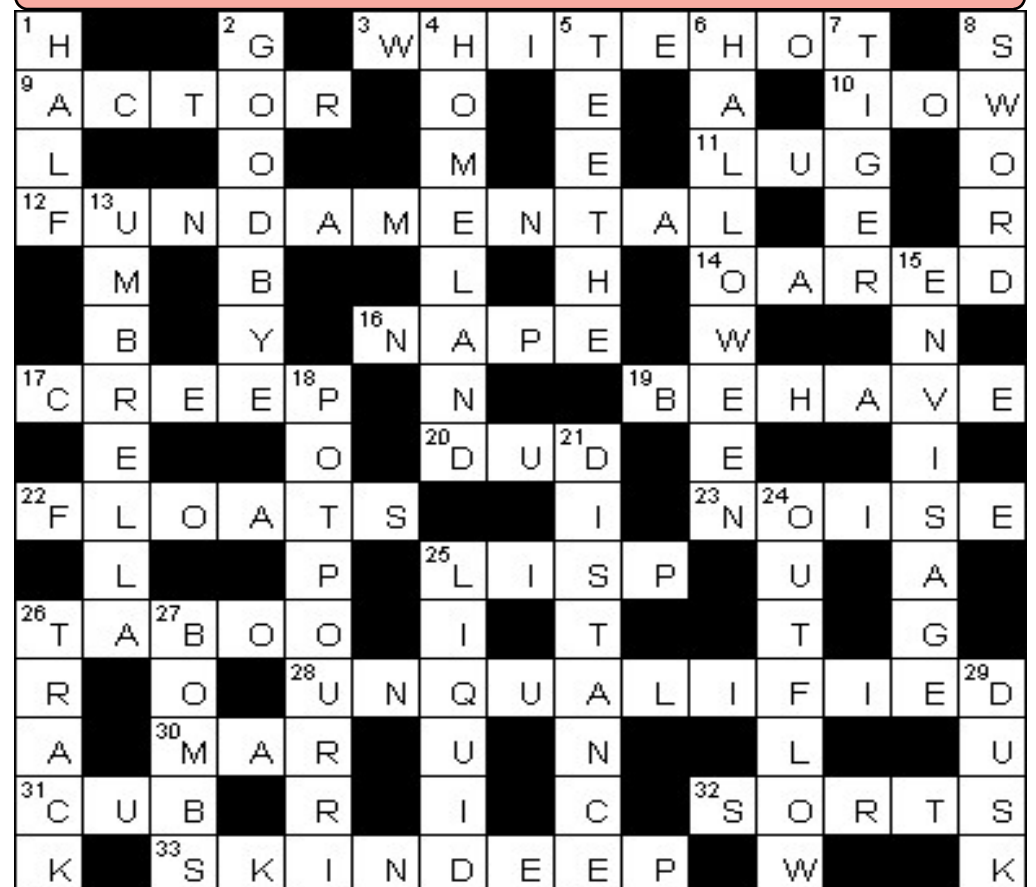
June 2025 Crossword - No. 546



Clues Across

- | | |
|---------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 9. Not proper (13) | 24. Against (7) |
| 10. Weep (3) | 25. Chaff (5) |
| 11. Necessary (7) | 27. Membership fees (4) |
| 12. Underground part of a plant (4) | 28. Goad (4) |
| 13. Agitate (4) | 30. Capital of Iraq (7) |
| 15. Monetary unit of Saudi Arabia (5) | 32. Contend (3) |
| 17. Corridor (7) | 33. Prekindergarten (7,6) |
| 19. Accustom (5) | |
| 21. Finish first (3) | |
| 23. Long (5) | |

Solutions to Crossword No. 545



Clues Down

- | | |
|---|--------------------------|
| 1. Written history of a person's life (9) | 18. Something stated (9) |
| 2. Courtyard (5) | 20. Tolerable (9) |
| 3. Duration (4) | 22. These days (8) |
| 4. Beer made at home (4-4) | 26. Tattered (6) |
| 5. Cunning (6) | 27. Sofa (5) |
| 6. Metal fastener (4) | 29. Hinge (5) |
| 7. Pruning shears (9) | 30. Obstructs (4) |
| 8. Aviator (5) | 31. Wharf (4) |
| 14. Threads (5) | |
| 16. Speaks with impediment (5) | |



Difficult

Sudoku Challenge

Super Difficult

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

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

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

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<p>Cllr. Tim Durkan 086-8632784 tim.durkan321@gmail.com</p>	<p>Cllr. Angela Feeney 087-2381962 angelaemfeeney@gmail.com facebook.com/cllrangelafeeney/</p>	<p>Cllr. Peter Melrose 089 263 7612 peter.melrose@socialdemocrats.ie</p>	<p>Cllr. Donna Phelan 0870023636 dphelan@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Cllr. Paul Ward 087 2294697 cllrpaulward@gmail.com</p>	<p>An Nuadha Players annuadhplayers@gmail.com facebook.com/annuadha</p>	<p>An Post Sorting Office Maynooth 01-6293390</p>	<p>Brass & Reed Band (St Mary's) sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie facebook.com/maynoothband/</p>
<p>Cemetery Committee (Laraghbryan) 01-6293018</p>	<p>Church of Ireland 01-6292163 secretary@meath.anglican.org</p>	<p>Citizen Information Centre 0818078100 maynooth@citinfo.ie</p>	<p>Cloth Nappy Library Ireland 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/NappyLibraryIreland</p>
<p>Community Welfare Services 0818607080 Kildarecws@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Employment Office 01-6106000 bo.maynooth@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Kildare County Council 045 - 980200 customerservice@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Kildare Civil Defence 045 980529 pmcneela@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Kildare County Council (Local Office) 01 - 6286236</p>	<p>Kildare MABS 0818072600 kildare@mabs.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Autism Friendly Town 0863329050 autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/maynoothaft</p>	<p>Maynooth Employment Services Office Kelly's Lane, Maynooth 01-6016360 EstMaynooth@welfare.ie</p>
<p>Maynooth Post Office 01-6286259</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Care Unit 01-6106351</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Church 01-5054990 office@maynoothcc.org facebook.com/maynoothcommunitychurch/</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Library 01-6285530 maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie. facebook.com/ KildareCountyLibraryService</p>
<p>Maynooth Cycling Campaign 086-8252934 Maynoothcycling@gmail.com www.maynoothcyclingcampaign.com</p>	<p>Maynooth Fishing Club 01-6293202 info@maynoothfisheries.com</p>	<p>Maynooth GAA Club secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie facebook.com/maynoothgaa/</p>	<p>Maynooth Health Centre 01-6106130</p>
<p>Maynooth Kilcock Lions clubcontact@maynoothkilcocklionsclub.org facebook.com/MaynoothKilcockLionsClub/</p>	<p>Maynooth Library 01-6285530 Maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Newsletter 01-6285922 office@maynoothcep.com facebook.com/MCEPnewsletter</p>	<p>Maynooth Senior Citizens maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com</p>
<p>Maynooth Tidy Towns 083 304 6130 maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie facebook.com/MaynoothTidyTowns</p>	<p>Maynooth Town Football Club 086-1060654 info@maynoothtownfc.ie facebook.com/MTFC1969/</p>	<p>Maynooth Students Union 01-7083669 frontdesk@msu.ie facebook.com/MaynoothSU</p>	<p>North Kildare Club 01-6103909 info@northkildareclub.ie</p>
<p>North Kildare Tennis Club info@northkildaretennis.ie</p>	<p>Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth 01-6293018 maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com</p>	<p>SVP Vincent's Shop 01-6289643 geraldinebyrne.east@svp.ie facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064619179003</p>	<p>Zero Waste Maynooth 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth</p>

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



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

LOCAL NEWS - JULY 2025 - ISSUE NO. 547

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KPMG

WOMEN'S IRISH OPEN



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

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



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

info@womensirishopen.ie

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



Wishing Maynooth Tidy Towns the best of luck in the

Tidy Towns Ireland and The Entente Florale European Competitions.



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



ENTENTE
FLORALE
EUROPE
Association Européenne
pour le Développement
et le Paysage



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Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

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

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E-mail: office@maynoothcep.com

Website: www.maynoothcep.com

Letters to the Editor

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

e-mail to: editor@maynoothcep.com

Mission Statement

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

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

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

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

In addition we undertake the following:

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

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

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

Maynooth Newsletter Archives

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

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

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

Disclaimer

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

All information should be verified from an independent source.

Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter

Editorial

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



Former Maynooth University Swimming Pool

(image courtesy of J. Lawless)

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



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

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

Paul Croghan
Editor



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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

We painted the gates at Carton Avenue.

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

We have been using our Weedex machine all over the Town. We have had so much rain in recent weeks its really hard work to remove the weeds without the help of the machine which was a great investment.

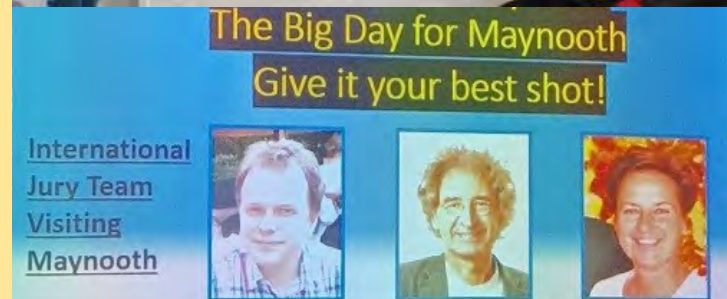
The Pound has been revamped with new pollinators and a poster has been erected. We have asked members of the Maynooth public for their vigilance in the lead up to both competitions especially Residents Associations to allow their grass to grow. Pick up litter even if you didn't drop it

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

If you wish to volunteer please contact us on our Facebook page or by email

maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie

Mary Molloy - Maynooth Tidy Towns Association





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

The Picnic in the Park was another great success this year. The rain held off for the afternoon and crowds of

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

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



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

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

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

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

This year, the inaugural Decarbonizing Zone



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

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

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



St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

June was a very busy month for the Band beginning with a performance by the Academy Band at the Saturday Market in the Square on 7th when the music was brilliant but

unfortunately the same can't be said for the weather. It was a dreadful morning, and the Band was very thankful for the Gazebo which we purchased with the aid of a grant from Intel two years ago which allows us some shelter in wet weather.

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

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

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

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

To join the camp just email your details to:

stmarysbrassandreedcamps@gmail.com.

Online Office

Here to help with

- * Medical Cards
- * Health Issues
- * Social Welfare
- * Education
- * Services for Senior Citizens
- * Housing Support and Grants (Windows/ Doors, Insulation, Roofing, Electrical)
- * Housing Adaptations and Planning (Level Access Showers, Extensions, Rebuilding Ireland Housing Loan)
- * Social Housing
- * Estate Issues
- * Community Issues
- * 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

LABOUR



Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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



Safety Measures at Boys National School

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

Mill Street Maynooth works

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

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

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

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

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

Community Crèche needed

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

Upcoming Motions and Questions for Council:

Questions:

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

Motions:

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

Have your Say!

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

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

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

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

Maynooth Town Renewal Plan Give Us Your Thoughts

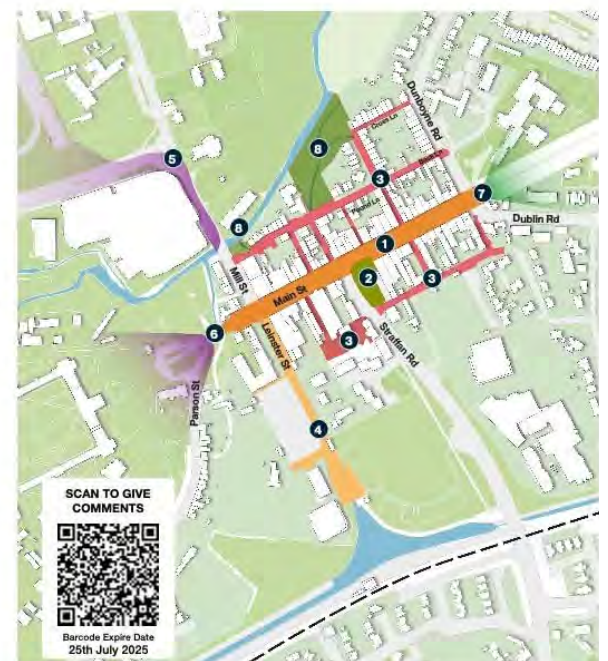


Initial Project Sites

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

Improvement Strategies

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



Enhancement & Wayfinding

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

Town Branding

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

Mobility Strategy

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

Town Centre Living

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

Decarbonization

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

District Heating Potential

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

Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



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

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

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

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

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

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

We would be delighted to welcome new committee members and suggest a visit to our morning club in the first instance.

**For more information please contact
maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com
or 0877974582 or any member of the existing Committee**

THREAD'S BROWS and BEAUTY

089 415 7690

✉ threadsbrowsbeauty@gmail.com



***Threads Nails & Beauty
Maynooth/Celbridge/Liffey Valley***

***Beauty Therapist Required
Full-Time/Part-Time***

***Contact: inoekta33@gmail.com
0872068154***



Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee Seeking Volunteers - it could be you!

Who we are

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

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

What we do

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

Can you commit to giving your time to the following?

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

We would be delighted to welcome new committee members and suggest a visit to our morning club in the first instance.

**For more information please contact maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com
or 0877974582 or any member of the existing Committee**



How To Prepare For Festival Season



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

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

Most importantly stay safe and enjoy the experience



The Advantages Of A Road Trip

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

The following are some advantages:

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

Most importantly stay safe and enjoy the trip

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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received. R.D.

Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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



6 MONTHS IN MY NEW ROLE AS YOUR PUBLIC REPRESENTATIVE

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Cllr. Donna Phelan



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

Motion - Councillor Donna Phelan

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

Response

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

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

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

Cllr. Donna Phelan



Important Update for Parents of Children Needing a Special Class Placement

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

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

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

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

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

#InclusionMatters #SpecialEducation #NCSESchoolPlanning

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



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



Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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GROWTH AND DEVELOPEMENT PROGRAMME MAYNOOTH WATER NETWORK UPGRADE



Supporting economic and social development



Increasing the supply capacity of the water network



Providing a more resilient water supply

Project Overview

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

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

Will customers be affected by the works?

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

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

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

What are the benefits of the works?

The benefits of these water network works include:

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



Maynooth Transfer Pipeline and Water Network Upgrade

Growth and Development Programme



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



Cllr. Donna Phelan

Working with Naoise Ó Cearúil TD

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

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

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

Donna & Naoise

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

Motions and Questions from Municipal District Council

Motion - Councillor Donna Phelan

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



Response

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

Question - Councillor Donna Phelan

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

Report:

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

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

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

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



Motion - Councillor Donna Phelan

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

Response

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

Question - Councillor Donna Phelan

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

Report:

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

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

Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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

Fianna Fáil
AN PÁIRTÍ POBLACHTÁNACH



Picnic in the Park June 2025 - Photo Gallery

Photos credit: Ronan Melia



Picnic in the Park June 2025 - Photo Gallery

Photos credit: Ronan Melia











Maynooth Autism Friendly Town Monthly News

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

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

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



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



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

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

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



• Maynooth GAA All-Stars

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

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

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



• Hangouts and Playball Groups Thriving

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

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



• Hangouts and Playball Groups Thriving

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

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

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



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

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

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



taxy

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Summer in Full Bloom at Maynooth Local Market

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

Maynooth Local Market to welcome Entente Florale judges

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

Meet our newest Vendors

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

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

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

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

Get involved – volunteers needed!

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

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



The Importance Of Organ Donation

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

(www.breakingnews.ie)



Newsletter Staff Writer: Jackie

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MU Chamber Choir makes history in Czechia



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

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

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

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

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

The judges were deeply impressed with the choir's performances, awarding them Most Convincing Interpretation of Contemporary Choral Music, Best Performance of a Czech Composition, and Most Inspiring Performance. "It's a huge achievement for the choir. Czechia and this region of Europe has a rich history of choral music, so to win the Absolute Winner overall prize, and five others, including the best performance of a Czech piece is incredible," said Artistic Director of Maynooth University Chamber Choir, Dr Michael T Dawson.

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

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

MU students showcase inventions at Design Show

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

Programme Director



The BSc Product Design & Innovation Class of 2025

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

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

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

Disability advocate Sinéad Burke calls for greater inclusion in higher education

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Maynooth University
National University of Ireland Maynooth



CEO of Tilting the Lens and disability advocate Sinéad Burke



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



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LAURA BRENNAN
AVA GREENE

Cast announcement

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

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

The Picnic in the Park 2025

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

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

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

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





An Nuadha Players
proudly present

The Prisoner of Second Avenue

BY NEIL SIMON
MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

8TH - 12TH JULY 2025

DOORS 7PM | SHOW 7.30PM

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
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MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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

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

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

Meet the Director and Cast of the Prisoner of Second Avenue



Ann Kelly (director)



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






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For more information please contact

Amanda on 086 1367423

amandadempsey@grow.ie

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received.

THE MIRACLE PRAYER

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

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

Never known to fail.

Thanksgiving for favour received. R.D.

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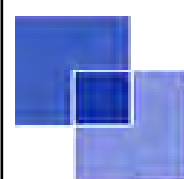
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Blast from the past - The Fleadh Cheoil in Maynooth 10 years ago

See if you recognise anyone.....



Fleadh Cheoil Laighean Maigh Nuad 2015

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





Writers’ Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

An Immigrant’s Account of The Ireland He Knew

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

P.G.Nerney

Village Rebirth?

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

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

Colin Scott



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thomas had already gathered much support throughout Ireland, amongst many of the more powerful Gaelic families in Leinster and also many of the old Anglo-Irish families who had allied themselves with the earls of Kildare. However, had wrongly assumed that his rebellion would attract even more overwhelming support, in particular from Irish Catholics opposed to Henry VIII's English Reformation.

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

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

Alan Cleary, Tour Guide and Historian.

“WHAT CAN WE DO?”

I happened to catch part of an interview by an RTE journalist with a retired bishop, of a neighbouring diocese. In this particular excerpt he was giving examples of how approachable he had been to people and to children especially. This topic had been introduced by the interviewer and now was being elaborated upon by the bishop. He gave as an example of how easily children could talk to him as he did his rounds of the local schools. A little girl asked him what exactly it was that he did in his job as a bishop? His answer, or rather his reply was: “where are you from?” I didn’t understand why he asked such a question as a reply to the child’s simple inquiry. I lost interest immediately. Why on earth couldn’t he have answered the child directly? Surely he knew what his job was? He was offered a teed-up opportunity and he fluffed his lines. "What do you do"? What is your job? Could he not have said very simply that his job was to tell as many people as possible about Jesus Christ? The child would have understood that. Better still if she had followed up with a question such as “why do you want to do that? Or “why is that a good thing to do”? Surely he would have known why that was a good thing to do! And how he went about doing it? He didn’t work on his own but his particular job was to help those who worked with him to tell others about Jesus also. His job was to not only to make it possible for others to do that but to

make sure they did it to the maximum of their ability. And he could have said that he gives good example by preaching an interesting and clear sermon at Sunday Mass. The sacraments could also have featured as an important part of telling people about Jesus Christ. And most of all perhaps he could have told the child and any others listening that that he tries to model his life on the way that Jesus dealt with everyone he met while he was going around Palestine 2000 years ago. So, an opportunity lost! But it is easy to throw stones. Don’t the rest of us who claim to be followers of Christ have our obligations also? How many opportunities do we lose to declare what it means to be a Christian? We live in a world where Christian values and principles are not at the top of the agenda. Does it trouble us that up to three billion people are today not sure of the quality of the water they drink? How many billions are hungry? Is there any great shortage of missiles, bombs and bullets? Has Christianity any message for the war mongers who slaughter and trample on those poor unfortunate people who get in the way of their greed? It's not easy to answer these questions but surely we should be doing our level best as intelligent people to put structures in place that would help the poor wherever they are? No one is an island!

GM

Events at Maynooth Community Library

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



facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService



twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Events for Children

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

Wednesday 2nd July, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

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

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

Summer Stars Reading Challenge

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

Song & Rhyme Time for 0-2 year olds

Friday 4th July, 10.00 am - 10.30 am

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

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

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

Song & Rhyme Time for 0-2 year Olds

Friday 11th July, 10.00 am – 10.30 am

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

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

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

Little Makers Time for ages 1-6 years

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

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

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

Children must be accompanied by an adult.

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

Events for Adults

Homelessness and Housing Support Clinic

Tuesday 22nd July, 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

Looking for advice on homelessness and housing supports? Visit this Kildare County Council drop-in clinic in Maynooth Community Library to learn about the supports available. **Drop in, no booking required**

Healthy Ireland Events

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

Saturday 26th July, 10.00 am – 11.00 am

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

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

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

Exhibitions

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

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

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

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

Maynooth Community Library Exhibition Space

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

Groups and Clubs

'Knit + Chat ' Craft Club

Thursday 17th July, 6.30 pm – 7.30pm

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

Drop in, no booking required

Maynooth Community Library Craft Club

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

(except on Bank Holidays).

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

Ciorcal Comhrá - Irish Conversation Group

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

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

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

Baby and Toddler Group

Every Thursday, 10 am – 11 am

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

No need to book, just drop in!

The Maynooth Town Renewal Plan is now out for public consultation



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

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

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

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

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

Lets build the future of Maynooth together.

Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA – KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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

Fianna Fáil
AN PÁIRTÍ POBLACHTÁNACH



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

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

July Gardening

Flowers

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

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

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

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

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

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



Fruit and Vegetables

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Greenhouse

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

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

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

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

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

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



Source: bbc gardening world.com



Five Affordable Ways to Improve your Garden

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

1. Paint

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

2. Upcycling

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

3. Indoor to outdoor

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

4. Hanging baskets

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

5. Light it up

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

Source: www.creditunion.ie

Air Fryer Roast Chicken

Preparation time: less than 30 mins

Cook time: 1 to 2 hours

Serves: 4

Dietary: Egg-free Nut-free Pregnancy-friendly



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

Ingredients

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

Method

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

Season well with salt and pepper.

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

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

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

Recipe Tip

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



Air Fryer Baked Potatoes

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

Preparation time: 5 mins

Cook time: 1 hr

Serves: 2

Ingredients

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



Method

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

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

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

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

Recipe Tip

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



Source: *ALLRECIPES*

CRISPY AIR FRYER CAULIFLOWER

Ingredients:

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



Method

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

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

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

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

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

Drizzle with olive oil, and use your favourite seasonings.

How to Air Fry Cauliflower

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

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

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

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

Source: *LittleSunnyKitchen*

July Pet Care

Pet Hydration Awareness Month

National Pet Fire Safety Day on July 15th

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

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



That's Water, Ventilation and Shade

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

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

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

Essential Summer Dog Care Tips

1. Adjust Exercise Routines

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

2. Keep Your Dog Cool

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

3. Grooming Matters

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

4. Consider Pets' Dietary Needs

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

Irish Summer Hazards to Watch

Water Safety:

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

Parasites on the Move:

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

National Pet Fire Safety Day

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

July 15th is
National Pet
Fire Safety
Day



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

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

8 Pet Fire Safety Pets

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





Memories From the Archives Celebrating 40 Years of Maynooth Community Employment Project Producing the Maynooth Newsletter July 1985

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com

MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

JULY/AUGUST 1985

NUMBER 98

PRICE 20p

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

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

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

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SPORTS PAGE

Athletic Club Contd.

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

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

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

BOYS U/14: 600m - 2nd Enda Breslin, 5th Frank Desmond; 800m Walk:

1st Enda Breslin, 3rd Frank Desmond.

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

RELAYS

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

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

Carbury Road Race

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

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MANY STALLS & ATTRACTIONS

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collection will be made

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

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

Cormack; 800m - 2nd Dara Callaghan;

1500m - 2nd Dara Callaghan;

L.J. - 1st Dara Callaghan.

BOYS U/16: Discus - 3rd Enda Breslin

Javelin - 1st Enda Breslin.

JUNIOR MEN: 1500m - 2nd Michael

Kelly.

SENIOR MEN: 100m - 1st Pat Mahon,

2nd Matt Cunningham, 3rd Kevin Tracey

200m - 1st Pat Mahon, 2nd Matt

Cunningham, 3rd Kevin Tracey.

400m - 1st Pat Mahon, 2nd Matt

Cunningham, 3rd Kevin Tracey.

Javelin - 1st Matt Cunningham.

5lbs Throw - 2nd Jim Harle; Discus -

2nd Brendan Hogan; Shot - 1st

Jim Harle, 2nd Philip McDermott,

3rd Pat Mahon.

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

800m - 1st Tony Callaghan; 1500m -

1st Brian Redmond, 4th M. Gleeson.

VETS O/40: 200m - 2nd Tony

Callaghan, 3rd Brian Redmond,

4th Mick Gleeson. 1500m - 1st

Brian Redmond, 2nd Tony Callaghan,

4th M. Gleeson.

Leinster Championships, Dunboyne,

June 8th and 9th

If the Kildare Championships were

successful for Maynooth, the first

part of the Leinsters were a disaster,

with only two of our athletes -

Michelle Ennis and Hugh Purcell -

getting into the medals. Michelle

won the Girls U/12 600 metre

event, and Hugh took silver in the Long Jump for U/11's. For the others, it was a disappointing time, but hope springs eternal, and the remaining parts of the Championships take place in Dunboyne over the coming weekend, when some more of the Juveniles and the Vets take place.

The Vets have been having a fine time recently with good wins for the O/35 team of Brian Redmond, Peter Keegan, Mick Gleeson and David Jolly in Seshalstown, where Brian Redmond also took the individual gold in the O/35 section, and Peter Keegan second in the O/45's. Peter Keegan also finished in third place at a recent 10K Road Race in Kilbarrack. The Juvenile BLOE All-Irelands take place in Antrim on June 29 and 30th, and those travelling are looking forward to the weekend in hope and confidence.



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CONGRATULATIONS

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

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

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

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

Recent Births

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

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

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

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

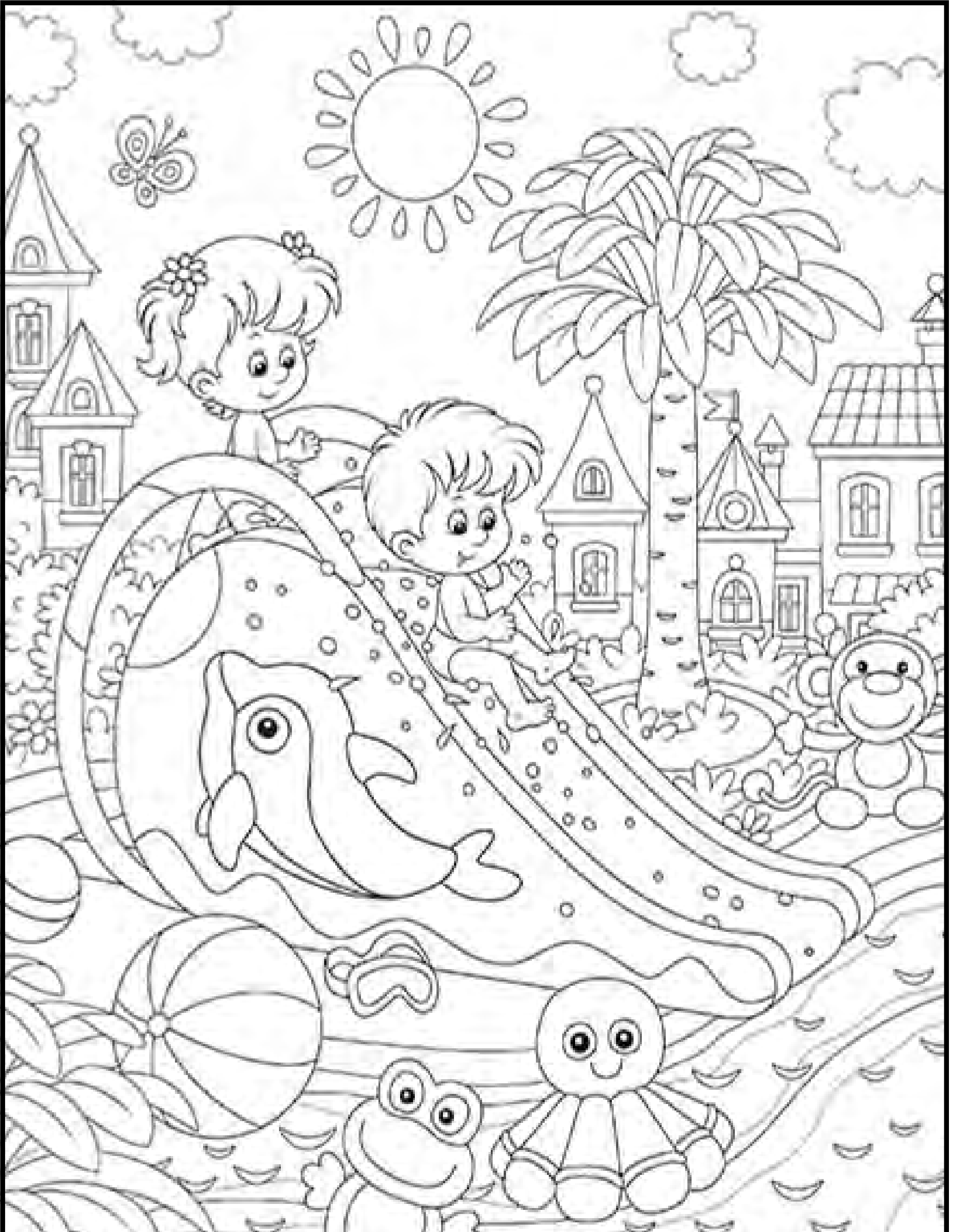


COLOURING FOR FUN



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Sourced free from Google





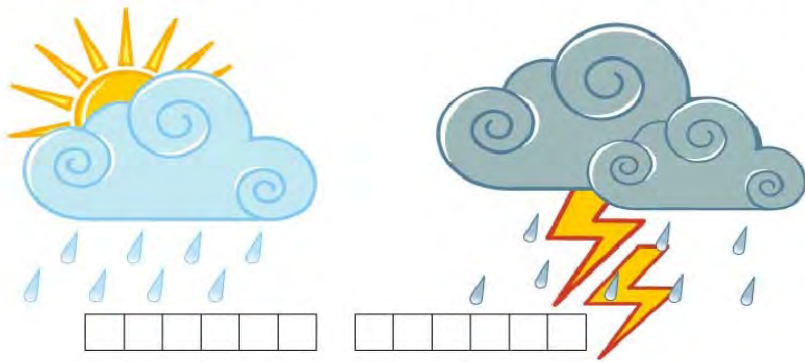
PUZZLE TIME



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

Puzzles sourced free from Google

Summer Weather Word Merge!



cPlaortuldy 10 empty boxes

Hweaivnyd 10 empty boxes

Ldirghztzle 10 empty boxes

Hehavayil 10 empty boxes

Exhteraemte 10 empty boxes

raMiinld 10 empty boxes

Modseruantneyly 10 empty boxes

Defnosge 10 empty boxes

Stehundervsetorrem 10 empty boxes



Summer



S	F	L	I	P	F	L	O	P	S	S
B	C	A	C	H	B	B	F	H	U	A
W	A	T	E	R	M	E	L	O	N	S
P	M	D	C	N	S	A	I	T	G	A
I	P	C	R	S	U	C	P	D	L	N
C	I	A	E	U	N	H	F	O	A	D
N	N	C	A	M	F	I	R	G	S	C
I	G	T	M	D	Y	A	L	H	S	A
C	A	B	A	R	B	E	Q	U	E	S
S	U	N	S	C	R	E	E	N	S	T
S	W	I	M	S	U	I	T	N	O	L
S	B	E	A	C	H	B	A	L	L	E

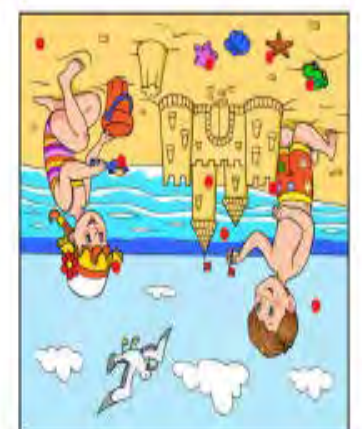
BEACH MAZE

Draw a line through the maze to get the beach toys to the beach.

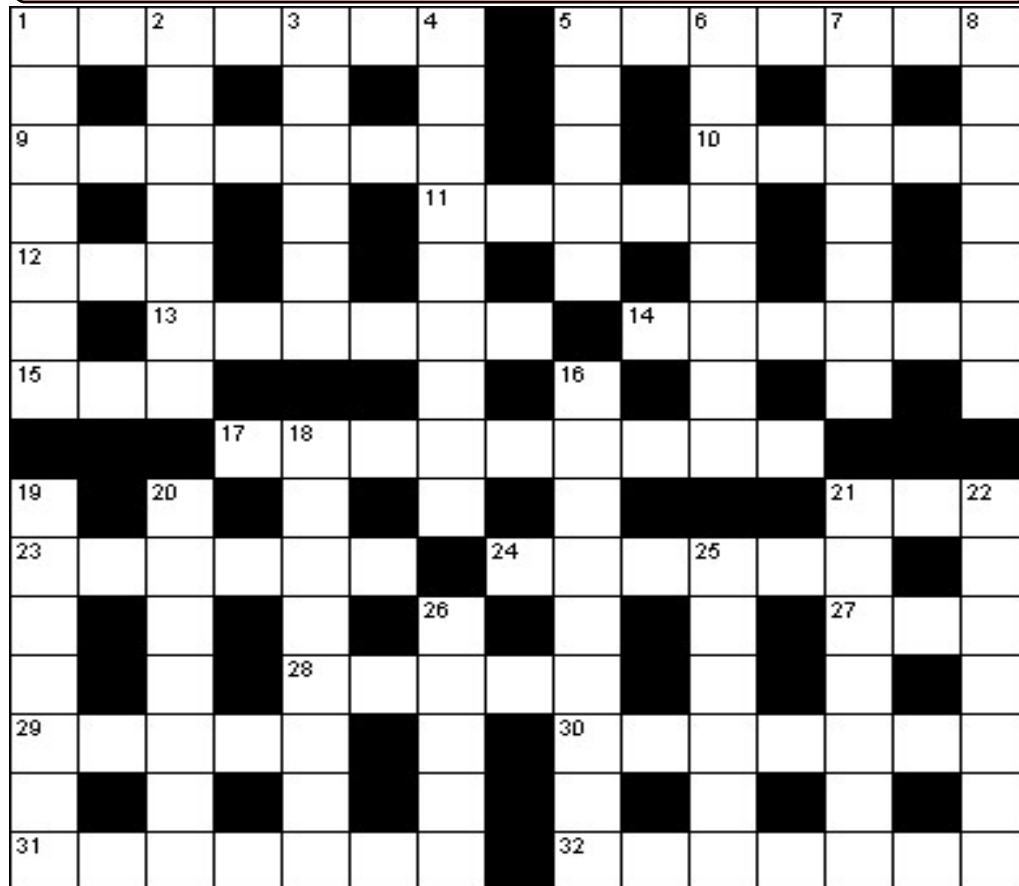


Find 10 differences

Answer 0



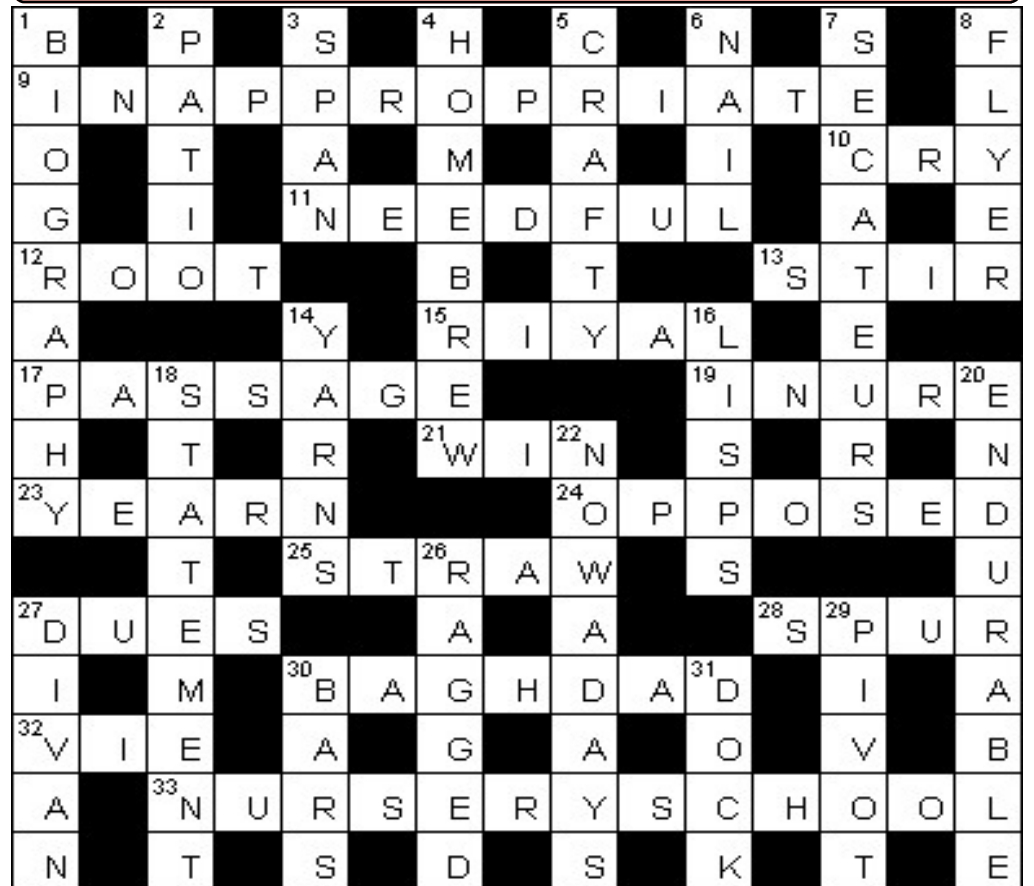
July 2025 Crossword - No. 547



Clues Across

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

Solutions to Crossword No. 546



Clues Down

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



Difficult

Sudoku Challenge

Super Difficult

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

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

Maynooth Community Contacts Listing

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<p>Cllr. Paul Ward 087 2294697 cllrpaulward@gmail.com</p>	<p>An Nuadha Players annuadhplayers@gmail.com facebook.com/annuadha</p>	<p>An Post Sorting Office Maynooth 01-6293390</p>	<p>Brass & Reed Band (St Mary's) sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie facebook.com/maynoothband/</p>
<p>Cemetery Committee (Laraghbryan) 01-6293018</p>	<p>Church of Ireland 01-6292163 secretary@meath.anglican.org</p>	<p>Citizen Information Centre 0818078100 maynooth@citinfo.ie</p>	<p>Cloth Nappy Library Ireland 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/NappyLibraryIreland</p>
<p>Community Welfare Services 0818607080 Kildarecws@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Employment Office 01-6106000 bo.maynooth@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Kildare County Council 045 - 980200 customerservice@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Kildare Civil Defence 045 980529 pmcneela@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Kildare County Council (Local Office) 01 - 6286236</p>	<p>Kildare MABS 0818072600 kildare@mabs.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Autism Friendly Town 0863329050 autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/maynoothaft</p>	<p>Maynooth Employment Services Office Kelly's Lane, Maynooth 01-6016360 EstMaynooth@welfare.ie</p>
<p>Maynooth Post Office 01-6286259</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Care Unit 01-6106351</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Church 01-5054990 office@maynoothcc.org facebook.com/maynoothcommunitychurch/</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Library 01-6285530 maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie. facebook.com/ KildareCountyLibraryService</p>
<p>Maynooth Cycling Campaign 086-8252934 Maynoothcycling@gmail.com www.maynoothcyclingcampaign.com</p>	<p>Maynooth Fishing Club 01-6293202 info@maynoothfisheries.com</p>	<p>Maynooth GAA Club secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie facebook.com/maynoothgaa/</p>	<p>Maynooth Health Centre 01-6106130</p>
<p>Maynooth Kilcock Lions clubcontact@maynoothkilcocklionsclub.org facebook.com/MaynoothKilcockLionsClub/</p>	<p>Maynooth Library 01-6285530 Maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Newsletter 01-6285922 office@maynoothcep.com facebook.com/MCEPnewsletter</p>	<p>Maynooth Senior Citizens maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com</p>
<p>Maynooth Tidy Towns 083 304 6130 maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie facebook.com/MaynoothTidyTowns</p>	<p>Maynooth Town Football Club 086-1060654 info@maynoothtownfc.ie facebook.com/MTFC1969/</p>	<p>Maynooth Students Union 01-7083669 frontdesk@msu.ie facebook.com/MaynoothSU</p>	<p>North Kildare Club 01-6103909 info@northkildareclub.ie</p>
<p>North Kildare Tennis Club info@northkildaretennis.ie</p>	<p>Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth 01-6293018 maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com</p>	<p>SVP Vincent's Shop 01-6289643 geraldinebyrne.east@svp.ie facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064619179003</p>	<p>Zero Waste Maynooth 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth</p>

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



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

LOCAL NEWS - AUGUST 2025 - ISSUE NO. 548

IN THIS ISSUE

◆ NEWS FROM SENIOR CITIZENS

◆ MAYNOOTH TIDY TOWNS

◆ LABOUR PARTY NOTES

◆ ST MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND NOTES

◆ FIANNA FÁIL NOTES

◆ MAYNOOTH UNIVERSITY

◆ AN NUADHA PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATRE

◆ STORIES FROM OUR READERS

◆ LIBRARY NOTES

◆ MEMORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES



Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee celebrates its 60th Anniversary



A perusal on the internet of Irish organisations representing older persons shows a wide range groups such as Active Retirement Ireland (ARI), Age and Opportunity, Age Action Ireland, Friends of the Elderly and Irish Senior Citizens Parliament to mention some. But none can say that they have the longevity of Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee, which is celebrating its diamond jubilee this year

advice for the social, emotional, physical and psychological wellbeing of our older people".

The new committee met for the first time on 31st May and adopted the name Maynooth Old People's Committee. Later, the term "old people" was deemed to be inappropriate and "senior citizens" came to replace it.



2005-2015 Ruby Celebrations – Four Chairpersons Marie Kelly, Mary Cullen, Josephine Moore and Imelda Delaney

This is a wonderful achievement for MSCC and a testament to the people who were the founding members, sadly some of whom have passed away. Thankfully our first Chairperson, Mary Cullen, is very much with us. It also illustrates the activism of dedicated committee members over the years who have ensured the continuation of Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee.

The Maynooth Branch of the Red Cross held a public meeting on 24th May 1965 with a view to establishing a group in Maynooth. As Jo Moore noted in the 2015 publication Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee the Golden Years 1965-2015, "The presence at the early meetings of Dr. John Cullen, psychiatrist and Medical Officer of the Maynooth Branch of the Red Cross, Dr. William Cowhey, local GP and Gertrude Hyland, District Nurse, meant we had the whole package in terms of



Committee members who assisted during the Tea Dances and the Annual Sale of Work

The Committee had to constantly think about finance, and fundraising was a key activity. The most memorable was the Annual Sale of Work which ran from 1968. It was a much anticipated event in the Maynooth calendar and a lucrative fundraiser for our organisation. The organisation of the event was overseen by Jo Moore, Chairperson of Maynooth Senior Citizens for 30 years. Sadly, this meitheal and fundraising activity came to an end as Covid took hold.

Our activities in the past included very popular monthly Tea Dances which were held in the GAA Club House, again another victim of Covid. Two morning Clubs where various activities were carried out e.g. crafts, cards, gentle exercises and bingo. Outings were also organised.

(Continued on page 3)



National Heritage Week

A Heritage Council programme

16 - 24 August 2025 For a list of Maynooth Events see page 3



THIS PUBLICATION IS PRODUCED BY MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT,
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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

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

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

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Letters to the Editor

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

Mission Statement

The Maynooth Newsletter is a community focused online publication available free to the people of Maynooth. It plays an important role in gathering together, recording and distributing community based news. We encourage all groups and individuals in the community to submit material to let us know about their activities and any upcoming events.

The Newsletter exists for your enjoyment and we hope you continue to enjoy your monthly read and keep us informed of your activities. The Editorial Board endeavours to ensure independence and balance in the Newsletter content and reserves the right to omit/edit or abridge material which in its opinion might render the Newsletter as a promoter of sectional interests.

In addition we undertake the following:

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

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

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

Maynooth Newsletter Archives

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

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

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

Disclaimer

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

All information should be verified from an independent source.
Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter

Editorial

Continuing on from last month about the delay in progressing infrastructural projects in Ireland and more specifically for Maynooth, I went back to check when the consultation work for the Part VIII of the Planning Act was commenced for the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road. While some progress has been made on this important project for Maynooth, it is disappointing that it is over six years in the planning phase.

The **Maynooth Eastern Ring Road** development will comprise the provision of a new single carriageway relief road to the east of Maynooth town, to facilitate the connection of the R405 Celbridge Road and the R148 Leixlip Road. The proposed new road will include a 41mtr long single span bridge crossing of the Royal Canal and the Dublin to Sligo railway line.



At the northern extent of the development, it will connect to the existing junction of the R148 Leixlip Road and the R157 Dunboyne Road. At the southern end of the development, it will connect to the existing junction of the R405 Celbridge Road and the Griffin Rath Road. While no significant work has commenced on site, there is no doubt that when completed this road will be an alternative route for traffic currently needing to use the Main Street.

This month the hoarding was removed from the boundary of the **New Student Accommodation** being built in Leinster Street.

The new building extends the building line from the traditional terrace that has existed there for over two



hundred years. Additional student accommodation is needed in Maynooth and it is good to see high quality apartments becoming available.

Heritage Week events will take place in Maynooth again this year. One event that I am hoping to get to takes place at General Paints on the Maynooth Road in Celbridge. The General Paints Head Office is in the original Celbridge Workhouse and they are giving guided tours of the building entitled "if these walls could talk" on both the 20th and 21st August at 5pm and 7pm, tours take ninety minutes.

Congratulations to all the members of the Maynooth Senior Citizens Group on continuous activities for sixty years. Keeping such an important voluntary group going is never easy and we all owe you a huge debt of gratitude and acknowledgement for your work and for reaching this milestone.

Paul Croghan
Editor

Copy Date for September Edition is 5pm
On 23rd August 2025

(Continued from page 1)



Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee celebrates its 60th Anniversary



Currently the Committee meet for monthly meetings on the second Monday of the month. The morning clubs resumed after Covid and continue on Tuesday and Thursday mornings where we have had a range of activities such as bingo, art classes, chair yoga, crafts and information sessions and we hope to include other activities this coming September. Our outgoing Chairperson Garry Bermingham, established an Annual Pub Quiz which is held in the Newtown Inn and has proved to be very popular and well supported by the community. We organise a Christmas lunch for our senior members. Our seniors also attend other community events such as the school musical in the local Post Primary School and the Castle Keep Art Group annual exhibition. Transport is provided for the morning clubs, for any other organised outings and to the vigil Mass on Saturday evenings.

We are grateful for the continued generous donations from key people in the community. We hold an annual church gate collection. In recent times we have availed of Kildare County Council and HSE grants and we have benefitted from courses provided by Kildare Wicklow Education Training Board – Community Education and Co. Kildare Leader Partnership.

We are marking the Diamond Jubilee with an event in the Geraldine Hall on Sunday August 3rd. Our senior members, committee members past and present, friends and supporters of Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee are welcome to come along. We will be open from 12 noon until 5pm and there will be a launch at 2pm to 2.30pm. There will be a photographic display outlining the history of Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee and a display of art created by our Club members over the last year or so.

The Committee would especially like to acknowledge and thank Josephine Moore for her tenure as Chairperson over an incredible 30 years during which the organisation was expertly guided and developed over the decades,

The values of Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee are as relevant today if not more so...

To create an environment where older people can retain independence and have autonomy over their own lives... to encourage full participation in their community and in society as a whole... to eliminate isolation through transport provision and social inclusion and to provide a voice for the most vulnerable and to keep up to date on social policies affecting older people.

Susan Durack, Secretary/PRO Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

We would be delighted to welcome new committee members and suggest a visit to our morning club in the first instance.

**For more information please contact
maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com or 0877974582.**

Pictures: Birthdays, Day Trips, Easter Bonnet Celebrations, Senior Citizens Art Group, Busy at the Annual Sale of Work





National Heritage Week

A Heritage Council programme

Exploring Our Foundations 16 – 24 August 2025

National Heritage Week celebrates Ireland's cultural, built and natural heritage. It brings together volunteers, community groups and heritage enthusiasts to share their experience, knowledge culture and practices. **#HeritageWeek2025 #NationalHeritageWeek**

List of events that are happening in Maynooth during National Heritage Week



Maynooth Heritage Trail - Guided Tour
Duke's Harbour
Maynooth
Co. Kildare

Date: 23 August, 12pm - 3pm

A guided walk around Maynooth, exploring the history and heritage of the town. From the Medieval Quarter, containing the remains of Maynooth Castle, and the Church of Ireland, to Courthouse Square, the walk takes us along the streets and lanes of a town whose growth and development is intrinsically linked to the Dukes of Leinster, the Fitzgeralds.

The walking tour is on public footpaths, paved areas, at all times. Occasionally, we get the opportunity to access some of the buildings included in the tour. There are major roadworks/street and path upgrades ongoing in the town at present.

We may alter our route slightly if necessary. The times given are a maximum. Tour guides are Maynooth Tidy Towns volunteers.

Booking:

Email - MaynoothTidyTowns@outlook.ie

Mobile Number-0872861771

Maynooth Tidy Towns Facebook/Messenger

Your booking will be confirmed and contact number requested.



Free Talks & Tours at Maynooth Castle
Maynooth Castle Main Reception
(Inside the Castle)
Maynooth Castle, Parsons Street,
Maynooth, Co. Kildare
W23F2D5

Dates:

16 August, 2pm - 4pm: **Silken Thomas Rebellion & Siege of Maynooth Castle**

17 August, 2pm - 4pm: **The White Rose of Kildare: Ireland in the Wars of the Roses**

20 August, 11am - 4pm : **Titanic and her Kildare Connections**

21 August, 11am: **Maynooth Castle and St. Marys Church**

23 August, 2pm - **The White Rose of Kildare: Ireland in the Wars of the Roses**

24 August, 2pm - 4pm: **Titanic and her Kildare Connections**

A range of free Adult talks and tours on a wide variety of historical subjects throughout Heritage Week.

Booking is recommended and attendance is limited to 40 persons.

For more INFORMATION and to BOOK your place on one of our Tours and Talks: email - maynoothcastle@opw.ie or contact us on - 0469422270 between 10:00am and 5:00pm

Free admission

NO public toilets on site

NO onsite parking (paid on-street parking)

Due to the historic nature of the building there is limited access for mobility issues.



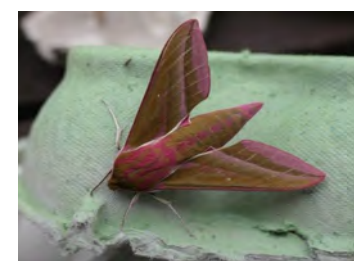
Tours of the Russell Library
Russell Library
St. Patrick's College, Maynooth
Co. Kildare

Dates: 19 August, 11am - 12pm & 2:30pm - 3:30pm
21 August, 11am - 12pm & 2:30pm - 3:30pm

In celebration of Heritage Week 2025, we are delighted to welcome visitors to the Russell Library for tours and to view our latest exhibition, 'Care and Repair: the work of the Library Conservator'. This exhibition brings to light the often-hidden work of conservators and gives an insight into how they care for our wonderful collections. There will also be family-friendly activities using a mini printing press!

No booking required.

For more details, contact (01) 7083890 or library.russell@mu.ie
Please note that there is no wheelchair access at this site.



Moth Morning
Cormackstown Wood
Cormickstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare
W23 X0K1

Date: 16 August, 7am - 9am

Moth Morning on the Lady Chapel Road, Maynooth, County Kildare, at Philip Strickland's home. Philip's grounds contain an excellent grassland habitat and adjoining interesting woodland. Did you know that Ireland has just 35 butterfly species, but has 1505 moth species? These are vital for ecosystems, regulating plant growth, pollinating crops, feeding other animals, and living in many places: under the soil, in water, on grasses, flowers and trees. Learn about the amazing range in the colour, size and shape of our night-flying moths. You will get up close and personal with our rarely encountered nocturnal animals.

The event will be led by Philip Strickland and Jesmond Harding. Please note that the area is private land at Cormackstown Wood, Cormickstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare. Eircode: W23 X0K1
The property is accessed via a long driveway.

See <https://butterflyconservation.ie/wp/events-2/>

Online Office

Here to help with

- * Medical Cards
- * Health issues
- * Social Welfare
- * Education
- * Services for Senior Citizens
- * Housing Support and Grants (Windows/ Doors, Insulation, Roofing, Electrical)
- * Housing Adaptations and Planning (Level Access Showers, Extensions, Rebuilding Ireland Housing Loan)
- * Social Housing
- * Estate Issues
- * Community Issues
- * Environmental Concerns
- * Covid - 19 related queries



Phone



zoom



E-mail



Cllr Angela Feeney

Labour

If I can help email: angelafeeney@kildarecoco.ie or call 087 238 1962

Stay safe everyone.



Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News
Email: afeeney@kildarecoco.ie - Phone: 0872381962



Safety Issue on Celbridge Road

The issue of safety on the Celbridge Road Maynooth, where there are two large and growing primary schools, has been an ongoing concern for parents and school managers for over eleven years now. I have been bringing motions to the Council calling for improvements because there have been many near misses over the years.

Unfortunately, a serious accident happened a few weeks back and we do not want to wait until there is a further, even more serious event. I attended a public meeting of parents and teachers recently and the anger and frustration at that meeting was understandable. We want children to be able to walk or cycle to school but we need to make it safe for them to do that.

Education about road safety is part of that solution, as is driver behaviour but the bottom line here is the safety of the road and paths on that road. The existing footpaths are not fit for purpose. At the July Council meeting, there was some good news provided; the National Transport Authority project to revamp that entire section is now progressing and will be fast-tracked to the public consultation stage.

However, in the meantime, we need some interim measures that could help the situation and could be in place by the start of the new school year to reassure parents, the school management teams and the families. One of those is the motion that myself and Cllr Melrose put forward to introduce a "Special Speed Limit By-Law", of 30 km/h speed limit on the Celbridge Road in the area designated "School Zone".

The motion was voted on and it was passed unanimously by all members. The approval of by-laws is, after all, a reserved function. In this case, because of serious concerns for public safety, we are exercising that function. It necessitates us sending a letter to the Minister to this effect and it was agreed at the meeting to do this. We cannot have a repeat of what happened to the child there again and we have to do everything within our power to help.

Carton Masterplan

I asked for an update on the status of the Masterplan for Carton Avenue. Carton Avenue has been a much treasured space for so long and we need to preserve it. I welcomed the response from the Council on my request for an update. Work has started on the preparation of a tender to appoint consultants to prepare a Masterplan for Carton Avenue. The Council hopes to have consultants in place before the end of this year and to start work on the Carton Masterplan.

Update on Link Road from Mullen Park to the Celbridge Road

At the recent Council meeting, I called on the Council to instruct the developer of Mullen Park to open the link road from Mullen Park to the Celbridge Road, Maynooth, in compliance with planning permission.

Given the road safety concerns regarding the Celbridge Road, particularly in the vicinity of the two primary schools, I suggested to the Council that opening the link road could alleviate that situation. This road between Mullen Park and the Celbridge Road has proper footpaths and cycle lanes and has an exit/entrance right beside the two schools on the Celbridge Road.

In my view, it would make huge sense to have it opened. I also placed the issue on the agenda in June because it was a condition of the planning approval. The Council confirmed that the developer of Mullen Park is in the process of completing works to the link road. The outstanding works relate to the activation of the toucan crossing which is awaiting a power supply from ESB.

A Stage 3 Road Safety Audit also needs to be completed. There have also been recent works on the first section of the link road to install service connections to the Lidl store development and the new fire station. The Council's Development Control are liaising with the Roads and Transportation, the Municipal District Engineer and Chief Fire Officer to ensure a coordinated approach to make sure all works are completed to facilitate the opening of the link road as quickly as possible. The Council stated that the link road will open in quarter 3 2025.

Street Lights on the Straffan Road

The street lights on the Straffan Road from the Maxol Service Station to Larine House near Court House Square have been out of action for some days now. I have logged the fault on the Council's Public Lighting system and the Maintenance Contractor has prioritised the faults for repair.

Resurfacing works in St. Brigid's Terrace Straffan

St Brigid's Terrace is a small estate but the residents there some have mobility issues, some are elderly and they genuinely are worried about their personal safety. The estate is in need of resurfacing works. I have been highlighting the issue for some time now. Some Local Property Tax funding has been assigned.

I asked the Council to identify the full costs to do these much-needed works so that additional Local Property Tax can be assigned. I also asked that the works be commenced with the existing funds that have already been assigned.

Taste of Kildare Festival 2025

The 2025 Taste of Kildare festival offers an exciting world food tour without leaving the county! Showcasing the best local and visiting chefs, the cuisine from local producers highlights the diversity and vibrancy of food culture in Co Kildare.

From traditional Irish fare to Asian-inspired dishes and everything in between, a vibrant, diverse blend of homegrown and international flavours awaits you.

Our unique food and drink celebration highlights the globally inspired dining vibrancy now available in the heart of Ireland's culinary capital.

What to Expect

Explore our lively market, full of amazing creations from local makers and small businesses. Watch top chefs cook live on stage and join fun, hands-on workshops with food experts. Try delicious food and drinks, sample local favourites, and learn new kitchen skills. Enjoy live music as you snack your way through the market.

So many flavours and fun experiences - whether you're here to treat yourself or try something new!

Enjoy the best snacks from Shoda Café and Restaurant, straight from Maynooth at this year's Taste of Kildare festival! With a focus on fresh and healthy ingredients, Shoda will be serving coffee & sweet treats including churros.

<https://tasteofkildare.ie/tickets>

#TasteOfKildare #TOK25 #IntoKildare



St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band



Saturday, July 5th was a Red Letter Day for everyone connected with St. Mary's Brass and Reed Band when they travelled to Clonakilty in Cork for the South of Ireland Band Championships, where they won **First Prize** and also prizes for **Best March and Best Reed Section**. The band had worked hard to prepare for the competition and they were delighted to bring back the spoils, which was a major achievement when competing against 16 other bands from all over Ireland.

This success, following on from the Academy Band taking third place in the National Band Championships in Ardee, in April, certainly puts St. Mary's Band and Maynooth on the musical map nationwide, and augurs well for the future of both bands.

Normality will return when the band plays a return visit to Farmleigh Estate in the Phoenix Park. On Sunday 10th August, when it is hoped that the sun will shine between 2pm and 4pm in this beautiful setting.

The band also hopes these recent successes will encourage musicians in Maynooth and surrounding areas to attend rehearsals in the Bandroom on Pound Lane on Monday nights or Saturday mornings where they will be most welcome.

The Band can also be contacted on Facebook @stmarysbrassandreedbandmaynooth or sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie





Gold Medal Winners

2016 - 2017 - 2018

2019 - 2021 - 2022

2023 - 2024

July was a really busy month for the Tidy Towns Volunteers. We were preparing for 2 competitions: **Entente Florale European Competition** and **Tidy Towns Ireland**. It was all worth it as our town is looking the best. We received so many compliments from our local residents.

On the 11th of July the Entente Florale judges arrived in Maynooth after judging in Terryglass Co Tipperary. Terryglass were nominated to represent the small town /village category in Ireland.

Some of our Committee met them on the steps of Stoyte House and presented them with a welcome gift.

The judges, mentors and staff from the Department of Rural Affairs were all staying in Stoyte House for the duration of their visit to Maynooth.

On the morning of the 12th July we had a flag raising ceremony outside the library with all the team and members of Kildare County Council. We adjourned to The TSI building in the North Campus for presentations, questions and answers from many community groups in the town.

There are so many people to thank and we will do so individually in the not so distant future. The judges and mentors were taken around the town to Carton Estate, Pikes Bridge, Gaelscoil Ui Fhiaich, The Retrofit House in Meadowbrook, and then back to the Square.

Thank you to Mark Nolan who kindly provided transportation. The judges enjoyed some traditional Irish music in the Square before having lunch in The Avenue. The Rickshaw, driven by our own Paul Cahill, was very popular among visitors at the square.

Some members of the committee met with judges in Renehan Hall for feedback at 5.45pm. The response was very positive and fingers are crossed for a good result in the finals, which occur in Slovenia this September.

We were also invited to do a clean up of the Royal Canal by Flossie and the Beach Cleaners, and we did a revamp of the Sensory Garden.

We are always looking for volunteers, please contact us on Facebook at Maynooth Tidy Towns or email maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie

Mary Molloy

Maynooth Tidy Towns Association



Cllr. Donna Phelan
MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get in Touch:
Tel: 017 002 3636 Email: dphelan@kildarecoco.ie

Fianna Fáil

SUMMER UPDATE



Minister Moynihan visit's Maynooth



Demanding Action for equal education

We were delighted to welcome Minister for Special Education Micheál Moynihan before the school summer break to Maynooth to showcase the fantastic work being done to support students with special educational needs in our town.



Showcasing Progress

While great progress has been made, we also took the opportunity to highlight the urgent need for increased funding and additional school placements.



Supporting every student in Maynooth

Every child in Maynooth deserves access to an appropriate education, and we will continue to advocate until that becomes a reality for all.

Picnic in the Park

I was proud to represent the Maynooth Autism Friendly Town committee, at the picnic in the park where we distributed our event cards to support autistic children in our community. It was a fantastic day filled with music, entertainment, and wonderful local stalls, all coming together to create an inclusive and welcoming event for everyone.



Dondale Open Farm

I had the pleasure of attending this year's Agri Aware Open Day at Donadele Farm in Donadea. It was a fantastic event celebrating Irish farming and food production, and it was great to see so many local businesses supported on the day. Maynooth's own Shoda was also there, proudly representing local enterprise with their coffee truck you really can't beat a Shoda coffee!



FutureNeuro My Moving Brain Maynooth

I was honoured to speak at the recent My Moving Brain event, where I highlighted the role of Maynooth has played in becoming an Autism Friendly Town and the importance of providing inclusive sports opportunities for all abilities.

As someone directly involved with the Maynooth GAA Allstars team, I see first hand how vital it is to create spaces where every child can participate, regardless of ability.

It was truly mind blowing to share the stage with so many inspiring people who are all committed to breaking down barriers in sport.

The event also showcased the fantastic work of the Kildare Sports Partnership, supporting inclusive teams across the county with the help of local LPT funding.



Fianna Fáil North Kildare AGM



Stronger Together for North Kildare

We're very lucky to have a strong and committed Fianna Fáil team in North Kildare, all working together to represent our communities and keep your best interests at the heart of what we do. While two of our team members, Paul Ward and David Throst, are missing from this photo, they are very much part of the ongoing work, discussions and decisions that shape our collective efforts. As part of my role, I'm proud to share that I have recently been appointed the Women's and Equality Officer for the Kildare North Fianna Fáil team. This is a role I take seriously, and I'm committed to ensuring that equality, inclusion and the voices of women are central to everything we do, both within our party and across the communities we serve. If you'd like to get involved, share your ideas, or raise any local issues that matter to you, please don't hesitate to reach out. We're here to listen, represent and work with you.

KPMG Womens Irish Open



World Class Golf Comes to Maynooth

The KPMG Irish Women's Open took place in Carton House from the 3rd to the 6th July, bringing a fantastic buzz to Maynooth.



A Record Year for Irish Talent

This year's event saw a record number of Irish players taking part, including Maynooth's own Kathy Lanigan, which make it even more special for the local community. Congratulations to Lottie Woad, this year's well deserved winner. **Golf, Entertainment, and Festival Vibes in Maynooth**



The atmosphere was electric it felt like a festival in Carton House, with top-class golf, great entertainment, and a real sense of celebration throughout the weekend.



Life Store, Straffan

It was great to be there for the grand opening of the New Life store in Straffan. This new shop is a real gem for the village, offering something unique to the local community. I'd like to wish Siobhan and Eoin the very best of luck with their new venture—I have no doubt it will be a great success!



Entante Floral Europe

I had the privilege of attending the flag raising ceremony for the Entente Florale at Maynooth University on Saturday, 12th of July. Maynooth's entry into this prestigious European competition has been heavily supported through Local Property Tax (LPT) funding, helping to shine a well-deserved spotlight on our town at an international level. Judging took place during the visit, and we're hopeful the results will go in Maynooth's favour later this year.



Kildare's Rose Bud Shines at The Rose of Tralee

This year, Kildare doesn't have a Rose in the Rose of Tralee, but we are still proudly represented by our very own Rose of Tralee Bud, Niamh Kirwan, who is just 8 years old from Maynooth. Niamh is going into 3rd class in the Presentation Girls School, and although she hasn't found out which Rose she'll be partnered with, we know she will do Kildare proud. Naimh is also an active member of the community, playing for both Maynooth Town Soccer Club and Maynooth GAA, showing her team spirit both on and off the pitch. On behalf of the whole community, I want to wish Niamh the very best of luck and to enjoy every second of this magical experience.

We're all so proud of you here in Maynooth!



MOTIONS FROM MD COUNCIL THAT I HAVE REPRESENTED YOU ON



Cllr. Donna Phelan

Motion - Councillor Donna Phelan

That the members request Kildare County Council to develop and distribute a media pack for residents' associations in this municipal district outlining simple ways they can support local Tidy Towns efforts in keeping their public areas clean and tidy, including tasks such as weeding kerbs and litter picking. Furthermore, the motion seeks the creation of a clear and accessible process for these groups to arrange drop off refuse sacks and the collection of compostable material.

Report:

Kildare County Council is committed to supporting the work of Tidy Towns groups throughout the county. Annual grants are provided to Tidy Towns Committees, Residents Associations and other community groups. Much of this funding is used to assist in litter prevention and control. Educational material from a wide range of sources on litter and other waste issues is readily available including the council's 'Don't Waste It' booklet which provides a guide to managing waste at home and work. The council continues to support the National Spring Clean Campaign, which highlights the problem of litter and encourages communities to take practical steps typically through carrying out of clean ups to remove litter/waste from their local areas. This national initiative takes place during the month of April each year in conjunction with An Taisce.

Motion - Councillor Donna Phelan

That this municipal district supports the request from the local **Community First Responders** to connect two defibrillator units to EBS lampposts within the district. While ESB has raised no objections, these lampposts are managed by Kildare County Council, and therefore we are seeking the council's formal permission to proceed. This life-saving initiative has already been successfully implemented in Edenderry by Offaly County Council and would greatly enhance emergency response capacity in our area.



Report:

Kildare County Council will need to review this request in line with safety protocols and in consultation with the ESB. The applicant should contact The Public Lighting Team, publiclights@kildarecoco.ie directly to discuss details of the proposal including connectivity and the proposed location.

Question - Councillor Donna Phelan

Can the council confirm if it has an existing policy regarding tree cutting or hedge pruning in this municipal district, in particular, what is the procedure when overhanging branches or hedging present a health and safety risk to pedestrians using public footpaths?



Report:

There is no policy at present for tree cutting and hedge pruning. However, it is our intention to develop one and to progress that this year subject to staff resources. Any issues with branches or hedges overhanging footpaths are dealt with through our Tree Works Programme. Where the issue involves a hedgerow not in council ownership this a matter for the landowner to address.

Question - Councillor Donna Phelan

Can the council provide an update on the progress of the proposed community amenities outlined in the Maynooth Local Area Plan (LAP) adopted earlier this year?

Report:

Each year the Members are presented at the November Annual Budget meeting with the Capital Programme for the next 3 years. This programme shows the planned projects for the coming years and identifies them by MD. The Capital Programme for 2025 - 2027 can be found online or by clicking on this link [Capital Programme 2025 - 2027](#).

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 web: liamduffautos.ie

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Liam Duff Crash Repairs, Gragadder, Kilcock, Co. Kildare




Mary Cowhey & Company Solicitors

Suite 2/3 Manor Mills

Maynooth

County Kildare

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&

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Cllr. Donna Phelan

PEACE COMMISSIONER
MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:
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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth
Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Service
which provides a free and confidential service to the public.
Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie and from the
Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121



Package Holidays and Linked Travel Arrangements

Booking a Package Holiday

Travel organisers must give you information about the type of holiday you are buying. Travel organisers can be a tour operator or an offline travel agency.

Your travel organiser must tell you up front if you are buying a package holiday or a linked travel arrangement – explained below. To check what type of holiday you have booked, read the information you got before you booked or call your travel organiser.

Types of Package Holidays

Package holidays can be ready-made or customised packages. A package holiday is sold at a total or inclusive price, must last for more than 24 hours, or include an overnight stay. It does not matter if you are asked to pay separately for different parts of the package (such as, the flight or transport), your holiday is still a 'package holiday'.

Ready-made Package Holidays

Ready-made package holidays have at least two of the following included:

Transport - like flights, a cruise, train or coach journeys

Accommodation

Other tourist services – for example tours, excursions, guides or tickets for concerts or theme parks

Car rental

Customised Packages

A customised package (sometimes called a dynamic packages) is where you choose the different parts of your holiday – therefore, it is not a ready-made holiday. You buy the customised package online through a website, or offline from a travel agent or call centre. All the parts you buy must relate to the same trip or holiday.

A customised package must include either:

A single contract for all services

or

Separate contracts with different travel service providers, where:

All of the contracts are bought from a single point of sale

All services are selected before you agree to pay

There is a total or inclusive price

Example of protections when you have a customised package

Maria booked a flight to France directly on the website of an airline. When booking, she was offered accommodation at a hotel. She chose to book both the flight and the hotel. The airline's website charged a total price for all travel services, so this created a customised travel package holiday.

Unfortunately, when Maria got to the hotel it was being done up and there were no rooms available. Maria has rights under package travel legislation. She can ask and get the airline to help her get accommodation at the same or a higher standard.

What are Linked Travel Arrangements?

Linked travel arrangements (LTAs) are not considered a package holiday and different rules apply - see 'Rules for your travel contract and your rights' below. In fact, you have fewer rights with LTAs.

With an LTA, you buy 2 or more travel services from different companies under separate contracts but which are linked. For

example, you book a flight on a website and you are then invited, through a targeted link, to book a hotel on a different website.

You make a linked travel arrangement if you:

Book and complete buying one travel service on one website

Are invited, through a targeted link, to 'click through' and to book a second service on another website

Conclude the second contract on the second website within 24 hours of the first booking

When the second booking is made:

You must be told you are not booking a package and, therefore, you can claim insolvency protection only (protection that will cover you if your travel organiser goes out of business)

The second company must tell the first company that you have finished booking the second service

Example of protections when you have an LTA

Patrick books a flight to Helsinki directly with an airline (service 1). Shortly after receiving an email to confirm his flight, he gets an email with a targeted offer of a hotel in Helsinki. Patrick uses the link to book the hotel (service 2), and he does this within 24 hours after getting the email to confirm his flight booking.

Unfortunately, when in Helsinki, Patrick learns that the travel organiser for his flight has gone bankrupt. Patrick has rights under travel legislation to cover the cost of his flight home (service 1). These are covered under the airline's insolvency protection. But, the airline will not help Patrick if he has any issue with accommodation (service 2), as this is not a package holiday.

Rules for Your Travel Contract and Your Rights

Information you *must* get before you book

The travel organiser must give you all of the essential information about the holiday before you agree to the contract. You must be told about:

The travel product you are buying (that is, whether it is a package or linked travel arrangement) and the level of insolvency protection associated with it

Where You are Going and For How Long

The costs involved for the holiday itself and payment schedule (if this applies), as well as any tax or compulsory charges.

The mode of transport – this detail includes times, dates and places of departure and return.

Where and what your accommodation is (for example, hotel, guesthouse), and how it complies with the law of the EU Member State in question.

The meal plan, if any.

Cancellation details (for example, where a minimum take up is needed for a package holiday to come into being in the first place).

Itinerary of any excursions included such as golf outings

Contact details of the travel organiser or, if appropriate, the insurer

Any special or exceptional requirements, which you asked for and you and other parties to the contract have accepted.

The complaints procedure to follow if the travel organiser does not carry out their part of the contract.

Passport and any visa requirements.

(Continued on page 12)

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(Continued from page 11)

Package Holidays and Linked Travel Arrangements Cont.

Health requirements (that is, if you have to have any special vaccinations or health advice)

Special arrangements for bringing you home (repatriation) if there are any unexpected events

How any payments will be refunded if the travel organiser becomes bankrupt

Whether insurance is compulsory as part of your package holiday and if so, the minimum level of cover needed

Tip: Remember that you cannot be forced to take out the travel organiser's insurance. Where insurance is optional, your travel organiser must give you information to help you to decide whether to insure or not, if they have this information.

Changes to the Contract

You have the right to cancel if the travel organiser changes the contract and the following applies:

The changes were without your agreement

The changes significantly change any of the main characteristics of the travel service - for example, if the travel organiser changed the agreed hotel

Booking Errors

If something goes wrong with the package, the travel organiser is responsible for putting things right. The travel organiser is also responsible for booking errors for packages and linked travel arrangements.

Cap (limit) on Price Increases

The price you pay for your trip can only increase if the contract directly allows for this. If the price increases by more than 8%, you have the right to cancel without paying a charge.

Tip: There are no price changes allowed within 20 days of the departure date.

Right to Transfer Your Contract

You can transfer your holiday to another person once you give the travel organiser reasonable written notice (at least seven days) before the start of the package. You and the person you transfer the package holiday to are responsible for paying the balance of money due to the travel organiser. You are also responsible for any other costs the organiser has to pay to carry out the transfer.

Rights If Something Goes Wrong While on Your Holiday

If something goes wrong with your holiday, the travel organiser must put the problem right. If significant parts of the holiday are not as agreed, you must be offered suitable alternative arrangements. For example, if the accommodation you agreed on and booked is no longer available, you must be offered an alternative that is of the same quality.

If the travel organiser does not provide solutions (also known as remedies) within a reasonable period, they should refund you for any necessary expenses you had to pay. You are also entitled to a price reduction or, if you prefer, to end the contract. You may be entitled to compensation for inconvenience.

Right to Help if in Difficulty

The travel organiser must give appropriate help if you are in difficulty. This includes:

Giving you information about healthcare, local authorities, consular assistance (for example if you have had a serious accident)

Helping with communications, for example helping you make long distance calls or other forms of contact so you can find other travel arrangements

Rights for Linked Travel Arrangements

A linked travel arrangement (LTA) is not considered a travel package, and your rights are limited if travelling using these arrangements.

You are only protected if the provider of the first service goes out of business. In this case, you are entitled to your money back and the cost of bringing you home if necessary (repatriation). This is sometimes called insolvency protection.

When you make the second booking under an LTA, you must be told that:

You are not booking a package

Your rights are limited to claiming insolvency protection

The Legal Basis for Your Rights

The EU Directive 2015/2302 on Package Travel and Linked Travel Arrangements introduced consumer rights for additional types of travel arrangements taking into account the increasing use of internet booking. In Ireland, SI 80 of 2019 (pdf) put the EU Directive into national law and amended the previous legislation - the Package Holidays and Travel Trade Act 1995.

You can read the European Commission's page on the Package Travel Directive.

Cancellation Rights

You can cancel your booking at any time before travelling, although you should try to give reasonable notice. However, you may have to pay a cancellation fee.

You have the right to cancel your booking for free before the start of the package, in the event of unavoidable and extraordinary circumstances taking place at or near your destination which would affect your holiday, or your travel to the destination.

Examples include: A natural disaster like a flood or earthquake, War or terrorism and a serious disease

The organiser is also responsible for covering the costs of bringing you home (repatriation) and any possible extra costs.

If the Travel Organiser Cancels the Holiday

If the travel organiser cancels the package holiday or changes a term of the contract, including the price or type of accommodation, they must give you the option of one of the following:

A replacement holiday of the same or better quality

A lower grade holiday, with a refund of the difference in price

A full refund within 14 days

The travel organiser has the right to cancel the package due to factors out of their control. Examples include an act of God, or where they didn't get the number of people they needed for the package holiday.

For More Information about Package Holidays and LTA's visit
<https://www.citizensinformation.ie/en/consumer/travel/package-holidays/>

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Picnic

Why not take advantage of the fine weather and plan a picnic. Picnics are a great way of spending the day with family out in the fresh air, away from modern technology. Picnics offer a great escape from everyday routine. Those of us who have children can sometimes be guilty of overlooking the amount of time our children spend on devices. So why not make a plan! Get the children involved and make it fun. You could consider giving the little ones tasks to do, such as: making sandwiches, packing the basket, loading the car, sourcing outdoor toys to play with such as: Footballs, Frisbees, Skipping ropes, Kites and so on. Remember, wherever you go, whether it be the park, the beach, the mountains or even your backyard it's a great way of making memories. Picnics provide a great sense of fun, laughter and overall picnics are good for our wellbeing.

And remember don't forget to have fun!

Family Games This Summer

Active outdoor games create moments of connection and teamwork. Win or lose, the real joy comes from playing together and making memories.

The following are games you could play:

- ♦ Leap frog
- ♦ Kick the can
- ♦ Egg and spoon race (things you can use: eggs, potatoes, apples)
- ♦ Three legged race
- ♦ Hide and seek
- ♦ Relay race
- ♦ I spy
- ♦ Wheelbarrow race
- ♦ Staring contest
- ♦ Handball: Players throw a ball to score by throwing it into a goal.
- ♦ Dodgeball: Players on opposite teams throw the ball at each other, while trying to avoid getting hit (soft ball)
- ♦ Bowling: Players roll the ball down an alley to knock down pins.
- ♦ Ring throwing: Players throw rings to land on pegs or targets like a bucket or bowl
- ♦ Hammer throwing: Players see who can throw the hammer furthest
- ♦ Basketball: Players throw a ball through a hoop (basket) to score points.
- ♦ Football

Enjoy!



National Botanic Garden of Ireland – Glasnevin

Here is a fun, free and inexpensive day out this summer for all the family.

The National Botanic Gardens in Glasnevin, just 3 kilometres from Dublin city centre, are renowned for the exquisite plant collections held there. They are home to over 16,000 plant species and cultivars from a variety of habitats from all around the world.



The jewel in the Gardens' crown is a set of exquisitely restored and planted historic glasshouses. Most notable among these are Richard Turner's Curvilinear Range and the Great Palm House, both winners of an award for excellence in conservation architecture.



Conservation plays an important role in the life of the gardens and Glasnevin is home to over 300 endangered plant species, 6 of which are already extinct in the wild.



The gardens have been closely associated with their counterpart in Kilmacurragh, County Wicklow, since 1854. Unlike the Wicklow branch, though, they provide a calm and beautiful green space in the midst of the nation's capital.



The Botanic Gardens are famous for their beauty, the exquisite plant collections, and the stunning lawns and glasshouses.



Summer Opening Hours

March to October

Monday – Friday, 10:00 – 17:00

Saturday & Sunday, 10:00 – 18:00

Average Length of Visit: 1.5 hours.

Sourced: (heritageireland.ie)



August in Ireland is a time for celebrating Lughnasadh, an ancient Celtic harvest festival, and enjoying a variety of cultural events like the Dublin Horse Show and the Fleadh Cheoil.

Lughnasadh, celebrated around August 1st, marks the beginning of the harvest season and is a time for feasting, music, and storytelling, with some communities continuing to hold bonfires and athletic contests.

Sourced: www.google.com

MU welcomed Entente Florale judges

Maynooth University is proud to support the town of Maynooth, which has been selected to represent Ireland in this year's prestigious **Entente Florale Europe** competition, a European initiative that celebrates excellence in horticulture, sustainability and quality of life in towns and cities.

The University recently welcomed a team of international judges to campus on Saturday, 12 July as they set out to assess the town across ten categories, including planning and development, climate action, green spaces, planting, environmental education and community involvement.

The judges — from Czechia, Germany and Hungary — followed a route that began on Maynooth University's North Campus, continued through the town and surrounding area, and concluded on South Campus at St Patrick's Pontifical University.



Maynooth's entry is the result of a long-standing community-wide effort, led by Maynooth Tidy Towns and Kildare County Council, with support from Maynooth University, St Patrick's Pontifical University, local schools, community groups and businesses.

Planning has been underway since February, with individuals and organisations working together to highlight what makes Maynooth a vibrant, welcoming and environmentally responsible town.

This is a significant honour for both the town and the University — and an opportunity to recognise the years of collaboration that have gone into making Maynooth a thriving community invested in sustainability and local pride.

Learn more about the competition at www.entente-florale.eu

MU-led team rescue weather data from Madagascar

An MU-led project to rescue African climate data has taken a major step forward in its mission to recover vital historical weather data from data-sparse regions of the continent.

Fifteen students from the University of Kentucky (UOK), led by Dr Ann Kingsolver, joined forces with the CliDaR-Africa (Climate Data Rescue Africa) team for a four-day workshop in June, focused on digitising meteorological records from Madagascar dating back to the early 1950s.

Launched in 2022 as a collaboration between ICARUS, MU's climate

research centre, and the Department of Geography, CliDaR-Africa is an innovative project involving second-year undergraduate students at MU.

The UOK students focused on digitising meteorological records from Marolambo, a remote and ecologically vast region in eastern Madagascar known for its biodiversity and vulnerability to extreme weather events.

The team ensured data accuracy through double keying, a system where two students independently entered the same data, followed by comparison using Python scripts to identify discrepancies. The workshop also educated students on Madagascar's climate systems, regional microclimates, and the pressing need for high-quality historical data in addressing climate vulnerability.

Dr Simon Noone, Senior Researcher in ICARUS said: "Digitising historical meteorological observations for Madagascar is critical, as the lack of consistent, high-quality long-term climate data severely restricts climate impact studies, the analysis of historical trends, the validation of climate projections, and the development of effective adaptation strategies.

"Madagascar is highly vulnerable to climate change, facing rising temperatures, erratic rainfall, prolonged droughts, and more frequent extreme weather events. The country's capacity to respond is further constrained by widespread poverty, food insecurity, and environmental pressures."

"Recovering and digitising historical climate records for countries like Madagascar is essential, not only for understanding past and present



climate variability but also for enabling research that supports resilience, sustainable development, and targeted adaptation in this ecologically and socially fragile region."

In the near future, the digitised data will be made openly available to the global research community via the Copernicus Climate Data Store and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Over the past three years, MU students have digitised over 450,000 individual weather observations spanning 64 years from Madagascar, Guinea, and the Central African Republic.

Maynooth University Alumni Reunion 2025

Maynooth University alumni are invited back to campus on Saturday, 6 September 2025 to celebrate the annual Maynooth University Alumni Reunion. This year, the event will celebrate graduates from 2015, 2005, 1995, 1985, and 1975.

It is an afternoon event, from 12.30 - 4.00pm, starting with a welcome reception and drinks. Guests will then be invited to enjoy a 3-course luncheon in Pugin Hall, St Patrick's College, Maynooth. There will be musical entertainment throughout the day.

The reunion is an opportunity for alumni to revisit the campus, to reconnect with fellow classmates and MU staff, and to celebrate together.

Tickets for the reunion are on sale now via Eventbrite and are €45 per person. Visit: mu.ie/alumnireunion2025-tickets

Guests are welcome, and table or group bookings can be made by calling **+353 1 708 6492**. Although we are celebrating graduates from decade years, all alumni are more than welcome to join in the celebrations.





A show like this takes many hands to get to stage and we would like to thank our committee for the huge amount of work you put into this show - it takes a village! A massive thank you to Insight Theatre Celbridge and Darren Kelleher for providing us with lights for the production, and to Joe Canavan for installing, designing and operating the lighting for us.

We also would like to say a special thanks to Maynooth Community College who provided us with our venue. Thank you to the businesses who donated raffle prizes, to everyone who gave their time to help get the show to the stage, to our Front of House and Stage Crew teams for keeping things running so smoothly, and to Mai Bergin for the wonderful photos you see above.



We look forward to seeing you all again soon - panto season is very nearly upon us, **OH YES IT IS!!**

Tickets for this year's show go on sale online through annuadhplayers.ie and in Maynooth Bookshop on 1st September.

You don't want to miss **The Sword in the Stone**, Christmas Pantomime 2025, coming to the Aula Maxima from the 4th - 7th December.

Visit our website and subscribe to our mailing list for more information and stay up to date on all things An Nuadha Players.

THAT'S A WRAP!

An Nuadha Players proudly presented *The Prisoner of Second Avenue*, written by Neil Simon and directed by Ann Kelly, in Maynooth Community College from the 8th to 12th July.

The Prisoner of Second Avenue is a dark comedy, focusing on the anxiety of living in New York City in the 1970s. It is centred around the character Mel Edison, a middle-aged New Yorker who loses his job and struggles with a nervous breakdown amid the chaos of city life. As he grapples with unemployment, rising crime, and personal frustration, his supportive wife Edna tries to hold things together. The play explores themes of anxiety, identity, complexities of relationships and the pressures of modern urban living.

We could not be prouder of our fabulous cast, crew, and fantastic director, Ann Kelly, and wish to congratulate them on an absolutely brilliant run!



We absolutely love being a Community drama group in the community of Maynooth and appreciate all the support from businesses and supportive, encouraging audiences for this fantastic run and every show we are lucky enough to put on!



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Loan examples are for illustrative purposes only. Final repayments and cost of credit will be agreed in the credit agreement. APRC stands for Annual Percentage Rate of Charge. Loans are subject to approval. Mortgage lending criteria, terms and conditions apply. Over 18s only. Security, Property Insurance and Life Cover are required.

WARNING: If you do not meet the repayments on your loan, your account will go into arrears. This may affect your credit rating, which may limit your ability to access credit in the future.

WARNING: If you do not keep up repayments you may lose your home.

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WARNING: The cost of your monthly payments may increase.

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For more information please contact

Amanda on 086 1367423

amandadempsey@grow.ie

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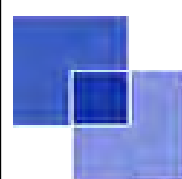
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MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Are there Killer Orcas on the Dublin Road?



Dublin Road, Maynooth

During Covid, as a temporary measure to encourage cycling, Kildare County Council provided plastic bollards to reallocate space from drivers to cyclists/pedestrians. Since then, vehicles have damaged many of them with the result that in May this year, Kildare County Council replaced bollards with "orcas" in a number of locations including on the Straffan and Dublin Roads.

An orca is a moulded plastic separator which is placed along the white line of a cycle lane to discourage drivers from drifting (or parking) on it. While it is an overstatement to label them as "killer orcas", the positioning of orcas on the Dublin Road, while unlikely to lead to a fatality, could result in a nasty collision for a cyclist. Firstly, the cycle lane is defined by a line of orcas which is positioned 1.7m from the kerb. This contrasts with the former width which delineated space for parked cars of 2.4m. Reallocation of some of this 0.7m difference would have given cyclists more space. Secondly, at entrances to eight private properties, additional orcas are positioned at a 45o angle to the footpath which leaves a gap of only 0.8m between the kerb and orca on the left hand side and a gap of 0.4m between the orca and edge on the right hand side of the cycle lane. The Cycle Design Manual specifies a desirable minimum width is 2m for cycle lanes with an absolute minimum width of 1.5m.

In Dublin City, the Council places orcas on the white line which minimises the reduction in effective width of cycle lane. On the Straffan Road, Kildare County Council positions orcas on the inside of the white line which further reduces the effective width for cycling.

Celbridge Road

As a planning authority, Kildare County Council granted planning permission to Gaelscoil Ui Fhiaich and Maynooth Educate Together school on the Celbridge Road some 25 years ago. It is unacceptable that there are still no safe cycling (or walking) facilities to the schools despite the authorities being aware of a number of road safety incidents. Kildare County Council did attempt to design facilities in 2019 but the quality of the design was very poor. More recently, Kildare County Council employed consultants to produce a high quality design but the NTA has declined to provide funding for the scheme. Maynooth Cycling Campaign is concerned about what elements of the design may be removed in order to meet the NTA approval. We have asked Kildare County Council for a copy of the published design in order to ensure that safety or quality is not compromised in the next chapter of the saga.

Royal Canal Greenway

Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the reopening of the upgraded Royal Canal towpath between Maynooth and Leixlip. We welcome that Kildare County Council has provided access gates in accordance with the Cycle Design Manual which is in contrast to the substandard gates provided elsewhere. We welcome too that there are lengthy sections which have been black topped but disappointed that the Council failed to continue that quality of surface for the entirety of the scheme.



Mill Street

Work continues on Mill Street. The section on the east side between Manor Mills and Main Street is substantially complete and work has started on the equivalent section on the west side. Preliminary work has also started on the proposed pedestrian bridge over the Lyreen River adjacent to Manor Mills.

The quality of design and construction is generally very high but it is disappointing that the design of the Pound Lane junction continues to prioritise traffic from Pound Lane rather than people on Mill Street. Best international practice and the latest edition of Ireland's Cycle Design Manual are that footpaths and cycle tracks on a main route should continue across a minor junction. In other words, drivers should cross a footpath and cycle track rather than pedestrians and cyclists having to cross a road. The Manual also states *..... it is recommended that all dedicated cycle facilities in urban areas in Ireland should be red in colour.*

Coloured surfacing of various colours is used in several countries not because it looks nice but for reasons of road safety - to draw attention to vulnerable road users. Cycle lanes were coloured red on the Straffan Road so it again begs the question:

"What is the policy of Kildare County Council"?

Mobility Hubs

In June, IrishCycle.com reported that Minister for Transport, Darragh O'Brien, would announce a pilot project of mobility hubs in Carlow town, Cork city, Dundalk, Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, and Sligo town. This was the pilot ahead of a proposed wider rollout of hubs in some 300 centres across the country.

Mobility hubs are defined as locations where people can access multiple types of transportation modes in a central location. While we wish them every success with the pilot hubs, we are disappointed that Maynooth is not included. For a number of years, we have heard whispers of discussions on a bike share scheme between various partners - Kildare County Council, Maynooth University, the NTA and the Department of Transport but nothing firm has materialised. Hopefully something definitive will result from this latest initiative.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is an independent local lobby group for better cycling facilities in Maynooth and Kildare generally.

MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT PROJECT SECRETARIAL SERVICES

Unit 10, Tesco S.C. Carton Retail Park (Beside Coyne's Butchers)

Photocopying - Typing - Scanning to & Print from Email

A3/A4 Poster Design & Printing - CVs - Theses

Letters - Essays - A3/A4 Lamination

Other Office Services available on request

Tel: 01 6285922

Email: office@maynoothcep.com

Opening Hours : Mon-Fri - 9.00 am - 4.30 pm

(Closed for Lunch 1pm to 2pm)





Writers’ Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Letter to a French Lady

Tuesday, 2nd November 2010

Bon Jour, Ma Cherie, or as we say in Cavan, ‘Howya Gorgeous?’ Let me start by confessing that ever since I saw *And God Created Woman* I’m a bit sceptical about voluptuous French ladies - You’ll remember that the subtitle of that film was *But the devil created Brigitte Bardot*. Here in Ireland we have – no, I have – a mixed view of *La belle France*. We know that the Gauls were Celts and admire the brave stand of Vercingetorix against the Romans and, of course, Joan of Arc’s fight against the English. We even know that France was called the ‘eldest daughter of the church’ but behold her now. If I were to ask you, “Who is the patron saint of France?” you would probably look at me with contempt. After all, patron saints are for peasants. You children of the Enlightenment will only be found in church at your christenings, weddings and funerals. *C’est la vie!*

I once tried to sum up my attitude to your country in a piece of verse: “Anjou, Iseult, Paris, Joan, / Brittany, Provence and troubadours, / Lace under moonlight trees. / Marie Antoinette and Versailles, / Chateaux and all that too refined pageantry/ That only the raw, foul-breathed mob / Beneath the guillotine can salt / To please the peasant taste of a sea-locked Irishman...”

All right, I’m no Rimbaud or Victor Hugo but you see what I’m getting at, your juxtaposition of elegance and sordidness, of stirring calls to Liberty, Equality, Fraternity and your later readiness to amass colonies and exploit the natives. And today you want *La Frappe*, your nuclear deterrent, even if it means carrying out tests in – But I’m getting up on my soapbox and you are more interested in *L’amour*. Well, words from one of your haunting songs comes to mind: *Plaisir d’amour/ Ne dure qu’ un moment; / Chagrin d’amour/ Dure tout la vie*: The joys of love are but a moment long, / Pain of love endures the whole life long.

But you may have a different kind of love in mind, the kind indulged in by ‘very curvy’ denizens of the demimonde. Here am I, ‘an older gentleman’ who is trying to suppress the urgings of the flesh, and you want to meet me for ‘mutually rewarding pursuits’. Do you mean browsing in the bookstalls on *La Rive Gauche* or wandering along the banks of the Seine or – I hesitate to mention it – kissing under its bridges? Perhaps you want me to play Maurice Chevalier to your Leslie Caron, as in the film *Gigi*, or President Sarkozy to your Carla Bruni? Well, I’ll lay my cards on the table; I’m one of those unfortunates that have been reduced to penury by our bankers’ reckless generosity to property developers. Now I’m trying to survive on a meagre state pension supplemented by an occasional win on the horses. Call me a *petit bourgeois* if you wish but aren’t your own countrymen currently taking to the streets about their pensions?

If you truly desire love and not – forgive my bluntness – a sugar daddy then please, please answer this email. Beneath my rough exterior beats a wild Irishman’s romantic heart. I will be consumed by passion till we meet, then you will find that, as one of your countrymen wrote, *Amour, tous les autres plaisirs ne valent pas tes peines*, Love, all the other pleasures are not the equal of your pains. *J’attend votre reponse*.

Bien cordialement a vous,

Pat ‘the Baker’ Brady.

P.G.Nerney

Apprehension

Surely, despite our adult wisdom,
Children know best,
Their joys are not made sharp by memory,
Nor do they know how bitter-sweet
To adult eyes appears
The mayfly’s buoyant dance
Above the shining, rushing river.

Colin Scott.

WHAT CAN WE DO?

Who ever spoke as Jesus did in his sermon on the mount? Blessed are the poor; “blessed are the clean of heart; blessed are the peacemakers; blessed are the meek”. That is the world that Jesus wanted everyone to live in and will live in eventually. Love your neighbour as yourself, and if someone steals your jacket, offer him your coat as well! If he or she slaps you on the face, turn the other cheek. Who in the history of the world, except maybe a mad person here and there, ever said anything such as “Come to me all you who labour and are burdened and I will refresh you! Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart and you will find rest for your souls. My yoke is sweet and my burden is light”? That’s confidence in who he was and balm for millions of hearts. His followers, disciples, were a rough-and-ready lot and for quite a while didn’t know what they were doing as followers of Jesus. And they had strange notions at times. Once Jesus upbraided them for their utter ignorance of what he was about. “What were you arguing about on the road today”, he asked them? They were ignorant but at least on this occasion they knew they had been seriously off key! They didn’t answer his question. So he answered it for them. He gathered them about him and said: “whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all”. Then he took a little child and put it among them; and taking the child in his arms, he said to them, “whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me, and whoever welcomes me welcomes not me but the one who sent me”.

Then, there is probably his greatest parable, The Prodigal Son. All the tomes that were ever written cannot come near the power and beauty of that extraordinary story. There were some brief images in the old testament that prefigured the beauty and sensitivity of the God that Jesus was and revealed to us. “ He will not crush the bruised reed, nor quench the wick that still smoulders”. This words referred to Jesus himself who was a perfect revelation of the Father. A Father who would not allow his once wayward son to make his confession and who had only come back to him because he was hungry. The gospels are full of exciting and world-changing words of Jesus and how often is our attention drawn to them in the Sunday homily? We need such stories and the only way we can, as a Christian Church, be exposed to them is if the hearts of our priests and ministers are completely full of Christ so that they can say in truth with Paul, “it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me”.

GM

INTRODUCTION

Galway Academic Press is delighted to publish **Journeys in Lughnasa: Selected Poems by Patrick Devaney**, a collection that beautifully captures the spirit of Ireland, the passage of time, and the quiet transformations of everyday life.

Devaney's poetry is distinguished by its clarity, empathy, and a deep-rooted sense of place, inviting readers to journey through landscapes both real and remembered. In poems such as “Journeys in Lughnasa, he plays moving tribute to friendship and memory, while in “Oh chestnut- tree” he contemplates the cycles of nature and loss with gentle wisdom.

Devaney's work is shaped by a love for Irish heritage and an undertaking of the complexities of identity, as well as a desire to preserve moments of beauty and meaning. His verse moves seamlessly between personal reflection and broader historical themes, often illuminating the connections between past and present,

Whether evoking the streets of Galway, the wilds of Inishmaan, or the echoes of history in “Mellifont Visits”, Devaney's poems resonate with honesty, insight and lyrical grace.

The collection stands as a testament to his poetic brilliance, and we are honoured to bring his voice to a wider audience.



Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Maynooth's connection with the RMS Titanic

Robert Browne, the Bishop of Cloyne.

Robert was born in County Cork and received his early education at St. Colman's College before pursuing clerical studies at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth.

He was ordained in 1869 and returned to Maynooth in 1874, where he quickly rose to prominence. He became Dean of St. Patrick's in 1875, was appointed Vice-President in 1883, and then President in 1885. He held this role until 1894, when he was appointed Bishop of Cloyne.

During his tenure as bishop, significant developments took place at Maynooth. These included the construction of the Aula Maxima, the grand hall used for major college events, and the completion of the college chapel in the 1890s. The crowning touch came in 1902 with the addition of the chapel's elegant spire.

In April 1912, following the tragic sinking of the Titanic, Bishop Browne led a memorial Mass at St. Colman's Cathedral in Cobh, offering prayers and comfort to a grieving community. The cathedral's tower had been designed by George Coppinger Ashlin, a pupil of the renowned architect Edward Pugin. Ashlin and Pugin were leading figures in ecclesiastical architecture in Ireland, responsible for designing many of the country's most iconic churches and religious institutions, including buildings at Maynooth itself.

His nephew Father Francis Browne, had the privilege of traveling on-board the Titanic for the first leg of her maiden voyage.

Francis Browne, born in County Cork in 1880, was an Irish Jesuit, acclaimed photographer, and decorated military chaplain during the First World War. Orphaned at a young age, he was raised and supported by his uncle, Robert.

Francis was educated at Belvedere College, the Christian Brothers School in Cork, and St. Vincent's College, Castleknock, before attending the Royal University of Dublin, where his classmates included literary and political giants such as James Joyce, Tom Kettle, and Francis Sheehy-Skeffington. Joyce would later immortalise him as Mr. Browne the Jesuit in the novel, 'Finnegans Wake'.

In 1912, as a gift, his uncle gave him a first-class ticket aboard the Titanic for its voyage from Southampton to Cherbourg and Queenstown (Cobh) her last port of call. His cabin, No. A-37, was located beside that of Thomas Andrews, the ship's chief designer. During his brief time on board, Browne took a remarkable series of photographs that have become some of the most iconic and historically valuable images of the Titanic.

His lens captured scenes from the Marconi Room, the Gymnasium, the First-Class Dining Saloon, and passengers strolling the boat and promenade decks. Among his images were the last known photographs of several men who perished in the disaster, including Captain Edward Smith, Gymnasium manager T. W. McCawley, and Belfast engineer William Parr.

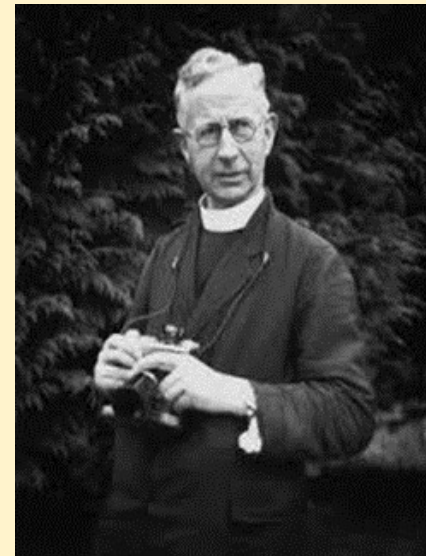
While on board, Browne befriended a wealthy American couple who offered to fund the rest of his voyage to New York and back. He telegraphed his Jesuit superior for permission. The reply was swift and definitive: 'GET OFF THAT SHIP'. He disembarked at Queenstown and returned to Dublin. It was a decision that saved his life.

In 1916, Browne joined the Irish Guards as a chaplain and served along the Western Front during some of World War I's bloodiest battles: Messines Ridge, Passchendaele, Ypres, Amiens and the Somme. He endured the world's heaviest artillery bombardment to date and was wounded five times, once severely in a gas attack.

Despite this, he survived the war and continued his ministry. He died in Dublin in 1960 at the age of 80 and was buried in the Jesuit Plot at Glasnevin Cemetery.

For decades, his legacy was largely forgotten, until 1986, when a treasure trove of over 40,000 negatives was discovered by chance at Emo Court House, County Laois. Just one year earlier, Titanic's wreck had been found on the seabed. Suddenly, through Browne's remarkable photographs, the world could once again glimpse life aboard the most famous ship in history.

Alan Cleary - Tour Guide and Historian



Father Francis Browne



RMS Titanic

For National Heritage week, Alan will be conducting two talks about Titanic and her Kildare connections at Maynooth Castle.

Dates and time -

Wednesday 20th August at 11am.

Sunday 20th August at 2pm.

Booking is recommended, and admission is free.

To book your place and for more information contact - maynoothcastle@opw.ie

046 9422270.



Events at Maynooth Community Library



For further information contact: www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie Ph: 01-6285530
facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Maynooth Clever Reach August 2025

Events for Children

Song & Rhyme Time for 0-2 year olds

Fri 1st August - 10.00am- 10.30am

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

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

Booking link: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20058710>

Song & Rhyme Time for 0-2 year olds

Fri 8th August – 10.00am - 10.30am

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

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

Booking Link: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20058781>

Messy Play at Maynooth Library

Fri 15th August – 3pm - 4pm Suitable ages 1 to 6 years.

Join us for messy, sensory play for 1-6 year olds and their grown-ups.

All the mess and fun, without the cleaning up! Old clothes highly recommended!! Please note children must be accompanied by their grown up for the entire session.

Booking link: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20059516>

Summer Story time for Ages 3-6

Friday 22nd August, 3.00pm – 3.30pm

Join us in the library for some summery stories and songs.

Suitable for children aged 3 and older. All children must be accompanied by an adult.

Booking link: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20647565>

Heritage Week: Introduction to the Bodhrán Workshop for ages 8+ with the Irish Institute of Music and Song (IIMS)

Monday 18th August, 11.00 am – 12.00pm

In this engaging bodhrán workshop, children will combine listening & responding with hands-on participation and composition. Children will be introduced to the bodhrán in an immersive, and dynamic learning environment. Under the guidance of an expert IIMS Music Educator, this workshop will deepen children's understanding of traditional Irish music as well as enhance their practical skills in a fun and interactive way. All children attending this workshop must be accompanied by a parent /guardian.

Booking link: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20502396>

"Tá Mé Just" : Ceardlann spraoiúil ar Scilleanna Sorcais i nGaeilge le haghaidh aoiseanna 4 - 6

Satharn 23ú Lúnasa 11.00 r.n. - 12.00 r.n.

Tá Stephen ag múineadh Ceardlanna Scileanna Sorcais spráíúla trí Ghaeilge le breis agus 20 bliain. Tá na ceardlanna seo oiriúnach do chách. Foghlaim Lámhcleasaíocht, cothromú cleití, plátaí sorcais, agus cleasanna eile trí Ghaeilge. Gach píosa trealaimh san áireamh. Ceardlann spraoiúil agus ionchuimsitheach do chách. Caithfear tuismitheoir/ caomhnóir a bheith in éineacht le gach páiste le linn na ceardlainne. Cuir saor ticéid in áirithe anseo :

<https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20541459>

"Tá Mé Just" : Ceardlann spraoiúil ar Scilleanna Sorcais i nGaeilge

le haghaidh aoiseanna 7-9

Satharn 23ú Lúnasa , 2.00 pm - 3.00pm

Tá Stephen ag múineadh Ceardlanna Scileanna Sorcais spráíúla trí Ghaeilge le breis agus 20 bliain. Tá na ceardlanna seo oiriúnach do chách. Foghlaim Lámhcleasaíocht, cothromú cleití, plátaí sorcais, agus cleasanna eile trí Ghaeilge. Gach píosa trealaimh san áireamh. Ceardlann spraoiúil agus ionchuimsitheach do chách. Caithfear tuismitheoir/ caomhnóir a bheith in éineacht le gach páiste le linn na ceardlainne.

Cuir saor ticéid in áirithe anseo : <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20542398>

Little Makers Time for ages 1-6 years

Fri 29th August – 3.00pm - 4.00pm

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

Build amazing creations using construction toys such as Magna-Tiles, Duplo, Mega Bloks, Blockaroo, puzzles and more. While not all activities will be suitable for all ages – there will be something for everyone! Children must be accompanied by an adult.

Booking link: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20059826>

Summer Stars Magic Show with Simon Toal

Saturday August 30th, 3.00pm – 4.00pm

A Huge Well Done to all the children who took part in the Summer Stars Reading programme in Maynooth Library this year. To celebrate all the children who took part, please join us for a brilliant and entertaining magic show with Simon Toal. Simon presents a fully interactive comedy magic show suitable for all ages and abilities young and old alike. Adults will love the show just as much as the kids.

Children can also collect their Summer Stars Certificate of achievement before or after the magic show. All children attending this event must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

Booking Link: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20515306>

Events for Adults

Age Friendly Coffee Morning

Wed 13th August, 10.00am – 11.30am

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*

Ecofeminist Book Club

Thursday 18th September, 7.00pm - 7.50pm

This eco-feminist book club meets every three months in a different Kildare library, hosted by practitioners from Dúlra Forest School. They will be bringing their experience of working in Irish nature to the circle, fostering (cothú) ideas for sustainable pathways where individuals, communities, and nature thrive. Join us to sit in counsel and comhrá, sparking meaningful conversations for a greener, more harmonious future. Copies of the book will be available on loan from your library 3 weeks before the event - please bring your copy along to the club. All welcome! Our third meeting in Maynooth Library will be to discuss the book Silent Spring by Rachel Carson.

Other dates and books in this series:

Newbridge Library, Thurs 27th November: An Irish Atlantic Rainforest, by Eoghan Dalton

Booking Link : <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20626082>

Continued page 25



Events at Maynooth Community Library



For further information contact: www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie Ph: 01-6285530
facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Events at Maynooth Community Library Continued

Groups and Clubs

'Knit + Chat ' Craft Club

Thursday 21st August, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

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

Drop in, no booking required

Maynooth Community Library Craft Club

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

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

Baby and Toddler Group

Every Thursday, 10am – 11am

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

Exhibitions

'Curiosity ' an abstract / pouring exhibition in acrylic, texture and cultural by Artist Kirti Pandey

1st - 31st August

Kirti Pandey is a self-taught artist originally from Uttar Pradesh, India, and currently based in Dublin, Ireland. She holds a Doctorate in Microbiology and has previously worked as a lecturer at a paramedical college in New Delhi. After relocating to Ireland, she found the time and space to fully embrace her passion for art, using her canvas to celebrate and showcase the rich cultural heritage of Indian painting.

Exhibition Opening: ' Curiosity ' an abstract / pouring exhibition in acrylic, texture and cultural by Artist Kirti Pandey Saturday 9th, 2pm – 4pm

All are welcome to attend the opening of the exhibition ' Curiosity ' by artist Kirti Pandey. No booking required, * drop in *

Exhibition Bookings

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

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 26/06/2025 to 30/07/2025 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
<u>2560834</u>	Kildare County Council	Gothafa Ltd	20 Greenfield Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	23/07/2025
<u>2560806</u>	Kildare County Council	Joe Duffy	10 Parson Street, Maynooth, Co Kildare	16/07/2025
<u>2560791</u>	Kildare County Council	Louise Woods	No. 09, Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	14/07/2025
<u>2560792</u>	Kildare County Council	Anne & Anthony Barnes	6 Lyreen Place, Mariville, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	14/07/2025
<u>2560761</u>	Kildare County Council	Gothafa Ltd	20 Greenfield Drive, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	08/07/2025
<u>2560759</u>	Kildare County Council	Graham & Tracy Tierney	Rakaia, Moneycooley, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	07/07/2025
<u>2560737</u>	Kildare County Council	Ronan Coyne	Kilmacredock Upper, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	02/07/2025
<u>2560725</u>	Kildare County Council	Ken Richmond	25 Parklands Rise, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	28/06/2025
<u>2560705</u>	Kildare County Council	David and Olivia Burns	4 Linden Avenue, Linden Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	25/06/2025
<u>2560709</u>	Kildare County Council	Brendan Baxter	Applewood, Kilcock Rd, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	25/06/2025
<u>2560699</u>	Kildare County Council	Lorcan Halton	Threadstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	24/06/2025

GARDENING

August in the garden involves a mix of planting for a late summer/autumn harvest, caring for existing plants, and preparing for the upcoming autumn.

Sowing seeds, transplanting young plants, and maintaining established crops are key activities this month

Checklists

Prune rambling roses, removing up to a third of stems that have flowered, and tie the rest to supports

Keep pots and hanging baskets flowering by watering and deadheading regularly, and add tomato feed fortnightly

Sow hardy annuals in sunny spots to provide early summer colour next year

Set up an automatic watering system for pots and hanging baskets if you're going away on holiday - in the case of a hosepipe ban, drip or trickle irrigation systems are usually exempt, check your local water board for restrictions

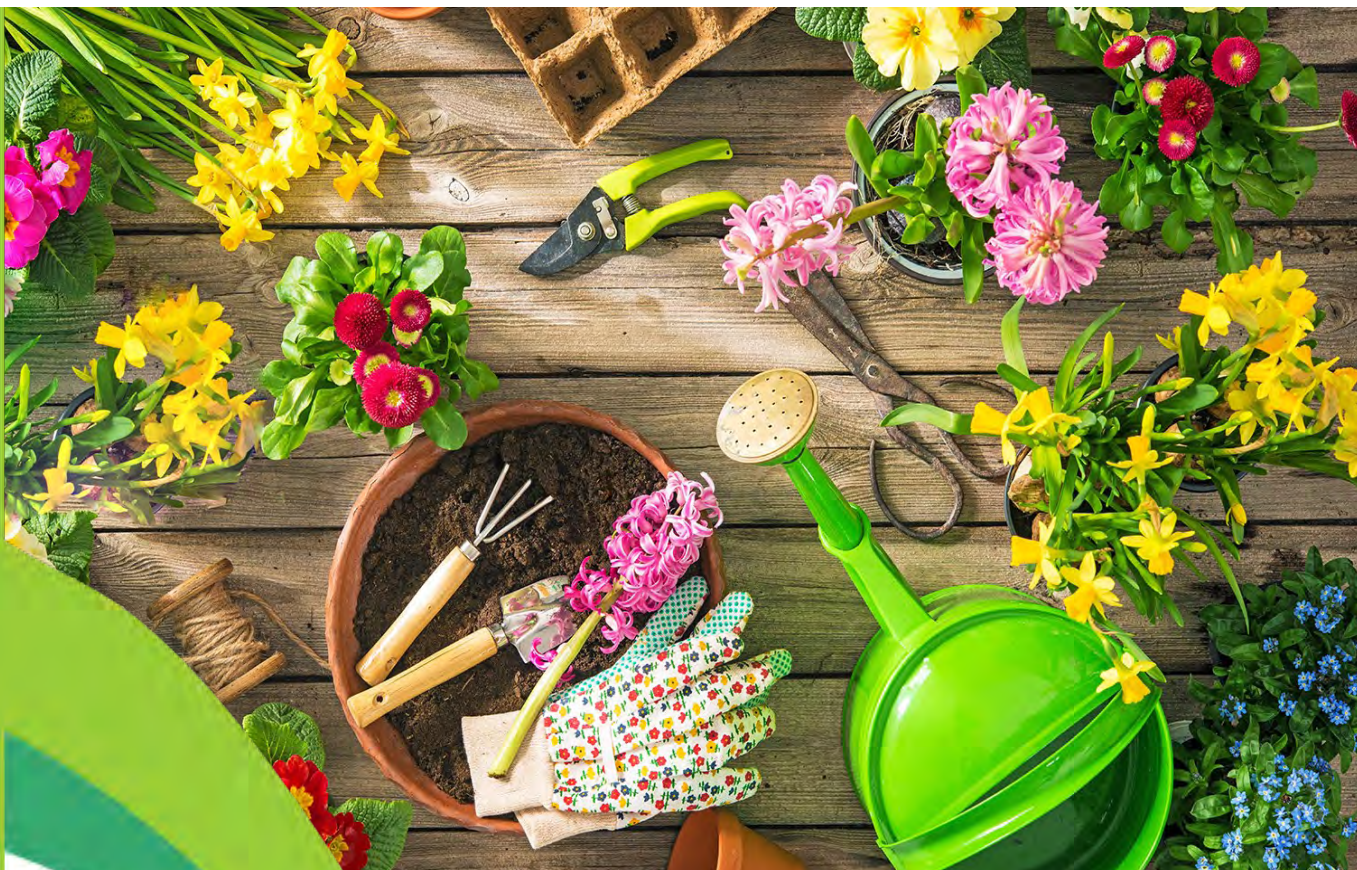
Strim or mow areas of wildflower meadow, now that the plants have scattered their seeds

Remove any spent hardy annuals if you don't want them to self-seed

Provide support for climbing roses and other plants to prevent them from becoming leggy.

Order saffron crocus bulbs (*Crocus sativus*) to plant in September, so you can harvest your own saffron this autumn

Sourced: www.gardenersworld.com



Preparing for Autumn

Seed Saving: Collect seeds from desired plants for next year's garden

Composting: Make sure to compost all organic materials to enrich the soil for future use

Lawn Care: Maintain lawns by mowing regularly, but raising the height during dry weather

Plant autumn bulbs in pots and borders such as colchicums, sternbergia and nerines

Greenhouse

Set up a capillary matting system to ensure plants have enough water if you're going away on holiday

Plant cold-stored potato tubers in large tubs in a greenhouse or cool porch, for harvesting at Christmas

Pouring water over the greenhouse floor every morning during hot weather can help to increase humidity - use water from your water butt

Plant up pots with 'Paper White' narcissus bulbs for fragrant indoor displays this Christmas

Remove the lower leaves of cordon tomatoes up to the lowest truss, to let more light and air reach the fruits

Plant autumn flowering bulbs, such as nerines, lachenalia and veltheimia in pots indoors, for autumn and winter colour

Look out for pests and diseases on greenhouse plants, and treat any you find immediately

Flowers

Collect seeds as they ripen, from plants such as aquilegias, sweet peas and love-in-a-mist, choosing a dry day

Deadhead dahlias and other perennials to encourage a constant display of blooms

Keep camellias and rhododendrons well watered through late summer while their flower buds are forming

Prune lavender once flowering is over to maintain a compact, bushy shape, but avoid cutting into old wood

Take softwood cuttings of woody herbs, including lavender and hyssop, choosing non-flowering shoots

Fruit and veg

Be vigilant for signs of tomato and potato blight, removing affected plants immediately to prevent spread

Summer prune both free-standing and trained apple trees, to encourage good fruiting in future years

Plant well-rooted strawberry runners into new beds

Pinch out the tops of outdoor tomatoes

Use netting or fleece to protect blackberries and autumn raspberries from birds

Lift onions and shallots once their tops die down, then leave to dry in the sun

A weed is but an unloved flower

Grow Your Garden
Tips and Tricks for a Beautiful Garden



No-Bake Berry Cheesecake Cups

(serves 6)

Ingredients:

For the crust:

- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs (or digestive biscuits)
- 2 tsp melted butter
- 1 tsp sugar (optional)

For the cheesecake filling:

- 1 cup cream cheese (room temperature)
- 1/2 cup powdered sugar
- 1 tsp vanilla extract
- 1 cup heavy whipping cream (cold)

For the topping:

- 1 cup fresh mixed berries (strawberries, blueberries, raspberries)
- 1 tbsp. honey or sugar (optional, for macerating)
- Mint leaves for garnish (optional)

Instructions:

1. Make the crust:

- Mix graham crackers crumbs, melted butter, and sugar in a bowl until combined.
- Divide evenly into 6 small serving cups of jars and press down gently to form the crust.

2. Prepare the filling:

- In a large bowl, beat cream cheese, powdered sugar, and vanilla extract until smooth and creamy.
- In another bowl, whip cream into the cream cheese mixture until fully combined.

3. Assemble the cups:

- Spoon or pipe the cheesecake filling over the crust in each cup.
- Chill in the fridge for at least 2 hours (or overnight) until set.

4. Top and serve:

- Toss berries with honey or sugar if desired, then spoon over each cup.
- Garnish with a mint leaf and serve chilled.



Remember:

all recipes can be altered to suit one's palate.

Enjoy!

Cooking

Jacket Potato with Tuna and Sun-dried Tomatoes

Prepare: 30 mins

Cook: 1 to 2 hours

Serves: 2

Dietary: Dairy-free,
Egg-free, Gluten-Nut-free



Tinned tuna, sun-dried tomatoes and capers with a zippy lemon dressing make a fresh-tasting jacket potato filling. Rocket brings a peppery flavour that's delicious with tuna.

Each serving provides 465 kcal, 34g protein, 47g carbohydrates (of which 2g sugars), 15g fat (of which 1g saturates), 5g fiber and 2g salt.

Ingredients

2 large, floury potatoes
1 tsp olive oil
220g/8oz tuna in olive oil, from a jar or tin (drained weight)
50g/1¾oz sun-dried tomatoes (in oil), drained and roughly chopped
2 tsp capers
½ lemon, juice only
40g/1½oz rocket leaves
flaky sea salt and freshly ground black pepper

Method

Preheat the oven to 200C/180C Fan/Gas 6.

Prick the potatoes all over with a fork then rub them with olive oil and sprinkle with flaky salt. Place on a baking tray and bake for 1 hour–1½ hours, depending on size. The potatoes are ready when the skin is crisp and the center is soft (test by gently squeezing or piercing with a skewer).

Drain the tuna, reserving the oil. Using the back of a fork, mash the tuna in a bowl. Add the sun-dried tomatoes, capers, lemon juice and rocket. Add 1 tablespoon of the olive oil from the tuna and some black pepper. Mix until evenly combined, then taste and add more pepper or lemon juice if you like.

Cut the hot jacket potatoes in half and top with the tuna mixture.

Recipe Tips

Using scissors will make it easier to chop the sun-dried tomatoes



August Pet Care

August 26th is International Dog Day

International Dog Day, celebrated on August 26th, is a special day dedicated to honouring our loyal canine companions and recognising the importance of adopting and rescuing dogs in need. It's also an opportunity to raise awareness about the millions of dogs worldwide who are looking for a loving home.



Volunteering at animal shelters or with rescue organisations can make a significant impact. Volunteers provide much-needed care, socialisation, and attention to dogs awaiting adoption, helping to improve their chances of finding a forever home.

Sadly, many rescue centres and dog shelters are fit to burst with abandoned dogs, often for reasons through no fault of their own. Although it's not a decision to be taken lightly - pups, and training and looking after a 'new best friend' can be a lot of work! - rescuing instead of buying from a pet store or a breeder can be so very rewarding.

If you think about all the roles our furry friends play in our communities, it really is quite astonishing! They have remarkable abilities, often sacrificing their own safety to selflessly protect the most vulnerable in our society. They work with law enforcement, emergency services, the army, and individuals that may need additional help, like those who are partially sighted, people with medical conditions or who need extra support. Not to mention, they consistently show us unconditional love and unending comfort, and brighten up our 'ruff' days with their waggy tails and goofy smiles. They're not only super cute, but they're extremely useful, and humans and dogs have a long and special relationship that has evolved over thousands of years of cooperation, trust, and kinship.



A little history of International Dog Day

International Dog Day was first established in 2004 by a lovely lady, Colleen Paige, who is a pet and family lifestyle expert and animal advocate. She created the day - August 26th - to mark the date that she adopted her first dog, Sheltie, when she was 10 years old, and to encourage others to adopt a dog rather than buy from a pet store or breeder.

Since 2004, International Dog Day has made big waves across the world, with various countries and communities celebrating all dogs, whatever breed, size or personality. In 2013, the day was marked by the New York legislation, and it can now be seen on the New York State Senate's website.

With its growing popularity, International Dog Day is an awesome



chance for rescue centres and shelters to spread the word about all the lovelies in their care that are looking for a forever home. It also allows us the opportunity to reflect on all the amazing things these creatures offer us in terms of keeping us

safe, protecting us from harm, rescuing us from danger, and using their unique gifts to help us. They really do deserve a round of a-paws!

General Pet Care

Summer coats need regular attention prevent matting, which can cause skin damage and attract flies and encourage hot spots. Many pets enjoy a shorter coat during the hot summer months. So if you are

cutting your own dog's hair, be careful not to cut too close to the skin and don't stress the dog too much. Sometimes it might be easier to get a professional to take the hassle out of grooming.

Adding omega-3 essential fatty acids to your pet's diet is important for a healthy coat year round. This not only prevents shedding and flaking, but supports a glossy, shiny coat. Also feed your dog little and often as they may not eat as much when the weather is hot and also may not be as active as they would be in cooler weather.

Baths can be a great way to freshen up your pet's coat, and also keep your pet cool. Bath time can be a fun time with all the family getting involved and having water fights with your pet. But be aware of the temperature - the best time to bath is either in the early morning or the evening when the temperatures are not at their highest. Make sure your pet can dry comfortably in a warm environment.

If your pet has lighter skin, especially on their nose and ears, and is out in the sun a lot during the summer, consider getting pet sun cream.

Travelling Tips

1. Get your pet used to travelling in the car by making several short trips first. Extending each journey every time till your pet is comfortable with long times in the car. If it is a long journey, take several breaks to ensure your pet gets hydrated, some fresh air and able to stretch their legs
2. Most importantly, bring lots of water for the journey. Keep the water in a cooler as the water will heat up in the car.
3. Never ever leave your pet alone in a parked car. Temperatures in a car are much hotter than outside and can increase rapidly if no windows are open and even if the window is cracked open a little bit
4. Prepare for emergencies. Your pet should be microchipped with all your current up-to-date details. Also be wearing a collar with ID tags. You might also consider getting a GPS tracker for your pet
5. Burn off some energy before the trip. Take an extra long walk or extend playtime with your pet. This will tire your pet out so they may rest for your trip or some of it, making it easier for everyone
6. Pack a travel kit for your pet. Bring your own pet food as where you are staying may not provide your dog's dietary needs especially if they have to have special food. Also bring some bowls and not forgetting their favourite treats.
7. Don't forget to pack pet friendly sun cream as human sun cream can contain harmful ingredients.
8. To protect the paws during summer use a natural, wax based balm.



Summer months also bring burrs, thorns and foxtails. Avoid undergrowth and brush with your pet. If they've been out running through it, check their paws and coats for any foreign objects that might be causing discomfort. Booties can protect dogs that are tromping through the brush. Bathe your dog after each walk to ensure all foreign bodies, pollen and seeds are removed. Be mindful of chemical fertilizers and pesticides. When treating your lawn, try to use a natural solution when you can. When you're walking your pet, notice areas that have recently been treated and avoid those. Dogs and cats love to chomp on grass during the summer, so be careful.

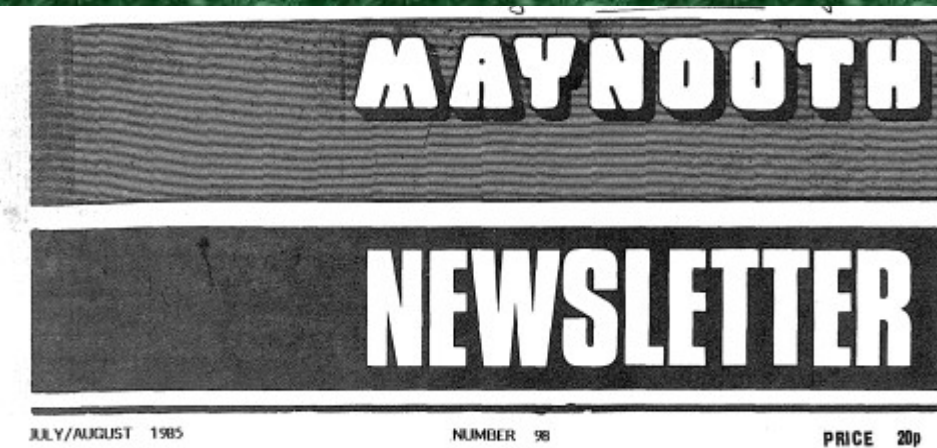
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Memories From the Archives Celebrating 40 Years of Maynooth Community Employment Project Producing the Maynooth Newsletter August 1985

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com



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PRESENTATION CONVENT SCHOOL SPONSORED WALK

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

SEPTEMBER ISSUE

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

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ANNIVERSARY

The September issue will mark the 10th Anniversary of the present style Newsletter. It doesn't seem that long, does it? The first publication was in September 1975 and we have continued with only a couple of failures since that time. Can we have some letters perhaps, commenting on those years and on the future years? We sincerely hope that each and every one of you will survive the next ten years with us as well.

Recent Births

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

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

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

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

CONGRATULATIONS

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

Jimmy opened his Chemist Shop in July of 1960 and has provided an efficient and courteous service to the people of Maynooth and district ever since. Best wishes to Jimmy and his wife Ita and family for the future.

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

We wish to express sympathy to the following:

The husband, family and relatives of the late Nora Geoghegan R.I.P., Sion Farm, Confey, Leixlip.

To Mr. Joe McBride, Boys National School, Maynooth, on the death of his mother, R.I.P.

The wife, family and relatives of the late Tommy Murray, R.I.P., Main Street, Maynooth.

The wife, family and relatives of the late Peter Brennan R.I.P., Lakeland, Naas (late of Murphy Bros. Undertakers, Naas).

The sons, daughters and relatives of the late Mrs. Margaret Barry, Killoon.

CARTON COMMITTEE

At a meeting of the Carton Committee held in Maynooth College on Monday May 27 under the chairmanship of Dr. Patrick Duffy, the members present decided that we had entered a critical stage in the fight to reserve this unique estate. The committee had succeeded in two of its primary objectives, to prevent rezoning of Carton for residential purposes, and to discourage potential buyers who might wish to exploit Carton commercially, and this had ensured that the purchase price of the estate was now hovering at the level obtaining for agricultural land. There was also evidence that the owners, Powerscreen Ltd., were anxious to sell and this presented the government with a unique opportunity to acquire the estate for the nation.

The population explosion projected for the Eastern Region in the recent RDO report made the need for future amenity space extremely urgent and Carton was ideally situated to suit this function. The committee saw the estate with its lake, outbuildings and forests as ideally suited for family recreational pursuits on the lines of those provided at Lough Key Forest Park, while the house could be utilised by the National Museum to display furniture and other bulky items it present in storage. Whatever the exact nature of the development, the important thing was to preserve the integrity of the entire estate,

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as it was the survival of buildings such as the stables, the boat houses and the Shell Cottage that made the place unique.

Three decisions were reached:
1. To send a press release to the newspapers emphasising the need for the government to purchase Carton now as the opportunity to acquire it at a moderate price may never arise again and delay may lead to deterioration in the condition of the house and outbuildings;
2. To emphasise the folk park potential of Carton so that any expenditure of public monies on its purchase will be seen to benefit the people as a whole;
3. To visit Carton.

In keeping with the last item, a visit was arranged for Thursday June 13, and this passed off successfully. The house was obviously being maintained by Powerscreen, the lawns were being mowed and the ornamental pool was in the process of being cleaned. On the way to the house, the writer saw a cock and hen pheasant feeding by the driveway, a swan sailing on the artificial lake and a heron flying to the heronry on one of the islands, all these a reminder of another aspect of the estate, its importance as a refuge for wildlife. Many visitors were impressed by the rolling green parkland to the rear of the main building and another was surprised to learn that the entire estate, including the boundary wall, was still intact.

At a time when so much of our heritage is being destroyed by indiscriminate development the chance to preserve this beautiful estate for our children and their children's children must not be lost through indifference or inaction.

The argument that in a time of economic hardship public money should not be squandered on acquiring an estate is as shortsighted as it is spurious; money spent to enhance the quality of life of our people and to preserve their cultural heritage is not squandered. The ancestral home of the Fitzgeralds of Kildare, the family that gave us GARRET MOR, Silken Thomas and Lord Edward, must become the Versailles of Ireland. We call on the government to act NOW.

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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.



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

LOCAL NEWS - SEPTEMBER 2025 - ISSUE NO. 549



IN THIS ISSUE

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- ◆ AN NUADHA PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATRE
- ◆ STORIES FROM OUR READERS
- ◆ LIBRARY NOTES
- ◆ MEMORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES

Noel Gallagher pops into Brady's Clockhouse for a quiet pint ahead of Oasis Dublin gigs



Photo: Maynooth Newsletter Writer, Martina

Oasis brought their Reunion Tour to Ireland with two huge concerts in Croke Park. After a lot of smash hits and of course the well documented fallouts between the two brothers, after a break of over 16 years, they put their differences aside to reunite Oasis for their "Live '25" Tour.

The tickets for the Irish leg of their tour were snapped up fairly quickly. Despite the 16 year break, Oasis are as popular if not even more so this time round. The Dublin leg of their tour was more significant for the brothers because of their ties to Ireland, their parents Thomas and Peggy are both Irish and the brothers always consider themselves to be Irish and it is a big part of their identity.

Noel Gallagher surprised the locals of a very popular establishment when he visited Brady's Clockhouse situated on the main street here in Maynooth on Friday 15th August, and enjoyed a pint or two before the Irish part of the tour got under way. The visit brought much excitement amongst those lucky enough to be in the establishment at the time.



Brady's Clockhouse
Bar - Lounge - Restaurant
Photo: Maynooth Newsletter Writer, Martina.

As word went around the town, crowds of Oasis fans began to gather around the local pub trying to get a glimpse of the main man himself. Some lucky fans did manage to get autographs, selfies and even luckier ones got their Oasis paraphernalia such as LPs, hats and t-shirts signed. Noel was reportedly staying locally in Carton House Hotel.

Oasis's gigs Saturday, August 16, and Sunday, August 17 was their first on Irish soil in 17 years. Supporting acts included The Verve frontman Richard Ashcroft, and Liverpool rockers Cast, led by John Power. Both performed at both concerts.



Brady's Clockhouse Bar
Senior Barman Adam Woods
with Noel



Brady's Clockhouse Bar
Staff member with Noel



Noel waving farewell to the
fans at
Brady's Clockhouse Bar



Noel Gallagher leaving
Brady's Clockhouse Bar



County Kildare Social Inclusion Week 2025

September 22nd - September 27th 2025



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Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

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

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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.

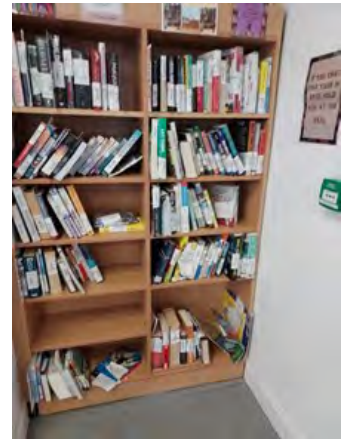
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Editorial Board - Maynooth Newsletter

Editorial



2025 marks the twentieth edition of Culture night which takes place at three hundred locations around Ireland on Friday 19th September. In Maynooth, the line up so far includes comedy, reggae sounds, a musings and music event and of course our own Maynooth Academy band. I am planning to get to a couple of events in Maynooth, starting with the Open Evening and Entertainment at St. Mary's Church of Ireland which sounds very interesting and then catching up with the St Mary's Brass and Reed Academy Band performing later in the town square. For information on all the events check out <https://culturenight.ie/> selecting Kildare, Maynooth for local events.

Having completed a two year part-time course on Genealogy in University College Cork earlier this year, I have come to appreciate even more the importance of our public library service. It was invaluable to me in sourcing the range of books that I needed for my studies.



Reserved books collection point in Maynooth Library

The library service is a national service, so I was able to reserve books that were delivered to Maynooth library for me. It was disappointing that many books had to come from outside County Kildare. As a regular visitor to Maynooth Public Library, it is great to see the number of people using the service. The staff are very helpful and knowledgeable on what books are available on your specific topic.

I know that there are plans to relocate the library to a larger site which will hopefully provide space to expand the selection of books and create spaces for other events. I suspect that many residents are looking forward to this.

Being September some readers might be considering taking up further studies to engage their minds for the next academic year. At Maynooth University, the Department of Adult and Community Education marks a milestone of providing courses for fifty years this year. The courses offered are intended to foster dialogue and discussion, with the aim of enabling participants to critically reflect on their role in civil society. Congratulations to everyone involved on your anniversary and if you want more details on the course available check out <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/adult-and-community-education/our-courses>



New pedestrian bridge in Mill Street - image courtesy E. O'Flaherty

As road works continue at various locations around Maynooth this month, there will be inevitable traffic delays. While we all have our opinions on how the works are progressing, we are equally impacted. I mentioned in recent months the new planned orbital route from the Celbridge Road to the Leixlip Road which is still several years from delivery. The north-south upgrade works are progressing with the installation of the new footbridge in Mill Street. Patience is a virtue that we will all need to master for the coming months. More importantly be considerate and take particular care for pedestrians and cyclists among the busy traffic.

Paul Croghan
Editor

**Submission Date for October Edition is
5pm on 23rd September 2025**

Letters To The Editor

Dear Editor

I understand the precedent but not the current practice to remove long swathes of old hedgerows bordering new development. We have seen it happen recently in North Kildare and I expect the more of the same very soon.

How does building A rated properties and encouraging EVs in every driveway offset the loss of centuries old Hedgerows. It's not just the hedges it's the creatures that live there. The softening and beauty of the natural flora and fauna is destroyed in a couple of hours.

Surely Planning or Environmental Awareness needs to address this and recognise the efforts from other public bodies to for example encourage farmers and individuals to protect and restore hedgerows. We cannot have mixed environmental messages coming from our administrators.

Looking at neighbouring towns in South Co Dublin and Fingal which have lost vast swathes of Greenery to concrete ugliness.

Sometimes it's hard to stay encouraged on environmental awareness and activity especially when Planning fails to recognise our natural environment.

Yours sincerely

Tony Bean

****The opinions and statements expressed in the articles are those of the contributors and not necessarily those of the Editorial Board.***

Ireland's biggest scale model show returns to Lucan in October.

Ireland's biggest annual scale model show and competition is returning to Lucan again this year featuring hundreds of hand-built plastic scale models from across the island. The 2025 IPMS Ireland National Model Show and Competition is an annual show of scale models with competition entries being displayed across 34 different categories. The show takes place on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th October at the Lucan Spa Hotel, Dublin and is a great day out for the family or people looking to rekindle their love of a hobby from childhood.



St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Last month saw another Summer Camp where it was great to get young children into the Bandroom on Pound Lane, to learn music through games, and introducing them to the various musical instruments. They really enjoyed the experience and by the end of the week they were able to play one of the instruments, as you can see by the photo below. We hope to make this an annual camp as we already have a number of enquiries about a camp next year.

We were delighted to pay a return visit to Farmleigh Estate in the Phoenix Park on Sunday 10th August and were blessed with fine weather for once, and a very appreciative audience.

The band pays another visit to the lovely National Stud and Gardens in Kildare on Sunday 7th September where the surroundings and the music make for a wonderful afternoon's entertainment. This event is open to the public and is well

worth a visit to see the gardens as well as some well - known horses.

Culture Night has this year been brought forward to Friday 19th September where our Academy Band will have an opportunity to shine when they play in The Square from 7:30pm, fingers crossed for fine weather.

Just a reminder that the Band welcomes musicians of all standards to join our ranks - talk to us at our recitals or drop in to the Band Hall on Pound Lane any Monday night between 7:30 and 9:30.





Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



MAYNOOTH SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE CELEBRATES ITS DIAMOND JUBILEE

Maynooth Senior Citizens celebrated its **Diamond Jubilee** on the afternoon of Sunday 3rd August in the Geraldine Hall.

The invitation was open to former committee members, friends and supporters of Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee (MSCC). It took the form of an informal drop in from 12 noon to 5pm, a photographic and publication display, an art exhibition by our club members, a card and paper craft display. There was an official launch at 2pm. Refreshments were served throughout the afternoon.

Our current Chairperson, Garry Bermingham opened the proceedings by thanking all who supported MSCC over the years and introduced Josie Moore to launch the event.

We were honoured to have Josie Moore to launch the 60th year on our behalf. As most people will know, Josie's name is synonymous with Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee for a long number of years. She served on the Committee from the early days and was Chairperson for 30 years.

Josie outlined a brief history of the organisation since 1965 during which she commended founding member Mary Cullen. Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee began under the auspices of the Maynooth Branch of the Irish Red Cross in 1965. The early Committee comprised local representatives that included Dr. Cullen, Mary Cullen, Dr. Cowhey and District nurse Hyland whose expertise was well placed to focus on three main areas – poverty, health and isolation. Today isolation is still a concern. Social connection is the main focus today and our activities reflect this. One of our services is the morning club activities which we run on a Tuesday and Thursday morning and to which transport is provided. We provide art, bingo, movement and wellness courses, digital courses and crafts and more are planned for the future.

Josie noted the valued contributions of long standing supporters such as Barton's Transport, Floods and other local businesses. She went on to thank our musicians Elaine and Eithne Bean and Melanie Oliver. Josie thanked Susan

Boyce for her work on the art exhibition. Art works were created by our senior citizens at the Thursday morning club under the guidance of Susan. The event was declared open!

Josie was then taken by surprise as she was presented with a watercolour of the Geraldine Hall on behalf of MSCC. And there was cake! Homemade cakes and bakes, teas and coffees were provided by the current committee members

The photographic exhibition was organised by Josie Moore showing the activities and people involved in MSCC decade by decade. This proved to be very popular with the large crowd in attendance. People were delighted to see photos of friends, family members, activities, outings and occasions throughout the decades. A selection of publications produced by MSCC proved to be very popular and there were free copies available. Our senior citizens club members had c.50 in acrylic on display and showed an array of subjects – landscapes, seascapes, floral studies, still life and figure studies. Each work was completed in an hour, the duration of a class. There was also a display of card making and of book paper crafts which was a course led by our own senior citizen club member Toni Read.

We would like to extend our thanks to all who made it such a memorable day. Thanks to Josie Moore for her considered and inspiring words. Thanks to Willie Kiernan for looking after the sound system for us. We were delighted to have Eithne, Elaine and Melanie who were enthusiastic in their response to come along and provide music and song, giving a wonderful lift to the occasion. It was particularly fitting as Elaine's and Eithne's mother Rose Bean was a former Secretary of MSCC. Thanks to Johnny Dowling, Maynooth Scouts for his help on the day. Thanks to all friends of Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee some of whom are long standing in their support.

By all accounts it was a fabulous day and hopefully one that created more cherished memories for everyone involved and for those in attendance.

Susan Durack, Secretary, Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



Josie Moore launching 60th Anniversary of Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



Music and Song provided by Eithne and Elaine Bean and Melanie Oliver



Attendees 60th Celebrations MSCC



Display of publications by MSCC



Display of papercraft



Online Office

Here to help with

- * Medical Cards
- * Health issues
- * Social Welfare
- * Education
- * Services for Senior Citizens
- * Housing Support and Grants (Windows/ Doors, Insulation, Roofing, Electrical)
- * Housing Adaptations and Planning (Level Access Showers, Extensions, Rebuilding Ireland Housing Loan)
- * Social Housing
- * Estate Issues
- * Community Issues
- * Environmental Concerns
- * Covid - 19 related queries



Phone



zoom



E-mail



Cllr Angela Feeney

Labour

If I can help email: angelafeeney@kildarecoco.ie or call 087 238 1962

Stay safe everyone.



Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

Email: afeeney@kildarecoco.ie

Phone: 0872381962



Campaign for Community Centre for Maynooth

With more than 17,000 residents, Maynooth is a thriving, growing town, but we don't have a community centre. I continue to work and campaign to change that.

Back in 2021, I had a successful motion approved at Council to retain the vacated fire brigade site for a Community centre and hub for the town. Later this year, that site will become available and it is a great opportunity to provide Maynooth with a much-needed community centre.

Now more than ever, our communities need a place to come together and work for a better Maynooth for us all. A space for residents' associations and community groups to meet, a place to hold events for people in Maynooth and a space for further education classes for young and old.

***Please get in touch to support this campaign,
afeeney@kildarecoco.ie***

(Attached: pic of fire brigade site)



We need to end the motor tax instalment penalty

I have called on the Minister for Transport to scrap the unfair penalty imposed on motorists who pay their motor tax in instalments. The current system punishes people simply for not being able to pay in one lump sum.

Many working people are under huge financial pressure at the moment due to the cost of living. It is completely unfair that drivers here who choose to pay their motor tax quarterly or half-yearly are being charged more than those who can afford to pay for the full year upfront. These extra charges are simply unjust.

Over €106 million has been paid in additional costs by motorists across the country because of this outdated system. Countless people are being hit with higher bills just for needing flexibility.

There is no justification for this kind of penalty anymore. In a digital age, administration costs are minimal and most of the process is automated.

The Minister needs to stop punishing people for using instalment options and commit to abolishing this charge in Budget 2026.

Labour is calling for a full review of similar charges right across the public sector. We need to move with the times and build a fairer system that works for everyone – not just those who can afford to pay all at once.



Gold Medal Winners

2016 - 2017 - 2018

2019 - 2021 - 2022

2023 - 2024

August was another busy month for our volunteers keeping everything ship shape around the town. Judging finished in the **Tidy Towns Competition** on the 31st August, sigh of relief. We will be told the results at an event in October. Hoping for our 9th Gold 2025 and more.

The results of the **Entente Florale Europe** Competition will be held in Venenje, Slovenia on the final weekend of September. Some of our volunteers and committee members will attend this event representing Maynooth.

At the time of writing we are looking forward to **Heritage Week**. Our Heritage Trail is a very popular event every year. It starts at Dukes Harbour and ends in Courthouse Square 2 hours later. Very informative event led by our volunteers. We also have booklets available for a self guided tour. Leaflets are available in Maynooth Castle, Library on Main Street and The Glenroyal Hotel.

We have been so lucky with the weather this year and of course all our volunteers who religiously turn up every Saturday morning and Wednesday evenings. We also have a Sunday morning rota available during judging season.

Paul had a busy summer using the Weedex machine ... so many weeds everywhere all over the town. We don't use weed killers even though some of our residents have used them in public areas. Fingers crossed that we don't get deducted points from the Tidy Towns Judges.

We took part in the **Flossie Beach Clean** recently and we will also be a part of The Clean Coasts event in September. We don't have a beach but we do have the wonderful Royal Canal.

We are very happy with our flower beds in the Square. Thanks to Kildare County Council staff for all their assistance this year.

We would like to thank our many sponsors around the town but especially McMahons Gastrobar, Main Street for treating us to breakfast after clean up one Saturday morning, much appreciated.

We would like to express our condolences to the family of Darren Lee, Parklands who died recently in the USA. Darren was a member of the Maynooth First Responders, and a great supporter of Maynooth Tidy Towns. Rest in Peace Darren you will be missed by all your friends but especially your family.

We are always looking for volunteers.

Please contact us on Facebook at Maynooth Tidy Towns or email maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie

Mary Molloy Maynooth Tidy Towns Association



Maynooth Heritage Trail - Guided Tours

Duke's Harbour Co. Kildare—Contact via

Facebook or email(maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie)



Cllr. Donna Phelan
MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

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

Fianna Fáil
AN PARTÍ POBLACHTÁNAICH



AUGUST UPDATE

New Speed Sign on the Dunboyne Road



Thanks to Local Property Tax (LPT) funding, a new speed sign has been installed on the Dunboyne Road. While the current limit here is 60km/h, many residents agree it's too high for this stretch. I'll be pushing for a reduced speed limit as part of the Jake's Law review, which will begin in Maynooth later this year keeping safety at the heart of our community.



Over the bank holiday weekend, Trib Fest once again delivered a fantastic celebration for our area – a festival that truly had something for all ages. We're incredibly lucky to have a venue like this right on our doorstep, bringing people together and creating lasting memories. A huge thank you to the organisers from all of us in the community for making it happen.



The sunflower field in Barberstown is an absolute must see, a burst of colour that brightens any day. Well done to everyone involved for raising much needed funds for Pieta House and Women's Aid. Helping others is something very close to my heart, so it was lovely to be able to support these causes and bring home some beautiful flowers for the kitchen.

Maynooth Water Network Upgrade
Growth and Development Programme



Traffic Management on Dunboyne Road Sept - October

Pipelaying works at the R157 will commence on Monday 25 August. Traffic management in the form of temporary traffic lights will be in place to facilitate works. It is anticipated that these works will be completed in late October. Standard working hours are 7:30am to 6pm Monday to Friday. Works may involve planned interruptions to water supply. Customers will be notified in advance of any planned water outages.

Customers can phone **Uisce Éireann on 1800 278 278** if they have any questions about the project. Uisce Éireann regrets any inconvenience these necessary water network improvements may cause. Details of any supply interruptions associated with this project will be updated regularly on the Uisce Éireann website.



Taste of Kildare

It was fantastic to attend the taste of Kildare and see so many local producers from our own Clane-Maynooth Municipal District showcasing their food and talent. Family friendly events like this really highlight the quality and creativity, and pride we have in our local community.



AsIAm 5k fun run

I was delighted to support the AsIAm Same Chance 5k Fun Run. It means so much to see communities coming together to promote inclusion and equal opportunities for autistic people.



Huge Congratulations to Niamh Kirwan from Maynooth on shining as a Rosebud in this years Rose of Tralee. We are all very proud of you.



Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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



The Growth and Development Programme is a national programme of targeted investment to increase the capacity of water and wastewater infrastructure to enable social and economic growth and development, including the delivery of essential housing.



Road Closure Application

Coffey Construction has applied to Kildare County Council to close the L1014, from its junction with the R157 to the L5050 junction at Catherinstown from Monday, 08 September 2025 to Sunday, 16 November 2025 to facilitate pipelaying works.

Maynooth Transfer Pipeline
Pipeline Installation Route



Alternative Routes

R157 bound stay on R157 for a further 1.1km until you come to the junction of L5050 Dunboyne Road. Turn right onto the L5050 to follow the diversion for 1km which will bring you to the end of the closure. L1014 bound, closure starts at the junction of L5050 Dunboyne Road, diversion will begin with a right-hand turn. You will follow this diversion for 1km when you reach the junction of R157 / L5050. Turn left here onto the R157. Diversion will be in place for 1.1km until you reach the end of the closure.



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web: liamduffautos.ie

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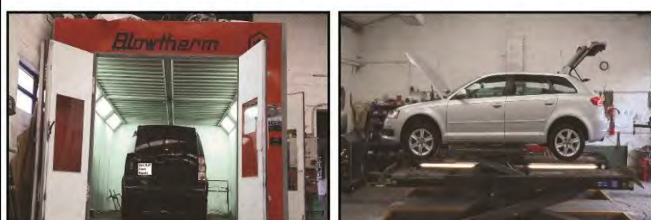
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County Kildare

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&

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Telephone: 6285711

Fax: 6285613

E-mail: info@marycowhey.com

www.marycowhey.com

Grow Mental Health Peer Support Meetings

with Amanda

Tuesday

11 am to 1 pm

Leixlip Library, Captain's Hill

For more information
contact:

086 136 7423

amandadempsey@grow.ie



Maynooth Castle

A visit to our beloved castle is a must. A vital piece of our town's history where you can see a model of the castle in its full glory before the gates are closed for the winter

Admission is free

Open from April - September

Time: 10.00am - 5.30pm

For more information: www.heritageireland.ie

Photos: Newsletter Writer, Martina



life credit union

READY TO SWITCH?

Big banks give you stress. We'll give you peace of mind and a nice cash bonus!

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**3.5% (3.57% APRC) GREEN MORTGAGE OR
3.95% (4.02% APRC) STANDARD MORTGAGE
UNTIL 31 JULY 2027***

**PLUS, €2,000 SWITCHER
BONUS****



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www.lifecu.ie or 045 879 622

*Price Promise: Your interest rate is a variable rate, however we guarantee that your rate will not increase before 31st July 2027. If on the other hand the variable rate decreases, you will benefit from that decrease.

**LIMITED TIME OFFER. €2,000 Switcher Bonus is only available for mortgages approved from 14th July 2025 until 30th September 2025. Your mortgage must have drawn down within 3 months of the date of issue of the loan offer to qualify. Bonus will be paid at drawdown. Should you decide to re-mortgage or sell this property within 24 months of closing date this €2,000 incentive money will have to be repaid to Life Credit Union and will be added to your mortgage redemption balance.

Green Mortgage Rate (3.57% variable APRC) BER B3 or above. Standard Mortgage Rate (4.02% variable APRC). Standard Switcher Mortgage of €250,000 over 20 years, 240 monthly payments of €1,508.37. Representative APRC 4.02% variable. Cost of credit €112,009.35. Total amount to be repaid €362,009.35. Representative example correct as at 11/07/2025.

Maximum Loan to Value (LTV) of 90% will apply to a property's purchase price. Maximum loan amount will typically not exceed 4 times an individual's gross income for First Time Buyers and 3.5 times an individual's gross income for Second Time Buyers.

Loan examples are for illustrative purposes only. Final repayments and cost of credit will be agreed in the credit agreement. APRC stands for Annual Percentage Rate of Charge. Loans are subject to approval. Mortgage lending criteria, terms and conditions apply. Over 18s only. Security, Property Insurance and Life Cover are required.

WARNING: If you do not meet the repayments on your loan, your account will go into arrears. This may affect your credit rating, which may limit your ability to access credit in the future.

WARNING: If you do not keep up repayments you may lose your home.

WARNING: You should consider the total cost of the mortgage and any applicable incentive included in the mortgage offer.

WARNING: The cost of your monthly payments may increase.

Life Credit Union is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.



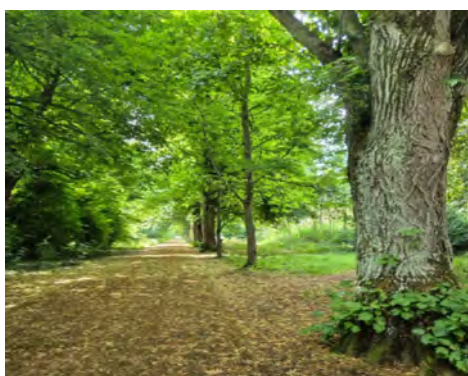
Glimpses of Maynooth & Ireland from an Italian Perspective

TGS Eurogroup (Youth and Social Tourism) is an association led by lay people and promoted by the Salesian Province San Marco in Italy. Its aims are guided by Don Bosco's educational project, supporting the education and flourishing of young people. The association organises English summer camps for Italian middle and high school students. The camps take place in Malta, Ireland and Great Britain.

We were 19 students in total (aged from 14 to 16) in the group that stayed in Maynooth College in Ireland. We were accompanied by five wonderful Italian leaders: Vincenzo, Elenora, Elisa, Nicola, Federica and Chiara. The leaders are mostly young university students or recent graduates who undergo training for the camps months before departure. They are full of enthusiasm and animated by a true spirit of service and with a great desire to get fully involved.



Each morning started with a reflection led by one of the Salesian brothers/priests based in St. Catherine's, Maynooth. Then we had English classes on the beautiful campus of St. Patrick's College with teachers who are native speakers of English. They helped us to improve our language skills, especially speaking. We covered multiple topics in class and explored different aspects of Irish culture such as Irish mythology, history, sports and food. In fact, we actually got to play hurling and Gaelic football. We also tried out Irish dancing.



Our teachers helped us too to appreciate the beauty of Irish nature and the different landscapes across the whole country. We also discussed climate change and the ways in which we can help protect our environment and beautiful planet.

We had many trips during our stay, visiting lots of cities and places of historical interest. In Dublin we visited Dublin Castle, Trinity College, the National Museum of Ireland, Leinster House and Chatham House where we did the Europe Experience and learned all about the European Union.

At the Parliament we had the opportunity to meet the local TD from Maynooth, Naoise O'Cearuil. We were able to ask him questions about his work in the Dail and about his career and pathway to becoming a TD. We travelled by bus to Kilkenny to visit the castle there and to Glendalough to see the two lakes and learn more about this amazing monastic city.



At the start of our stay in Ireland, most of us didn't know each other but from day one friendships began to bloom. The group quickly became very united and soon enough many of us had made lots of friends. Personally, we think that this experience was very useful in helping us overcome our fears and learn how to relate with others. It has made us stronger, happier and more united. Some learned to be more responsible, others learned to open themselves without being scared of judgement and to become more extrovert. We all experienced some personal development. For sure, nobody will forget this trip because, even if for two weeks only, we were like one big family.



To conclude, we highly recommend this experience. It helped us improve our English, discover Ireland, make new friends and gather beautiful and unforgettable memories.

*(With thanks to Giorgia Past, Giulia Parisi & Vittoria Muneretto who compiled this report).
July 2025*

taxy

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Deep Time WALKS & Maynooth Unearthed WORKSHOPS

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With Rachel Sweeney, Dancer and Artist

Travel back through Maynooth's natural and manmade timelines, reflecting on how our carbon footprint shapes our world.

16th Aug.
11-13:00

Deep Time
Walk

Meet Main Entrance,
Maynooth Train
Station

28th Aug.
14-16:00

Deep Time
Walk

Meet Main Entrance,
Maynooth Train
Station

2nd Sept.
18:30-20:00

Maynooth
Unearthed
Building
eco literacy
and
awareness

Venue Maynooth
Library

3rd Sept.
11-12:30

Maynooth
Unearthed
Co-design
for future
communities

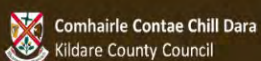
Venue DemoHouse

19th Sept.
18:30-20:00

Deep Time
Walk

Meet Main Entrance,
Maynooth Train
Station

Booking at: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/kildareartsservice>
Or contact Kildare Arts Service at arts@kildarecoco.ie



Sunday AUG 31st + OCT 5th

9am - 1pm

€2 entry (children free) (gardens included)

Join our community at Larchill's CAR BOOT MARKET
for bric-a-brac, antiques, honey, fresh flowers, toys,
crafts, coffee, cakes & more...!
FUN FOR ALL THE FAMILY!

Larchill Gardens, Kilcock, co. Meath, W23Y44P



County Kildare Social Inclusion Week 2025

September 22nd – September 27th 2025



Taking place from September 22nd to 26th, this annual event, now in its ninth year, continues to promote the invaluable work of local organisations active throughout County Kildare.

MONDAY 22nd SEPTEMBER

Social Inclusion Week Opening Event with County Kildare LEADER Partnership

Time: 10:00am - 1:00pm Location, Kildare Community Development Centre, Kildare Town, R51 RF88

Come along and meet the CKLP team, enjoy displays from local groups, see the wonderful display from The Dara Project and enjoy refreshments.

This event promises to be an exciting start to Social Inclusion Week in County Kildare.

All welcome.

Art & Craft Exhibition: John Sullivan (Irish Wheelchair Association), Clane.

Time: 10:30am - 2:00pm Location, John Sullivan (IWA), Ballinagappa Road, Clane, Co. Kildare, W91YT99

The exhibition will be composed of Ceramic, Textile, Woodwork and Art works completed by our members in Clane Community Centre in 2025.

Free parking and fully wheelchair accessible. All welcome- No booking required

****Warmer Home Workshop (daily at multiple locations, see below) with Kildare Sustainable Energy Communities**

Time: 10:30am Location: Naas Library and Cultural Centre
Do you own your home (built before 2006)?

You may qualify for a FREE energy upgrade under the SEAI Warmer Homes Scheme if you receive: Fuel Allowance, Jobseeker's (6+ months) + child under 7, Working Family Payment, One-Parent Family Payment, Domiciliary Care Allowance, Carer's Allowance (living with the person you care for), Disability Allowance (6+ months) + child under 7

Make your home warmer & more comfortable - Cut energy bill - Lower your carbon footprint

Come along to learn how to apply.

TUESDAY 23rd SEPTEMBER

Art & Craft Exhibition: John Sullivan (Irish Wheelchair Association), Clane.

Time: 10:30am - 2:00pm, Location: John Sullivan (IWA), Ballinagappa Road, Clane, Co. Kildare, W91YT99

The exhibition will be composed of Ceramic, Textile, Woodwork and Art works completed by our members in Clane Community Centre in 2025.

Free parking and fully wheelchair accessible. All welcome- No booking required

Coffee Morning with Athy Women's Shed

Time: 11:00am - 1:00pm, Location: Community House, 1306 Townspark, Athy, R14 RD79

Have you ever wondered what goes on in the Athy Women's Shed. Come join us, meet the ladies and chat about it over tea/ coffee and refreshments. All ladies welcome.

Your Wellness Webinar with Irish Red Cross

Time: 11:00am Location: Online Pause yourself and join us for an uplifting and practical session designed to support your wellbeing.

What to expect:

An introduction to the mental health supports and training available through the Irish Red Cross

Relaxing and restorative mindfulness and wellness activities from our Self-Help Plus programme

A look into Problem Management Plus, a simple yet powerful approach to managing life's challenges

This webinar is about more than information—it's about giving you tools, insights, and moments of calm you can take with you into daily life.

Warmer Home Workshop with Kildare Sustainable Energy Communities

Time: 11:00am Location: Celbridge Library

For description, see ** above

Visually Impaired / Blind Tennis

Time: 1:30pm - 2:30pm Location: Naas Tennis Club

If you have a Vision Impairment or know someone with a vision impairment this is the chance to try an incredible game in a fun, social environment.

All Welcome.

If you have any queries, please contact: mrmartinkelly20@gmail.com

WEDNESDAY 24th SEPTEMBER

Arts and Crafts Exhibition and Social Morning with Kare and Newbridge Disability Access Group

Time: 10:30am - 1:00pm, Location: Newbridge Town Hall

Celebrate creativity, diversity, and inclusion at this vibrant community event.

Everyone is welcome to attend. Come view local artwork, enjoy live music, and connect with others in a warm and inclusive space. All Welcome.

A Gathering of Local Community with Larries on the Move

Time: 11:00, Location: St. Laurence's GAA Complex

Coffee morning with leisurely walk around the walkway a speaker on local issues. Open to all

Warmer Home Workshop with Kildare Sustainable Energy Communities

Time: 11:00am, Location: Athy Library

For description, see ** above.

Around the World Dance Rap with Kildare Town Youth Hub

Time: 6:00pm, Location: The Hive Youth Hub, Kildare Town

Working with Dance instructor to develop a Dance Rap incorporating Dance traditions from a range of Cultures represented in our town. Cultures with strong representation in our town are Indian, Irish, Ukranian, African, Moldovan & Brazilian.

If you would like to participate, please contact Grace Darling at ktyhub@gmail.com

Thursday 25th September

The Creative Path Art Therapy with Kildare Library Service

Time: 10:00am, Location: Newbridge Library

Join us for a cup of tea/coffee to celebrate the launch of "The Creative Path", a new art therapy programme for persons living with an acquired brain injury.

"The Creative Path" will support and nurture mental health and wellbeing through art therapy where each individual's recovery can be encouraged and empowered through creativity.

For further enquiries please contact the library by email newbridgelib@kildarecoco.ie or by telephone 045 906130

Connect & Create with Platinum Clubhouse

Time: 11:00am Location: Platinum Clubhouse Newbridge Industrial Estate, Newbridge

Walk & Talk + Coffee Morning

Join us for a gentle community walk, open to all. Afterward, enjoy coffee, biscuits & relaxed conversation, with a mindful moment to refresh your day.

Creative Expression Corner

After coffee, join us for a creative space of music, art, poetry, and writing, led by our community. Share your talents or simply enjoy the work of others in a warm, supportive atmosphere.

Register by emailing: ashleigh.farrell@hse.ie

Warmer Home Workshop with Newbridge Community Development

(Continued on page 15)



County Kildare Social Inclusion Week 2025

September 22nd – September 27th 2025

(Continued from page 14)

For description, see ** above.

Growing Connections with Maynooth Access Group & Maynooth Post Primary School

Time: 12:00, Location: Maynooth Post Primary School

This event celebrates the collaboration between Maynooth Access Group and the Orchard class in Maynooth Post Primary School. Guests will enjoy refreshments prepared by students while highlighting the Orchard's inclusive garden project, featuring accessible benches and raised planters. Students grow herbs, sensory plants, and vegetables for use in cookery classes, creating a sustainable, farm-to-fork learning experience and a welcoming space where everyone can take part and feel a sense of belonging.

Positive Wellbeing and Mental Health Day with Irish Red Cross (Kildare Branch)

Time: 2:00pm - 7:00pm, Location: Whitewater, Newbridge

Join us for an afternoon of:

Wellbeing & positive mental health promotion

Live CPR demonstrations

Practical tips for a healthier, safer community

FRIDAY 26th SEPTEMBER

Scooch Taster Session & Coffee Morning

Time: 11:00am - 12:30pm, Location: Athy GAA Centre, R14 WN92

Now is the time to come meet the group, see what Scooch is all about, play a game and then enjoy refreshments and a chat afterwards.

All Welcome.

Warmer Home Workshop with Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community

Time: 11:00am, Location: Maynooth Library

For description, see ** on previous page, Monday 22nd.

The Waterways BBQ

Time: 11:30am, Location: The Waterways, Sallins

This BBQ is to celebrate the voluntary work carried out each Friday in August & September by residents living in The Waterways estate. This event is for all residents in the Waterways including apartment residents, commercial units and residents of The Waterways Hotel for people seeking International protection.

All welcome.

Naas Men's Shed Garden Party Social Inclusion Garden Party with Naas Community Men's Shed

Time: 12:00pm - 3:00pm, Location: Naas Community Men's Shed, Dublin Road, Naas

Join Naas Community Men's Shed for a socially inclusive fun event with Camphill Dunshane, local nursing home residents, and others.

Music by the Shed Band with food and fun.

All Welcome.

Building Bridges through Dialogue: Fostering Inclusion and Belonging with Down to Basics (DotoBa), the International Decade for People of African Descent Ireland (IDPADI), the International Institute of African Studies Ireland (IIASI)

Time: 1:00pm - 3:30pm, Location: Leixlip Youth and Community Centre

The event will provide a safe and constructive space to:

Explore the local and national context of racism and discrimination

Share lived experiences from members of migrant communities

Build stronger connections between public representatives, authorities, and the community

Discuss practical steps we can take, together, to create a more inclusive and equitable environment for all.

Register: contact@dotoba.ie

ALL EVENTS CAN BE FOUND AT
kildareppn.ie/siw-events

Events Happening During September

Explore Maynooth's waterways, woodlands and walking routes, reflecting on how our carbon footprint shapes our world.

Take part in the Maynooth Unearthed Workshops and find new ways of exploring our ancient past as a mode of re-imagining and co-creating our futures.

Events are free, but advance booking is required.

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/kildareartsservice>

Maynooth Unearthed - Workshop with Artist Rachel Sweeney Tue 2 Sep 2025 18:30 - 20:00 Maynooth Library

MAYNOOTH UNEARTHED is a series of free creative mapping workshop that take a positive approach to local climate-led initiatives, with a focus on Maynooth's decarbonization strategy. Facilitated by Creative Collaborator Rachel Sweeney, these workshops will introduce participants to new ways to re-think our relationship to our local environment through a participative and inclusive approach that introduces playful and practical ways to help us re-imagine our town's transport infrastructure. Drawing on multiple perspectives, Rachel will share her DEEP MAPPING approach as a way to support fresh thinking around how we design our movement and mobility around Maynooth town, working from a place of planetary engagement.

Maynooth Unearthed - Workshop with Artist Rachel Sweeney

Wed 3 Sep 2025 11:00 - 12:30 DemoHouse (Kildare County Council DemoHouse, Maynooth), W23 D8F1

Deep Time Walk with Rachel Sweeney

Fri 19 Sep 2025 18:30 - 20:00 Starting from main gate of Maynooth Train Station

Come and join artist and ecologist Rachel Sweeney for a DEEP TIME WALK through Maynooth's waterways, woodlands and walking routes. The Deep Time Walk is a participatory and fun citizen science approach to exploring earth science. Our planet is over 4.6 billion years old and humans, or homo sapiens, have only been around for less than 200,000 years.

Together we will time travel back through Maynooth's geological, astrological and biological timelines, reflecting on how our own carbon footprint is reshaping our bioregion and beyond.

Meet at Maynooth train station main entrance. This is a circular walk that follows the Royal Canal Greenway trail.

Suitable for all ages and abilities. Pathway has wheelchair access.

Sourced: www.kildareartsservice.ie. Background photo: Newsletter Staff: Martina





The Sword in the Stone



Rehearsals have now kicked off for the Christmas Panto 2025,

'The Sword in the Stone'

a brand new panto written by long term member, Rían Glynn.

Tickets are on sale from the 1st of September and are available online at annuadhaplayers.ie and in Maynooth Bookshop. This promises to be an excellent trip out for the whole family, so make sure to book early to avoid disappointment.

Play and Panto Submissions

We are delighted to announce that we are now accepting submissions for our Summer Production 2026 & Christmas Pantomime 2026!

If you have written a full length or one act play, a pantomime, or have a play/pantomime script that you would like to put forward for consideration for 2026, we want to hear from you!

Please see all important information and complete the relevant forms on our website at annuadhaplayers.ie.

Deadline for applications is 31st October 2025

Karaoke Night!

Join us for a fun-filled **Karaoke Night** from 7.45pm 26th September upstairs in Brady's Clockhouse.

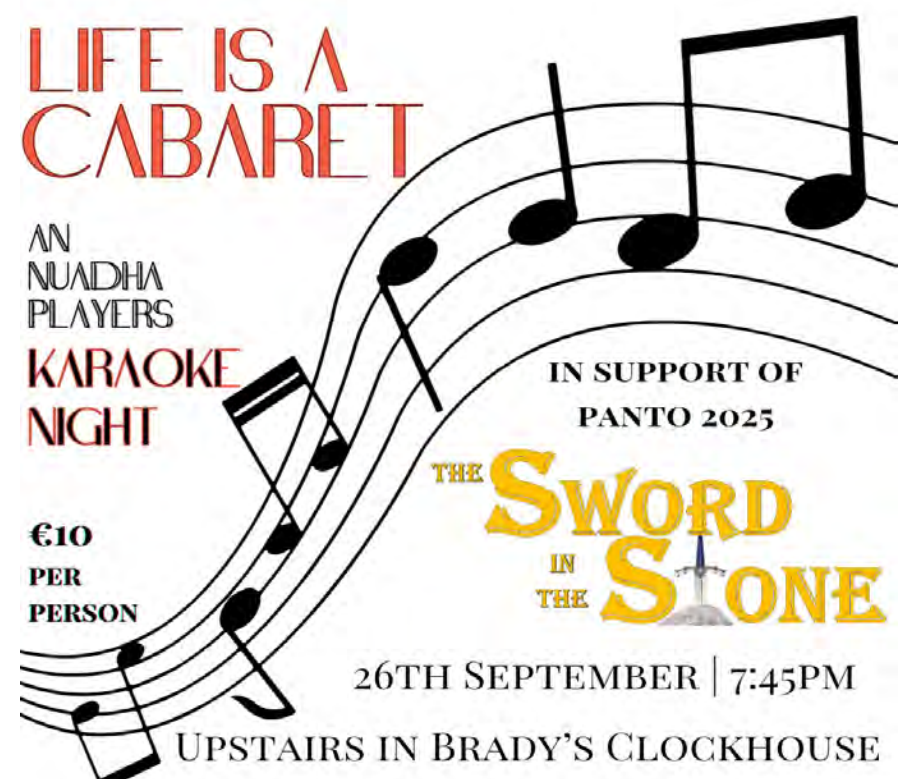
Whether you're a seasoned singer or just in it for the laughs, come enjoy music, games, and great company.

€10 entry in support of our upcoming production

'The Sword in the Stone'.

Bring your friends, your voice, and your best moves!

Hope to see you there!



Howth Cliff Cruise - A Wonderful Experience!

From the moment I stepped on board the Howth Cliff Cruise, I knew it was going to be a lovely trip. I was warmly greeted by two polite young men, which made for a great start. Their welcoming attitude really set the tone for the rest of the trip. The weather was a little overcast but warm, with calm seas that made for a smooth sailing. There was a real buzz of excitement from the children on board, as we pulled away from the harbour and took in the beautiful views along the cliffs. The cruise itself was both peaceful and scenic, with breathtaking coastal views and plenty of fresh air. Howth cliffs is home to many bird species like Puffins, Razorbills, and Kittiwakes, I am sure a haven for bird watchers. The water route shows the iconic Howth Cliff Walk, revealing hidden caves and dramatic rock formations. The trip offers great views of the Bailey Lighthouse, at the edge of a cliff that still guides ships into Dublin Bay since 1814. You will see the beautiful Ireland's Eye along the way. But the highlight, without a doubt, came at the end – spotting seals! The majestic creatures came to the surface to say hello, and what a beautiful sight it was seeing them play in the water so gracefully. This made the whole experience unforgettable, seeing such beautiful sea life in their natural habitat.



The leisurely cruise lasted approximately 50 minutes, just enough time to take in all the coastline has to offer, at a cost of €25.00. I would highly recommend Howth Cliff Cruise to anyone visiting the area; it is a wonderful way to spend an afternoon. Howth Cliff Cruise is much more than a boat ride; it is a front-row seat to Ireland's coastal beauty.

Newsletter Staff Writer: Jackie



booking@dublinbaycruises.com

Historical Booklets Available in Maynooth Bookshop

Kildare's Titanic

This booklet explores the tragic story of the RMS Titanic, focusing not only on her construction, career, and sinking but also highlighting her deep connections to Ireland, particularly County Kildare. While Titanic was built in Belfast by Harland and Wolff, the ship's story is intertwined with many parts of Ireland.

Whether you're interested in the story for its technical feats, its human drama, or its place in our shared cultural memory the booklet pays special attention to individuals from Kildare who were connected to

the ship, whether as passengers, workers, or mourners left behind.

"While County Kildare's direct connection to the Titanic is more subtle, some crew members and passengers had links to the region. The booklet explores local stories of Kildare communities and individuals who may have been affected by or connected to the tragedy, including emigrants and their families" - **Alan Cleary, Author.**

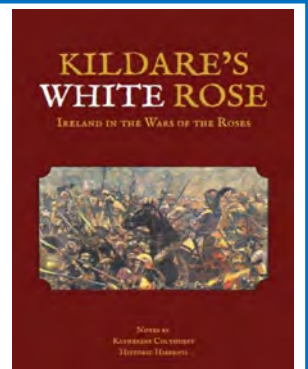
KILDARE'S TITANIC



Kildare's White Rose

This booklet explores the influential role of the FitzGerald of Kildare, one of the most powerful Anglo-Irish noble families, during the Wars of the Roses (1455-1487), a dynastic conflict between the Houses of York and Lancaster for control of the English throne.

As the Earls of Kildare, ruling from Maynooth Castle, the FitzGerald held significant political and military power in Ireland, and their allegiance was crucial to the English Crown's efforts to maintain authority over its Irish territories. "The booklet highlights the family's resilience and ability to survive the transition of power. By the early 16th century, the FitzGerald had re-established themselves as indispensable to English rule in Ireland, with the 8th Earl famously declaring he could "rule all of Ireland" due to his power and influence." - **Katherine Colthurst, Author.**



Both Booklets are available to buy -
Maynooth Bookshop, Main Street Maynooth, Co. Kildare
Instagram - [historic_hibernia](#) (Revolut and PayPal accepted)





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Learn Fire Safety At Home/Work

Inspect

Fire extinguishers and smoke alarms are crucial in fire prevention. Both should be present in work and home. It is really important to get all fire safety equipment checked regularly.



Familiarise

Become familiar with the sound and where about's of your fire alarm.



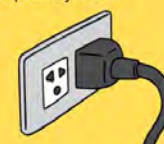
Drill

Adults and children should know the location of fire escapes and fire assembly points. Regular fire drills is crucial.



Switch

Switch off and unplug cooking appliances, electric heaters, and chargers when not in use. And when using candles keep away from curtains and flammables.



Contacts

Know who to call in an emergency i.e. fire brigade, police and ambulance and next of kin.



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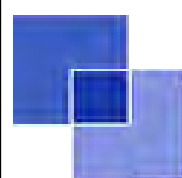
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MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN

Lyreen Pedestrian Bridge

It has been a long time coming - funding was provided for it a number of years ago - but Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the new pedestrian bridge over the Lyreen River. It will greatly improve pedestrian and cycling facilities on Mill Street in the heart of Maynooth.

Road Safety

As far as cyclists are concerned, road safety has not gone away. The number of fatalities continues to rise. This is against a backdrop where the Department of Transport has announced the abandonment of a 30kph default speed limit for urban areas. Instead of a default speed limit, local authorities may implement 30km/h limits in urban areas where local authorities choose to adopt them.

Year	2022 (12 Months)	2023 (12 Months)	2024 (12 Months)	2025 To Date (8 Months)
No of Cyclist Fatalities	7	8	11	10

Substantial Number of Gardai Have No Interest in their Jobs.

Dr. Elaine Byrne, the chairperson of the Policing and Community Safety Authority has described as "shocking" a report which shows that a substantial number of gardaí assigned to Roads Policing are not doing their jobs, have no interest in doing them and don't appear to care who knows. While there are some people like this in every walk of life, it is shocking that a substantial number of gardai fall into this category. One of the core functions of An Garda Síochána is protection of the general public so it is doubly shocking that this includes roads policing where fatalities are increasing. In the past, various cycling campaign groups have highlighted the indifference of some gardai. While we accept that there are many more serious crimes, the lack of enforcement of legislation regarding the parking of vehicles on footpaths or the parking on cycle lanes has been abysmal.

Provision of Cycle Lane Work near Moone

The conversion of a hard shoulder on the R448 to a segregated cycle route has upset farmers and residents who live in the Moone area. The farmers are concerned that the narrowness of the road lanes are not wide enough for combine harvesters. Some of the residents argue that the section of cycle lane will be from nowhere to nowhere. The works have been described as a pilot with funding provided by the NTA. Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes innovation by Kildare County Council as much of the cycling infrastructure provided in recent years has not been in line with best international practice so we are somewhat sceptical about the quality of innovation. The idea of converting hard shoulders to cycle lanes is not new. In 2012-13, the government provided funding to designate as "quietways" the conversion of hard shoulders on a number of regional and former national roads. However the works were essentially limited to the addition of road markings so did little to enable increased cycling.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is an independent local lobby group for better cycling facilities in Maynooth and Kildare generally.

If you would like to support our efforts, why not join us - you can find details here :

<https://maynoothcyclingcampaign.com/join-us-2/> or email maynoothcycling@gmail.com

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The Bad Old Woman in Black

A horror tale by Lord Dunsany

from Tales of Wonder, in the public domain, found at Gutenberg.org

The bad old woman in black ran down the street of the ox-butchers. Windows at once were opened high up in those crazy gables; heads were thrust out: it was she. Then there arose the counsel of anxious voices, calling sideways from window to window or across to opposite houses. Why was she there with her sequins and bugles and old black gown? Why had she left her dreaded house? On what fell errand she hasted?

They watched her lean, lithe figure, and the wind in that old black dress, and soon she was gone from the cobbled street and under the town's high gateway. She turned at once to her right and was hid from the view of the houses. Then they all ran down to their doors, and small groups formed on the pavement; there they took counsel together, the eldest speaking first. Of what they had seen they said nothing, for there was no doubt it was she; it was of the future they spoke, and the future only.

In what notorious thing would her errand end? What gains had tempted her out from her fearful home? What brilliant but sinful scheme had her genius planned? Above all, what future evil did this portend? Thus at first it was only questions. And then the old grey-beards spoke, each one to a little group; they had seen her out before, had known her when she was younger, and had noted the evil things that had followed her goings: the small groups listened well to their low and earnest voices. No one asked questions now or guessed at her infamous errand, but listened only to the wise old men who knew the things that had been, and who told the younger men of the dooms that had come before.

Nobody knew how many times she had left her dreaded house; but the oldest recounted all the times that they knew, and the way she had gone each time, and the doom that had followed her going; and two could remember the earthquake that there was in the street of the shearers.

So were there many tales of the times that were, told on the pavement near the old green doors by the edge of the cobbled street, and the experience that the aged men had bought with their white hairs might be had cheap by the young. But from all their experience only this was clear, that never twice in their lives had she done the same infamous thing, and that the same calamity twice had never followed her goings. Therefore it seemed that means were doubtful and few for finding out what thing was about to befall; and an ominous feeling of gloom came down on the street of the ox-butchers. And in the gloom grew fears of the very worst. This comfort they only had when they put their fear into words—that the doom that followed her goings had never yet been anticipated. One feared that with magic she meant to move the moon; and he would have dammed the high tide on the neighbouring coast, knowing that as the moon attracted the sea the sea must attract the moon, and hoping by his device to humble her spells. Another would have fetched iron bars and clamped them across the street, remembering the earthquake there was in the street of the shearers. Another would have honoured his household gods, the little cat-faced idols seated above his hearth, gods to whom magic was no unusual thing, and, having paid their fees and honoured them well, would have put the whole case before them. His scheme found favour with many, and yet at last was rejected, for others ran indoors and brought out their gods, too, to be honoured, till there was a herd of gods all seated there on the pavement; yet would they have honoured them and put their case before them but that a fat man ran up last of all, carefully holding under a reverent arm his own two hound-faced gods, though he knew well - as, indeed, all men must - that they were notoriously at war with the little cat-faced idols. And although the animosities natural to faith had all been lulled by the

crisis, yet a look of anger had come into the cat-like faces that no one dared disregard, and all perceived that if they stayed a moment longer there would be flaming around them the jealousy of the gods; so each man hastily took his idols home, leaving the fat man insisting that his hound-faced gods should be honoured. Then there were schemes again and voices raised in debate, and many new dangers feared and new plans made. But in the end they made no defence against danger, for they knew not what it would be, but wrote upon parchment as a warning, and in order that all might know: "The bad old woman in black ran down the street of the ox-butchers."



Image courtesy of Maynooth University Special Collections
Virtual Halloween Experience 2024 | Maynooth University

White Violets, Duleek

By Patrick Devaney

There is so much to show that Time will win:
A half-ruined abbey, broken mausoleums,
Monastic crosses sprayed with silver paint,
And headstones with eroded coats of arms.

The lime tree planted for a foreign king
Still stands imposingly upon the green,
Though trunk and branches show decrepitude
And there's a hollow where its mate had been,

An ash that symbolised the young king's wife,
Whose father he defeated at the Boyne.
But almost ninety years before that time
A wife had crosses carved for one less known.

These wayside crosses have not been defaced
Beyond the powers of our deciphering;
One stands upon the village marketplace
And shows a heart encircled by a ring.

That heart reminds us that a lady loved
Her husband when a virgin held the throne;
Their castle's now a half-demolished ruin,
Toward which another wayside cross looks down.

But crosses can't forever withstand Time
So nature has supplied what no stone could,
And by the castle lane white violets
Appear each spring where these two lovers trod



Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

REVIEW: Patrick Devaney's novel *The Grey Knight: A Story of Love in Troubled Times*

Review by Michael Farry

"Major" Coote has recently moved his somewhat reluctant family from their comfortable London home to a run-down Irish demesne in pursuit of his grandiose farming dreams. His neighbours, the O'Connors, are struggling with the problems of raising a large, strong-willed brood. Relations between the two families become strained when the O'Connors acquire the Grey Knight, a Jack B. Yeats painting which Major Coote believes to have been stolen from his mansion. Then seventeen-year-old Hugh O'Connor meets Hazel, the Major's beautiful fifteen-year-old daughter, and trouble mounts, with unforeseen tragic consequences. Set in Connacht in 1981, a time of rising tensions and sporadic violence brought about by the Northern Ireland hunger strikes, this novel delineates the fragility and wonder of first love.

The Grey Knight by Patrick Devaney has the author's trademark attention to detail. In his descriptions of the countryside and its seasonal changes, of the Irish countryside and its settlements, inhabitants and buildings, he builds up a solid believable framework in which his characters interact. His stage is set in and around the town of Killeden, somewhere in Connacht, within driving distance of Sligo town, and close to the Northern Irish border.

The time is 1987 and the northern troubles loom large in the background. A local IRA member is on hunger strike. Tension is rising and the effects of the struggle are beginning to spill south over the border. There are no mobile phones or Internet but there are drugs, poteen, guns and ballad sessions.

It is not a good time to have come from London, buy a run-down 'big house,' and try to make a go of farming the land. Neither is it a good time to be raising a large family on a small farm.

A fictional Jack B. Yeats painting of a horse (or a copy of the painting), The Grey Knight, looms large in the story and becomes almost a symbol both of the differences and the connections between the families. Horses and the hunt are also key in the novel and the scene where Hugh dons a motley hunting costume - one character calls him "The Wild Man of Borneo" - and tries to impress Hazel by taking part in the hunt on Nimble Jack being a key scene.

Poetry, including that of the other Yeats, also plays an important part in the story. Hugh, the Romeo character, writes poetry and has a poem published in the local newspaper.

Devaney manages an array of characters, most of whom belong to either the Coote or the O'Connor family, with great skill. Each character is skilfully delineated but no one is a cypher. Within each, in spite of the ignorance and prejudice frequently displayed, we know there is the possibility of change.

The plot moves along at a good pace with interactions between the members of both families driving the story forward in a believable way. The style is that of a traditional narrative with an all-seeing narrator. This is very well managed with frequent cuts from one viewpoint to another, which adds to the suspense and enjoyment. The tangled web of relationships in a small community, into which the recently arrived Cootes are drawn, is expertly controlled.

It is a Romeo and Juliet story to some extent, but these young lovers find it more difficult to get together than did the pair in Verona. In the end when it seems that young love will conquer... but I won't give away the great and unexpected ending.

Novelist Patrick Devaney is a former teacher at Maynooth Post Primary, now living in Virginia, Cavan.

Michael Farry is an author, historian and poet, a native of County Sligo. He is a retired primary teacher living in County Meath.

The Pig War

A confrontation over a pig dates back to 1846 when the Oregon Treaty was signed between the United States and Great Britain. It was hoped that this treaty would solve a dispute over land between the Rocky Mountains and the Pacific coastline. It stated that the border between these two countries should be drawn along the forty-ninth parallel, an agreement, which remains to this day. It said that the border should run through the middle of the channel separating the continent from Vancouver Island but, due to poor mapping, it was not realized that there were in fact two channels; Haro Strait was nearest to Vancouver Island, which the United States claimed, whereas Rosario Strait, which Britain claimed, was nearer to the mainland. However an archipelago, known as the San Juan Islands, lay between the Straits, the fifty-five square mile San Juan Island, being the largest and having the most strategic position as it was at the mouth of the channel. Both countries claimed San Juan Island and settled their own citizens there. The British had the largest population, bolstered in 1845, by the arrival of the Hudson's Bay Company, a British fur trading corporation. They set up a salmon-curing station along the island's western shoreline. In 1851, Washington Territory claimed the islands as the United States' possession, so in 1853 the Hudson's Bay Company established a sheep ranch on the island's southern shore, which took advantage of San Juan's rich soil. Originally there were only around twenty to thirty United States citizens and the two communities got on fairly well, but by 1859 this had changed, as many Americans claimed their right to live on the island from the Donation Land Claim Act. The British considered the new arrivals illegal.

On June 15th 1859 the crisis came to a head when Lyman Cutlar, an American farmer and former miner, shot a pig, which was rooting in his garden for potatoes. The pig belonged to Irishman Charles Griffin who was employed by Hudson's Bay Company to run the sheep ranch. He owned a few pigs and was well known for letting them run freely. Cutlar offered to pay Griffin \$10, but he wanted \$100 and told Cutlar that it was his job to keep Cutlar's potatoes out of Griffin's pig's mouth. Griffin reported American Cutlar to the local British authorities, which threatened to arrest him. This angered the resident American citizens who drew up a petition requesting United States military protection.

Meanwhile, Captain George Pickett and sixty-six American soldiers of the Ninth Infantry Regiment were sent to San Juan Island to prevent any more British from landing. Afraid that a squatter American population would take over the island, the British sent three warships under the command of

Captain Geoffrey Hornby. Pickett refused to withdraw and Hornby wisely decided to take no action until Rear Admiral Robert Lambert Baynes, commander of the British naval forces in the Pacific, arrived. His ship, the Ganges, had eighty-four guns. Baynes stated that he would 'not involve two great nations in a war over a squabble about a pig'.

By August 10th 1859, 461 men together with fourteen cannons under Lieutenant Colonel Silas Casey, reinforced Pickett's troops. The Americans dug in while the British held drills, firing their cannons at San Juan Island's cliffs. Tourists arriving by excursion boats from Victoria on Vancouver Island enjoyed watching all the naval action, while officers from both sides would attend church services aboard Captain Hornby's ship, the 'Satellite'. When news of the crisis finally reached Washington, officials from both nations were unaware of this bizarre situation and were shocked that it could grow into a potentially explosive international incident. American President James Buchanan sent General Winfield Scott, United States Army Commander, to the islands. The journey took him six weeks as he had to travel from New York via the Isthmus of Panama. He arranged for each nation to withdraw their reinforcements, with a single company of American soldiers left on San Juan Island and a British warship to be anchored off shore. This joint military occupation was to remain until a settlement was reached. In hindsight, some wondered if this 'war' had acted as a distraction from the approaching Civil War.

The two opposing sides got on well, even joining together in sports activities. As the American Civil War began on April 12th 1861, the United States postponed all San Juan talks. In 1871 the question was referred to Kaiser Wilhelm I of Germany. Internationally admired as he unified Germany, he was entrusted with the arbitration. On October 21st 1872 he ruled in favour of the United States establishing the boundary line through Haro Strait. As a result, the San Juan Islands became American possessions and the final boundary between what, in 1867, was to become the Canadian Confederation and the United States was fixed.

In 1966 San Juan Island National Historical Park was created and includes the sites used by the British and United States Army as camps during the Pig War, where the only casualty was a pig! The Union Jack still flies over the British site, making it one of the few places without diplomatic status where United States government employees regularly hoist the flag of another country. The Park illustrates that individuals and nations can solve their problems without resorting to violence.

By Cheryl Devaney



Writers’ Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

WHAT CAN WE DO

In my Jeremiad last month I mentioned how prone we can be to throwing stones at those we deem not to be performing at their best. And indeed that is something to be avoided. But it's not that easy. When we see how things might be improved are we not somewhat obliged to suggest how this might be done? Isn't that a service that we shouldn't renege upon? We are adults and we have responsibilities. Aren't we all in shock at the Trump's reluctance to rein in Netanyahu and help the Ukrainians somewhat more? But then we very often have our own blind spots.

So instead of hurdling a few boulders this way and that, I may be allowed to flick a few pebbles in certain directions. For instance if I were a school principal and I wanted to get the staff and students genned up on the ugliness of litter around the school, I'd get someone from a town or village that had won the Tidy Towns competition to speak to the staff and the students assembled together. Or if my school were not being adequately represented at university level and I was concerned about this, I might get a university professor or enthusiastic lecturer to speak to the sixth years let's say. I'd put my money on someone who has a track record in the area of my concern. And I'd be very disappointed if the selected person arrived and gave a lethargic account of his/her commitment to the issue at hand.

Now I am not principal of a school but I do have strong ideas as to what topics deserve the greatest emphasis in the lives of people. Nothing is more important in people's lives than their spiritual formation. Death is a certainty. The body will crumble into its constituent elements, namely, carbon, hydrogen, oxygen and nitrogen but that's when life really begins. We are, after all, essentially spiritual beings, created in the likeness of God. Our priests are supposed to be the experts in matters pertaining to the life of the spirit. So I would expect them to keep me on the edge of my seat when they talk to my group about God and the spiritual life. Now if I am somewhat disappointed when a Tidy Towns person speaks about litter and with a university don falls flat when promoting university life, what would you expect my reaction to be to a priest who, after a homily, leaves me wondering "what was that about"? Shouldn't every word he speaks come from his own daily spiritual life? What right has he to be there telling me about something he hasn't himself lived and experienced? Jesus told his disciples not to worry about what they would say when dragged before nonbelievers. God would tell them what to say. Does he not tell his priests what to say when they have a church full of people who would love to hear God's word presented as such?

GM

Limerick

Bíonn an scéal i mbun bréige gan staon,
Mar an chábóg úd tugtha don léann;
Ach an scéal díobh is fearr,
Cibé fada nó gearr,
Tá “An Chruinne a chuir tús léi féin”!

GM

Conal Visits an Irish Immigrant

It was a sunny April's day with a touch of coldness. Across the drowsy Saturday afternoon street, in that part of west Manhattan formerly known as 'Hell's Kitchen', shadows from the 3-storied brownstone houses fell past the central traffic line, accentuating the stark brightness of similar houses on the opposite side. Large, slightly old, two-tone cars dozed by sidewalks or woke into life to go purring away with African-American families. An African-American fellow, hands in pockets and comfortably untidy, drifted along whistling the Elvis Presley hit song Wooden Heart, while a woman who was probably his wife, nuzzled the head of a baby in her arms as she followed him

Conal noted these things, but he was reluctant to allow himself to be affected either positively or negatively. There were too many people, too much drabness, too much strangeness beneath the surface. When a group of Puerto Rican youths stood watching him from the middle of a stoop he scarcely gave them a glance. The red-haired girl with tight slacks entering a car seemed to him the most alive thing in that drab expanse of street, but that was probably because she was Caucasian. When a sanitation truck arrived and men started emptying trashcans noisily, he climbed the stone steps to a house where Tom Mulvey lived.

After searching unsuccessfully for a bell button, he pushed the door and it yielded, admitting him to another, identical door about two feet further on with scratched paint and glass panels. The sunlight was bright here and when he peered through the glass he could see on one side a steep flight of wooden stairs that rose to a partly concealed landing. Nobody answered his knocking, though he felt there must have been people who heard it, people who waited in bored resignation for human companionship.

Conal stopped trying to open the door and decided to wait until some resident emerged. Lounging against the nearest wall, he picked up The Village Voice, a newspaper someone had dropped. It was dated April 5th 1961, so since this was April 8th it was almost new. He began reading while the sun streamed into his sheltered position. A few passersby looked up at the respectably dressed fellow loitering like a messenger boy, then continued on their way. He shouted, 'Anybody hear me?' then, receiving no reply, opened the street door and raced lightly down the steps. Turning sharply round the stoop, he found a side door leading to the basement and pressed the button. At first he heard nothing, but a slight lessening in the hum of traffic revealed a faint buzzing. When there was still no response, he gave up and mounted the outside steps again.

After about ten minutes a small man with a pockmarked face, dressed in shirt and trousers, approached from within, inquired in an Irish accent what he wanted and, on being told, went to check with Tom Mulvey, leaving the door ajar. Conal entered just in time to overhear a muffled voice saying, 'It's probably

that Scott lad' and, nodding in the affirmative to his guide, stepped past him into the grubby bedroom.

A hollow, unshaven face with a growth of stringy, grey head hair lay on the crumbled raggedness of the bed like a turnip on a hessian sack. Beside the bed a number of empty beer cans were sitting on the floor. The room had a dingy, unpleasant atmosphere that gave a grotesque quality to the invading sunlight and Conal felt a like transformation in himself as he crossed the creaking floor to grasp the bony hand offered to him.

'Hello Tom.'

'Hello. It's young Scott, isn't it?'

'Yep. Conal Scott. How are you doing Tom?'

'Oh, I'm doing as good as ever. Just resting for a while, but I'm the same as the last time you came.'

'Well, you look as good anyway.'

And so the conversation veered into a safe channel that denied the suggestion of anything unusual in their meeting. Conal met the pale, flickering eyes steadily, endeavouring to kindle a response in their vacant core and, whenever the reality of that room's wretchedness struck him, he managed to transfer his dismay into some casual observation.

Whatever physical decline had brought to Tom, it had also brought the final mercy of self-indifference, so that no shame marked his consciousness. He spoke with a wisdom that might have been gained over a thousand years instead of during a brief morning of existence followed by a blighted noonday and evening. Conal spoke to him gently, leading his recollections back to the years before he left Ireland.

'Why did you leave?' he asked him.

'Why did I leave? I suppose it was the usual thing. My brother, who was a few years older than me, got the farm and since I had only the national school education, the best I could manage was a job in my uncle Jim's grocery. But the man who was in charge there, a real cute operator, got me sacked for drinking. Not that I ever drank on the job, but I would have a few Guinness's in the room where I slept, and he was able to show the empty bottles to my uncle. That was the clincher. Well, I've said enough. He owns the shop now and good luck to him and his family.

Conal had enough gumption not to press him further on his sacking. Instead they spoke of Ireland and the names of towns and villages: Ballaghaderreen, Collooney, Athlone, Sligo, Ballina, Galway, Droimeen, Enagh, Woodbrook, passed through the beer-stained mouth like a litany: and always at the end it would be his home town of Carrick-on-Shannon, a name with the power to give memories of childhood a fleeting reality among the uncaring west-side houses with their thousands of separate souls preoccupied with their own cares and their own memories.

Colin Scott



MAYNOOTH WRITER AND MUSICIAN

PETE MCCLUSKEY

PUBLISHES A NEW BOOK WITH

ALL PROCEEDS GOING TO CHARITY

Pete has just published his latest novel, Long Story Short. It's a Humorous look at life through the eyes of two good friends who meet daily in their local bar to discuss, chat, and moan about whatever comes into their heads.

"The book is a collection of mini-stories rather than a continuous, one-story novel," says Pete. "The two main characters get to banter about the government, their yoga class, meeting famous people, or their teenage kids costing them a fortune for Electric Picnic tickets and new mobile phones."

"To be honest, many of the stories were inspired by overhearing people chatting in my local bars, coffee shops, and even Tesco. It's absolutely amazing — and so funny — when you hear these snippets of conversation. I found myself immediately jotting them down on my phone as I stood in the queue in the supermarket or the local chipper. Before I knew it, I had pages and pages of funny anecdotes and ideas to turn into a fiction book. It's true what they say — people say the funniest things."

Once again, Pete has decided to donate all proceeds from the sale of the book to Saint Francis Hospice in Dublin — an organisation Pete is extremely grateful to, as in recent years they provided end-of-life care with great kindness to both his father and his sister.

"I've opened up a GoFundMe page and would be delighted if people would donate something small to this event. In return, I'll send them a signed copy of the book. I'm not expecting anyone to donate huge sums — just maybe the price of a fancy cup of coffee or a beer would be great."

The GoFundMe address is: www.gofundme.com/f/long-story-short-for-saint-francis-hospice

A Piece from "Long Story Short"

We Are Livin' In A Material World

-Air fryers, Des. What's your thinkin?
 -It's a gimmick, Martin.
 -Ya think?
 -No doubt. I mean it's just like a miniature oven or grill, isn't it?
 -I don't know. Don't know what they do. Her indoors is bangin on about getting one.
 -They're expensive, Martin.
 -I know. She's talkin' about buying a double basket one for €300.
 -€300! Holy Mother of God!
 -I know. I've better things to be spendin' me hard earned money on then an air fryer. Godfrey - a pint of porter when you're ready.

The GoFundMe address is:
www.gofundme.com/f/long-story-short-for-saint-francis-hospice

BOOK LAUNCH

IRELAND'S UNCROWNED KINGS

A STORY OF POWER, INTRIGUE, AND REBELLION FROM THE HEART OF MAYNOOTH

From the Norman invasion to the heights of becoming Dukes of Leinster, the FitzGerald dynasty's story is one of power, intrigue, and betrayal. Ireland's Uncrowned Kings traces the remarkable rise, dramatic falls, and enduring legacy of one of Ireland's most influential families, whose fate was deeply tied to the land and people of County Kildare.

Authors Alan Cleary and Katherine Colthurst – local historians and expert tour guides – bring to life the FitzGerald pivotal role in Irish history.

Explore their Yorkist loyalties during the Wars of the Roses, their near downfall after the Silken Thomas Rebellion of 1534, and the devastation of Maynooth Castle during the Confederate Wars. Through meticulous research and vivid storytelling, this book reveals how the FitzGerald's navigated centuries of political upheaval, shifting alliances, and personal ambition to secure their place as Ireland's uncrowned royalty.

Set against the backdrop of Maynooth and the rolling landscapes of Kildare, Ireland's Uncrowned Kings is a gripping tale of a family who shaped the course of Irish history. It's a story of resilience, betrayal, and the enduring connection between a dynasty and the land they called home.

Perfect for history lovers and anyone fascinated with the rich tapestry of Ireland's past, this book is a must-read for understanding the forces that shaped a nation.



Maynooth Bookshop
Main Street,
Maynooth, Co. Kildare.



September 18th 2025



6:30pm–7:30pm



VIKING SPLASH TOURS



The Viking Splash With My Nephew

I had the pleasure of taking my 10 year old nephew Logan on the Viking Splash, and it turned out to be so much fun.

From the moment we climbed on board the bright yellow vehicle, his excitement was contagious. My nephew hung on to every word the guide said, grinning from ear to ear as we learned some quirky facts about the city, while shouting playful Viking calls at passers-by. The highlight was when we entered the water. My nephew's eyes widened with excitement as he shouted "here we go!" when the boat made a splash into the water. By the time we rolled back on land we were full of giddy excitement. For him it was magic, he still talks about the trip and how much fun it was. It was a shared adventure full of laughs and surprises and I couldn't have picked a better companion to experience it with.

I highly recommend.

NEWSLETTER STAFF WRITER: JACKIE

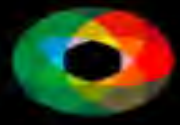
DON'T FEAR THE TIDES,
CONQUER THEM LIKE YOU'RE A
VIKING WITH THE VIKING SPLASH



ADULTS, €35 ; CHILDREN (3-14 YEARS), €29 ;
FAMILY (2 ADULTS & 2 CHILDREN). FAMILY (2
ADULTS & 3 CHILDREN). €110. €135 ; STUDENTS
(STUDENT ID REQUIRED). €32 ; SENIOR ...

info@vikingsplashdublin.

DURATION:
1 HOUR AND 15 MINUTES



CULTURE NIGHT

ONE NIGHT FOR ALL



• 19 SEPT 2025 • 19 SEPT 2025 • 19 SEPT 2025 • 19 SEPT 2025 • 19 SEPT 2025 • 19 SEPT 2025 • 19 SEPT 2025 •

We are spoiled for choice on Culture Night which falls on September 19th this year.


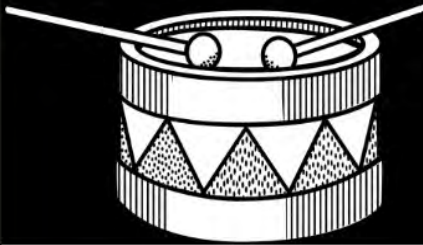


In Maynooth, from 4pm to 5:30, Rachel Sweeney will be at Maynooth Train Station presenting a workshop incorporating ecology and holistic health for those who might like to attune to their environment and get out of their heads. There will be a guided walk, embodied movement along the canal and also in the playing fields. Contact rachelsweeney2021@gmail.com for booking & information.





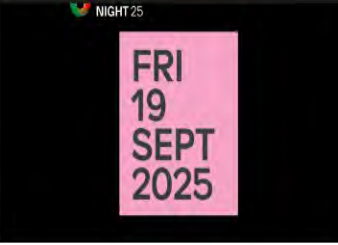
From 5:30 to 7pm, Dr. Edmund Chapman celebrates migrant voices—speakers of African descent, Jewish and traveller voices, along with those of Brazilian and Indian heritage will be included. Venue to be finalised at time of writing and Dr. Chapman can be reached at Edmund.Chapman@mu.ie.

St. Mary's Church of Ireland will be filled with music commencing at 6pm, stay as long as you like, or pop in and out to hear a variety of performers including Maynooth's Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann, the Beauty and the Bass duo, Conrad Brunstrom Musings, and singer-songwriters Conner Bowman, and Harriet.

Mór Laughs Comedy will present a night at O'Neills showcasing Kildare comedy voices—the line-up promises to be diverse and may even include a name or two you would recognise.

CDG Arts presents a diverse mix of live music, dance, poetry, and an exhibition of fashion Junk Kouture on Enfield's main street. Music presented will include young bands from the Blast Music Academy and Enfield Community College. Adult Music performers include the new SUSO Enfield Community Choir, The Motherpluckers Ukuele group, and Enfield Comhaltas Ceoltóirí. A diverse Dance line-up will include young local dance and drama from GK stage Academy, Embrace Dance Academy present young ballerinas, Connolly school of Irish dancing, and a unique presentation from Nirthya Natyalya Bharatanatyam of fusion Irish-Indian dance. Enfield Poetry Circle showcase their 1st year of poems. Live music and dance performance at Enfield Library Courtyard, A83X920 from 6.30 -10pm, Poetry Shebeen 10-10.30pm & Comhaltas Irish traditional music at The Midland Bar, A83AF86 10 - 11.30pm. There will also be the ECC Junk Couture Exhibition at Lady M Boutique A83AV60. These and more events can be found at culturenight.ie, where you can easily search for your town or village.

 <p>Damai Sound Reggae Rock</p> <p>Damai Sound was born from a deep love for collecting, playing, and producing roots reggae and dub music. The J...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Damai Soundsystem, Maynooth Kildare Maynooth 16:00 - 20:00 	 <p>Drumming and Rhythm Workshop for Families</p> <p>On Culture Night come to Maynooth Library for an exciting drumming and rhythm workshop for children and fami...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maynooth Community Library Maynooth Kildare 16:00 - 17:00 	 <p>Friday Coffee Drama! Immersive Theatre Trail</p> <p>Are you always trying to listen in and catch those dramatic details being discussed by the strangers opposite ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cruthú Creative Wellbeing, Main Street Maynooth Maynooth Kildare 16:30 - 17:30 	 <p>Ireland: Land of a Thousand Welcomes?</p> <p>Did you know St Patrick was a migrant to Ireland? For thousands of years, Ireland's history and culture has ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Edmund Chapman, Maynooth University, Iontas Building, Room 1.33 (first floor) Maynooth Kildare 17:30 - 19:00
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 <p>Mór Laughs presents: The Best of Kildare Comedy</p> <p>Mór Laughs Comedy, well known in Kildare, presents a night dedicated to the many male, female and non-binary ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mór Laughs, O'Neills Bar and Restaurant Maynooth Kildare 20:00 - 22:30 	 <p>Open Evening and Entertainment at St. Mary's</p> <p>The programme for the evening will commence at 6pm. There will be several performers including Conrad Brunst...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Mary's Church of Ireland Maynooth Kildare 18:00 - 21:30 	 <p>Shifting States: A Moving Ecologies Workshop with Rachel Sweeney</p> <p>Rachel Sweeney's inclusive ecology and holistic health approach uses embodied movement, art and nature-based...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maynooth University, Maynooth Train Station Maynooth Kildare 16:00 - 17:30 	 <p>St Mary's Brass and Reed Academy Band Maynooth</p> <p>Join St. Mary's Brass and Reed Academy Band for an enjoyable evening of the music you love. The Academy ...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St Mary's Brass and Reed Academy Band Maynooth, The Square, Maynooth Maynooth Kildare 20:00 - 21:00 	 <p>Visit the National Science and Ecclesiology Museum at St Patrick's College Maynooth</p> <p>There is first, the large group of scientific instruments mostly associated with Nicholas Callan of which a fu...</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> St. Patrick's College Maynooth Kildare 16:00 - 20:00
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For more information: https://culturenight.ie/events/?_sft_location=maynooth

Maynooth Heritage Trail

A project by Maynooth Tidy Towns with the support and funding from Kildare County Council



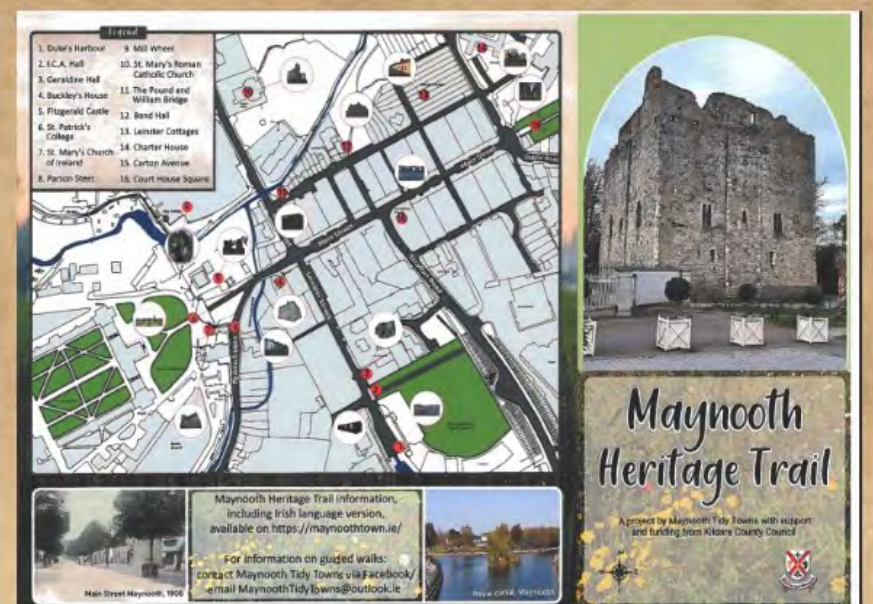
On Saturday the 23rd of August, my work colleague and I decided to do the Maynooth Heritage Walk, and it turned out to be an enjoyable experience. We both live in and around Maynooth, but walking through Maynooth with our guides we learned new things about Maynooth that we did not know, it was so educational, Maynooth is steeped in history. The walk guided us through a mix of old street, ruins, and landmarks, each with its own story. The trail started at Duke's Harbour, visiting the Church of Ireland and passing Maynooth Castle/College, where the sheer size of the medieval walls made us stop and imagine what life might have been like hundreds of years ago. From there, the route led us through the heart of the town and out towards the Court House and Carton Avenue, with plenty of little details along the way that we might have overlooked. What made it special was that the history seemed to come alive. Even simple places, like bridges, carried stories that gave us a new appreciation for Maynooth. We really enjoyed taking our time, pointing out interesting details to each other, and soaking in the mix of culture, history, and atmosphere. It was not just educational-it was fun and relaxing too. By the end, both of us had worked up an appetite and agreed that the heritage walk had given us a fresh take on Maynooth, making it feel less like just another town and more like a place layered with stories worth hearing and remembering. We can both highly recommend doing this heritage trail. You can contact them to arrange tours details are below.

Newsletter Staff Writers: Jackie & Martina



Maynooth Heritage Trail Information, including Irish language version, available on <https://maynoothtown.ie/>

For information on guided walks: contact Maynooth Tidy Towns via Facebook/email MaynoothTidyTowns@outlook.ie



Booklets are available at Maynooth Newsletter Office

ROYAL CANAL AMENITY GROUP NOTES - "DUKES ISLAND"

The Island shown below, located in Maynooth Harbour, was initially a spur of the moment decision during refurbishment of the canal. The island has been with us since approximately 1980. It has been home to countless swan families in this time, though sadly we are without such a family this year. It provides easy turning facilities for boats large and small and is a wild life sanctuary for flora and fauna. Currently it is becoming a bit overgrown but is not affecting boat traffic just yet. In the near future consideration will have to be given to a 'tidy up' to ensure clear vision for boaters. This, however, will have to be a delicate, well-planned operation carried out in a careful and considerate manner having regard to the safety of both wildlife and operational staff. Unless I am mistaken, the people of the Maynooth area can boast of having the only island on the entire canal.

ROYAL CANAL GREENWAY UPDATE

It is good to be able to report that the city section of the Greenway between Binn's Bridge and Cross Gun's Bridge is now complete and re-opened. While the work did take considerable time, it was well worth the wait. Completed also and re-opened is the section between Louisa Bridge and Deey Bridge. The section between Pikes Bridge and Deey Bridge is now re-opened too and has a second Greenway path for leisure cycling and scooters only.

This new path is alongside the thoroughfare formally known as the N-4 which has now been replaced by the M-4 Motorway. While this new path is fenced in and safe, parents of younger cycling children should be vigilant at all times. The two paths are clearly signposted and these instructions should always be followed to ensure the safety of all users. Also open to facilitate the late summer season is the section from Pikes Bridge, roughly halfway between Maynooth and Leixlip, to Mullen Bridge in Maynooth. Although some very minor works remain to be finished in this section, the path has been fully completed. The sections mentioned have been finished with different surfaces in different areas. Areas near towns, bridges and locks have been finished with Tarmacadam while areas further out the country have been finished with a product called Aggregate. This is a gravelly type of product, so it will always be both prudent and very necessary for leisure cyclists / scooterists to exercise great care in these areas.

The code of conduct for the Greenway has been revised, and copies have been posted in the refurbished areas and adjacent to 'Traffic Calming Facilities' in these areas. I will allude to this code at a later date. If we all endeavour to show respect and consideration, then users will be safe and therefore feel content to use this wonderful facility.

Finally, news has just arrived that a 46km Blueway walking and leisure cycling path on our sister canal -The Grand - from Robertstown to Athy will be complete by January-March 2026, having commenced in 2020. Waterways Ireland announced this in response to a query from Kildare North T.D. Aiden Farrelly. This will be a big boost for walkers and cyclists in the county.

Gerry Fitzpatrick



Maynooth Harbour



The two Greenway paths at Pikes bridge (photo Fitsfoto)

P. Lavin & Sons Ltd.

Ice Cream & Frozen Food Distributors

Distributors for
Nestle, Cadbury
and Froneri

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Co Kildare, W23 H2W8
01-628 6331 • 01-628 9188
info@lavins.ie

VAN SALES/DELIVERY DRIVER required for **P.LAVIN & SONS LTD.** based at Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

Are you an energetic, customer-focused individual looking for a new opportunity? We are looking for a Van Sales/Delivery Driver to join our team.

Key Responsibilities

- Deliver ice cream and frozen food to retailers and customers daily in Leinster area
- Maintain high standards of customer service at all drop-off points.
- Manage cash, order paperwork, and deal with customers in a professional manner.
- Build and develop positive relationships with customers.
- Ensure delivery vehicle is kept clean, tidy and in optimum condition.
- Maintain vehicle and complete daily and weekly vehicle checklists as required

Requirements:

- Full clean category C1 Licence and up to date CPC's.
- Good communication skills and a positive attitude.
- Reliability and punctuality.
- Previous experience in van sales or delivery industry is an advantage but full training will be given.

What we offer:

- Competitive salary and commission.
- On site parking

Please send your cv to info@lavins.ie

BACK-TO-SCHOOL

MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2025

SET UP FOR SUCCESS

It is important that yourself or your kids start each year with the necessary materials and mindset needed to be successful. This includes completing assigned activities, having a positive attitude, and participating in class.

TIPS FOR ORGANISATION

- Use a family calendar. This will help keep track of assignments, sports and events you may have going on in the month.
- Review schoolwork and homework together. This will encourage learning and confidence.

TIPS FOR A SMOOTH MORNING

- Plan outfits ahead if the school does not have a uniform. By doing this it saves time on them busy mornings.
- Pack lunches the night before.
- Label Everything. Prevents things from getting lost in the class room.

TIPS FOR BETTER SLEEP

- Establish a bedtime routine. We all need a goodnight sleep for those early mornings.
- Limit screen time before bed. Helps us and kids wind down for sleep.

SPOOK - TACULAR Halloween Fun

IN KILDARE!

Early booking is advised to avoid disappointment.



Spooky Season

With spooky season just around the corner, Kildare is gearing up for a Halloween like no other! Whether you're looking for family - friendly fun, chilling ghost tours, or an eerie adventure through haunted landscapes, there's something for everyone this October. Here's a roundup of 4 Halloween events happening in the county:

28th - 31st Oct

Halloween at the Irish National Stud & Gardens
Price - €12 Adults, €8 Children (Under 5s Free)

Get ready for a spook - tacular time at the Irish National Stud! Enjoy a range of activities including a haunted trail through the magical gardens, storytelling sessions with witches & wizards, and pumpkin carving workshops. Little ones can also meet some eerie creatures on the animal farm, while adults can take part in a special Halloween - themed garden tour.

Location - Irish National Stud, Tully, Kildare

Every Fri & Sat in Oct

Kildare Town Ghost Tour For Adults & Teens
Price - €15 Per Person

Embark on a spine - chilling ghost tour around the historic streets of Kildare Town. Led by a knowledgeable guide, explore the haunted spots, hear eerie tales of the town's past, and maybe even encounter some paranormal activity. A Great way to experience Halloween from a local perspective, and who knows, you might catch a glimpse of a ghost or two!

Location - Kildare Town



Oct 29th - 31st

Halloween Spooktacular at
Kilkea Castle
Price - €30 per family (up to 4 people)

Kilkea Castle hosts a family - friendly Halloween extravaganza! The event features a haunted castle tour, spooky crafts, and face painting, along with a thrilling "Trick or Treat" trail. Kids can also enjoy fancy dress competition with prizes for the scariest, funniest, and most creative costumes. The event ends with a fun, interactive Halloween show for all ages.

Location - Kilkea Castle, Castledermot, Kildare

22nd - 31st Oct

The Kildare Maze Halloween
Festival
Price - €12 Adults, €8 Children

This Halloween, venture into the spooky Kildare Maze, where eerie surprises await! The maze is specially transformed for the season, with creepy characters lurking in every corner. Enjoy a variety of Halloween - themed games, a pumpkin patch, and a haunted maze challenge. There's also a fire pit area to relax and enjoy seasonal treats like hot chocolate and marshmallows.

Location - Kildare Maze, Ballaghstown, Kildare

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Servicewhich provides a free and confidential

Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie

and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121



Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance

The Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance (BSCFA) is a payment to help families with the cost of school uniforms and shoes. Many families get the BSCFA automatically. If you are paid automatically, you don't need to apply for the BSCFA. You will get notified on your MyWelfare account or by post by 9 June 2025. If you are not notified by 9 June 2025, you will need to apply for the BSCFA.

Rates of BSCFA 2025

Child's age on 30 September	Rate of payment
Age 4-11	€160
Age 12-22	€285*

The closing date to apply for the Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance is 30 September 2025

You are getting a qualifying social welfare payment, or are participating in an approved employment, education or training support scheme. Your household is within the BSCFA income limits (see 'Income limits' below). You and each child you claim the BSCFA for are resident in Ireland.

If you are getting a social welfare payment, you must be getting a Child Support Payment (previously called an Increase for a Qualified Child or IQC) with your payment. There are some exceptions to this.

See a list of qualifying payments and schemes go to the website:

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/86a6ba-operational-guidelines-back-to-school-clothing-and-footwear-scheme/> or tel: (071) 919 3318 or 0818 111 113.

Thinking of Returning to Education

Adult Learners Returning to Education

You may have left school early, be unemployed, or want to reskill for a new job. No matter your reason for wanting to return to education, there are many options available to you and a range of supports.

You can return to education with a full-time course or a part-time course.

You don't need to have completed the Junior Cycle or Leaving Certificate to take part in many full-time courses or part-time courses.

There are adult literacy supports to help with reading, writing and maths.

There are opportunities to study for the Leaving Certificate or other certificates. There are also a wide range of courses linked to business and industry.

Many courses are provided by your local Education and Training Board. You may also qualify for a free course under the Back to Education Initiative (BTEI).

Evening Classes

Evening classes can offer you a social way to learn or to get a qualification.

Evening classes take place during term time in Education and Training Boards (ETBs), schools, colleges and universities throughout the country.

The courses on offer vary from centre to centre, so you should look around if you have interests you'd like to pursue.

Courses with an Entry Requirement

Some courses are only open to you if you have completed your second-level education (post-primary school). However, you should check the with the school or college, as some courses make exceptions for mature students and people returning to education.

Courses with an Entry Requirement can Include:

Post Leaving Certificate courses

College-based training courses for apprentices

Springboard+ courses

Full-time and part-time third-level courses.

Can I get a Qualification with Adult Education?

Yes, you can get a qualification with many adult education courses.

Getting a qualification is not always a goal for learners, but you can get

advice from your local ETB.

The National Framework of Qualifications (NFQ) outlines the levels of qualifications across the Irish education and training system. It shows how you can move from informal education (starting with a part-time course or evening class) to further education, and then to higher education.

Help for Adults Returning to Education

Education and Training Boards

Education and Training Boards (ETBs) are the main providers of adult education through local schools and colleges. Education and Training Boards Ireland (ETBI) also has a list of Adult Guidance Services.

The Right Course Portal

You can get more information on courses, how to access them, and the supports available on The Right Course portal.

Qualifax

Qualifax has a database of all further education courses. It can help you make an informed choice about your education, training, and career path.

Adult Educational Guidance and Information

The Adult Educational Guidance and Information Service provides free career and education guidance to adults who want to return to education and training.

This service is available to:

Everyone over 18, and

People over 16 who are not in full-time education.

The service prioritises people who are unemployed.

It is confidential and you can get one-to-one guidance or group guidance to help you make an informed decision about your education, career and life choices.

AONTAS

AONTAS (the Irish National Association of Adult Education) provides adult education and lifelong learning.

You can find information about community education happening in your local area using the AONTAS Community Education Map.

National Adult Literacy Agency

The National Adult Literacy Agency (NALA) helps adults with literacy difficulties.

NALA runs free courses to help you improve your reading, writing, maths, and technology skills.

With NALA, you can learn:

In a group

One-to-one

Online

Over the phone

You can contact NALA on Freephone 1800 20 20 65.

You can also use the Learn with NALA website to get a qualification up to Level 3. Or, you can browse NALA's available courses.

Guide for Mature Students

Visit the Mature Students Ireland website for information on admission requirements for higher education.

Financial Supports

Depending on your situation, you may be eligible for financial supports to return to education.

The range of possible supports include:

Back to Education Programme

Back to Education Allowance

Training allowances

You can contact your local Citizens Information Centre for information about the financial supports available to you. You can also read about the financial supports for training and education on Gov.ie.

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth
Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Service
which provides a free and confidential service to the public.
Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie and from the
Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121



How to Apply for Adult Education

You can contact your local ETB and college for details on the courses in your area.

You can also search for courses on Qualifax or the Further Education and Training Course Hub.

Fuel Allowance

Fuel Allowance is a payment to help with the cost of heating your home during the winter months.

You can get Fuel Allowance if you are aged 66 years or over, or getting long-term social welfare payments. (Access the full list below).

The current rate of payment is €33 every week from 22 September 2025 until beginning of April 2026. you can choose to get two instalments or get it weekly. **Only one Fuel Allowance is paid to each household.**

How to qualify

If you are aged 66 years or over

You may qualify for Fuel Allowance if you are 66 years or over. You do not need to be getting a qualifying social welfare payment.

To qualify you must:

be aged 66 or over

be legally resident in the State

pass a means test

be living alone or only with other qualified people

You may qualify for a Fuel Allowance if you are getting:

Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance (if qualified)

Blind Pension

Carer's Allowance

Death Benefit Pension under the Occupational Injuries Scheme

Deserted Wife's Benefit or Allowance

Disability Allowance

Farm Assist

Guardian's Payment (Contributory or Non-Contributory)

Incapacity Supplement under the Disablement Pension Scheme

Invalidity Pension

Jobseeker's Transitional Payment

Jobseeker's Allowance (if qualified)

One-Parent Family Payment

Revenue Job Assist

Social Security Payment (of which there is an Irish equivalent payment)

from a country covered by EU Regulations or a country with which Ireland has a Bilateral Social Security Agreement

State Pension Contributory or Non-contributory

Widow's, Widower's or Surviving Civil Partner's Pension Contributory or Non-contributory

Living situation

You may qualify for a Fuel Allowance if you live alone or only with:

a person aged 66 years or over

a dependent adult or dependent child

a person who is getting a qualifying payment but is not receiving Fuel Allowance (only one Fuel Allowance is paid to each household)

a person who is getting Carer's Benefit and is caring for you or for your dependent adult or dependent child

a person getting short term Jobseeker's Allowance or Basic Supplementary Welfare Allowance

a person who gets half-rate Carer's Allowance as well as an increase for a dependent adult

Since January 2023, half-rate Carer's Allowance and Disablement Benefit payments are not included in the Fuel Allowance means test.

If you are living with a person who is aged 66 or over, it may be better for your household if they apply for Fuel Allowance.

You should submit the completed form at least one month before the Fuel Allowance season starts. If you submit it during the season, your payment will continue to be paid weekly until the next instalment is due. Please note the instalment option is not available on all schemes. This form is also

available from: your local post office and your local Intreo Centre or you can apply on MyWelfare.ie

If you apply late, the department cannot backdate your allowance.

Household Benefits Package

The Household Benefits Package (HBP) helps with the cost of your electricity or gas bill and the TV licence.

You do not have to be living alone to get the Household Benefits Package.

Only one person in a household can apply.

You can get the Household Benefits Package if you are aged 70 or over.

You do not need to be getting a State pension and the package is not means tested.

People under 70 can also get the HBP, but additional rules apply – see

<https://www.gov.ie/en/service/e87d27-household-benefits-package/>

How to qualify for the Household Benefits Package

Be living in Ireland (full-time, all year round)

Be the only person in your household getting the HBP

Be aged 70 or over

Be aged under 70 and meet the additional rules for 'People aged under 70' set out below

Have the electricity or gas bill in your name if you are applying for to have an Electricity or Gas Allowance paid as a credit on your bill

You do not need the bill to be in your name if you are applying to get the Electricity or Gas Allowance paid as cash to your bank or post office account, or if the bill is in your landlord's name (check Gov.ie).

People aged under 70

If you are under 70 you can get the Household Benefits Package, if you are getting a qualifying social welfare payment – see below.

If you are under 70 and living with your spouse, cohabitant or civil partner, you can get the HBP if you are getting a qualifying social welfare payment and:

You are getting an increase in your qualifying social welfare payment for them (see list of qualifying social welfare payments below), or

They are getting their own qualifying social welfare payment listed below, or
They are getting a social welfare payment not listed below and they satisfy a means test

You can live with other adults (who are not your spouse, cohabitant or civil partner) and get the HBP.

Qualifying social welfare payments for people under 70

You are between 66 and 70:

State Pension (Contributory)

State Pension (Non-Contributory)

Bereaved Partner's (Contributory) Pension

Deserted Wife's Benefit

Carer's Allowance (full or half-rate payment), but you must be living with the person you are caring for.

An ordinary Garda Widow's Pension from the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

An equivalent Social Security Pension or Benefit from a country covered by EU Regulations or from a country with which Ireland has a Bilateral Social Security Agreement

If you are aged between 66 and 70 and not getting one of the payments above, you may qualify for the Household Benefits Package if you pass a means test.

Once you qualify for the Household Benefits Package, you can get a free Television (TV) Licence from your next TV Licence renewal date. You must select the Television Licence option on the HBP form when you apply.

You will get a free TV licence for as long as you get the Household Benefits Package.

You can find out more about the Household Benefits Package.

How to apply for the Household Benefits Package

You can apply online for the Household Benefits Package using MyWelfare.ie, if you have a MyGovID account.



Events at **Maynooth Community Library**



For further information contact: www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie Ph: 01-6285530
facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Events for Children

KCC Play Day : Family Board Games Afternoon

Saturday 6th September, 2pm - 4pm

To celebrate KCC Play Day , Maynooth Community Library is hosting a Family Board Games Afternoon ! Why not call in to the library between 2pm - 4pm for some screen free time for all the family and join in a game of boggle, scrabble as Gaeilge, Monopoly, Guess Who, Game of Life Junior and more !
 All children attending this event must be accompanied by a parent / guardian.

***Drop in. No booking required ***

Zero Waste Maynooth

Saturday 13th September, 2pm – 4pm

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 for a quick demonstration on how cloth nappies work.

With thanks to Kildare County Council, we are delighted to welcome back, Vanessa from The Craft Corner. Vanessa will have her Sewing Machine and hand sewing equipment to show you how to repair your clothes. This drop in service will allow you to learn skills to keep your clothes longer. Keeping our clothes in good repair saves on buying new, which is great for the environment and your pocket.

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 County Council supports the following UN Sustainable Development Goals: 10: Reduced Inequality; GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities; GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production; GOAL 13: Climate Action

Culture Night

Culture Night : Drumming Workshop for ages 12+ with Sound out Rhythm

Friday 19th September, 4.00 pm – 5.00 pm

The Sound Out Rhythm Workshop isn't just an educational session of learning but an experience of rhythm. Feeling that buzz we hope for when playing music is something Conor strives to deliver every single time. Conor has been performing this workshop for 17 years now, he began when he was 16 and it's still going strong.

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

Booking link : <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20980800>

Events for Adults

Luain Press Poetry Café

Tuesday 2nd September , 6.00pm – 7.00 pm

After a brief hiatus, the Luain Press Poetry Club is back! Come by the Maynooth Community Library at 6 p.m. on Tuesday the 2nd of September for all things poetry - read, share and create! See you there! All welcome!

International Literacy Day : 3D Printer demonstration for Adults

Monday 8th September, 3pm - 4pm

A part of International literacy day and to support Digital Literacy Skills, Maynooth Community Library will be giving a staff-led demonstration of the library 3D printer. Why not call in to the library between 3pm - 4pm to view the 3D printer in action and to learn about how it works?

Drop in. No booking required

Age Friendly Coffee Morning

Wednesday 10th September , 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

Homelessness and Housing Support Clinic

Thursday 11th September , 2.00 pm – 4.00 pm

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

***Drop in, no booking required ***

Ecofeminist Book Club

Thursday 18th September , 7.00pm - 7.50pm

This eco-feminist book club meets every three months in a different Kildare library, hosted by practitioners from Dúlra Forest School. They will be bringing their experience of working in Irish nature to the circle, fostering (cothú) ideas for sustainable pathways where individuals, communities, and nature thrive. Join us to sit in counsel and comhrá, sparking meaningful conversations for a greener, more harmonious future.

Copies of the book will be available on loan from your library 3 weeks before the event - please bring your copy along to the club. All welcome! Our third meeting in Maynooth Library will be to discuss the book Silent Spring by Rachel Carson.

Other dates and books in this series:

Newbridge Library, Thurs 27th November: An Irish Atlantic Rainforest, by Eoghan Dalton

Booking Link: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20626082>



Events at Maynooth Community Library



For further information contact: www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie Ph: 01-6285530
facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService twitter.com/kildarelibrary

(Continued from page 32)

Exhibitions

Natures Best

Exhibition in Acrylic by EVE/HSE Larine

Sept 3rd – 30th Sept 2025

We are excited to invite you to the art exhibition of a group of artists from EVE/HSE Larine. Eve Larine is a service in Maynooth, supporting people with mental health challenges. The popular art programme facilitated by Marta Golubowska is an important part of maintaining the positive wellbeing of the participants. Come and see the progress of our excellent artists in Maynooth Library!

To find out more about EVE Larine call 01 6289465 or visit eve.ie.

Exhibition Bookings

If you are a local artist or art group and would like to book our exhibition space, please contact us. Maynooth Community Library's Exhibition Space is available to host exhibitions from October 2026.

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

Groups and Clubs

'Knit + Chat ' Craft Club

Thursday 11th September , 6.30 pm – 7.30pm

"Maynooth Knit + Chat" is a club intended to create a space where the knitters and fibre artists of Maynooth can come together and bond over a shared love of knitting (or crochet, or anything that takes your fancy!).

Whether you are a beginner or an advanced knitter, this is the club for you! People of all ages (from 18 and up) and skill levels will be in attendance. Even if you are the most skilled knitter in all of the greater Kildare area, we are sure that there will be something new for you to learn!

Please contact the library [@maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie](mailto:maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie) for queries about the 'Knit+Chat' Craft Club.

*** Drop in, no booking required ***

Maynooth Community Library Craft Club

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

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

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!

To find out about more events that are happening in Maynooth Community Library, why not subscribe to our monthly events newsletter at the link below.

Email Subscription Form - Kildare Library Service
<https://kildarecoco.ie/library/newsletter/index.html>

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 24/07/2025 to 21/08/2025 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
<u>2560952</u>	Kildare County Council	Kevin and Geraldine O'Sullivan	7 Parklands Way, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	21/08/2025
<u>2560951</u>	Kildare County Council	Olivia O'Connor	36 Straffan Drive, Maynooth, Straffan Wood, Co. Kildare	21/08/2025
<u>2560935</u>	Kildare County Council	Sarah Holmes	Barrogstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	18/08/2025
<u>25138</u>	Kildare County Council	Brian Moran	Sonas, Laragh, Maynooth, Co Kildare	15/08/2025
<u>2560900</u>	Kildare County Council	Sean and Andrea Coyle	122 Castledawson, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	06/08/2025
<u>2560877</u>	Kildare County Council	Glenveagh Homes Ltd.	Parson Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	01/08/2025
<u>25132</u>	Kildare County Council	Brian Moran	Sonas, Laragh, Maynooth, Co Kildare	31/07/2025
<u>2560858</u>	Kildare County Council	Brian Noone	Units 7&8 Mill Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	29/07/2025

GARDENING

September is a great time for gardening, with mild weather and enough sunlight for plants spring bulbs like daffodils and tulips, transplanting perennials and shrubs, and harvesting summer and autumn vegetables.

It is also a good time to prepare for winter by planting winter bedding, sowing green manure and doing autumn lawn care.

Checklist For Planting Now

Spring Bulbs: Daffodils, Tulips and Crocuses

Perennials and Shrubs: September is an ideal time for transplanting existing perennials and shrubs or planting new ones, especially those that are in pots

Autumn and Spring Bedding: Plant autumn and spring bedding to extend the season of colour in your garden

Vegetables: Spring cabbage, purple sprouting broccoli, lettuce, kale, and spinach

Green Manure: Sow green manure seeds on bare vegetable plots to improve soil health over winter

Sourced: www.hygeia.ie & www.google.com



Important Tasks

Pruning: prune summer-flowering shrubs after they finish blooming to encourage new growth

Deadheading: Deadhead spent flowers on summer and autumn annuals and perennials to promote continued blooming

Lawn Care: Repair lawn damage, overseed bare patches, and prepare for winter with scarifying, aerating, top-dressing and feeding

Pond Care: Net ponds to prevent leaves from falling in and causing problems

Greenhouse Maintenance: Clean out greenhouses and remove shading to maximize light during the shorter days

Dividing Perennials: Divide large clumps of perennials like crocosmias and euphorbias to invigorate them

Protecting Plants: Raise pots on feet to prevent waterlogging and frost damage over winter

Seed Saving: Collect seeds from open-pollinated varieties of your favourite plants, like tomatoes

Plant for Winter Colour: Planting hardy plants like cyclamen, pansies, violas, and bellis to add winter interest to your garden

Vegetables: Keep an eye on the ripeness of your crops to ensure you pick them at their peak. Many autumn vegetables, such as carrots, potatoes, and kale, are ready for harvesting. Be sure to harvest root crops before the first frost.

Pest and Disease Control: Keep an eye out for signs of disease or pests in your garden. Early intervention is essential to prevent the spread of problems. As the weather cools, slugs and snails become more active. Consider using natural remedies or traps to control them.

Feeding and Fertilising: Fertilise your garden beds with organic compost to replenish nutrients and improve soil structure. Feed your container plants with a balanced liquid fertiliser to keep them healthy and blooming.

TIP

Use this time to plan for next year's garden. Research and order new plants, make notes of what worked and what didn't, and consider any changes or improvements you want to make.

*To plant a garden
is to believe
in tomorrow*



Bacon and Cabbage

Bacon and Cabbage is renowned as one of Ireland's best known traditional Irish recipes.

Most Irish families in times past would keep a pig and he was known as the 'Gentleman who pays the rent. Once it had been fattened up over the summer the pig would be sold to the market and the money from that sale was a major contributor to that all important rent payment?

So meat was a luxury for most. Whatever was produced in the house was sold on to pay to help pay the rent. But if you were a wealthier farmer and had made enough money from your crops and labour to pay the rent outright then you might not have to sell the pig in November and you could keep it.

The pig would be slaughtered and the meat would then be distributed to your neighbours and when they killed their pig they shared their pig with you. There was no refrigeration at the time so you could not keep the meat, everything had to be eaten fresh and it made sense to have a roster system for killing the pig so everyone had fresh meat and it bound a community more together. They actually called them 'meat clubs'.

They ate every part of the pig, the only part not eaten was the squeal! Even the bladder was blown up and used as a football by the boys.

The one part you kept for yourself was the ham which was salted down and then hung above the fire to give it that nice Smokey flavour. This became your bacon which was the special Sunday dish of the tenant farmer. The bacon would be put into the cooking pot and potatoes and cabbage were added to make this delicious traditional Irish recipe. Bacon, Cabbage and Potatoes.

Irish farmers had a meal called 'potatoes and point'. While eating their potatoes for breakfast, lunch and dinner every day during the week they would point their potato at the bacon hanging above the fire and go 'Aaahh we're having you on Sunday' in the hope of getting the flavour of the bacon to move across the room into their spud!

Bacon and Cabbage Recipe

Ingredients

900 – 1350g collar of bacon
1 medium-sized cabbage

To Prepare

Soak the bacon overnight in cold water.

Remove and place in a pot, cover with fresh water and bring to the boil.

Remove the scum, cover and simmer for 1 hour 30 minutes (or 30 minutes per 450g/1lb).

Cut cabbage into quarters and add to the pot Cook slowly for about 20 minutes so that it's tender but still retains a slight bite.

Drain well, and serve with potatoes boiled in their jackets.

Source www.sue.ie



Biscoff Rice Krispie Treats

Prep Time: 20 minutes / Cook Time: 10mins
Setting Time: 2 hours / Servings: 16

Ingredients

50 grams unsalted butter
225 grams mini marshmallows
175 grams Biscoff spread
175 grams Rice Krispies

Topping

200 grams Biscoff spread
200 grams white chocolate

Method

Line a 9x9" square tin with parchment paper, and leave to the side.

Add the butter and mini marshmallows to a large pan, and heat on a low-medium heat, stirring, until smooth and melted!

Once melted, take the pan off the heat and add in the biscoff. Stir briefly until smooth!

Pour the rice krispies into the pan, and stir to combine!

Press the mixture into the bottom of the lined tin.

Melt the white chocolate in a bowl until smooth - I do this in short bursts in the microwave stirring well each time.

In a separate bowl, melt the biscoff spread - This takes about 20 seconds in the microwave.

Pour the two over the rice krispie base and swirl together with a tooth pick.

Set in the fridge for two or more hours, and then slice and enjoy!

Credit to Janes Patisserie
Website www.janespatisserie.com



September Pet Care

Animal Pain Awareness Month

This month is all about educating everyone about recognising and dealing with pain your pets are having. Our pets might not be able to express pain verbally so we all have to be vigilant for signs of discomfort. Some signs can be subtle and easily overlooked.



Recognising Signs of Pain

Pain comes in many forms: surgical pain, arthritis and cancer related pain, just to name a few.

Acute pain is obvious and distressing.

Chronic pain can be subtle, and masked as "getting old" or "slowing down." Old age is not a disease, but pain is.

Focus on identifying physical and behavioural changes that could indicate pain, such as decreased activity, changes in appetite, grooming habits, or posture.

Consult with veterinarians if you observe any signs of pain in your pets, as early

detection and treatment can greatly improve the outcome.

There are many availability of various pain management options for pets, including medication, supplements, and therapies. So know your pet and their little or not so little signs that something is wrong.

Keep Up with Exercise

Even if the weather might be getting a little colder and the evenings getting shorter, our pets still need to be exercised. Keeping the walks up will prevent any weight gain and also will stop your pet from getting bored. You can reduce the length of the walk and have some more indoor playtime/training. Cats will go out less and therefore will also need to be entertained. You could ask your vet for information on joint supplements for the colder months especially if your pet has joint stiffness as the cold will affect them.

With your pet spending less time outdoors and maybe being less active, you might consider adjusting their diet so they won't gain weight by giving them less food but always consult your vet if your pet is on any special food or medication.

Fleas and Ticks

Parasites such as fleas and ticks are still rife over the autumn. So keep checking your pets for them regularly, especially after all walks.

Safety on Walks

With darker nights and mornings, walking your pet can be dangerous so always wear reflective clothing and have your pet wearing a reflective coat too. At the very least, a reflective collar. As the saying goes "be safe, be seen!"



Acorns and Conkers

These can be poisonous to your dog. Be sure to keep an eye out on walks to make sure that your dog doesn't pick anything they shouldn't up. If ingested conkers can also cause intestinal blockages. Speak to your vet if you think your dog may have eaten something like this.

If you are concerned about the health of your cat or dog at any time, always speak to your vet.

Outdoor Shelter and Sheds

If your pet spends most of the time outdoors, do a maintenance check on their kennel. Check for repairs, mould etc, and if necessary replace it. It is always recommended that you change their bedding to

suit colder weather. Use raised beds to keep off cold damp floors/ground.

If they are housed in sheds be extra careful of all chemicals such as weed killers, plant food, slug repellents and keep them in secure areas and out of reach of pets. Check containers weekly for leaks and sell by dates. Dispose of them properly and safely. Always try to use environmental and pet friendly products at all times.

Seasonal Dangers

As the weather gets colder, be mindful of pets being around and even loose dogs and cats when using antifreeze. It is sweet smelling and can attract animals. It is completely poisonous to pets if swallowed and also it can burn their paws if they step on it. Don't let any drop onto pavements/roads. If there is a spillage, clean up thoroughly straight away to avoid harming any animals or kids.



With Halloween approaching, there will be fireworks going off, which can cause stress for some pets. As a pet owner, I have had dogs that have been absolutely terrified and have had to bring them to my vet and get sedatives to either knock them out for hours or make them so drowsy that they don't notice them the bangers are much. Best advice I can suggest to pet owners is start now making plans for the Halloween season to protect your pets. Preparation is key and always consult your vet. They are only too happy to give you advice and help.

Activities to do with Your Pet

This is a great time to start or continue agility training with your pet. Set up an agility course in your backyard or find a local training facility. Agility training provides excellent physical exercise and mental stimulation for your pet, and the cooler weather makes it more enjoyable.

Indoor Rainy Day Activities

Snuffle Mats and Scent Games On rainy days, bring the sniffing fun indoors with a snuffle mat or by hiding treats around your home. A snuffle mat can be made from strips of fabric and a rubber mat, offering a DIY alternative to store-bought versions. Scent games provide great mental stimulation for dogs, especially when the weather keeps them inside.



Why not make an indoor obstacle course using pillows, blankets, chairs etc. Create a tent fort with jump over low and high barriers.

With just a little creativity, you and your dog can make the most of this autumn, rain or shine!

Sourced: www.dogstrust.com, www.nutravet.co.uk.com, www.dogsdogsdogs.co.uk.com





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

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com

September 1985

MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 1985

NUMBER 99

PRICE 20p

CRAZY FOOTBALL MATCH IN FANCY DRESS

The Roosters v The Henpecked (Men) Chicks (Women) will be held in the G.A.A. Field on Sunday Sept. 1st at 3.15pm. The teams will parade from O'Brien's Supermarket (Dublin Road) to the G.A.A. Field (Mayglare Road) at 3pm, led by the Lord Mayor of Maynooth, Mr. Owen Byrne and the Clane Accordion Band. There will be Side Shows and races for the children, and plenty of competitions for adults. Newbridge Mobile Video Unit will attend, also Press photographers. It promises to be a great evening's sport for young and old, so come and join the parade. The teams are crazy, the lineups are crazy and the referee is crazy too.

Admission for adults, 50p; children under 14 yrs 25p; Cars £1.00. You will never laugh as much again. See you there.

FR. GEORGE MILLAR S.V.D.

We extend our best wishes to Fr. George Millar who left Maynooth S.V.D. recently to take up Missionary duties in New Guinea. Fr. George was well known by the Maynooth Old Folk Group for his interest and help in their activities.

He will be missed by his many friends here, who will be praying for the success of the fine work he has undertaken. Wishing Fr. George his health and happiness in New Guinea.

OCTOBER ISSUE

The closing date for the above will be 14th September and all items for inclusion in that issue must be handed in on or before that date.

MAYNOOTH ATHLETIC CLUB (NACA)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Wednesday September 11th
in
CLUB ROOM, 8 PM SHARP

DOYLE'S SHOE CENTRE MAYNOOTH SHOPPING CENTRE

BACK TO SCHOOL SHOES

from

The Family Shoe Store

Stockists of all leading brands
CLARKES, START RIGHT, K, DUBARRY, etc.
Autumn collection - super selection



Old Greenfield Team, Winners of Soccer Competition organised by Greenfield Residents' Association in conjunction with Community Week, with Manager Johnny Thompson, Owen Byrne, Lord Mayor of Maynooth, and Supporters.



Cluain Aoihbhinn, winners of Community Week Tug-O-War Competition, with Manager Philip McDermott and Supporters

Wedding Anniversary

Belated Wedding Anniversary to Jim and Roisin Smyth, Caragh, Co. Kildare, who celebrated their 8th Anniversary on 2nd July. Jim is our local butcher.

BEST WISHES

Best wishes to Mr. Ken O'Brien, 15 Leinster Cottages, who is leaving us in September to join the Cistercian Order to study for religious life as a brother. We wish Ken every blessing in his new career and trust that God will bless his work.



Participants in Community Week Crazy Match

BIRTHDAYS - September

The following have celebrated their birthdays recently or will do so in the very near future. Congratulations and best wishes to:

Donagh Breslin, Leinster Park. 3rd
Antoinette Higgins, Greenfield. 9th
Sonia Fusciardi, Leixlip. 11th
Clodagh Desmond, Main St. 12th
Maeve Casey, Mayglare. 15th
Imelda Dowling, Leinster Cotts. 16th
Leone and Deirdre Ward, Church View Prosperous. Their parents are Des and Kathleen Ward formerly from Killaney. 13th

Freda Farrell, O'Neill Park, Maynooth and her twin sister, Teresa Robinson, Birmingham, England. 19th

Marie McGovern, Greenfield. 24th
Eileen McGovern, Greenfield. 2th

Recent Weddings

Congratulations to Patrick Moynan, 2 Convent Road Maynooth, and Patricia Farrell, Navan, who were married recently.

Also congratulations to Paddy Dunne, Greenfield Maynooth, and Teresa Daly, Dunboyne, married recently.

Congratulations to Kevin Kilduff, O'Neill Park, Maynooth and Helen Langtry, Courtown Road, Kilcock, also married recently.

Congratulations to John Sweeney, Leixlip and Patricia McGarry, Greenfield, Maynooth, married on 9th August.

SPORTS PAGE

MAYNOOTH ATHLETIC CLUB

Leinster Championships, Dunboyne. 22nd, 23rd June 1985.

The remaining sections of the Leinster Championships were to have been run at Dunboyne on above dates, but due to a torrential outburst of rain, it was not possible to finish the Juvenile programme on the Saturday, and so a new date will have to be found later in the year.

In contrast, the Junior and Vet. section on the Sunday was run in beautiful conditions, and full marks to the Dunboyne track officials who worked so hard in getting the track cleared of water by noon on Sunday.

For Pat Maher, it was a weekend to remember, as he took the Vets O/40 3000 metres in great style, leading all the way, and having too much in reserve in the end to be caught by a late run by Val Ledwith of Dunboyne.

Mick Gleeson also figured in the medals, taking silver in the O/40 800 metres, and indeed Mick and David Jolly also ran well in the 3000 metres.

Mairead Noonan recorded a double in the Junior Ladies section, taking both the 200 and 800 metre events, and Mairead has been quietly adding to her list of titles over the last few months, with both Leinster and Kildare titles in the bag, and hopefully more to come.

Next weekend it is Antrim for the GCLO All-Irelands, and those travelling are looking forward to a pleasant and rewarding trip.

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Antrim June 29th & 30th 1985.

By the time these notes are read, if read they are by anyone, Autumn will have begun to cast its shadow over the year 1985, but on the above weekend at the Antrim Forum, near Antrim Town, the sun shone brilliantly, and even if the results, from a Maynooth point of view were not wonderful, I think it can be safely said that a great time was had by all.

The entire Maynooth party stayed at the Greenmount Agricultural College, and both the scenery, lay-out, food and accommodation at this venue was second to none, and far surpassed some of the accommodations available at some hotels. Indeed many of those who suffered in Cork the previous year were heard to remark that the All-Irelands should be held in such surroundings more often. Not alone did the Forum have a very good running track, but facilities for swimming, basketball, tennis, badminton etc. were also available, and all for the princely sum of FIFTEEN pence, and the whole area was spotlessly clean and tidy.

Great credit is due to Jim Lawlor and Pearse Breslin for their work during the stay, looking after keys etc. and making sure all were

at the right places for meals etc., and so ensuring a happy trip for all.

On the actual 'field of play' Maynooth did not have such a great time, but for Enda Breslin at least, it all came right on the day. Enda was the winner of the U/14 800 metre Walk, and this indeed was only just recompense for Enda who has had some great efforts in this particular event, and being thwarted of more success only by bad luck, and sometimes bad judging. Having been second in Cork in 1984, and disqualified in the Community Games, Enda won the Kildare Championship in June of this year, and must now be favourite to win the Leinster title as well later on this year.

Frank Desmond was not so lucky here, being in third place with about 25 metres to go, but was then disqualified, and so missed out on his chance for an All-Ireland medal. Indeed it was nice to see the boys in the limelight as the Club badly needs more lads in the colours, and all are welcome to come to the field any Tuesday or Thursday night at 7pm to see if they would enjoy athletics.

Maynooth Community Contacts Listing

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<p>Cllr. Paul Ward 087 2294697 cllrpaulward@gmail.com</p>	<p>An Nuadha Players annuadhplayers@gmail.com facebook.com/annuadha</p>	<p>An Post Sorting Office Maynooth 01-6293390</p>	<p>Brass & Reed Band (St Mary's) sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie facebook.com/maynoothband/</p>
<p>Cemetery Committee (Laraghbryan) 01-6293018</p>	<p>Church of Ireland 01-6292163 secretary@meath.anglican.org</p>	<p>Citizen Information Centre 0818078100 maynooth@citinfo.ie</p>	<p>Cloth Nappy Library Ireland 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/NappyLibraryIreland</p>
<p>Community Welfare Services 0818607080 Kildarecws@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Employment Office 01-6106000 bo.maynooth@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Kildare County Council 045 - 980200 customerservice@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Kildare Civil Defence 045 980529 pmcneela@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Kildare County Council (Local Office) 01 - 6286236</p>	<p>Kildare MABS 0818072600 kildare@mabs.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Autism Friendly Town 0863329050 autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/maynoothaft</p>	<p>Maynooth Employment Services Office Kelly's Lane, Maynooth 01-6016360 EstMaynooth@welfare.ie</p>
<p>Maynooth Post Office 01-6286259</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Care Unit 01-6106351</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Church 01-5054990 office@maynoothcc.org facebook.com/maynoothcommunitychurch/</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Library 01-6285530 maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie. facebook.com/ KildareCountyLibraryService</p>
<p>Maynooth Cycling Campaign 086-8252934 Maynoothcycling@gmail.com www.maynoothcyclingcampaign.com</p>	<p>Maynooth Fishing Club 01-6293202 info@maynoothfisheries.com</p>	<p>Maynooth GAA Club secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie facebook.com/maynoothgaa/</p>	<p>Maynooth Health Centre 01-6106130</p>
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<p>North Kildare Tennis Club info@northkildaretennis.ie</p>	<p>Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth 01-6293018 maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com</p>	<p>SVP Vincent's Shop 01-6289643 geraldinebyrne.east@svp.ie facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064619179003</p>	<p>Zero Waste Maynooth 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth</p>

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



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

LOCAL NEWS - OCTOBER 2025 - ISSUE NO. 550



IN THIS ISSUE

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- ◆ FIANNA FÁIL NOTES
- ◆ AN NUADHA PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATRE
- ◆ STORIES FROM OUR READERS
- ◆ SOCIAL DEMOCRATE NEWS
- ◆ LIBRARY NOTES
- ◆ MEMORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES

8th Kildare Maynooth Scout Group Celebrating 50 Years



On Saturday 30th August 2025 the 8th Kildare Maynooth Scout Group celebrated its 50th anniversary of continuous scouting in Maynooth.

A little bit of background

In 1974 a show was put on in Maynooth. The show was Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat. Joseph's Coat of many colours was a scout campfire blanket covered in many badges for scouting from all over the world.

Once the children saw the blanket they got very excited and asked:

"Is there Scouts in Maynooth?"

The 8th Kildare St Mary's Scout Group was then formally established in early 1975.

Since then, so many youth members and adults scouters have experienced their scouting journeys, which included camps, both domestic and foreign, hikes and many different challenges and competitions.

Many Jamborees were attended, and many projects were undertaken within the community. Some of these included: Helping the Senior Citizens at their Annual Sale, helping the SVP at Kerdiffstown House, assisting at the Annual Darkness into Light event, plus helping with various other community events.



Life Honorary
Members Plaque
Tony Muldowney
1979 - 2025

And now the 8th Kildare Scouts are looking forward to the next 50 years of Scouting in Maynooth!

Johnny Dowling and Peter Garrad



Jose Lefrano (founding member) wearing the Campfire blanket



Group Leaders: Gina Mizzoni, Deirdre Dempsey, Peter Garrad, Johnny Dowling, Tony Muldowney



Current Scouters Back L to R: Adam Sykes, Graham Dempsey, Nadine Foley-Sethi, Neill Wells, Karl Quinn, John Judge
Front-L -R: Deirdre Dempsey, Tony Muldowney, Gina Mizzoni, Johnny Dowling, Peter Garrad, Aileen Garrad



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Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

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

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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

The theme of the 2025 Irish Tourism Industry Confederation annual conference which was held in Kilkenny this year was "Resilience in an uncertain World". Held a week before the 2025 Budget, the conference identified tourism industry priorities, what the future holds, and how the Irish tourism industry can prosper into the future. Tourism is a high priority for Maynooth and I know that there is a vibrant tourism sector in the area



Tourism sign in Perignan, France (editor's photo)

More visitors are often the result of a recommendations from previous visitors. As the town grows, we must ensure that we maintain our attraction to visitors. We all know from our own travels that once you arrive in a place you want to get orientated. Sadly, Maynooth doesn't make that easy with no directional signage and often no place names. Many visitors need to use google maps to find their way around Maynooth when we should make it easier.

Of course, how we present Maynooth to visitors as an attractive environment is also important. Maynooth Tidy Towns have been to the forefront for many decades voluntarily helping to improve the area by maintenance and enhancement projects. Their efforts are regularly recognised and acknowledged locally and nationally. As one of the areas representing Ireland in the 2025 Entente Florale Europe, it is fitting that their work and commitment was recognised internationally with the award of the Gold Medal.

As October has arrived, we see the return of students to Maynooth University and with this traffic volumes in the centre of the town. There is a particular difficulty this year with road works in Mill Street until the end of the year. Parking for all this traffic is also an issue as there isn't adequate parking provided. Casual and sometimes careless parking in residential areas is an issue. There is a narrative that the shortage of rental accommodation for students in the Maynooth area means that students need to travel to Maynooth by car. This is not necessarily the case because there is a range of private bus services as well as Dublin Bus and of course the train service. It is time that an updated mobility study was done on the origin of where people travelling to Maynooth by car start their journeys. Unfortunately, for people coming to Maynooth by car the guarantee of a parking space is not something that can be taken for granted.

Paul Croghan
Editor

Submission Date for November Edition is
5pm on 23rd October 2025



Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

Hello all,

We are back, after our 60th Anniversary celebrations and our annual August break.

Just to let you know that there has been a change in our Committee Executive. I would like to express our thanks to Garry Bermingham, our outgoing Chairperson for his commitment and work on the Committee over the last four years. Along with the usual committee work arising out of the monthly meetings, Garry very successfully launched and organised the annual pub quiz fundraiser for Maynooth Senior Citizens. He also set up our Facebook Page and had been adding content to that as and when.

At our meeting in September, Susan Durack (former Secretary) was elected as Chairperson and Jakki Cunningham was elected as Secretary. Joan Lennon remains as the Minute Secretary.

Three new members have come on to the committee in the last couple of months.

Our morning clubs continue on Tuesday and Thursday.

Recently we have had a pottery class which proved to be very enjoyable and the usual bingo and art sessions, not forgetting the chance for a chat and a cuppa. Transport to the club is a vital service to the club mornings. We will be having body movement sessions for the next 6 weeks.

Coming up we will have the Annual Pub Quiz in November and the Christmas Lunch in December, but more about that later.

Will keep you posted nearer the time.

Susan Durack, Chairperson,
Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee.




Cllr. Donna
Phelan

Working with **Naoise Ó Cearúil TD**

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




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Donna & Naoise

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MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN



NEWSLETTER NOTES for October 2025

Road Fatalities

September has been a bad month for cyclist fatalities on our roads. Nearly nine months into the year, the number of cyclist fatalities has risen to 13 compared to 10 for the whole of 2024. The government is not doing enough.

- In Helsinki, a city of approximately 600,000, there were NO road fatalities in the last year. The critical measures to achieve this included -
- Reducing speed limit in 50% of streets from 50kph to 30 kph over the last 50 years
- Better enforcement by the police

After announcing that they were going to reduce the default speed limit in urban areas, the government has changed its mind. They said that local authorities could lower the speed limit on certain roads but identifying individual roads where the speed limit is reduced is more bureaucratic rather than reducing the default speed limit where only higher speed roads have to be explicitly specified. You can view a short film about road safety in Helsinki on our facebook page [here](#). Kildare County Council proposes to open public consultation on speed limits shortly.

Car Parking & Motornormativity

Motornormativity is an unconscious cognitive bias in which the assumption is made that motor car ownership and use is an unremarkable social norm. In essence it is a windscreen view of the world and the place of cars in it.

September has drawn to a close and a new year starts for university students in Maynooth. A few "new" cars have started to park on our

estate road which is close to the university and has provoked some residents to place a note on them which states "No Parking" here and "Park in the GAA".

The cars were parked on a public road which is in the charge of the council. As far as I am aware, they did not drive in a way that would pose a risk to children or adults in the estate. They were not blocking any entrances and not preventing any emergency vehicle from entering the estate. They weren't even taking up a parking space in front of a private house.

Placing notes on cars about where they are parked is a clear example of motornormativity. People don't feel entitled to park on grassy sections of public parks but they do feel entitled to illegally park on footpaths and to tell others that they can't park on public roads.

Royal Canal Opens in Dublin

Finally, some good news - the Irishcycle.com website reports that the central section of the Royal Canal Greenway in Dublin City is now fully opened after two and a half years of construction to make the route accessible for pedestrians and people cycling.

The project included installing new, more gentle ramps, which are more accessible, and new shared crossings at the canal at the Phibsborough/Drumcondra Road, Russell Street/Jones' Road, Ballybough Road, and then finishing at the existing crossing on North Strand Road.

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is an independent local lobby group for better cycling facilities in Maynooth and Kildare generally.

If you would like to support our efforts, we welcome new members. Why not join us - you can find details [Here](#)

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- * Estate Issues
- * Community Issues
- * Environmental Concerns
- * Covid - 19 related queries



Phone



zoom



E-mail



Cllr Angela Feeney

Labour

If I can help email: angelafeeney@kildarecoco.ie or call 087 238 1962

Stay safe everyone.



Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

Email: afeeney@kildarecoco.ie

Phone: 0872381962



Water filling stations

I called on the Council to set up water filling stations in the municipal district to encourage members of the public to reduce their plastic waste. Many residents have contacted me about this issue. The Council responded stating that the addition of water filling stations would require suitable locations to be identified and a budget to deliver them. Additionally, the work required will have to be considered in the context of commitments to existing projects across the municipal district and the required staff and financial resources to deliver these. I asked that a pilot scheme be considered and that the Council liaise with sports clubs and other stakeholders such as Waterways Ireland to pursue this initiative.

Road markings on the Newton Road

At the September Council meeting I called on the Council to update the road markings at the Newtown Road T-junction. I welcome the response from the municipal district engineer who has confirmed that he will inspect the location and renew the road markings as required.

Beaufield Estate needs resurfacing

At the September Council meeting I asked for Beaufield Estate to be included in planned resurfacing or repairs to be carried out in

Maynooth. The estate is one of the older estates in the town. The Council confirmed that general repairs will be carried out in the estate as part of routine maintenance. I will work to ensure that any further resurfacing of the estate will be included in the 2026 works programme.

Update on fire brigade site

I asked the Council to provide an update as to when the new fire station for Maynooth will open and its plans for the vacated fire brigade site. I welcome the news that the construction of the new fire station in Maynooth is now substantially complete. The contractor is still in possession of the site and is currently dealing with some remedial snag items. The contractor is also awaiting the installation of an Eircom line into the building. Once all of these remaining issues are completed, the building will be handed over to the fire service. Control of the current fire station building is being taken by the Community Directorate, with the future use of the building being determined by that directorate. The Community and Housing and Regeneration teams are working together to develop a Feasibility Study for the entire site incorporating the Fire Station. I will continue to pursue this important issue for Maynooth and thank you to all who signed my petition calling for the old site to be used for a Community Hub for Maynooth.

St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band



September 7th saw the Senior Band paying a visit to the National Stud in Kildare for the third time. Unfortunately, it was third time unlucky as the weather gods were unkind to us, but our recital went ahead in the lovely Osborne Hall where the Band produced another excellent performance to a very appreciative audience. Hopefully next year will favour us with some sunshine.

Friday September 19th which was Culture Night, offered our Academy Band another opportunity to show the tremendous progress they have been making over the past year, but unfortunately once again, the weather was against them however, with the help of our Gazebos the show went on to a very brave and appreciative audience.

The Academy Band have also given recitals at the Saturday

morning markets in the Square as well as an event in Ardlough on Saturday 13th September for the Arthur Guinness Festival. We extend an invitation to any musicians living in Maynooth and surrounding areas to come and join either Band and visit our Bandhall on Pound Lane on Monday nights or Saturday mornings where you will be made most welcome. We will be taking a break from recitals in October but we will still be working on rehearsals for our Band

Mass for Deceased Members at 1pm on Sunday 12th November and our Christmas Concert in St. Mary's Church of Ireland on Saturday 13th December at 7pm.



TEMPORARY ROAD CLOSURE NOTICE

Road: R418 – Main Street / Leinster Street / Parson Street Junction → Kilcock Road / Moyglare Road Junction

Dates: Tuesday, 14 October – Sunday, 25 October 2025

Times: Nightly closures from 8:00 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.


The R418 will be closed between Main Street / Leinster Street / Parson Street Junction and the Kilcock Road / Moyglare Road Junction during the above times and dates to allow for essential works.


Diversion Routes

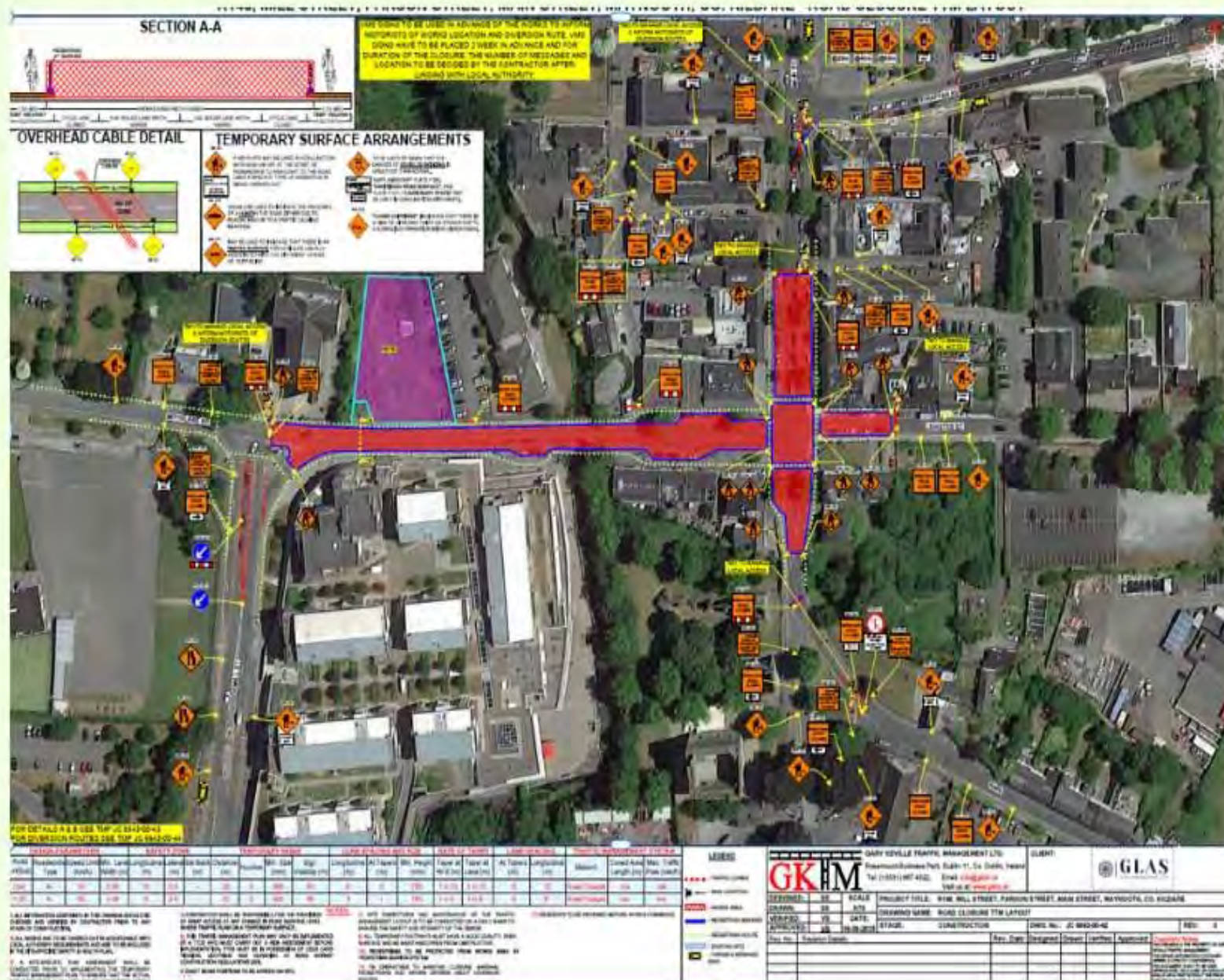
From Parsons Street: via Meadowbrook Road → Meadowbrook Link Road → Straffan Road (R406).

From Kilcock Road (R148) / Moyglare Road: via Lyreen Avenue → Dunboyne Road.

From Main Street (R148) / Straffan Road (R406): via Dunboyne Road → Lyreen Avenue.

 Diversion routes will be clearly signposted for the duration of the closure.

 Please allow extra travel time and follow all traffic signage.



Clr. Donna Phelan

PEACE COMMISSIONER
MAYNOOTH LEA – KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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

Fianna Fáil
AN PAIRTÍ POBLACHTÁNACH



IPMS IRELAND LAUNCHES NATIONAL COMPETITION FOR SCALE MODELLERS 2025



Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th October

International Plastic Modellers' Society (IPMS) Ireland is delighted to announce its annual Irish national scale model show and competition 2025 for scale model builders of all ages. The show, which is supported by South Dublin County Council, will be held in Dublin on Saturday 4th and Sunday 5th October in the Lucan Spa Hotel, Junction 4A just off the N4 West. This is the main annual show for the Society and is a gathering for all those interested in the hobby of plastic scale modelling. It is also an opportunity for the public - whether young or old - to see displays of models, and other related attractions, including many model traders' stalls. The show also hosts IPMS Ireland's annual model competition which is open to competition entries from both members and non-members and includes categories for junior (under 16) modellers.

Awards are presented in more than 38 competition categories covering scale models of aircraft and vehicles both civilian and military, ships and submarines, historical figures and busts, dioramas, science fiction, and fantasy subjects. Thirteen Special Awards are also presented to winning entries, cumulating in Best of Show. All models in competition are also on public display and members of the public also get their say by voting for the People's Choice Award, based on the votes of all those visiting the show.

Last year, the show welcomed 485 visitors, and with children under fourteen being free, it's hoped that figure will increase this year. More than 270 models were entered into competition last year with at least another 50 also on display. With entries and visitors coming from all over the island of Ireland and with some from the UK and Europe, it's a fun weekend out for all the family. There's also plenty of free car parking on site at the hotel.

**Admission to the show is €5 per adult, covering both days of the show,
with accompanied children under 14 free.**

For more information, please contact ipmsireland@gmail.com

IPMS Ireland was formed in 2008. IPMS Ireland is the Irish national organisation of The International Plastic Modellers' Society (IPMS), founded in the UK in 1963 and now an international body, with branches spread across Europe and around the world.

IPMS Ireland has members from across the island of Ireland as well as abroad. Currently there are 3 local chapters/branches: Dublin, Mid-West (Shannon), and South East. Club members build and paint everything from standard plastic construction kits to complicated, hand-built models, using plastic as the primary medium. Branch meetings are generally held at local venues on a monthly basis, as well as monthly online meetings using Zoom.

The hobby covers building scale models of aircraft and vehicles both civilian and military, ships and submarines, historical figures and busts, dioramas, and science fiction / fantasy subjects. As an Irish scale modelling society, Irish subjects feature prominently among our members' models.

Contact details for IPMS Ireland can be found at our Facebook page, on Instagram (IPMS_Ireland) or on our web Forum www.ipmsireland.com





Gold Medal Winners

2016 - 2017 - 2018

2019 - 2021 - 2022

2023 - 2024



Maynooth Tidy Towns
representing Ireland in the
Entente Florale European
Competition

At the time of writing, 6 of us are preparing to attend The Entente Florale European Competition finals in Veneje on the weekend of September 26th and 27th, representing Ireland in the large town category. Fingers crossed for a good result, and that we bring home Gold. We also applied for the Presidents Prize in the form of The Retrofit House in Meadowbrook.

We have so many people to thank for helping us get this far in the competition, especially Maynooth University, Kildare County Council and of course, The Department of Rural Affairs. Last but not least, Mark Nolan - a local businessman, Taxy and Lily's Cafe, Pound Lane.

Please Support our sponsors.

We also received our 3 invitations to the results of The Tidy Towns Ireland Competition in Croke Park on the 24th October.

September was a busy month for our Volunteers. We did a clean up of The Royal Canal and the Lyreen River on the 20th. There was so much dumping in the Canal, we filled 9 bags of litter. Thanks to an invitation from Maynooth University, 6 of us attended the official opening of their new apartments on Leinster Street. The red ribbon was cut by James Lawlor TD.

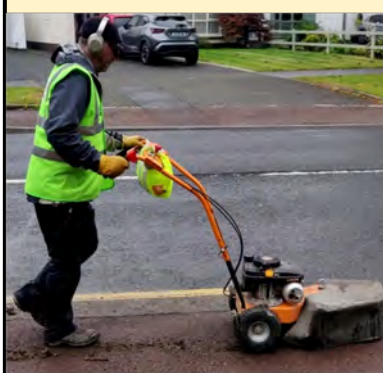
We cut back all the trees along the Meadowbrook link Road. Much safer now for our pedestrian traffic in that area.

If you wish to volunteer with Maynooth Tidy Towns please follow us on Facebook or email us at MaynoothTidyTowns@outlook.ie. We meet every Saturday morning at 9am in the Council Car Park just show up all equipment supplied.

Mary Molloy PRO
Maynooth Tidy Towns Association



MU President Prof Eeva Leinonen, Minister James Lawless TD and MSU President Maeve Farrell at the opening of Teach Uí Bhuachalla



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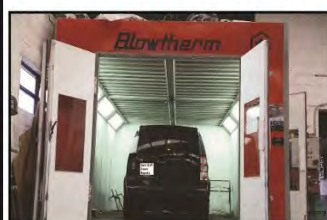
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Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA – KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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

Fianna Fáil
AN PAIRTÍ POBLACHTÁNACH



SEPTEMBER UPDATE

National Playday in Aras Cill Dara



Kildare County Council hosted another fantastic National Play Day on Saturday, the 6th of September, with something for everyone to enjoy. From a dedicated sensory-friendly space to bouncy castles, creative workshops, and my daughter's favourite making your own kite it was a truly amazing day. A huge thanks to the Parks Department for organising such an inclusive and fun-filled event for families across the county.



Amgen Irish Open

I was delighted to attend the Amgen Irish Open at the K Club and witness Rory McIlroy's brilliant win. It was a wonderful family day out, and we're fortunate to have such a world-class event right here in our Municipal District. Straffan looked fantastic, and huge credit is due to the operational team for delivering such a well-run and memorable occasion.



National Service Day 6th September

National Services Day was marked in style with a spectacular parade through Naas, celebrating the incredible work of our frontline and emergency services. A special highlight of the day was the induction of eight new "Little Blue Heroes" by An Garda Síochána, bringing huge smiles and pride to the community. Go Raibh mile maith agat.



Grand Opening of Teach Uí Bhuachalla

On the 8th of September, Maynooth welcomed the official opening of Buckley House, a brand-new 116-bed student accommodation. This state of the art development that provides much needed housing for postgraduate students and marks a significant step in addressing student accommodation needs in the town. Named in honour of Domhnall Ua Buachalla, a proud Maynooth native and patriot, Buckley House connects the future of education with our town's rich history and heritage.

Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA – KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council

Fianna Fáil Women's Network Conference

On Saturday the 20th, I had the pleasure of attending the Fianna Fáil Women's Network Conference in Tullamore. It was an inspiring and informative day, filled with engaging discussions, insightful speakers, and the opportunity to connect with women from across the country. The conference also looked at national policy and how the country is shaping and adapting to meet the changing issues we are facing daily.

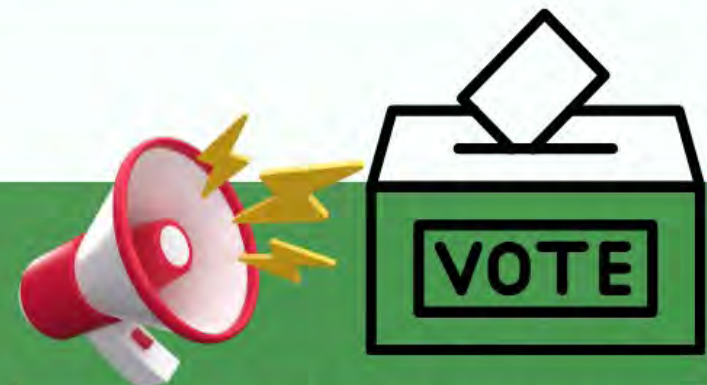


Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) celebrates 20 years in existence

I attended the 20-year celebration event for Teastas Eorpach na Gaeilge (TEG) in Maynooth and had the opportunity to present Minister Dara Calleary with the County Kildare Irish Language Plan. Kildare is the only county to have this work completed. On the evening, the Minister also announced a €2.3 million investment in TEG which is located in Maynooth University.



On Monday the 22nd of Sept I was nominated to represent Kildare on the HSE Dublin and Midlands Regional Health Forum. This is an important platform to ensure our communities have a strong voice when it comes to healthcare services. Maynooth urgently needs a fit-for-purpose health centre, and I will not stop fighting until we get the facilities our town deserves.



Register of Electors Presidential Election October 2025

In advance of the forthcoming Presidential Election, the following important voter registration deadlines apply:

Postal Vote Applications:
Deadline for submission is
29 September 2025

Ordinary Vote Applications:
Deadline for submission is
07 October 2025

Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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

Fianna Fáil
AN PAIRTÍ POBLACHTÁNACH



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What You'll Need

To complete the online form, you'll need:

- Professional reports supporting a placement
- Your child's PPS number
- Date of birth
- Eircode



What Happens Next?

Once you've submitted the form:

- You'll receive confirmation.
- We'll check eligibility for special school or Special Class placement.
- Your local SENO will contact you directly.

Submitting this form
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applying to a school
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An Chomhairle Náisiúnta
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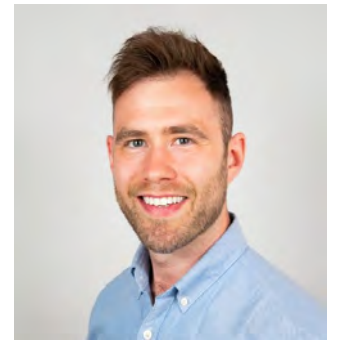
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Councillor Peter Melrose



September Updates

On Monday September 22nd, I hosted the *Solas & Savings Community Energy Evening*, an event I organised with Life Credit Union, Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community, the SEAI, and Kildare County Council. The goal was to bring together residents, suppliers, and experts to explore grants, group discounts, and practical steps toward solar panels, retrofitting, and EV charging. I'm happy to report that the evening was a resounding success, with a strong turnout and clear interest in working towards a more sustainable Maynooth.

I also attended the opening of *Buckley House* with Aidan Farrelly TD, a new 116-bed student accommodation facility that tastefully incorporates the birthplace of 1916 volunteer and Irish culturalist Dónal Ua Bhuachalla. The occasion was a chance to celebrate much needed community development and acknowledge the work of Maynooth University and others who were instrumental in bringing the project to fruition.

As a primary school teacher, I was proud to stand in solidarity with school secretaries and caretakers during their recent strike action, supporting their call for fair treatment and recognition for pensions. I also liaised directly and repeatedly with *Bus Éireann* to address the ongoing concerns around bus provision for the school transport scheme. I was furious that the situation, which should have been resolved over the summer, was let spill into the academic year.

On the planning front, I have been actively engaging with Kildare County Council on several key developments: the *Harbourfield project*, the NTA *Mill Street* upgrade, the NTA Celbridge Road upgrade, the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road (MERR), and several residential developments. All are crucial to the town's future.

The Harbourfield tender package is complete. This means we have everything we need, except the all-important

funding. Lobby your TDs and councillors to put pressure on government to ensure that we receive the funding we need to get the project underway. Harbourfield has such potential.

The Mill St. upgrade continues apace. Sometimes. It can be incredibly frustrating to get caught in the traffic in town. I am in regular contact with the project manager on the schedule for the project, due to finish by end of year. Fingers crossed we don't hit any bumps along the way.

The Celbridge Road upgrade has some chinks of light. The NTA has a very particular process that must be followed, and it would appear that some flexibility has finally been found in relation to the junction of the Celbridge and Straffan Roads. With this hopefully now moving forward, I will do all I can to progress the works. It is a project that the Maynooth councillors are united on.


The tender has been awarded for the MERR. We are all hoping that ground will be broken before end of year. This will transform traffic patterns in the town, but it is a monumental project. A 2-3 year timeline is expected, given the size and complexity of the works. The MERR, coupled with the North-East Maynooth Outer Orbital Route (MOOR) in Moygaddy, coupled with the Griffin Rath-Mullen Park Link Road, would go a long way to helping ease congestion in the heart of the town. Don't get me started on the main portion of the MOOR...!

Finally, I have been in regular contact with *Irish Water* regarding the *Maynooth Wastewater Transfer Pipeline*, which is currently on the Dunboyne Road stage of the works. This is another huge project for the sustainable growth of the town. I would hope that they will be off the road in the coming weeks.

As always, if there is anything you want to raise, please do not hesitate to reach out by phone, 0892637612 or email, pmelrose@kildarecoco.ie.

Cllr. Peter Melrose

Clane-Maynooth MD
Kildare County Council

 089 263 7612

 pmelrose@kildarecoco.ie

 [maolros](https://www.instagram.com/maolros)



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Regional Health Forum - Dublin - Mid-Leinster, Kildare-Meath Eirgrid Community Forum

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MU congratulates design student on winning James Dyson Award

Maynooth University extends warm congratulations to product design graduate Zoë O'Sullivan, who has been named National Winner for Ireland at this year's prestigious James Dyson Award for her invention Lymphia. Lymphia is a handheld portable device that teaches and guides patients through manual lymphatic drainage massage. It is designed to support recovery and help prevent lymphoedema, a chronic condition caused by fluid build-up after breast cancer treatment. Zoë O'Sullivan created Lymphia as part of the final year of her BSc in Product Design and Innovation at Maynooth University, when she was required to create an original design, which was then prototyped and manufactured on campus.

Kate Brown, another MU product design graduate, was named as a runner-up in the Irish category for Gotcha, an innovative make up opener designed for people with limited hand or arm mobility.

Welcoming the award, Zoë O'Sullivan said: "I am thrilled about winning the national Dyson award for Lymphia. It feels great to have my work acknowledged and so highly praised, and I am grateful for the awareness it will raise about lymphoedema and breast cancer."

Breast cancer treatment often damages or removes lymph nodes, putting patients at high risk of lymphoedema. If untreated, lymphoedema can become a lifelong condition. By providing accurate, real-time feedback, the device enables patients to perform genuine Manual Lymphatic Drainage (MLD) at home, reducing reliance on physiotherapists, conflicting online information, and trial-and-error approaches.

Zoë plans to use the prize money from the award to fund a patent application for her innovative design.

Lymphia is now set to progress to the international stage of the James Dyson Award. The international top 20 shortlist will be announced on October 15th and the international winners on November 5th. Congratulating Zoë O'Sullivan, Dr Iain MacDonald, Head of the Department of Design Innovation at Maynooth University, said: "Zoë is an inspiration, who has shown the power of



Zoë O'Sullivan and her invention Lymphia

human-centred design to improve the lives of people, which we proudly teach at Maynooth University."

Dr MacDonald said the University was delighted that its BSc Product Design and Innovation programme had received national and international award recognition for the second year in a row. Last year, another product design graduate Andrew Meehan won first prize in the Designing Healthy Future category at the international Cumulus Green awards for Curo, designed to reduce people suffering muscle loss while wearing a cast.

The James Dyson Award, run by the James Dyson Foundation, is an internationally recognised competition that celebrates, encourages, and inspires the next generation of design engineers.

Minister Lawless opens new MU student accommodation



MU President Prof Eeva Leinonen, Minister James Lawless TD and MSU President Maeve Farrell at the opening of Teach Uí Bhuachalla

Maynooth University welcomed Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science James Lawless TD to officially open Teach Uí Bhuachalla Student Accommodation, its new purpose-built student housing in the heart of Maynooth town. Located on Leinster Street, the 4,000m² complex spans four floors and provides 116 self-contained, en-suite student rooms, supported by communal kitchens designed for social cooking and dining.

This state-of-the-art development is the first project to be delivered under the Government's Short-Term Activation Programme to help with the supply of student accommodation. The building includes seven accessible rooms, is heated by heat pumps and has a BER cert rating of A2. It brings the total number of student beds available at Maynooth University to 1,262 from 1,146.

Designed by Demesne Architects and delivered by Vision Contracting, the project strengthens the connection between the University and the wider community. It is situated in the middle of Maynooth town on the historic site of the original Buckley House - a detached, three-bay, two-storey residence dating back to the early 1800s. Minister James Lawless, who officially opened the new housing, said: "This is a proud day for our sector. The delivery of Teach Uí Bhuachalla is not just a milestone for Maynooth University, it marks a significant step forward in how we deliver student housing across Ireland. "As the first project completed under the Government's innovative Short-Term Activation Programme, it sets a new benchmark for what can be achieved through strategic investment in purpose-built accommodation that supports

student success and well-being. Teach Uí Bhuachalla offers secure, high-quality housing that enables students to focus on their studies, build lasting connections, and fully engage in university life.

"By reserving places for students from disadvantaged and underrepresented backgrounds, it also shows how public investment can help remove barriers and ensure access to opportunity where it's needed most." Welcoming the new student accommodation, Maynooth University President Prof Eeva Leinonen said: "We are delighted to officially open Teach Uí Bhuachalla, providing 116 high-quality new student beds right in the heart of Maynooth. At a time when there is a well-recognised shortage of student accommodation across Ireland, this development reflects our commitment to supporting our students with safe, modern, and accessible housing that enhances their university experience.

"We are grateful to Minister Lawless and the Government for their support in making this important project a reality. We look forward to working collaboratively with the Government and partners as we continue to invest in student accommodation in the future."

Although the project was delayed due to the pandemic, thanks to the Government's support and innovative funding model, Maynooth University was able to deliver on this important milestone in expanding student accommodation, which is a vital part and cornerstone of our strategic vision and plan.

Maynooth University Alumni Reunion 2025

The Development and Alumni Relations Office welcomed alumni back to campus on Saturday, 6 September 2025, to celebrate milestone anniversaries for graduates of 2015, 2005, 1995, 1985 and 1975.

Guests enjoyed a lively reception in Renehan Hall with music from Mickey Joe Harte, followed by a three-course luncheon in Pugin Hall accompanied by harpist and MU alumna, Alida Loftus.

Vice President for External Affairs, Rebecca Doolin, addressed attendees, sharing exciting University updates and celebrating the growth of Maynooth's alumni network, now more than 100,000 strong worldwide.

Departments across the University were represented, with Biology, History, Classics, Geography, and the International Office all hosting a table of alumni and staff. The Office of Equality and Diversity joined the celebration, showcasing the incredible work that is being done through the Excellence in Exile, led by the EDI Office. The day was filled with memories, reconnections and celebration - a true reflection of the Maynooth University spirit. We look forward to welcoming alumni again next year.



MU Alumni at the 2025 Reunion



The Sword in the Stone



An Nuadha Players are proud to present

'The Sword in the Stone'

a brand new pantomime written by long term member, Rían Glynn.

Tickets are now on sale and are available online at annuadhaplayers.ie and in Maynooth Bookshop.

This promises to be an excellent trip out for the whole family, so make sure to book early to avoid disappointment.

Tickets are selling fast!

Competition Time

Do you want to win a Family ticket to this year's Christmas Panto?

Enter our colouring competition to be in with a chance!

Click [here](https://annuadhaplayers.ie/colouringcompetition.php) for all information which is available on our website at <https://annuadhaplayers.ie/colouringcompetition.php>

Deadline: 21st October 2025

Sponsorship

We are currently seeking businesses who would be interested in assisting with sponsorship for

'The Sword in the Stone'.

If you are looking to advertise to over 1,000 people with additional perks on social media while also helping your local community theatre group, please be sure to email us at

annuadhaplayers@gmail.com

to find out more information.



Play and Panto Submissions

We are delighted to announce that we are now accepting submissions for our Summer Production 2026 & Christmas Pantomime 2026!

If you have written a full length or one act play, a pantomime, or have a play/pantomime script that you would like to put forward for consideration for 2026, we want to hear from you!

Please see all important information and complete the relevant forms on our website at annuadhaplayers.ie.

Deadline for applications is 31st October 2025





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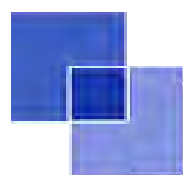
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Spooky fun at Maynooth Local Market this October

Autumn is in full swing on Court House Square and we're leaning into the season with a special Halloween-themed market on Saturday, 25th October. Families can look forward to a packed Kids' Zone with face painting, storytelling and pumpkin painting — perfect for little ghouls and budding artists alike. It's a great excuse to wrap up, meet friends and neighbours, and pick up something tasty or handmade from local makers.

In the run-up to Halloween, Collie Flower Designs will launch their Halloween-themed dog accessories on Saturday, 27th September. Each piece is handmade in Maynooth and approved by Pup-in-Charge Zowie, who's already modelling one of the latest looks. Treat your four-legged friend while supporting a local creator.

October also brings a new collection from local artist Maura McDonnell, inspired by the colours of nature — think wild hedgerows, blue hydrangeas and a fresh Maynooth streetscape. Keep an eye on our social media for news of a giveaway to celebrate the launch.

Of course, the heart of the market is the fantastic group of vendors who join us most weeks. From farm-fresh eggs and seasonal vegetables to hand-poured candles, poetry, photo prints, bubble tea, noodles and more, there's always something different to discover and enjoy.

Our market runs on volunteer power. If you can spare a few hours a month, we'd love to have you on the team — it's a rewarding way to give back locally and get to know more people in your community. We're also on the lookout for hot food vendors to add even more flavour to the weekends.

Get in touch at maynoothlocalmarket@gmail.com and be part of what makes Saturdays on the Square extra special.





Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

On Growing Old

For some reason the poem, 'An Gleann 'Nar Tógadh Mé', 'The Glen where I was Raised', composed by Douglas Hyde's— or to use his pen name An Craobhin Aoibhinn, The Delightful Little Branch — came back to me today. In the first two stanzas Hyde detailed the things he enjoyed while in the prime of life, mountain climbing, boating, running, in fact anything he felt like doing if it caught his fancy. Then in the third and final stanza there is a dramatic change, Do bhí mé luath is tá mé mall ; 'I was fast and I'm slow'. He doesn't know what broke the old strength of the heart and power of the limbs. He did much and learned much, but wasn't satisfied:

'Alas, alas that I'm not again
Young in the glen where I was raised!'

In contrast to above poem I recall an English translation of a poem by the 1st century B.C. Italian poet Horace, which goes something like this:

Happy the man who lives on his father's land,
Taps with his stick the road he rambled in play,
Who counts his sire's bequest from hand to hand,
One house, one home, once theirs and his today...

This rustic isn't concerned about physical deterioration. He's out on the road with his walking stick, keeping an eye on the property he inherited. The question is, which poet is giving the better picture of aging? I think most readers will agree that Horace is giving a rose-tinted view, while Hyde is telling it like it is, at least for most enfeebled oldsters. We forget the various triumphs and long for our lost physical vigor.

Which brings to mind 81-year- old President Joe Biden, who until recently was in denial about the insidious consequences of aging. To see him shakily mount the steps of the presidential jet, not to mention his lapses into incoherence during his debate with 78-year-old Donald Trump, is to be convinced that, for most of us, there is no escaping the cruel hand of Time. Now in my 88th year on this planet, I can vouch for that inescapable fact.

Which brings me back to Hyde's poem. Part of its appeal for me is that he was raised in a big house just outside Frenchpark, a County Roscommon village, not far from Derrylow, where I myself grew up. Derrylow is a farming townland, but, unlike the situation in Hyde's neighbourhood, nobody there spoke Irish, except for the cúpla focal learned in school. That is not surprising, given that in the three quarters of a century between my birth and Hyde's so much of our cultural heritage had been lost. As Tennyson so memorably phrased it in *Morte d'Arthur* :

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

The only people in our townland who exhibited an aura of past simplicity were the Conways, an aged couple who lived in a small, thatched house, not far from our own farmhouse. Joe was crippled and sat all day on a chair near the fire, while his wife hobbled about the kitchen by supporting one knee on a wooden box. Despite their basic circumstances, Joe had a love of learning, indicated by the leather-bound Webster's Dictionary containing colour plates of birds and animals, which he left to my father. I feel that, apart from their English language, they retained much of the traditional Gaelic culture that Hyde so esteemed.

And speaking of learned older people, one might mention some outstanding examples from the classical period. The Greek scholar Plato died at about 80, while Socrates died at age 71, having been condemned to drink hemlock for allegedly corrupting the minds of Athenian youths. Had he lived he might have exceeded Plato's age. Only the third person in this illustrious trio, Aristotle, died at the comparatively young age of 62.

But I'm in danger of being classed as a *Laudator temporis acti*, a praiser of past times and my answer to that is, 'What's so wonderful about present times?' We live in an age of increasingly dangerous regional conflicts, backed by the threat of intercontinental nuclear missiles that could make World War 2, which occurred during the latter years of Hyde's lifetime, seem like a bearable tragedy. In fact, during those fraught years Ireland was neutral and Hyde was appointed our first president, so he was unlikely to be lamenting his lost youth. Today, in addition to the possibility of nuclear annihilation, there's the looming threat posed by artificial intelligence, all of which suggests a future where mankind may become the victim of its own ingenuity. If such should be our lot, how trivial Hyde's lament for his lost prowess becomes.

P.G.Nerney

Village Rebirth?

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

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

Colin Scott

Guglielmo Marconi



**Pach Brothers .
Public domain**

Guglielmo Marconi, the pioneer of wireless communication, was born in Bologna, Italy in 1874. He was the second son of Giuseppe Marconi, an Italian aristocrat and landowner, and Annie Jameson, Irishwoman from the distinguished Dublin family renowned for its whiskey distilling empire: Jameson & Sons. Marconi married Beatrice O'Brien, a daughter of the 14 Baron of Inchiquin in 1905 but they would later separate.

Marconi revolutionised global communication by developing wireless telegraphy, a technology that would play a life-saving role aboard RMS Titanic. The ship's Marconi Room (wireless radio room) was at the cutting edge of technology. It allowed passengers to send personal messages ashore, and enabled the crew to receive vital weather and ice warnings from other ships. Its long-distance capabilities were unmatched at the time, with a daytime range of 300-400 miles and a nighttime range of up to 1,200 miles, depending on weather and atmospheric conditions.

Aboard Titanic, Jack Phillips and Harold Bride were highly trained Marconi men. Both had worked on prestigious liners such as Lusitania and Mauretania, and had served at the Marconi station in Clifden, County Galway until 1911, before being assigned to White Star Line.

As Titanic struck the iceberg and began to sink, Phillips and Bride worked heroically at their posts. Phillips continued transmitting distress calls until just ten minutes before the ship went under. Bride, fought to keep the equipment powered as long as possible.



**Francis Godolphin Osbourne
Stuart. Public domain**

Their tireless efforts ensured that Titanic's distress signals were received by nearby ships, a critical factor in the rescue of over 700 lives. Phillips tragically perished in the disaster while Bride survived.

THE EARLS OF KILDARE & THEIR TITANIC CONNECTIONS

In 1708, Robert FitzGerald, 19th Earl of Kildare, married Mary O'Brien, daughter of the 3rd Earl of Inchiquin. This union linked two of Ireland's most storied noble families: the Anglo-Norman FitzGerald and the Gaelic O'Briens, direct descendants of Brian Boru, High King of Ireland.

Over two centuries later, Guglielmo Marconi, would himself marry into the O'Brien family. His wife, Beatrice O'Brien, was descended from the same lineage as Mary O'Brien, making a loose genealogical connection between Marconi and the FitzGerald.

The FitzGerald of Kildare are connected to Titanic history in another unexpected way. John Pierpont Morgan, the American financier who bankrolled the Titanic and her sister ship, was an avid collector of rare books and manuscripts.

Among the treasures that found their way into his collection was a 'Book of Hours' once owned by the FitzGerald. The book had previously resided in the great library of Maynooth Castle.



Alan Cleary

Created in Rouen, France around 1425, this illuminated manuscript was used for private devotion and contains marginal notes and drawings that detail events in the lives of the FitzGerald family. These were likely added by members of the FitzGerald's family themselves.

Today, this remarkable volume is housed in the Morgan Library in New York, where it has been digitised and made available for public viewing.

Alan Cleary

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Service which provides a free and confidential

Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie

and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121



Seniors Alert Scheme

Introduction

The Seniors Alert Scheme provides funding for a free personal monitored alarm for people aged 65 and older who have limited means.

The scheme supports older people to live securely and independently in their homes. You may be living alone or living with another person. The Seniors Alert Scheme is run by Pobal, which manages programmes for the Irish Government and the EU.

You must contact a community or voluntary group in your area who are registered with Pobal to access the scheme. They will apply to Pobal on your behalf. Pobal does not accept applications from individuals.

Who can apply for the Seniors Alert Scheme?

To apply for the Seniors Alert Scheme, you must:

Be aged 65 or over

Have limited means or resources.

You must also be any of the following:

Living alone

Living alone for significant periods of time during the day

Living with another person aged over 65 with limited means

Caring for someone else in your household

You must also:

Live in the area covered by a registered group

Be able to benefit from the equipment supplied

Be willing to keep contact with the registered group

How much does the Seniors Alert Scheme cost?

All the alarm equipment and installation under the scheme is free.

The alarm monitoring service is free for the first year. After the first year, you will pay the annual monitoring fee for the alarm.

The annual monitoring fee will vary by service provider and the type of alarm or pendant supplied. The cost may be approximately €70 a year. Your local group can tell you about the cost in advance.

If there is no landline available in your home and a mobile signal is used to connect to the equipment, you may have to pay a fee for mobile SIM rental.

How does a personalised monitored alarm work?

You can get a monitored personal alarm that is worn as a pendant or around your wrist like a watch. These alarms connect to a national helpline through a base unit installed in your home.

When you press the alarm button, it immediately rings the helpline, which is open 24 hours a day all year round. A helpline operator talks to you in your home and decides whether to alert a local volunteer responder or, if necessary, the emergency services.

If you no longer need it, the alarm must be returned as the scheme equipment remains the property of the registered group.

How do I get a Seniors Alert Scheme alarm?

Registered community or voluntary groups apply to Pobal on your behalf. Pobal does not accept applications from individuals. A family member or neighbour can apply on your behalf with the local group if you can't apply yourself.

Contact a community or voluntary group registered in your area. Find a list of registered organisations by area on pobal.ie.

The registered community or voluntary group will:

Assess if you are eligible for the scheme and will support you to complete the application form

Identify the equipment you need and advise you of the current cost for monitoring and SIM card credit (if you need it)

Send the application and supporting documentation to Pobal

You will be asked to confirm that you understand the purpose and use of the equipment and that you will pay the annual monitoring fee after the first year.

What groups can register as providers of the scheme?

Community, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations can apply to register with Pobal for the scheme. They must have a recognised structure and be able to show that they can manage the grants. They must also have a record of working with older people in the community.

A group will not be able to register if there is an existing group operating the scheme in the area. Groups wishing to register for the scheme can register online at pobal.ie.

Further information

Pobal - Seniors Alert Scheme

Holbrook House, Holles Street, Dublin 2. D02 EY84 Ireland

Opening Hours: Monday – Friday, 9am - 12.30pm and 2pm - 4pm

Tel: (01) 511 7222. Fax: 01 511 7981

Homepage: <https://www.pobal.ie/programmes/seniors-alert-scheme-sas/>

Email: onlinesupport@pobal.ie

Home Support Service

What is the Home Support Service?

If you are an older person, the Home Support Service is a free service that help you continue living in your own home for as long as possible. For example, it can provide support to you with everyday tasks such as getting in and out of bed, bathing and dressing.

Your individual needs are assessed to decide what supports you need. The supports will be provided by the HSE or by an external provider, approved by the HSE.

The Home Support Service does not replace informal care you may have. It is not possible to deliver 24-hour care to individual clients in their own homes, as funding available for the Home Support Service is limited.

How much does the Home Support Service cost?

The Home Support Service is free. It is not means-tested so your income is not assessed. You do not need to have a medical card to apply for the Home Support Service.

Who can apply for the Home Support Service?

The Home Support Service is available if you are aged 65 or over and you need support to continue living at home or to return home following a hospital stay.

You may need the services:

Due to your illness or disability

After a stay in hospital or rehabilitation in a nursing home

You may be able to get the service if you are younger than 65 and need support. For example, if you have early onset dementia or a disability.

What services are included?

The services you get will depend on your individual needs. For example, you may get help with everyday tasks such as

Getting in and out of bed

Showering, bathing, and shaving

Dressing

The HSE will sometimes review the services you are getting. They may increase or decrease the supports you are getting, depending on your care needs, or the supports may remain the same.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

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When you apply, the HSE arranges an assessment of the support you may need. This is called the Care Needs Assessment.
HSE review of your Home Support Services
If your situation changes, you must notify the local HSE Home Support Office if this affects your need for home support.

How to apply for the Home Support Service?

To apply for the Home Support Service, you must fill in the application form. An application form can requested from your local Home Support Office, or Print the application form and information booklet for the Home Support Service (pdf).

You return the completed application form to your local Home Support Office. After you apply, the HSE will assess your health care needs (see below).

Help filling in the application form

You can complete the application form yourself or ask someone to complete it for you such as a family carer, GP or public health nurse. Staff in your local Home Support office can help you if have questions or need help filling in the form.

If another person helps you fill in the form

If someone else is completing the form for you, you must sign the Declaration and Consent section in Part 1 of the application form. This is to show that you have decided for yourself that you want the service.

If you are in hospital, you can ask the person dealing with your discharge plan about applying for the Home Support Service. They might be a nurse, a discharge coordinator or a social worker. They will help you with the application form and send it to your local HSE Home Support Office.

If you nominate a person to decide for you

If you are not able to sign the declaration on Part 1, then the application can only be signed by someone you have nominated to support you in making decisions. Your nominated decision maker can apply on your behalf. Read more about who your nominated decision maker may be. If you would like to be considered for Consumer Directed Home Support (CDHS), tick the box for this on the application form. (see below)

Care Needs Assessment

After you apply, the HSE will assess your health care needs and social circumstances. The assessment will identify the level of care that you currently have and what other supports you may need. A healthcare professional such as a public health nurse or physiotherapist will do the assessment.

They will consider:

How you carry out everyday tasks such as bathing and shopping
Any medical, health and other supports provided to you
Your family, social and community supports
Your wishes and preferences
The HSE will write to you to let you know their decision about the supports you need.

Appealing the decision of the care needs assessment

If you are not happy with the HSE decision, you can write to your local HSE Home Support Office within 20 days of getting the decision with the reasons you are not happy. The HSE will make an impartial review of the decision and will tell you the outcome of the review.

How does the Home Support Service work?

If you are approved for Home Support Services, the service can be delivered by:
The HSE

An approved provider arranged by the HSE, or
An approved provider arranged by you (Consumer Directed Home Support (CDHS))

HSE provided home support

The HSE provides and organises the home supports if staff are available.

HSE organise home care staff from approved provider

If you are approved for the Home Support Service and the HSE does not have available staff, a company will deliver the service.

This external provider will be approved by the HSE.

The HSE will ask you to choose from a list of approved home support providers. You deal directly with the approved company to arrange the days and times for the support.

All of these Home Support Service companies must meet certain standards. These include ensuring staff are trained and that there is a process for regularly consulting with service users.

Consumer Directed Home Support (CDHS)

You can deal directly with your chosen care company from the HSE list of approved providers. This is called the Consumer Directed Home Support (CDHS).

If you are approved for the CDHS, you will receive a letter telling you the weekly amount of HSE funding you can use to arrange the home support from your chosen provider.

You will then arrange the times and days of service directly with the provider. For example, if you have a family carer on a Tuesday, you may prefer to have a CDHS support hours provided on a different day. The number of hours of home support that CDHS funding provides depends on the rates charged by the provider. The provider will tell you the rates they have agreed with the HSE.

You can choose Consumer Directed Home Support when you apply for the Home Support Service. You just tick the box on the application form.

You can change your home support from CDHS to the HSE organised or from HSE organised to CDHS if you give notice.

How to complain about the Home Support Service

You can make a complaint or provide feedback on the Home Support Service in a number of ways:

In person by speaking to an HSE staff member
Online using the online feedback form
Sending an email to yoursay@hse.ie
Writing to your local home Support Office
Phoning LoCall 1890 424 555
Filling in a paper feedback for

You can also print and fill in this feedback form (pdf), or a feedback form in your own language
Put it into the feedback box in your local health service
Give it to a staff member
Post it to the HSE address on the form.

Further Information

You can find a HSE approved Home Support Provider near you.

You can contact your nearest local HSE Home Support Service office.



Events at Maynooth Community Library



For further information contact: www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie Ph: 01-6285530
facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService twitter.com/kildarelibrary

October Events

Events for Adults

Homelessness & Housing Supports Information Clinic Wednesday 1st October, 2pm - 4pm

Looking for advice on homelessness and housing supports? Visit this Kildare County Council drop-in clinic in Maynooth Community Library to learn about the supports available.
Drop in, no booking required

Luain Press Poetry Café

Tuesday 14th October, 6.00 pm – 7.00pm

Call by Maynooth Community Library for an hour of poetic activities! Share, listen and create! *Drop in, no booking required*

Toys , Technology and Training

Who Do We Tell? How Do We Tell? How Do We Manage the Process? When Your Child has a Neurodiverse Diagnosis

Thursday 2nd October, 6.30pm - 7.30pm
Suitable for Adults

The period following your child getting a diagnosis can be very emotional for parents and family members. There is a lot of decisions to be made and appointments to be scheduled as well as trying to emotionally process the diagnosis. The subject of “telling” often comes up, who should we tell and how do we break the news but keep the information private at the same time? This workshop looks at simple ways to approach these topics and provides practical advice and tips for parents, carers and family members.

Booking link <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=21226646>

Occupational Therapy Workshops with Kevin Prior, Everyday OT Tuesday 4th November, 6.30pm - 8pm Suitable for Adults

Empowering Kids: Strategies for Supporting Children with Daily Living Skills (Self-Care, School, Play and Gross Motor Skills)

This workshop will equip caregivers with practical strategies to nurture independence in their children. This comprehensive workshop provides actionable insights for fostering essential self-care abilities, such as dressing, grooming, eating, and toileting.

Booking link : <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=21251222>

Age Friendly

Age Friendly Coffee Morning

Wednesday 8th October, 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

Let's talk about Parenting

Supporting Anxious Children and Teens

Dr. Mary O'Kane

Thursday 23rd October, 6.30pm - 8.00 pm

All children worry at times, but for some, it can be a real challenge to manage their anxieties. As parents, when your child is anxious it can be difficult to know how best to support them. In this talk Mary explains how anxiety impacts children and teen's brains and bodies and offers parents practical advice on how to support them during difficult times, helping them to manage their fears and find the bravery we know they have within them.

<https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20912841>

Dealing with Substance Misuse in Adolescents

Presented by Tommy Hunt (InSync Halo Project)

Thursday 30th October 6.30pm - 7.30 pm

An introduction for parents, and professionals working with young people engaging with substances. Tommy Hunt is a Psychotherapist and co-ordinator of the Halo Project with InSync Youth and Family Services. He has 18 years' experience working with young people and will provide valuable information re signs and symptoms; how to manage situations; and the supports available from the In Sync 'Halo' Project.

Book here: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20911564>

Kildare Readers Festival

Poetry in the past and present tense: Kimberly

Campanello and Jessica Traynor.

Tuesday 14th October , 7pm – 8pm

Join us in Maynooth Public Library as Kildare Readers Festival presents:

In their latest collections, poets Jessica Traynor (New Arcana, Bloodaxe) and Kimberly Campanello (An Interesting Detail, Bloomsbury) excavate the distant and immediate past for histories and her stories, dreams and myths, bodies and beliefs, bringing them shimmering, pulsing, and very much alive into our shared present. How does a poem become a message to be read, like a tarot card, a document, a monument? What can it teach us for the years ahead?

Join us for a special evening of readings and conversation, hosted by poet and academic, Catherine Gander.

Ticket Tailor link: <https://buytickets.at/kildarereadersfestival/1801665>

Climate Action Events

Zero Waste Maynooth

Saturday 11th October, 2pm – 4pm

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!

(Continued on page 25)



Events at Maynooth Community Library



For further information contact: www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie Ph: 01-6285530
facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService twitter.com/kildarelibrary

(Continued from page 24)

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 for a quick demonstration on how cloth nappies work.

With thanks to Kildare County Council we are delighted to welcome back, Vanessa from The Craft Corner. Vanessa will have her Sewing Machine and hand sewing equipment to show you how to repair your clothes. This drop in service will allow you to learn skills to keep your clothes longer. Keeping our clothes in good repair saves on buying new, which is great for the environment and your pocket.

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

Exhibitions

Aliveness" - An Art Exhibition by Kamila Lukaszewicz October 1st - 31st October

In her latest exhibition, "Aliveness," Kamila Lukaszewicz offers a profound exploration of the human experience. This mixed-media collection is a visual exploration of what it means to truly come alive, delving into the layers of self through the lens of somatic expression. Kamila's artistic process is rooted in her deep understanding of the body as a vessel for memory, emotion, and transformation. Each piece serves as a tangible record of this journey, where she visualises the internal landscapes of the body's wisdom. The works invite viewers to connect with their own physical and emotional narratives, recognizing that the process of coming alive is an intimate and multi-layered art form.

Kamila Lukaszewicz is a multidisciplinary artist and holistic therapist from Alchemy Multiverse. She integrates Argentine Tango, somatic art

practice, with healing arts into her creative process. Dance, music, visual arts, writing, and crafts would be the primary ways of expressing.

To learn more about Kamila's work, visit: www.alchemymultiverse.com

Exhibition Bookings

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

Groups and Clubs

Maynooth Community Library Craft Club

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

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

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!*

To find out about more events that are happening in Maynooth Community Library, why not subscribe to our monthly events newsletter at the link below.

Email Subscription Form - Kildare Library Service
<https://kildarecoco.ie/library/newsletter/index.html>

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 26/08/2025 to 23/09/2025 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
2561079	Kildare County Council	Independent Trustee Company	Site at rear 750 Old Greenfields, Maynooth, Co Kildare	23/09/2025
2561076	Kildare County Council	Rachel Clarke and Martin Thompson	240, Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	22/09/2025
2561074	Kildare County Council	Eileen Maguire	20 Castlebridge, Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	20/09/2025
2561071	Kildare County Council	Stephen Reilly	5 The Green, Newtown Hall, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	19/09/2025
2561024	Kildare County Council	Warren & Ann Marie Parkes	51 Carton Wood, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	05/09/2025
2561013	Kildare County Council	Warren & Ann Marie Parkes	51 Carton Wood, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	04/09/2025
2561017	Kildare County Council	Claire Matthews	2 Beaufield Grove, Maynooth, Co Kildare	04/09/2025
2561006	Kildare County Council	Kevin & Anita Shortall	45 Rockfield Court, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	03/09/2025
2561012	Kildare County Council	Independent Trustee Company	site to rear 750 Old Greenfield, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	03/09/2025
2561002	Kildare County Council	Claire Matthews	2 Beaufield Grove, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	02/09/2025
2560993	Kildare County Council	Kevin & Anita Shortall	45 Rockfield Court, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	01/09/2025



Memories From the Archives Celebrating 40 Years of Maynooth Community Employment Project Producing the Maynooth Newsletter October 1985

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com

MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 1985 NUMBER 100 PRICE 20p

COURSE IN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Readers, who are involved in voluntary groups which aim to help the community, should be interested in a course which will be run by the Adult Education Department of Maynooth College, in conjunction with Maynooth Community Council. An evening course in Community Development will begin in early October, and the course will cover very practical aspects of community and voluntary work, as well as exploring some more theoretical issues.

Some of the very practical topics will be:

- Planning and decision-making in voluntary organisations.
- How to organise and run meetings. The functions of officers in an organisation.
- How to deal with state and voluntary bodies which can help your group. How to work with people.

More theoretical issues will be explored, including:

- What is Community Development?
- How is Maynooth community structured?
- What does the future hold for Maynooth?
- The experience of other community groups.

The course will also provide an opportunity for participants to draw up a development plan for their own organisations.

Course in Community Dev. Contd.

The course will consist of weekly sessions of two hours each, and will run for twenty weeks. The registration fee will be about €25 - €30.

Further information may be obtained from Siobhan Hall, (01) 284325. All enquiries are welcome.

NOVEMBER ISSUE

All items for inclusion in the next edition of the Newsletter should be handed in on or before the deadline date of 15th October 1985.

Panache

Weddings, Parties, Dinner Dances, Cabarets, Etc.

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MAIN FORD DEALERS

1985 Tidy Towns Competition

PROGRESS REPORT

Centre: MAYNOOTH Category: E
County: KILDARE 1985 mark: 125

	Max.	1985
EFFORT assessment may take into account sustained effort over a number of years or the overcoming of special local difficulties The main street is impressive, and there are many fine efforts throughout the town. There are, however, numerous bad lapses in less conspicuous locations which are just as important in the overall impression and effort must be spread more evenly.	40	28
TIDINESS appropriate placing of litter bins, absence of litter, advertising hoardings and indiscriminate dumping Minor approach roads look quite untidy; this has much to do with the neglect of roadsides and the occurrence of untidy yards, lanes and entranceways. There is still a sprinkling of litter but vigilance seems to have improved since last year.	35	17
PRESENTATION OF BUILDINGS shops, business premises, banks, factories, historic and public buildings, derelict sites and buildings, statues and monuments The university buildings are well presented. The church on the bend of the Kilcock approach is fine. The old grain store near the bridge is very unsightly. Most commercial premises achieve a high standard of presentation though some fronts are not entirely appropriate. Maynooth Livestock Sales should be screened.	35	30
PRESENTATION OF NATURAL AMENITIES open spaces, village greens, river banks, foreshore, parks, trees Particular attention must be drawn to the poor appearance of the public conveniences and the accompanying open space - this area is right in the centre and too prominent to be so badly neglected. Trees along the street contribute a great deal to the town's character.	30	19
APPEARANCE OF APPROACH ROADS verges, streets, back lanes and footpaths. Also car parks, seats, telephone kiosks, post boxes, litter bins, pumps and road signs The Kilcock approach is disrupted by roadworks at present. The committee has drawn attention to the unsightliness of rubble dumped at roadsides by the County Council. Another failing is the incidence of weed which is growing along many stretches throughout. The condition of litter bins is often poor, more frequently than is acceptable. Telephone kiosks are in good repair.	40	16
PRESENTATION OF RESIDENTIAL AREAS including open spaces There is a fairly uniform standard of presentation along the main streets, with several attractive terraces. Derelict and disused properties detract at times from good surrounding efforts. Some of the outlying ribbon development looks untidy.	20	15
Some progress has been made on issues raised in previous years, and marks should continue to improve if this effort can be sustained.	200	125

12

Bord Fáilte
Irish Tourist Board

Recent Wedding

Congratulations to Ann and Harry Liffen on their wedding, August 29th in England. Ann is daughter of Madge Dowling, Leinster Collages.

Congratulations

Congratulations to Br. Peter Dowling, S.S.S., Blessed Sacrament Community, who has taken his perpetual profession on 8th September.

Recent Wedding

Congratulations to Sheila Horan, Greenfield, Maynooth and Mark Jermain, California. Sheila and her husband Jermain have gone to live in California. Wishing them every happiness for the future.

Recent Deaths

We wish to express sympathy to the following -

The relatives and friends of the late Michael Cox, Winegates, Maynooth

The wife, family and relatives of the late James Bennett, Rail Park, Maynooth

Mrs. Josephine Egan, Greenfield, Maynooth on the death of her aunt.

Leo McGlynn, 85 7 Greenfield, on the sudden death of his sister Miss Elizabeth McGlynn, late of Bay Road, Mountmellick, Co. Laoighise.

The wife, family and relatives of the late Patrick Donovan, Greenfield, Maynooth.



Ann McStravick supervising Greenfield Estate Team in the Community Week Tug-O-War Competition



Owen Byrne, Lord Mayor of Maynooth, presents trophy to Matt Callaghan on behalf of Greenfield Estate, winners of Community Week Tidy Estate Competition

Maynooth Community Contacts Listing

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<p>Kildare County Council (Local Office) 01 - 6286236</p>	<p>Kildare MABS 0818072600 kildare@mabs.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Autism Friendly Town 0863329050 autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/maynoothaft</p>	<p>Maynooth Employment Services Office Kelly's Lane, Maynooth 01-6016360 EstMaynooth@welfare.ie</p>
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<p>Maynooth Cycling Campaign 086-8252934 Maynoothcycling@gmail.com www.maynoothcyclingcampaign.com</p>	<p>Maynooth Fishing Club 01-6293202 info@maynoothfisheries.com</p>	<p>Maynooth GAA Club secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie facebook.com/maynoothgaa/</p>	<p>Maynooth Health Centre 01-6106130</p>
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<p>North Kildare Tennis Club info@northkildaretennis.ie</p>	<p>Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth 01-6293018 maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com</p>	<p>SVP Vincent's Shop 01-6289643 geraldinebyrne.east@svp.ie facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064619179003</p>	<p>Zero Waste Maynooth 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth</p>

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



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

LOCAL NEWS - NOVEMBER 2025 - ISSUE NO. 551



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Maynooth Community First Responders

A TRIBUTE TO THE LATE DARREN LEE

A lasting tribute to the late Darren Lee has been unveiled with the installation of a new solar-powered defibrillator along the Greenway at Pike Bridge.

Darren, who served as chair of the Maynooth Community First Responders (CFR) group for the past three years, sadly passed away suddenly in August this year. He had been involved in this solar-powered defib project, which was funded through the Intel Pride of Place awards. Darren attended the ceremony in Intel in May, where the project was announced as the first successful winner.



Karen Hartnett, Fionnuala Murphy, Sandrine Gorsky, Sharon Cosgrave, Brian Cosgrave, Raise (one of the group's cardiac arrest survivors) Cathy Lawlor, Jean Lee, Marella Cahill, Fiona Carroll

The defibrillator cabinet bears a photo of Darren taken at that very ceremony in May, a poignant reminder of his dedication and passion. Colleagues spoke of Darren as reliable, calm and competent. They praised his selflessness and his sense of humour. He lived his life with quiet strength and integrity, always putting family and community first. His generosity, kindness, and dedication set a powerful example for all who knew him.

defibrillators in underserved areas. He also participated in "Hands for Life" training initiatives.



Gillian Barr & Keith Barr (Leixlip CFR), Bernie Downes & Cathal McCauley (Kilcock CFR), Marella Cahill, Fionnuala Murphy, Karen Hartnett, Cathy Lawlor, Brian Cosgrave, Sandrine Gorsky, Fiona Carroll, Sharon Cosgrave (all Maynooth CFR), Réada Cronin (TD), Amanda Ross (National Ambulance Service)

about will continue to serve and protect the community he loved. Darren will be dearly missed and never forgotten.

Darren was involved in several successful resuscitations in Maynooth, and one patient who made a full recovery attended the unveiling, adding a deeply emotional dimension to the event and highlighting Darren's profound impact. Beyond responding to emergencies, Darren advocated for the CFR group, engaging local politicians, and working to place



The Lee Family & Lilli

The ceremony was attended by Joe Bolger, an Intel factory manager, alongside several TDs, councillors, Darren's family and friends, community members, the National Ambulance Service, An Garda Síochána and Darren's CFR colleagues, all paying tribute to this heartfelt and fitting memorial. Intel was warmly thanked for sponsoring the solar powered defibrillator, and their financial support of the Maynooth CFR group since its founding in 2018.

With approximately 5,000 deaths from cardiac arrest annually in Ireland, speed is critical for survival. Prompt CPR and early defibrillation can save lives, making accessible defibrillators vital for improving outcomes.

This life saving device now stands as a lasting reminder of Darren's life and legacy. His family, friends, colleagues and community feel blessed to have known him, and his memory will be cherished forever.



Jean (Darren's wife), Cathy Lawlor (Maynooth CFR), Joe Bolger (Intel factory manager)

Plans to Celebrate Maynooth 850 - Announcement Expected

Maynooth Local History Group will lead the celebrations to mark "Maynooth 850" with a range of events planned for 2026. The celebrations are to mark the settlement of the Fitzgeralds in Maynooth where they built their castle in 1176. Since late 2024 members of the group have been working on the plans to mark this important anniversary in 2026 and the key events planned will be announced this month.

The sixteen members of the organising group includes local historians and people involved in genealogical and historical research. The celebrations will include close collaboration with Maynooth University, Kildare County Council and Heritage Ireland. The group is also keen to involve local community groups, local businesses, schools and individuals and in some cases, contact has already been made. For further information, Maynooth Local History Group can be contacted by e-mail at Maynoothlh@gmail.com



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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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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

Charity Trustees' Week 2025 marks the ninth year of the event and it takes place from 10th – 14th of November. Madeleine Delaney, the CEO of The Irish Charities Regulator describes this event as the time of the year when the charity sector comes together to acknowledge and celebrate you, the volunteers who oversee Ireland's charities and the important work that you do.

Being a charity trustee is an important role and much has been done in recent years by the Irish Charities Regulator, to support voluntary organisations, to meet the high standards required to secure and maintain charitable designation. The Maynooth Newsletter is published by an organisation that is an approved charity, which also provides supports for other community activities. These directly include activities such as maintenance of the environs of Maynooth Harbour and Greenway and maintenance of Maynooth Town Football Club.

Additionally, events like the Maynooth St. Patrick's Day Parade, the activities of other groups including Maynooth Local History and Maynooth Tidy Towns are supported by the work of the charity. Many Maynooth voluntary groups need more people to get involved as voluntary trustees, to continue doing their very important work in the town.

If you are available and willing to join any of these groups, I am sure that you would be welcome. Most groups will have a process for getting new people involved and not all groups need people at the same time. Some of the groups will have legal protections in place so that trustees are protected from any personal risks in terms of legal and financial exposures. To find out more details on approved charities in Maynooth, **sign on to the Charity Regulator register with these details.**

<https://www.charitiesregulator.ie/en/information-for-the-public/search-the-register-of-charities?search=maynooth>



It is hard to believe that it is a year ago since we highlighted concerns about traffic safety at the junction of the Leixlip Road and the Blacklion Road. With a number of ongoing works for active travel and waterworks upgrades in Maynooth, the traffic needing to use this junction has increased significantly in 2025. With normal traffic volumes, there is now few times during the day or indeed early evening where traffic in Maynooth is not at a standstill, so using this junction provides an alternative north to south route. Much online discussion continues about the need to prioritise the work to advance proper by-pass routes around Maynooth. As these are years away it must be a priority to make this junction safer for all users.

Paul Croghan
Editor

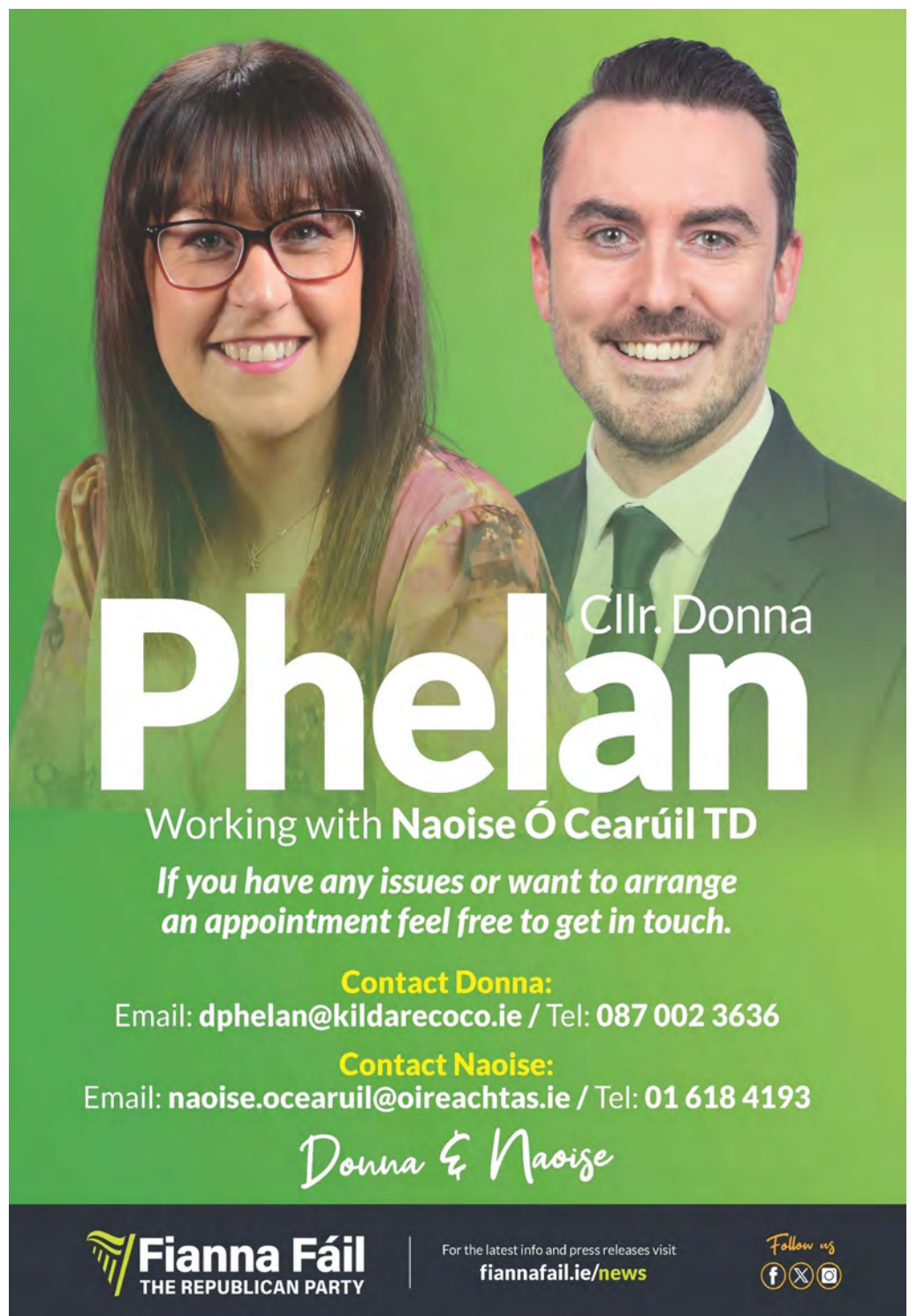
Submission Date for December Edition is
5pm on 23rd November 2025



Principals Johnny Nevin of MPP and Siobhan McCauley of MCC receiving the funds raised by the Maynooth 10k from Committee members Una Phillips and Sarah Knaap and from MEC PTA Co Chairperson Debbie Feely.

This was a record breaking year for the 10k with €26k raised.

All funds go towards upkeep of MEC pitches and plans are underway for expansion and upgrading of astropitches



Cllr. Donna
Phelan

Working with Naoise Ó Cearúil TD

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

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

Donna & Naoise

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Cllr Angela Feeney



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If I can help
Email: afeeney@kildarecoco.ie
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Zoom



Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

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OCTOBER UPDATE



Defibrillator on Greenway

I attended the installation of a solar powered defibrillator on the Greenway at Pike's Bridge. It was a very emotional but fitting tribute to the late Darren Lee, a first responder who lived a life helping so many others. Thank you to all our amazing First Responders.



Maynooth Castle

Working through the Council to pursue with the Office of Public Works (OPW) a previous Phase 2 Restoration Plan for Maynooth Castle. This would include the development of an auditorium space and a roof. I welcome the positive response and a meeting will be arranged with the OPW to advance this project.



Members of Maynooth Men's Shed at Council Meeting

I called on the Council to support Maynooth Men's Shed in securing a new location in order to sustain its activities. I was delighted to welcome members of Maynooth Men's Shed into the Council chamber and to hear first hand that the Council is actively working to make sure that they secure a new home. I very much appreciate the response from Maynooth Town Football Club in offering the Mens Shed a new home, to Miriam MTFC Chair, Jennifer and all the executive team for all their huge work in finding a solution.



CoHere Launch

Pictured at the launch of CoHere with co-founder Jill Robinson. CoHere is a new EU-funded pilot project bringing together local communities, employers, and Ukrainian Beneficiaries of Temporary Protection to explore practical approaches to refugee integration. The project will run for one year across Maynooth, Kilcock, Leixlip, Celbridge, and Straffan, gathering evidence to inform local authority practice and national policy on refugee integration.



Social Inclusion Event

Celebrating Social Inclusion Week at Maynooth Post Primary School with students and staff from The Orchard. Delighted to see the outdoor area looking just beautiful and that the accessible garden table donated by Maynooth Access Group is getting great use.



Entente Florale Gold

Celebrating winning Gold in the Entente Florale competition and President's Award for the Demo House at Maynooth University event. What a great achievement and well done. Thank you for all you do for our town. Pictured with MTT Chair Breedge Conway.



Dave Mulready Memorial Cycle 2025

Always honoured to volunteer at the Dave Mulready Memorial Cycle fundraiser. There was a great turnout for the event with proceeds going to cancer research. Well done everyone. Pictured with other volunteers from Maynooth Access Group and Community Garda.



afeeney@kildarecoco.ie



087 - 238 1962

St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band



October was very much a quiet month for us recital wise but a lot going on behind the scenes with rehearsals in full swing for upcoming events.

Our next important event is our Annual Remembrance Mass for Deceased Members at 10c on Sunday 9th November and we invite all relatives and friends of those who have passed on to join us in this musical tribute to them. Of course that invitation also extends to those who enjoy hearing the Band in the Church where the acoustics are perfect for our music.

Our year closes with our Annual Christmas Concert which this is being held in St. Mary's Church of Ireland on Saturday 13th December at 7.30pm. It gives us an opportunity to maybe bring out some Santy Hats and entertain the audience with many festive can Band .

Once again we welcome experienced and budding musicians to drop to the Band Hall on Pound Lane on Monday nights between 7.45 and 9.30 or Saturday mornings between 10 and 11.30am where they will be made most welcome.



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ROYAL CANAL AMENITY GROUP NOTES

“END OF AN ERA”

The iconic “Nanny Quinns” lounge-bar and restaurant, located at Thomastown Co. Westmeath, closed its doors, for the final time, on Sunday the seventeenth of August last. For the last thirteen years this cosy traditional Irish pub has been run by Rosie Ennis. She took over from Nanny Quinn who has since become a local legend in the area.

The first time I visited the pub was around 1980. At that stage it was a little country pub ran by its original owner who was in her nineties at that time. It served bottled beverages only; there was no alcohol on tap. There was no cash register either, Nanny stood behind the bar and totted up your bill with the stub of a pencil on scrap paper. Payment went into a drawer located under the counter. The premises boasted a large open fire and so was comfortable. Located on the banks of the Royal Canal adjacent to the country's longest greenway, it was visited by barge crews, boaters, walkers and cyclists. The current owner Rosie Ennis stated the reasons for closure were the general pressures of the hospitality industry and the need to give more time to family.

For a number of years, it was the venue for the Royal Canal Amenity Group's AGM meetings, it being located centrally on the Royal's length. Needless to say, some of these meetings were lively, passionate and always fun, to match the atmosphere of the pub. At these meetings we



discussed the development and refurbishment of the canal, which meant so much to us, just as Nanny Quinn's meant so much to the people of Thomastown / Killucan and all those using the canal.

A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY

The RCAG annual “**Christmas Jumper**” walk will take place on Saturday 27th. December starting at 12 15pm (approx.). This year the route will be from Leixlip Lousia Bridge to Maynooth along the newly refurbished Greenway. This should prove a pleasant experience with the paths now in very good condition. The refurbished Greenway will also, we are delighted to say, accommodate wheelchairs and prams / pushchairs. There will be a short break at Pikes Bridge, adjacent to Carton House and then on to Maynooth.

At the time of going to print the Christmas rail and bus time tables were not yet available, however going by previous years it can be assumed that the “Sunday Schedule” will be in operation, even though the walk is on a Saturday, for those who might want to: get a train or bus to Leixlip, enjoy the walk and get train or bus home from Maynooth. We will update you, on this in next month's edition.

Note the date down in your diary(27/12/2025), look out your Christmas jumper and trainers and be ready in advance. It is a great way to get back in to the swing of things after the Christmas festivities.





We had a busy October, on the 24th we were invited to Croke Park for the Tidy Towns results. We won our 9th Gold medal and increased our points by 13 to 394, just 6 behind the national winners Carrick-on-Shannon in Leitrim. Our time will come.

We planted bulbs in various parts of the town but especially on the Meadowbrook link Road. We got loads of help from the U14 GAA boys. The U14 GAA girls helped us plant bulbs close to their club house on the Moyglare Road. The TY students from Maynooth Education Campus helped us with a litter pick one Monday morning.

Lots of litter picking all over the town every Saturday morning. Since our population has doubled in the last 2 months so has the litter.

Thanks to Eamonn O'Flaherty Chairperson and other members of Maynooth GAA Club for organising a fundraising Table Quiz in the club house. 1,000 euro was raised on the night. All money raised will be used 100% around Maynooth.

If you wish to volunteer with Maynooth Tidy Towns please follow us on Facebook or email us at MaynoothTidyTowns@outlook.ie. We meet every Saturday morning at 9am in the Council Car Park just show up all equipment supplied.

Mary Molloy PRO
Maynooth Tidy Towns Association



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Fax: 6285613

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www.marycowhey.com

Grow Mental Health Peer Support Meetings

with Amanda

Tuesday
11 am to 1 pm
Leixlip Library, Captain's Hill

For more information
contact:

086 136 7423
amandadempsey@grow.ie



Adjudication Report

TIDY TOWNS COMPETITION 2025

Centre: **Maynooth - Maigh Nuad**
 County: **Kildare**
 Category: **G**

Ref: **377**
 Mark: **394**
 Date(s): **17/06/2025**
23/07/2025

	Maximum Markers	Mark Awarded 2024	Mark Awarded 2025
Community - Your Planning and Involvement.	80	60	62
Streetscape & Public Places.	80	50	52
Green Spaces and Landscaping.	80	56	58
Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality.	55	44	46
Sustainability - Doing more with less.	55	29	31
Tidiness and Litter Control.	90	61	62
Residential Streets & Housing Areas.	55	40	41
Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes.	55	41	42
Total Marks	550	381	394

Community – Your Planning and Involvement / An Pobal - Pleanáil agus Rannpháirtíocht:

Fáilte chuig Comórtas Bhailte Slachtmhara SuperValu 2025. Go raibh maith agaibh as bhur iarratas a chur isteach. Maith sibh don obair atá déanta agaibh in bhur cheantar go dtí seo - guímid gach rath oraibh i bhur dtionscadail amach anseo. Ádh mór. Maynooth are welcome to the 2025 Supervalu Tidy Towns competition. Thank you for your application and supporting documentation. Thank you for reducing your data on the entry form and including more photos of your completed work. As always over the years you have a committed number of volunteers that work diligently with your strong committee, to maintain your beautiful heritage town and keep on developing new projects to enhance the town and surroundings. Volunteers are made up of various age groups and occupations and indeed from different countries, which is applauded. Meetings are held regularly to discuss and plan projects. These meetings are also social outings for many, especially new residents in the area to get to know their neighbours. This year extra meetings are being held to organise and plan for the Entente Florale competition, which you are wished well in. Maynooth Tidy Towns receives ongoing support from Kildare County Council, all other agencies, businesses, community groups and educational centres with funding and advice for their ongoing projects. Communication to the wider community is through social media, newspapers/newsletters and notice boards. It is also applauded to see so many young people from all the educational centres helping out with various projects, ensuring that Tidy Towns in Maynooth is driven by the wider community. The Tidy Town's competition has adopted to help with climate change by encouraging the reduction of waste and improving biodiversity making more communities more sustainable by their actions.

Continued on next page

Streetscape & Public Places / Sráid-Dreach & Áiteanna Poiblí:

Maynooth is a heritage town with many historical buildings noted along its streetscapes. It is important to capture and retain information on these sites for future generations to come. This you have accomplished with your superb bi-lingual heritage trail of the town and surroundings. The main street has a mix of heritage and brightly coloured buildings, all bringing their own charm to the streetscape. It is also good to note that more businesses are opening up to ensure more buildings been occupied. The Roost looks particularly attractive with its colourful floral displays. As mentioned in your application there is movement on the vacant sites which is positive. The shop front award project is a good way of encouraging and rewarding businesses for their efforts. The tree line along this street brings ambience to the surroundings. As mentioned in last year's report the grass growing at the base of the trees does take from their overall appearance. The back lanes of the town visited are commended on the presentation of the buildings. The Pound is also an important heritage site providing a place of peace and tranquillity for those wishing to take a break. The square is also an important amenity and looks bright and colourful from the many planters situated throughout. The new beds were also admired. The cobble stone is however being overtaken with green growth. Some groups use a vinegar base for weed control as one method to keep them under control. The canal provides an excellent public space for the people of the area to enjoy their recreation in pleasant surroundings, both for walkers and cyclists.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

The natural surroundings of the town have been complemented by the many areas of planting noted along the approach roads, along the streetscape and in public spaces. The type of plants used ensures that the town and surroundings look bright and welcoming all year round. The seating and planters at Carton House were admired. The sun flowers will bring colour and brightness to the natural stone background. The square is also well decorated with colourful planters and ground planting which is very much in keeping with the surroundings. The hanging baskets and window boxes noted on many residences and businesses were also admired. Supervalu has to get a mention on its excellent presentation. The housing estates have also good planting at entrances and throughout. Information boards were also noted with information on various plants and trees. It is good to see one such board erected in a prominent location at the GAA grounds where there is plenty of footfall to observe it. The roundabout at Dublin Road does need attention, maybe the County Council could help you with this as it is in a very busy section of roadway. Health and safety has to be your priority when dealing with busy locations.

Green Spaces and Landscaping / Spásanna Glasa agus Tírdhreachú:

As mentioned in your application Maynooth has seen a vast amount of development to cater for students and commuters. Development does eat into green spaces that are an essential part of the towns biodiversity. Developers have to be encouraged as part of planning to incorporate green space and amenities in their developments. The retention of mature trees where possible and the planting of native trees and hedging is recommended. Mariavilla which was visited has included natural landscaping in this development, which is important for the large number of residents living there. You have a good biodiversity plan in place with new projects added each year. There are however good public amenities such as Carton House and along the canal where the community can enjoy the natural surroundings. Planting shrubs and plants which includes bulbs that complement the existing planting of these areas is recommended.

Sustainability – Doing more with less / Inmharthanacht - Mórán ar an mbeagán:

In this category Maynooth are forging ahead with improved results by their activities to make the town and surroundings more sustainable. They have attended meetings in the last few years on climate change that will hopefully help to reduce on their carbon footprint. Waste and recycling is improving. The re-turn scheme has seen a reduction in plastic and bottles. Green waste is also being reused as compost and mulch. More rainwater is being used by the wider community for watering plants and other tasks. The reduction in hanging baskets with more ground planting has reduced on watering and also is more sustainable for plants. Maynooth has a good public transport system, both train and bus. Cycling and walking seems very popular in this busy town as noted on day of adjudication. This is needed with so many students attending college and schools in the area. The schools are commended on their achievements in the Green School Initiative learning from an early age the importance of reducing waste and its impact on the environment. KCC Demo House where the public can visit and learn about retrofitting their homes is an important project. This will give the community some knowledge on the benefits of retrofitting and the cost involved. The grant involved could be increased to help particularly elderly people make their homes more efficient.

Tidiness and Litter Control / Slachtmhaireacht agus Rialú Bruscair:

There is no doubt that keeping the town litter free is a demanding task on volunteers. The control of litter and possible eradication should be addressed by the wider community and not left to the same number. There is a good plan in place in Maynooth with litter picking teams covering the main roads when it is safe to do so. The residents from the estates also get involved in looking after their areas and this is commended. Litter is segregated after each collection. The re-turn scheme has reduced the amount of cans/bottles which is positive. There are a number of volunteers that take care of Main Street at a time when traffic is minimal. There is ongoing co-operation from KCC and MU on managing events at the college that results in a lot of litter being left around. It is positive to note that the amount of litter collected at clean-ups has reduced and that is positive for such a busy town.

Residential Streets & Housing Areas / Sráideanna Cónaithe & Ceantair Tithíochta:

Maynooth like most towns is growing at a very fast rate with an increase in population which puts a strain on all other resources. It is a pleasure to leave Main Street and walk down the back lanes and admire the old housing stock that is still special and well presented. Pound Lane is one such area. The new housing build of today are more energy efficient. Mariavilla adjacent to Lyreen river has plenty of green space some wild and more areas mowed and planted with pollinator friendly plants. It is a good example of a well planned development. The older housing estates will need help from the government with better grants to bring them up to standard. It will take time for this to happen. The estates visited have good entrance signs, well-kept green areas and good landscaping. Most homes have well painted facades and look bright and welcoming from colourful floral displays. Play areas visited were all well-presented and are such an important amenity for the community. The residents are commended on the work they do in the presentation of their homes and also helping with the many projects such as litter picking and many more to help make Maynooth the progressing town it is.

Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes / Bóithre Isteach, Sráideanna & Lánaí:

The approach road from Straffan was busy with traffic. The grass verges on this road are neat while retaining a corridor for wildlife. Landscaping is impressive at Maxol and Supervalu. The Dublin Road has a superb entrance stone. O'Neill Park landscaping was admired. The roundabout in this area needs attention. It is hoped that KCC will help with this. The Kilcock entrance road has neat verges with uncut corridors for wildlife. Trees and shrubs were admired on this road. There are some plants such as hogweed growing along the grass verges that needs to be controlled or it will take over. Rathcoffey entrance road also impressed. Mullen Bridge and Bond two very important features of the town could be highlighted more. Maynooth is certainly worth a visit during the Spring with the amount of bulb planting along approach roads that has taken place as per photos attached.

Concluding Remarks:

Maynooth was a pleasure to visit and adjudicate. There are plans for a new ring road that will help to ease traffic in this busy town. Tidy Towns are doing good work helping to retain the heritage of the town and expand to cater for an increased population. Keep up the good work.

Second Round Adjudication:

Thank you so much for all the work that went into your entry this year. Your entry was very clear and detailed and amply illustrated with many photographs of your activities throughout the last year. It is so useful for us to have before and after photographs to allow us to appreciate the scope and scale of your efforts. Thank you for the map and accompanying legend that allowed us to navigate Maynooth and get to see what you have achieved. We would advise that your strategic plan should be more detailed. We didn't get the feel that it identified larger-scale projects that would be of great significance for Maynooth.

The approaches to Maynooth are generally pleasant and well-kept. Two roundabouts in particular stood out for us. Beware of having too many name signs on any given approach road. It is good to see towns that announce their autism-friendly status.

Our visit to Maynooth was blessed with good weather and it was lovely to be able to walk around the town and appreciate the fruits of your labours. Even with the academic year over, the streets were busy throughout the day. Significant work was underway on new footpath and cycle facilities which were good to see. We got a chance to visit Maynooth Castle and it was extremely enjoyable and informative. The interpretation here is very well done. The grounds would be a lovely place to sit for a lunchtime break. Another splendid piece of built heritage is St. Mary's Church of Ireland. Unfortunately this was closed on adjudication day but we were able to appreciate the new beds with lots of pollinator-friendly species. Well done. The parish centre and the lovely garden here were visited. Our compliments to those who keep it so well.

We were somewhat disappointed with the bottle bank area where some litter and graffiti detracted from the appearance. The Pound, on the other hand, was such a lovely experience and we noted the new biodiversity signage here. Lots of lovely (and pollinator-friendly) planting with Rudbeckia, Verbena and Potentilla really enhances this area. We really liked how you have decorated your 'big-belly bins' – very clever. This was also the first place that we had seen the vape-sticker panels on a litterbin. Another good idea. Your gorgeous new flowerbeds at the Square were much admired.

There are some really nice commercial premises in Maynooth. Outdoor seating areas at premises such as Bistro 53 and Picardo's certainly add to the streetscape. Maynooth Bookshop has a lovely shopfront. If AIB were to invest in some floral decorations this would definitely add interest to this premises. As you described in your entry, some takeaway premises are not positive additions to your main street in terms of signage quality. Well done to the owners of the public houses for keeping them looking so good. We noted your use of an old shopfront as your trophy cabinet. Super. Watch out for unsightly advertising which can ruin a gable or detract from a laneway. Your blue street name signs are gorgeous but some of the commercial signage leaves room for improvement.

Maynooth has several lovely walks and we enjoyed our stroll down Carton Avenue, taking in as we passed the lovely landscape planting at the gates. A little wilder was a walk along the canal and we were impressed to see almost no litter.

Overall, this was a really pleasant visit and this adjudicator is very happy to affirm the conclusions and scoring of the first round adjudicator. Keep up the good work and thank you.

Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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

Fianna Fáil
AN PÁIRTÍ POBLACHTÁNACH



OCTOBER UPDATE

Official Opening of the Greenway in Maynooth



I was delighted to attend the official opening of the Maynooth Greenway, a wonderful addition to our town that connects Maynooth to the wider Royal Canal route. This new amenity provides a safe, accessible, and scenic space for walking, cycling and enjoying the outdoors. The Greenway is a fantastic example of how investment in sustainable infrastructure can enhance both community wellbeing and local tourism.



Maynooth wins gold in the Entente Florale

Congratulations to Maynooth Tidy Towns on their Gold win in the Entente Florale competition a truly outstanding achievement for our community. Maynooth University hosted a wonderful celebration evening to mark the occasion, and it was lovely to soak up the cheer and atmosphere that came with such a well-deserved victory. This award is a testament to the dedication and pride of everyone involved in keeping Maynooth beautiful.



Official Opening of the new solar powered De-fib machine at Pike's Bridge in honour of the late Darren Lee

It was a bittersweet but proud day at the official opening of the solar powered defibrillator at Pike's Bridge on the Royal Canal, dedicated to the late Darren Lee a true community stalwart whose legacy continues to save lives. This innovative unit, powered entirely by solar energy, is a fitting tribute to Darren's spirit and commitment to others. I'm also delighted to be working with the Maynooth Community First Responders on an exciting new project the first of its kind in Ireland that will be life-changing for so many people. Watch this space!

Health Centre Update

At the recent HSE Regional Health Forum meeting, the HSE confirmed that while the new centre in Leixlip will proceed, there are no immediate plans for Maynooth. I have invited the HSE to attend a Council meeting to review the plans in detail and highlight that the current Maynooth Health Centre is not fit for purpose for the town's growing population. and needs significant investment.



Mens Sheds get a new perminant home



I'm delighted to share that the Maynooth Men's Shed have found their new permanent home, thanks to the incredible support of Maynooth Town Football Club. Together with Deputy Naoise Ó Cearuil, I've been working closely to secure a suitable premises and funding for a new workshop to be located onsite. This partnership highlights the strong community spirit that Maynooth is built on and ensures the Men's Shed can continue their great work supporting wellbeing, friendship and skill sharing among local men.



Caring for Caregivers

I recently attended a half day Holistic Caring for Carers retreat and it was such a valuable opportunity to pause and take stock. Life can be so hectic, and taking even a couple of hours to breathe, reflect and meditate was truly restorative. Events like this remind us how important self-care is especially for those who spend so much of their time caring for others.



Uisce Éireann Update

I recently attended a meeting with Uisce Éireann to discuss ongoing and upcoming water infrastructure projects for Maynooth. The pipeline improvements are progressing well, and even better news funding has been allocated for a full upgrade of the water pipes along the Celbridge Road. This project is now at the design stage, being developed in conjunction with Kildare County Council and is expected to begin by the end of next year. This vital investment was made possible through the increased funding allocated to Uisce Éireann in this year's national budget.



She Succeeds Event in Newbridge

I was delighted to attend the "She Succeeds" event in Newbridge an inspiring celebration of women in business and leadership. Events like this are so important in highlighting the talent, resilience and innovation of women across Kildare. Supporting women in the workplace isn't just about equality it's about empowering voices, driving creativity and building stronger, more inclusive communities

MAYNOOTH CYCLING CAMPAIGN

NEWSLETTER NOTES for November 2025



AGM

Maynooth Cycling Campaign will be holding its AGM at 8:00pm on Tuesday 11th November in the ICA Hall, Leinster Street. Everyone is welcome!

Funding for Local Climate Action

The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment has given Kildare County Council an allocation of €897,000 for climate related projects by communities to improve their local area. The project themes include community energy and travel. Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes suggestions for projects from members and non-members. The scheme is open until 22nd December.

Mill Street

There have been a lot of complaints on social media in recent weeks of congestion in Maynooth, especially at peak times. Most put the blame on Kildare County Council's redesign of Mill Street and/or its construction. Everyone is entitled to their opinion but many of the comments are ill-informed.

Last month, Maynooth Cycling Campaign website published "**Mill Street An Alternative View**" which gives a different opinion to drivers. One of the key questions is whether or not the Mill Street/Main Street junction was modelled for buses and if it was constructed in accordance with the design.

Default speed limit

A coalition of road safety campaigners including the Irish Cycling Campaign is calling on the Minister for Transport, Darragh O'Brien to **issue a commencement order without delay for the default urban speed limit of 30km/h as defined in the Road Traffic Act 2024.**

By issuing a commencement order the Minister would require local authorities to apply a default 30km/h to the 85 currently defined built-up areas (defined in the Local Government Act 2001).

This is a straightforward process for local authorities and would mean that 85 cities and towns would get the immediate benefits of safer 30km/h speed limits. Maynooth Cycling Campaign supports this call. While regrettably this would not include Maynooth itself, our neighbours in Leixlip, Newbridge and Naas would benefit from its implementation. The full Press Release is available [here](#).

Parking and its Cost

A secure car parking space in Manor Mills has recently been advertised for sale at a cost of €25,000. In the past when local authorities specified minimum car parking standards rather than maximum car parking standards as they do now, the cost to developers of not providing a car parking space was €10,000. While housing costs have increased significantly, it seems that the cost of car parking has kept pace.

In contrast, Kildare County Council charges an annual fee of €5 for a Resident's Parking Permit. Admittedly, this does not guarantee a parking place, but it is in effect another subsidy for car owners. It compares to a charge of €100 per year by Dublin City for a place in a bike hanger.

Bollards at Moyglare Road

And still on the theme of parking - Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomes the erection of bollards adjacent to St. Mary's Boys School in order to deter parking on the shared path for pedestrians and cyclists.

However some drivers, who are slow to take the hint, have simply parked further away. It is time for the Garda Siochana to do their job properly and enforce the law in relation to parking.

In Japan, if there is no sign to indicate that you are allowed to park, you have to assume that it is prohibited. Perhaps it is time to introduce this rule to Ireland.

Most Dangerous Junction in Maynooth

Is the Glenroyal junction on the Straffan Road the most dangerous junction in Maynooth for vulnerable road users? On two occasions recently, our attention has been drawn to incidents where drivers leaving the Glenroyal broke red lights at speed and proceeded through a second set of lights narrowly missing pedestrians who had begun to cross the Straffan Road after receiving a green light.

Councillors Question to KCC

At the October full meeting of the County Council, a Naas councillor, Bill Clear posed a question to Kildare County Council senior management. He asked that with only five years remaining to 2030 what progress had the Council made toward achieving its stated cycling targets.

The reply from the Director of Services listed the projects underway to achieve a change in modal split which was not asked. There was mention of targets for car use which were not asked. In a verbal response to a follow up question, the Director mentioned that we will not see the outcome of the projects until an entire cycling network is constructed.

This is nonsense. The European Cycling Federation has stated that measuring and reporting progress is an essential requirement in achieving change in modes of transport and the Dutch have implemented measuring and reporting as part of their cycling strategy for some 50 years. After 20 years of investing in cycling infrastructure, Ireland has a 2-3% level of cycling nationally compared to 27% in the Netherlands. Does Kildare County Council seriously think that it knows more about change in modes of transport than the ECF and the Dutch?

Maynooth Cycling Campaign is an independent local lobby group for better cycling facilities in Maynooth and Kildare generally. If you would like to support our efforts, we welcome new members. Why not join us - you can find details [here](#).

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Become An Autism Friendly Town Collaborative Employer Maynooth 2025

In collaboration with AsIAM and MAFT



Please contact MAFT by the 27th of October if your business would be interested in signing up.

Businesses in Maynooth are the first in the country to be given the privilege to complete this program

Contact us @ autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com



Why Join?

- Learn how to make recruitment, onboarding and workplace culture inclusive for Autism employees
- Attract and retain diverse talented staff
- Gain public recognition for your commitment to inclusion
- Access practical tools, training and grant support



Key Dates - All Online

- Module 1: Tue 04 Nov, 14:30–16:00
- Module 2: Tue 11 Nov, 14:30–16:00
- Module 3: Tue 18 Nov, 14:30–16:00
- Module 4: Tue 25 Nov, 14:00–16:00



Program Overview - 4 Online Modules

- Introduction to Autism in the Workplace – Awareness, strengths, barriers, reasonable accommodations. (1.5 hrs)
- Inclusive Recruitment & Interviewing – Write ads, run interviews, and make offers in a more inclusive way. (1.5 hrs)
- Getting a New Starter Started! – Onboarding, probation, skills development, disclosure support. (1.5 hrs)
- Supporting Existing Employees – Retention, recognition, inclusive meetings, offboarding, DSP grants. (2 hrs)



Cost



€100 (discounted from €1,000)

Recognition: 2025/26 Certificate, badge for display, feature on AsIAM's website, media promotion.



Your Commitment as a Champion Employer

- Small business (<50 staff) based in Maynooth.
- Attend all 4 modules (up to 3 staff per session, 1 lead attends all).
- Provide at least 1 flexible work experience placement for an Autistic individual.
- Notify AsIAM of vacancies for candidate referrals.

"Building a Town, where everyone belongs"

Maynooth Men's Shed

HISTORY ♦ ♦ ♦

We recently spoke with The Maynooth Men's Shed to find out what was happening with the group currently. The group informed us that members meet twice per week, on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 10am to 1pm. At present, The Shed is based at Meadow Lodge Fisheries, Dunboyne Road, but will be relocating in the near future. The Shed's PRO, Brendan Kennedy, informed us that due to space constraints at the current location, membership numbers are currently close to full capacity. However, he anticipates that the Shed will be open to new members when it relocates to the proposed new facilities in the grounds of Maynooth Town FC. We got a flavour of what takes place at meetings with Brendan telling us that, anything and everything is discussed at meetings and that the group tries to set the world to rights over a cup of tea/coffee.

Apart from the craic-filled banter, the group also discusses any work that may present itself from other community organisations, and debates ideas for prospective monthly outings, the next of which, is a trip to The Shackleton Experience in Athy in November. Some projects that the Shed, which was formed in 2012, was involved in include:

- A tourist Guide to Maynooth, a pamphlet designed and produced in conjunction with Maynooth CEP. The pamphlet contains 12 points of interest around the town, and also includes a map of the town and the location of the points of interest.
- The construction of a Composter to enable students in a local school create compost from organic waste.
- Artwork Display Units for Castle Keep Art Group.
- The refurbishment of a public bench beside Maynooth Harbour on the Royal Canal.
- A Portable Access Ramp for the local branch of the ICA. The ramp facilitates ICA members who use zimmer frames.



DCU AWARD ♦ ♦ ♦

Earlier this year The Shed was invited to take part in a collaboration with the transition year students of Maynooth Community College. The collaboration was entitled: Intergenerational Solidarity and Cooperation Between Generations, and involved Shed members having weekly meetings and discussions with students where cross-generational life stories and experiences were shared and recorded.

The students formed those discussions into a podcast. The podcast was subsequently entered into a countrywide competition sponsored by Dublin City University and Maynooth Community College won first prize for its entry in that competition, and as a result, received the Platinum Award.



Maynooth Men's Shed

CHRISTMAS FOOD APPEAL

This year, the Shed will once again be helping the Lions Club with their annual Christmas food collection outside supermarkets in the town. For 2 days, trolleys will be positioned at the entrance to the supermarkets and members of the public will be invited to donate non-perishable goods as they exit the stores. Men's Shed members will organise a rota system to ensure that trolleys will be supervised and that donated items will be stored safely as trolleys are filled. The items donated will later be collected by members of the St. Vincent De Paul Society, to be used in hampers that they distribute at Christmas.



SANTA'S POSTBOX



Maynooth Men's Shed designed and built a postbox for local children so they could post their letters to Santa at Christmas.



The box was constructed from wood and stands circa 1.5m high by 600mm wide. The postbox made its first magical appearance in 2023 and each year it is placed in The Courthouse Square two weeks before Christmas. It has proved very popular with the children. The letters are collected by An Post Elves for delivery to Santa in the North Pole.

maynoothmenshed@gmail.com



It was the Elves of Maynooth Tidy Towns, a group The Shed has always worked closely with, who initially asked The Shed to make the postbox. The magical postbox was constructed over a period of 4 weeks at the twice weekly Shed meetings.



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Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



As you can see from our poster, we are looking forward to what is now an annual fundraising pub quiz for Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee. We hope to see a good turn out for this event. There will be plenty of spot prizes.

A further note on fundraising – Committee members will be selling raffle tickets in Manor Mills and Supervalu on the weekends of 14th and 21st November and the winners will be announced on Sunday 7th December at our Christmas Lunch which is our next big event after the quiz. Our committee members will be in contact with Senior Citizens on our list.

Maynooth Senior members meet at our Tuesday and Thursday morning club where we have a range of activities including gentle movement exercises thanks to KWETB Community Education section, Pottery thanks to Tara Lane and, we also have art classes and bingo and there is time for a cuppa and a chat. Through further collaboration with KWETB and Kildare PPN and other organisations we hope to be able to include more activities in 2026.

Check out our Facebook page for up to date information.

Susan Durack, Chairperson,
Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee.



Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee

(EST 1965) CHY20017521



Fundraising Table Quiz

8PM FRIDAY 7TH NOVEMBER

NEWTOWN INN, MAYNOOTH
TEAMS OF 4, €10 PER PERSON

Raffle and Spot Prizes Galore!

**SAVE
THE
DATE**



Maynooth University
National University
of Ireland Maynooth

Nochtann OMN dealbh den Athair Peadar Ó Laoghaire (MU unveils sculpture of Father Peadar Ó Laoghaire)

Tá Ollscoil Mhá Nuad (OMN) tar éis dealbh den Athair Peadar Ó Laoghaire a nochtadh. Bronnadh an dealbh ar an Ollscoil ag muintir Chaisleáin Uí Liatháin, Co. Chorcaí, áit inár chaith an t-

athbheochanóir Gaeilge agus ceannródaí liteartha ceiliúrtha beagnach 40 bliain mar shagart paróiste. Is ceann de phéire a cruthaíodh ag an dealbhóir mór le rá Seamus Connolly an busta cré-umha seo den Athair Peadar (1839-1920), a oirníodh mar shagart sa bhliain 1867 i gColáiste Phádraig, Má Nuad agus a bhí ina mhórphearsa de chuid Athbheochan na Gaeilge níos déanaí ina shaol ag deireadh an naoú haois agus tús an fhichiú haois. Bronnadh an busta ar OMN mar aitheantas ar chomóradh na hOllscoile ar shaol, ar shaothar agus ar oidhreacht an tsagairt, scoláire agus údair iomráitigh.

Sa bhliain 2020, céad bliain i ndiaidh a bháis, chuir Ollscoil Mhá Nuad taispeántas le chéile bunaithe ar chartlanna Uí Laoghaire, atá ina gcónaí sna Bailiúcháin Speisialta agus Cartlanna i Leabharlann OMN.

Léirigh Oifig Gaeilge na hOllscoile gearrscannán chomh maith a athchóiríodh ón úrscéal Séadna, a scríobh Peadar Ó Laoghaire agus a sheasann mar an gcéad úrscéal riamh a scríobhadh sa Nua-Ghaeilge. Rinneadh taifeadadh ar an ngearrscannán ar champas agus feictear baill foirne agus mic léinn ó phobal Gaeilge na hOllscoile mar scéalaithe ann. Nochtaigh Cláraitheoir OMN, an tOll Ronan Farrell agus Uachtarán Ollscoil Phontaifiúil Phádraig, an Dr Michael Shortall an dealbh i Leabharlann na hOllscoile Dé Céadaoin, 15 Deireadh Fómhair. Maynooth University (MU) has unveiled a sculpture of an tAthair Peadar Ó Laoghaire, a gift from the people of Castlelyons, Co Cork where the celebrated Irish-language revivalist and literary pioneer served as parish priest for nearly 40 years.

The bronze bust of an tAthair Peadar (1839-1920), who graduated from St Patrick's College, Maynooth in 1867 and later became one of the leading figures of the Irish Language Revival of the late 19th and early 20th century, is one of two created by the renowned sculptor Seamus Connolly.

It was given to MU in recognition of the University's commemoration of the life, work and legacy of the acclaimed priest, scholar and author. In 2020, the centenary of his death, MU produced an exhibition drawing from the Ó Laoghaire archives, housed in the



L-R: President of St Patrick's Pontifical University Rev Dr Michael Shortall and MU Registrar Prof Ronan Farrell unveil the sculpture



Sculpture of Peadar Ó Laoghaire on display

Special Collections and Archives of MU Library. The University's Irish Language Office also produced a short film adaptation of Séadna, a novel written by Peadar Ó Laoghaire and the first-ever novel written in modern Irish. It was filmed on campus and featured staff and students from the University's Irish language community.

Maynooth University Registrar, Prof Ronan Farrell and President of St Patrick's Pontifical University, Rev Dr Michael Shortall unveiled the sculpture in the University Library on Wednesday, 15 October.

MU celebrates Space Week 2025

Maynooth University celebrated Space Week 2025 with an exciting evening of talks that explored the wonders of the universe and the latest developments in space science.

The free public event, *The Sky, the Stars and the Universe Beyond*, brought together researchers from the Department of Physics to share insights into astronomy and astrophysics.

The event attracted a wide audience, including younger space enthusiasts, who had the chance to learn directly from Maynooth's researchers and ask questions about the mysteries of the universe. It highlighted the university's ongoing commitment to science outreach and inspiring the next generation of scientists and explorers.

The evening opened with Dr Neil Trappe, who guided the audience through the basics of observing the night sky and showed how anyone can begin exploring astronomy from home. Emilija Bumblyte followed with *Stellar Explosions Over the Centuries*, examining how astronomers, past and present, study supernovae to better understand stellar life cycles.



L-R: MU Dept of Physics team of Dr Neil Trappe, PhD researcher Daxal Mehta, Dr Emma Whelan, postgraduate researcher Emilija Bumblyte and Dr John Regan

Daxal Mehta continued the programme with *What Happens if You Get Swallowed by a Black Hole?*, explaining how black holes form and how scientists detect these extreme cosmic objects. The event concluded with Dr Emma Whelan, who introduced the upcoming MAUVE space telescope and discussed how it will advance research into stars and exoplanets.

Minister Lawless turns the sod on MU's new Sport Science Centre

Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD has turned the sod on Maynooth University's €19 million Sport Science Centre.

The state-of-the-art facility, designed to promote health and wellbeing on campus as well as teaching and research, is scheduled to open in January 2027, with construction now underway on a three-storey

extension to the Phoenix Sports and Restaurant Building.

Planning permission was received from Kildare County Council in late 2024 for the new centre which will include a state-of-the-art student gym, a teaching sports / multi-purpose hall and sports science research and teaching laboratories.

In the plans, drawn up by a team led by Reddy Architecture and Urbanism, the gym is prominently located on the ground floor of the new building, making sports activities visible and promoting student health and wellbeing.

The new building will also house office space for the Department of Sport Science and Nutrition, which was established in 2023.

In addition, the new building is designed with sustainability at its core. Heated by energy-efficient heat pumps and incorporating mechanical ventilation with heat recovery, the building is expected to achieve a BER rating of A2.

Welcoming the planned new centre Minister James Lawless TD said: "I am delighted to turn the sod on this new facility that will support the health and well-being of students. The design brings together advanced sports facilities with dedicated spaces for teaching and research in sports science, food science, and nutrition. This centre will be a vibrant part of campus life at Maynooth University, offering a place to stay active, connect with others, and grow both personally and academically. I look forward to seeing it open its doors."

President of Maynooth University, Professor Eeva Leinonen, said: "The development of the Sport Science Centre marks a significant milestone in Maynooth University's strategic ambition to deepen our contribution to sport science and health education.

"It reflects our vision of a university that responds to societal needs and is committed to advancing health and well-being through education, research, and innovation. By investing in state-of-the-art facilities, we enable our students and staff to lead healthier lives and build knowledge and skills that have a positive impact far beyond our campus." MU students also welcomed the project, noting the benefits it will deliver for sports, study, and campus life.

Eoghan Frayne, captain of the Meath GAA Senior Football team and a student at Maynooth University, said: "I think the new Sports Science Building is a great addition to the University. It makes a big difference for all of us to have access to state-of-the-art facilities, and for those competing at a high level. It's important to have a space where we can study, train, and recover all in the one place." Becky Watkins, another MU student who plays soccer for Peamount United's senior women's team, added: "The new Sports Science building is a huge step forward, not just for athletes like me, but for every student. With outstanding gym and performance facilities, it supports smarter training, enhances recovery and personal growth. It's a place to reach our peak - as elite athletes but together as a university. It's more than a building; it's a commitment to excellence!"



L-R: MU student and Meath GAA footballer Eoghan Frayne, MU President Prof Eeva Leinonen, Minister James Lawless TD and MU student and Peamount WFC's Becky Watkins at the sod turning event

Volunteers needed!



Have you ever wanted to be involved in a theatrical production but didn't actually want to go on stage? Ever wondered how Community Drama Groups manage to have such successfully run productions both on and off stage? Well the answer is volunteers!



We are currently seeking people with an interest in assisting with stage crew (scene changes etc.) and front of house (ticket scanning, raffle ticket selling, ushering etc.) for our upcoming pantomime, the Sword in the Stone. Previous experience can be helpful but is not essential. If you have any interest, please do get in touch. Email Amy at annuadhplayers@gmail.com for more information before the 5th November.

The Sword in the Stone

An Nuadha Players are proud to present 'The Sword in the Stone': a brand new pantomime written by long term member, Rían Glynn. This show will see the beloved tale of well-known characters Arthur and Merlin get a blast of Panto magic as the Evil Blackthorn stands in the way of Arthur's adventure.

This not to missed Christmas Pantomime runs from the 4th-7th of December in the Aula Maxima. Tickets are now on sale and are available online at annuadhplayers.ie and in Maynooth Bookshop. This promises to be an excellent trip out for the whole family, so make sure to book early to avoid disappointment- tickets selling fast!



Some rehearsal shots of the action coming together so far!

Photo credit: Cathal Hayes

Play and Panto Submissions



We are delighted to announce that we are now accepting submissions for our Summer Production 2026 & Christmas Pantomime 2026!



If you have written a full length or one act play, a pantomime, or have a play/pantomime script that you would like to put forward for consideration for 2026, we want to hear from you!

Please see all important information and complete the relevant forms on our website at annuadhplayers.ie.

Karaoke Night!

We had a very successful and highly enjoyable fundraiser on the 26th September upstairs in Brady's. Our 'Life is a Cabaret' karaoke night brought in the singers and the spectators and a wonderful night was had by all while raising some much needed funds to support our Christmas panto. We would particularly like to thank Karaoke House for their much appreciated sponsorship, Brady's for the use of the venue, our wonderful MC's on the night Dara, Alisha and Caolainn (pictured underneath the Karaoke House logo) and of course everyone who came along!





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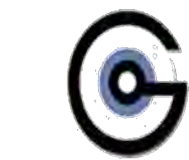
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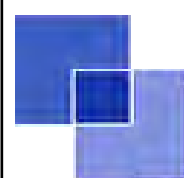
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TWO ROADS DIVERGED IN A YELLOW WOOD

He thought this would humble me!
And he should have known!
Been in the job for a dozen years.
Master of Novices, with his apprentices;
Forming us beginners in Spirituality;
And not any spirituality, oh no!
But the spirituality of this congregation, this order.
And order it was, for everything was ordered,
Chronologically, spatially, psychologically.
Master of Novices, planing pieces of timber;
Removing the bumps and the hollows
Until they would become indistinguishable units
Of male religious humanity. That was his job?

A little slow in rising from my bed, to call the other novices;
He noticed and I had to confess my fault
Against "obedience" on my knees in the refectory,
Before the whole community assembled for dinner.
Had to be done! Or had it? Supposing! Just supposing!
I had decided to ask the Master, not on my knees,
But standing tall, man to man,
Why he had never asked me the simple question:
"Ut quid venisti?" What brought you here?
Or maybe urged me to square up to fear?
But no! I knelt and confessed my fault.
And that has made all the difference?
GM



Writers' Corner - Short Stories/Articles from our Readers

Of Cars and Teachers

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

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

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

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

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

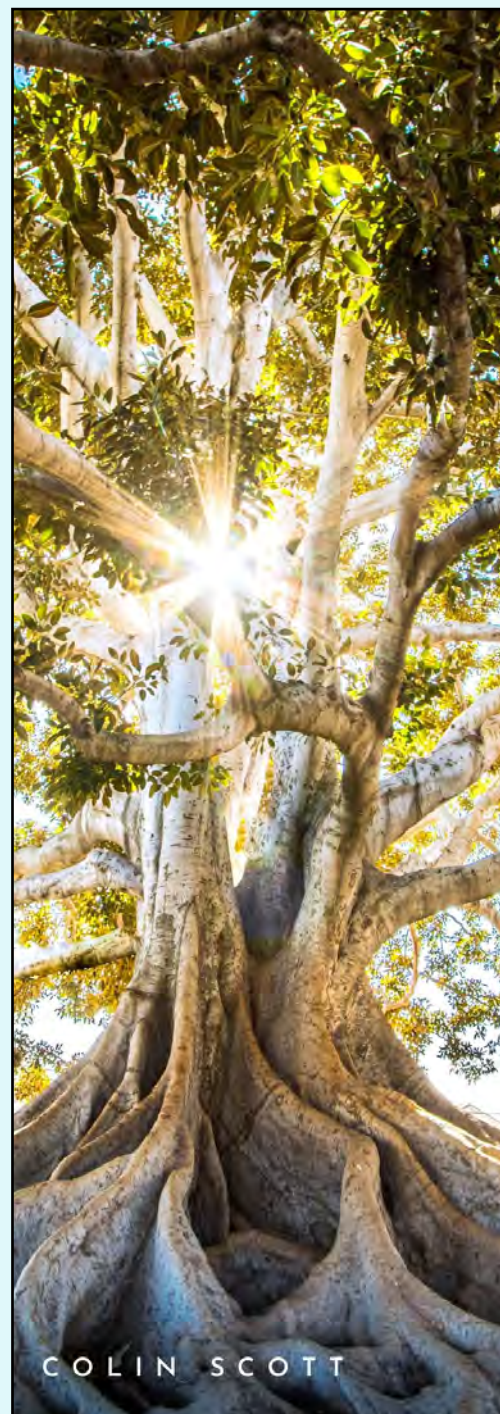
Now to understand what happened next it is necessary to point out that a fairly deep drain started just a little back from the school wall. Mrs Kelleher as usual began turning the steering wheel to the right but this only straightened out the front wheels, so that instead of reversing into the Dorrery road

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

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

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

P.G.Nerney



Ash Tree

Sometimes in a pinewood
Whose canopy obscures the sun
A lone ash sapling will refuse to die
You'll see its pale emaciated trunk
Between the sturdy upright pines
Stretching and twisting to its utmost
length
Then slowly tilting towards the light
As if it barely had the strength to
rise

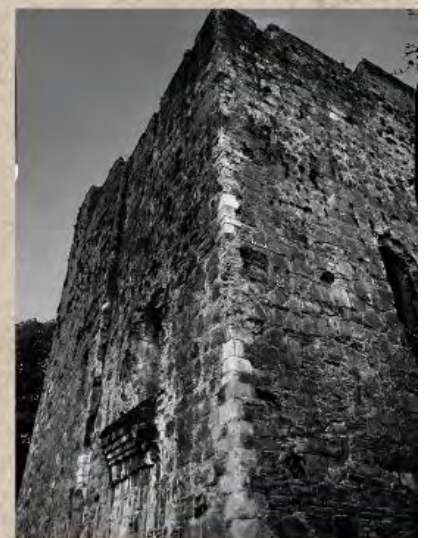
But rise it somehow does
Though no more like a normal ash
Than a crooked stick is like a spar
Yet when its tips break into leaf
Delicate and luminous in a patch of
sun
How airily its veil of green
Floats on the dark denuded trunks

The Wizard Earl

It is hardly surprising that a man who lived as extraordinary a life as Gerald FitzGerald, 11th Earl of Kildare, would come to be surrounded by equally extraordinary legends. Known as the Wizard Earl, Gerald was said to possess magical abilities- tales that likely stemmed from his deep interest in astrology and alchemy.

The most famous legend surrounding him tells of his ability to shape-shift. According to the tale, his wife, Mabel, implores him to demonstrate his powers before her own eyes. Gerald agreed but with a dire warning, if she showed any sign of fear, he would be forced to leave her forever.

Satisfied with her courage, Gerald instructed Mabel to close her eyes and not open them until he tapped his foot three times. When she finally looked, she saw a small black bird perched upon her shoulder. But before she could react, a cat sprang forward and pounced upon it. In that instant, fear overtook her and she fainted. With that single moment of terror, Gerald vanished, never to be seen again...However, the people of Kildare say he never truly left. Of course historical records leave no doubt as to the true faith of the 11th Earl, none of which involve magic or vanishing acts. Yet, despite the certainty of his earthly death, the legend of the Wizard Earl endures.



His half brother, Thomas Fitzgerald, 10th Earl of Kildare (Silken Thomas) led a heroic rebellion against Henry VIII, but failed and was executed. Gerald's reappearance in legend, coupled with Ireland's long history of waiting for a hero to return and lead the people to freedom, has kept the tale alive for centuries.

According to legend, in the month of October or November, every seven years, under the cover of mist and moonless skies, a lone rider on a white horse returns to the gates of Maynooth Castle. Silent, watchful, and unchanged by time, he is believed to be the Wizard Earl himself... returning to check if Ireland is ready or in need of his protection once more...

Alan Cleary, tour guide, historian & author.

Extracts taken from -

"Ireland's Uncrowned Kings, Power, intrigue and rebellion from the heart of Maynooth" book - Alan Cleary & Katherine Colthurst

"Ireland's Uncrowned kings is available to purchase in the Maynooth bookshop, Maynooth and Seanchai books, Kildare town.

Pictures -

Maynooth castle - Alan Cleary



EXPLORE LOCAL HISTORY WITH HISTORIC HIBERNIA

Explore Local History with Historic Hibernia -

local history group run by experienced historians, authors, and tour guides based in County Kildare.

Together, we bring over ten years' experience as tour guides, historians and education officers, in various historical and heritage sites, primarily at Maynooth Castle.

We organise engaging talks and tours for schools, historical societies, various local groups, local heritage organisations, and local community groups based in Maynooth, Leixlip and the locality.

We are excited to share that we have recently self-published several new local history books and booklets, which are available in-store and online at:

- Maynooth Bookshop, Maynooth
- Kildare Heritage Centre, Kildare Town
- Seanchai Bookshop, Kildare Town

Current titles include:

- Ireland's Uncrowned Kings – A detailed look at the Fitzgeralds of Kildare and the history of Maynooth Castle.
- Kildare's White Rose – Exploring the Fitzgeralds' role during the Wars of the Roses and the fight for the English crown.
- Kildare's Titanic – Examining the Titanic's Irish connections, with a focus on County Kildare.

Additional booklets and local history titles are currently in production.

Our talks and workshops are suitable for:

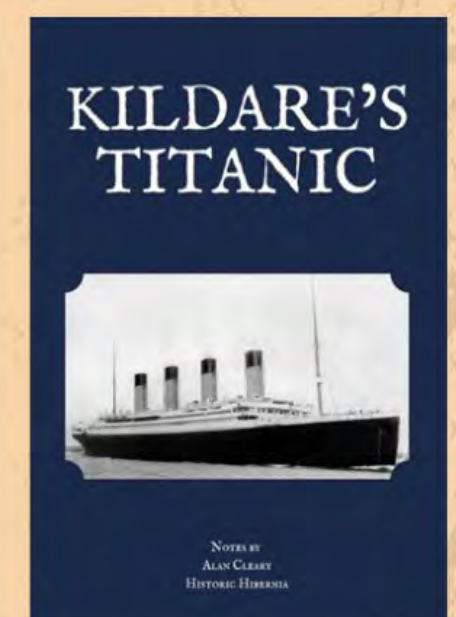
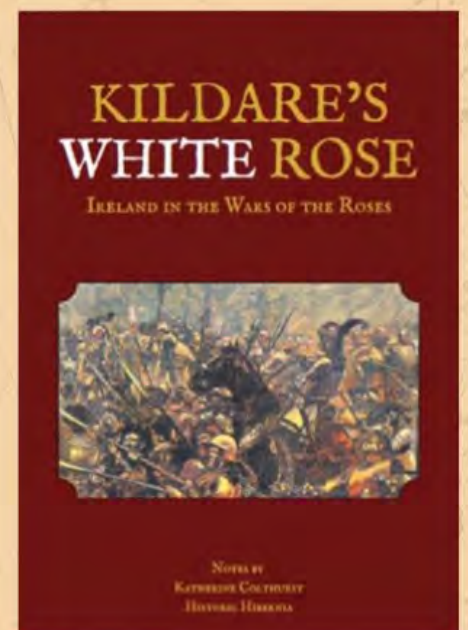
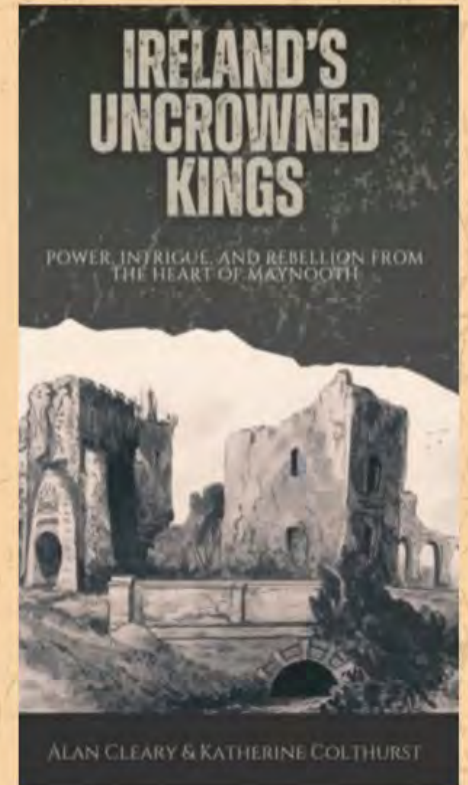
- Primary schools (4th–6th class)
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We are very familiar with local history, Irish history curriculum and ensure that our sessions are informative, engaging, and age-appropriate, enhanced with PowerPoint presentations, props, information boards, and exhibition panels.

A payment/fee applies for talks and workshops; please contact us via email for more details, including our full list of topics and tailored presentations.

Thank you for supporting local history. We would be delighted to work with your group and share the fascinating stories of Kildare and Ireland.
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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Service which provides a free and confidential
Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie
and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121



Paying your Electricity Bills

When you sign up to an electricity supplier, you should get regular and accurate bills. Suppliers must give you a range of options for paying your bills.
Increases in energy costs have had a big impact on the cost of living for households. If you are worried about paying your electricity bills, help is available. You can contact your energy supplier to explore payment options or contact MABS for help and advice.

Help with Rising Electricity Bills

It was announced in Budget 2025 that all domestic electricity customers would get €250 off their electricity bills.

The Electricity Account Credit was paid in 2 instalments of €125. The first payment was made before the end of 2024, the second was made in early 2025.

Changes to VAT Rate

In May 2022, the rate of VAT on gas and electricity bills was temporarily reduced from 13.5% to 9%. It has been announced that the reduced rate is extended until 31 October 2025.

If You are Struggling to Pay Your Bills

Help is available if you are worried about paying your electricity bills.

You can:
Make an appointment for free confidential advice with the Money Advice and Budgeting Service (MABS)
Contact your supplier to discuss payment options
Contact your local Citizens Information Service
Your electricity supply could be cut off if you do not pay your bills.
MABS has more advice if you have problems paying your bills.

Ban on Disconnections During Winter

Customers having problems paying their bills cannot be disconnected during the winter months.

For this winter, this is from:
1 November 2025 to 31 March 2026, for vulnerable customers
8 December 2025 to 16 January 2026, for all other domestic customers

Vulnerable Customers

Vulnerable customers who are registered as priority services customers cannot be disconnected at any time.

You are a priority service customer if you register with the CRU as being critically dependent on electrically powered assistive devices.

Alternative Payments Plans

The supplier can agree to put an alternative payment plan in place for you. Suppliers must help you if you are in genuine financial difficulty. They must make at least 4 attempts to contact you before they disconnect your electricity.

Claiming Social Welfare

Household Benefits package
If you are over 70, you can get the electricity allowance as part of the Household Benefits package. Some people under 70 may also qualify if they meet certain criteria. The allowance is paid either as a monthly credit on a customer's bill or directly to the customer.

Fuel Allowance

You can get Fuel Allowance if you are getting certain social welfare payments and satisfy the other conditions of the scheme. If you are 70 or over, you don't need a qualifying payment to qualify for Fuel Allowance.

This year, extra once off payments of Fuel Allowance were paid on top of the normal seasonal allowance that is paid during the winter months.

Additional Needs Payment

The Additional Needs Payment can help you with an expense that you cannot pay from your weekly income. The amount that you can get depends on your circumstances and the type of help you need.

Getting a Meter Reading

Your electricity meter measures the amount of electricity you use. The readings are used by your supplier to calculate your bill.

An ESNB reader will call to your property to record the amount of electricity used since the meter was last read. This is done 4 times a year. An estimated reading will be used for the other billing periods.

If the meter reader cannot get access to the meter, they will leave a card in the mailbox letting you know they were there and asking you to send in your own reading. You can also send your meter reading directly to your supplier. If you do not submit a reading, an estimated reading will be used to calculate your next bill.

Meters are the property of ESNB and you must not interfere with it in any way. Only authorised people are allowed to fix, connect, remove or carry out work on any meter, main fuse box, seal, electric line or other apparatus belonging to ESNB. It is against the law to tamper with your meter. Find out more about meter tampering.

The CRU has more information about electricity meter reading.

Smart Meters

Since 2019, ESB Networks has been fitting homes and businesses with smart meters. Smart meters are the next generation of electricity meters and it is planned that all homes in Ireland will be fitted with smart meters by the end of 2024.

Smart meters will automatically communicate your electricity usage to your supplier, so there will be no more estimated bills. You will also have more information on your electricity usage than is available from current meters.

It is planned to replace the oldest meters with the new smart meters. You can contact your electricity supplier or ESNB to apply for a prioritised installation. There is no upfront charge to have a smart meter installed.

Read more about the National Smart Metering Programme (NSMP).

Understanding your Bill

It can sometimes be difficult to understand the bill, particularly how the amount you owe is calculated.

Your supplier must include information about how it has calculated your bill. This includes the meter reading the bill is based on, the tariff category that applies and any levies that are being applied to the bill.

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Service which provides a free and confidential Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121



A bill is usually sent by your electricity supplier every 2 months. It must be clearly marked whether the meter read used to calculate your bill amount was:

A – an actual meter read by ESNB

C – a read submitted by you the customer

E – an estimated meter reading

Check your bill to make sure you are not getting too many estimated bills in a row as this could result in a large bill when an actual reading is taken. You can check your meter and submit your own reading at any time to make sure you are getting accurate bills.

ESNB has information about how to submit an electricity meter reading. Suppliers must give you a range of options for paying your bills (for example, by direct debit, paying online with your card or pay at shops displaying the Payzone logo). Contact your supplier to find out what option suits you.

CRU has more information about understanding electricity bills.

How to use less Electricity

You can save on your electricity bills by being more energy efficient. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) helps consumers to improve their energy efficiency. Get tips and advice on how to save energy on everything from heating, lighting, hot water, cooking, appliances and draughts. You can get an energy monitor to tell you how much electricity you are using in real time. Making small changes to be more energy efficient can help reduce your bills.

Energy Efficiency Grants

You may be entitled to a grant to upgrade your home energy system and improve the BER rating of your home. This will lower the amount of electricity that you use. There are also grants available for solar panels.

Get more information on how to improve your energy efficiency and on the grants available from the SEAI.

Paying your Gas Bills

Introduction

When you sign up to a gas supplier, you should get regular and accurate bills. Suppliers must give you a range of options for paying your bills.

Increases in energy costs have had a big impact on the cost of living for households. If you are worried about paying your gas bills, help is available. You can contact your energy supplier to explore payment options or contact MABS for help and advice.

Reduced VAT Rate

In May 2022, the rate of VAT on gas and electricity bills was temporarily reduced from 13.5% to 9%. It has been announced that the reduced rate is extended until 31 October 2025.

If you are Struggling to Pay Your Bills

Help is available if you are worried about paying your gas bills.

You can:

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Contact your supplier to discuss payment options

Contact your local Citizens Information Service

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How to Use Less Energy

You can save on your gas bills by being more energy efficient.

The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland (SEAI) helps consumers to improve their energy efficiency. Get tips and advice on how to save energy on heating, timers and controls, temperature, hot water and draughts. lighting, hot water, cooking, appliances and draughts. Making small changes to be more energy efficient can help reduce your bills.

Energy Efficiency Grants

You may be entitled to a grant to upgrade your home energy system and improve the BER rating of your home. This will lower the amount of electricity that you use. There are also grants available for solar panels.

Get more information on how to improve your energy efficiency and on the grants available from the SEAI.



Events at Maynooth Community Library



For further information contact: www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie Ph: 01-6285530
facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService twitter.com/kildarelibrary

November Events

Events for Adults

Luain Press Poetry Café

Tuesday 4th November , 6.00 pm – 7.00 pm

Come on by Maynooth Community Library on November 4th from 6-7 p.m. for poetry readings, chats, and creative writing activities.

*Drop in , no booking required *

Housing and Homelessness Supports ,

Monday 10th November , 2.00 pm – 4.00pm

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 *

Toys , Technology and Training Programme

Empowering Kids: Strategies for Supporting Children with Daily Living Skills, with Kevin Prior, Everyday OT

Tuesday 4th November , 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM

This workshop will equip caregivers with practical strategies to nurture independence in their children.

Booking link :

<https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=21251222>

Who Do We Tell? How Do We Tell? How Do We Manage the Process? When Your Child has a Neurodiverse Diagnosis

Thursday 27th November , 6.30pm - 7.30pm

Suitable for Adults

The period following your child getting a diagnosis can be very emotional for parents and family members. There is a lot of decisions to be made and appointments to be scheduled as well as trying to emotionally process the diagnosis. The subject of “telling” often comes up, who should we tell and how do we break the news but keep the information private at the same time? This workshop looks at simple ways to approach these topics and provides practical advice and tips for parents, carers and family members.

Booking link <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=21226646>

Events for Families

Cluichí Cláir trí Ghaeilge

Satharn 8 Samhna , 10:30 go 12.30 i.n.,

Cluichí Cláir spráúil as Gaeilge. Do gach aoisghrúpa, ach caithfear tuismitheoir / caomhnóir a bheith in éineacht le páistí. Eagraithe ag Gaeilge Nuada. *Fáilte roimh chách*

Board Games through Irish

Saturday 8th November , 10:30 to 12.30am,

Practice your cúpla focal playing board games as Gaeilge. All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Organized by Gaeilge Nuada. *Drop in*

Cluichí Cláir trí Ghaeilge

Satharn 29 Samhna , 10:30 go 12.30 i.n.,

Cluichí Cláir spráúil as Gaeilge. Do gach aoisghrúpa, ach caithfear tuismitheoir / caomhnóir a bheith in éineacht le páistí. Eagraithe ag Gaeilge Nuada. *Fáilte roimh chách*

Board Games through Irish

Saturday 29th November , 10:30 to 12.30am,

Practice your cúpla focal playing board games as Gaeilge. All ages welcome, children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Organized by Gaeilge Nuada. *Drop in*

Age Friendly Programme

Age Friendly Coffee Morning

Wednesday , 12th November , 10.00 am – 11.20 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

Let's talk about parenting programme

First Aid for Parents & Caregivers, presented by First Aid for Everyone

Thursday 20th November , 6.30 pm – 8.00 pm

A popular and regular event on the programme, this informative and interactive course uses lots of visual aids in the presentation and there is plenty of opportunity for the participants to ask questions. Topics covered will include:

Calling the emergency services

The First Aid Kit: Choking, Meningitis, Burns, Temperatures / Seizures

Booking link <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20904947>

Online talks

Also check out these Online talks (click links for more info) -

'Talking to the wall – feeling heard and effectively communicating' with

Deirdre Holland Hannon – Tues 11th Nov 8pm

<https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20905676>

'Supporting Healthy relationships for Teens' – Michael Ryan – Tues 18th Nov 7pm

<https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=20911814>

Events for children

Storytime & Craft with author Tarsila Krüse

Saturday 1st November , 1pm – 2pm

Join Tarsila Kruse for a lively storytelling and craft session inspired by her latest book, A Little Birdie Told Me. (The O'Brien Press).

“There’s going to be a party, and all the birds are invited – from the little Robin to the graceful Swan.”

After the reading, children will get creative by making their own unique birdie masks.

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

Booking link <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=22077266>

Favolando - Italian Storytime

15 Nov 2025 - 10:00 AM to 11:00 AM

Join us once a month for some stories, songs and fun activities 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. Ci vediamo una volta al mese per alcune storie, canzoni e attività divertenti in Italiano.

Per bambini dai 2 ai 5 anni. I bambini devono avere una conoscenza minima della lingua.

Booking link: <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=22096931>

Climate Action Events

Zero Waste Maynooth Saturday 8th November , 2pm – 4pm

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 for a quick demonstration on how cloth nappies work.

With thanks to Kildare County Council we are delighted to welcome back, Vanessa from The Craft Corner. Vanessa will have her Sewing Machine and hand sewing equipment to show you how to repair your clothes. This drop in service will allow you to learn skills to keep your clothes longer. Keeping our clothes in good repair saves on buying new, which is great for the environment and your pocket.

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

(Continued on page 31)



Events at Maynooth Community Library



For further information contact: www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie Ph: 01-6285530
facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Exhibitions

5th November To: 3rd December
 Talk, Tarot and Tea

Exhibition in acrylic Paint & Pen on Canvas Board in Frames by Laura Seed. The Talk, Tarot & Tea Collection is a group of mixed media works originally created for a 45 card oracle deck containing journal prompts, teas, crystals & angels along with a 100 page guidebook in a hand-painted box. Created by Laura from Inner Wild Fire - a local Maynooth artist, the paintings encompass a range of themes such as shadow work, gratitude and chakra healing.

Exhibition Opening of Talk , Tarot and Tea
 Thursday 6th November, 4.00 pm – 6.00 pm.

Booking link : <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=22239627>

Exhibition Bookings

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

Groups and Clubs

Maynooth Community Library Craft Club

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

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

Baby and Toddler Group

Every Thursday ,0 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!***

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 24/09/2025 to 26/10/2025 Information from Kildare County Council Website

App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
2561219	Kildare County Council	Kevin and Janet O'Sullivan	DÚN ARD, Newtown Road, Maynooth, Co Kildare	26/10/2025
2561211	Kildare County Council	Guilherme and Michele Tabelini	17 The Close, Mullen Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	24/10/2025
2561197	Kildare County Council	Lisa And Peter Hennessey	59 The Green, Moyglare Hall, Moyglare , Maynooth, Co. Kildare	22/10/2025
2561188	Kildare County Council	David Greally	202 Old Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	21/10/2025
2561164	Kildare County Council	Ray and Suzanne Eustace,	61 Silken Vale, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	14/10/2025
2561153	Kildare County Council	DHD Coachman Limited	The Duke Student Accommodation, Main Street, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	10/10/2025
2561146	Kildare County Council	David Greally	202 Old Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.	08/10/2025
2561134	Kildare County Council	DHD Coachman Limited	The Duke Student Accommodation, Main Street, Maynooth,, Co. Kildare	06/10/2025
2561135	Kildare County Council	David Casey & Débora Lima	344 Old Greenfield, Maynooth, Kildare	06/10/2025
2561119	Kildare County Council	Cozone Ventures Limited	Lands at Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Maynooth, ACP Ref: 312671-22 (Phase 1) and Reg. Ref.: 21156 / ACP Ref: 312685-22 (Phase 2), which is currently under construction. north of Maynooth Educate Together National School on the Celbridge Road (R405) and bordered by agricultural lands to the N, E, S	02/10/2025
2561104	Kildare County Council	Carolyn and Patrick Egan	Obelisk Cottage, Obelisk Lane, Maynooth	30/09/2025
2561108	Kildare County Council	Carolyn and Patrick Egan	Obelisk Cottage, Obelisk Lane, Maynooth, W23 Y6D5	30/09/2025
2561101	Kildare County Council	Cozone Ventures Limited	Lands at Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Maynooth, ACP Ref: 312671-22 (Phase 1) and Reg. Ref.: 21156 / ACP Ref: 312685-22 (Phase 2), which is currently under construction. north of Maynooth Educate Together National School on the Celbridge Road (R405) and bordered by agricultural lands to the N, E, S	29/09/2025



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

November 1985

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com



MAYNOOTH

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 1985 NUMBER 101 PRICE 20p

**MAYNOOTH BRANCH LIBRARY
NATIONAL CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK**

The library is celebrating National Children's Book Week with a number of competitions and events. Children under 13 are invited to enter for the "Write-your-own-Book" Competition and the "Make-something-from-a-Book" Competition, before 4th November. Below are some of the events taking place during the week. For a fuller programme please contact the library.

Monday 11th November
2pm - 3pm: Painting Competition (Under 7 year olds)
4pm - 5pm: Painting Competition (7 to 12 year olds)

Tuesday 12th November
4pm - 5pm: Board Games Tournament (7 to 12 year olds)

Wednesday 13th November
11am - 12.30pm: Storytime, followed by clown face make-up sessions (for pre-school children)
4pm - 5pm: Word and Book Games (7 to 12 year olds)

Thursday 14th November
4pm - 5pm: Fancy Dress Competition (for under 13 year olds)
7.30pm - 8.30pm: Prize giving for all competitions.

Friday 15th November
11am - 12.30pm: Storytime, followed by Teddy Bears' Picnic (for pre-school children and teddy bears)

INDOOR FETE

The Parish Committee would like to express a sincere Thank You to all those people who helped at the recent Indoor Fete held in the Parish Hall in aid of the Parish Hall Decoration Fund. A special word of thanks to all those who helped run the stalls; the two ladies who took charge of Guess the Name of the Doll and How many Sweets in the Jar; the ladies who sold the tickets; those ladies who served the teas; those in charge of the Wheel of Fortune; the judges of the Cat and Dog Show, the Baby Show and the Radio Dublin DJ who judged the glamorous Granny competition; the gentlemen who ran the Lucky Dip; the people who donated

towards it and a very special word of thanks to all the people who supported us. Many thanks to you all and we hope to see you soon again P.G. Yours sincerely, Ann Higgins (Secretary).

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NOVEMBER BIRTHDAYS

Greetings and best wishes to all of the following who celebrate birthdays during November:

- 1st: Catherine Fay, Leinster Cottages.
- 4th: Ann Fortune, Greenfield Drive.
- 9th: Paddy Carr, Main Street.
- 9th: Carol Barton, San Feliu, Maynooth.
- 11th: Anthony Edwards, Kilcock.
- 13th: Shelley Breslin, Leinster Park.
- 15th: Patrick Moynan, Convent Road.
- 17th: Jim Kenny, Straffan Road.
- 19th: Mrs. Flynn, Old Carlton.
- 18th: Mrs. McAssey, The Harbour.
- 25th: Madge Dowling, Leinster Cottages
- 26th: Jacinta Nolan, Leinster Cottages.

The Stork

Congratulations to Bernadette and Tony Price, Prosperous, on the birth of a baby boy. Bernadette is formerly from Greenfield.

Congratulations to Noelle and Raymond McTernan, Greenfield, on the birth of a baby girl, a sister for Aoife

Congratulations to Mossy & Freda Kelleher, Rail Park, on the birth of a baby boy, October 23rd.

Golden Wedding

Heartiest congratulations to Michael and Margaret Cloone, Laragh, who recently celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary. The anniversary was attended by the Cloone family and a large circle of friends.

BIRTHDAYS - November

- Aneata Barlow, Greenfield (16) 2nd
- Gerard Tracey, Greenfield 4th
- Mrs. Colette Burke, Newtown and twin sister Mrs. Patricia Troy, Avondale, Leixlip 6th
- Jack Connolly, North Strand, Dublin, formerly Greenfield 12th
- Richard McGovern, Greenfield 14th

Birthday greetings to all.

MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER ADVERTISING RATES

£1.25 per Column Inch
£10.00 per Third Page
£16.00 per Half Page
£30.00 per Full Page

All enquiries to "The Editor"
86 Rail Park, Maynooth.

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<p>Cllr. Tim Durkan 086-8632784 tim.durkan321@gmail.com</p>	<p>Cllr. Angela Feeney 087-2381962 angelaemfeeney@gmail.com facebook.com/cllrangelafeeney/</p>	<p>Cllr. Peter Melrose 089 263 7612 peter.melrose@socialdemocrats.ie</p>	<p>Cllr. Donna Phelan 0870023636 dphelan@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Cllr. Paul Ward 087 2294697 cllrpaulward@gmail.com</p>	<p>An Nuadha Players annuadhplayers@gmail.com facebook.com/annuadha</p>	<p>An Post Sorting Office Maynooth 01-6293390</p>	<p>Brass & Reed Band (St Mary's) sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie facebook.com/maynoothband/</p>
<p>Cemetery Committee (Laraghbryan) 01-6293018</p>	<p>Church of Ireland 01-6292163 secretary@meath.anglican.org</p>	<p>Citizen Information Centre 0818078100 maynooth@citinfo.ie</p>	<p>Cloth Nappy Library Ireland 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/NappyLibraryIreland</p>
<p>Community Welfare Services 0818607080 Kildarecws@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Employment Office 01-6106000 bo.maynooth@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Kildare County Council 045 - 980200 customerservice@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Kildare Civil Defence 045 980529 pmcneela@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Kildare County Council (Local Office) 01 - 6286236</p>	<p>Kildare MABS 0818072600 kildare@mabs.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Autism Friendly Town 0863329050 autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/maynoothaft</p>	<p>Maynooth Employment Services Office Kelly's Lane, Maynooth 01-6016360 EstMaynooth@welfare.ie</p>
<p>Maynooth Post Office 01-6286259</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Care Unit 01-6106351</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Church 01-5054990 office@maynoothcc.org facebook.com/maynoothcommunitychurch/</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Library 01-6285530 maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie. facebook.com/ KildareCountyLibraryService</p>
<p>Maynooth Cycling Campaign 086-8252934 Maynoothcycling@gmail.com www.maynoothcyclingcampaign.com</p>	<p>Maynooth Fishing Club 01-6293202 info@maynoothfisheries.com</p>	<p>Maynooth GAA Club secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie facebook.com/maynoothgaa/</p>	<p>Maynooth Health Centre 01-6106130</p>
<p>Maynooth Kilcock Lions clubcontact@maynoothkilcocklionsclub.org facebook.com/MaynoothKilcockLionsClub/</p>	<p>Maynooth Library 01-6285530 Maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Newsletter 01-6285922 office@maynoothcep.com facebook.com/MCEPnewsletter</p>	<p>Maynooth Senior Citizens maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com</p>
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<p>North Kildare Tennis Club info@northkildaretennis.ie</p>	<p>Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth 01-6293018 maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com</p>	<p>SVP Vincent's Shop 01-6289643 geraldinebyrne.east@svp.ie facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064619179003</p>	<p>Zero Waste Maynooth 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth</p>

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



Maynooth Newsletter



Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

LOCAL NEWS - DECEMBER 25 - JANUARY 2026 - ISSUE NO. 552



Merry Christmas
Wishing you a Prosperous 2026
From Maynooth Newsletter

The Power of Shopping Local at Christmas

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IN THIS ISSUE

- ◆ SHOP LOCALLY IN MAYNOOTH
- ◆ MAYNOOTH TIDY TOWNS
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- ◆ LABOUR PARTY NOTES
- ◆ ST MARY'S BRASS & REED BAND NOTES
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- ◆ SOCIAL DEMOCRATS
- ◆ AN NUADHA PLAYERS COMMUNITY THEATRE
- ◆ LIBRARY NOTES
- ◆ MEMORIES FROM THE ARCHIVES

In today's fast-paced world, convenience often dictates our choices, especially when it comes to where we spend our money, that's where shopping local comes into its own. Instead of sitting in traffic, queueing, pushing and shoving, dealing with crowds, and getting frustrated, why not look around you and see all the local businesses that you could be supporting.

Here in Maynooth, we have an abundance and a huge variety of businesses from restaurants, supermarkets, hairdressers, boutiques, sport shops, shoe shops, jewellers etc. There are lots to choose from in the various shopping centres - Carton Retail Park, Manor Mills, Glenroyal, Greenfield and Beaufield Shopping Centres, not forgetting Aldi and Lidl which also have ample car parking facilities. Why not take a walk around the town and see what local delights you might find. These businesses are the heartbeat of our community and are waiting for your support not just at this time of the year but all year round.

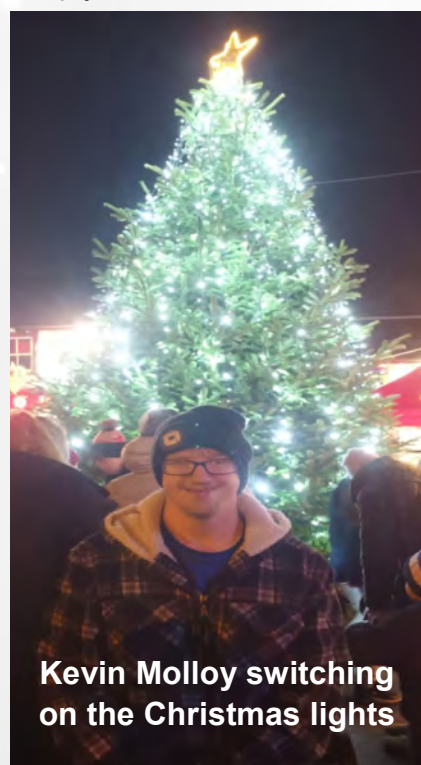
The most immediate and profound impact of local spending is economic. When we buy groceries at the local supermarkets, get a cut at the local hairdresser, or purchase trainers from the sports shop, that money circulates within our town. These businesses are run by our friends, our neighbours, and members of our community who rely on that income. Supporting the local butcher, the boutique owner, and restaurants and pubs are directly equivalent to keeping the lights on and keeping people in their jobs. Local businesses are often the first employers for young people and the cornerstone of a stable resilient local economy. Most of us have done summer work in the local supermarket or vegetable shop even the local cafes. Every purchase helps to support these businesses.

Shopping locally addresses common quality-of-life issues, such as traffic congestion. The decision to make shorter, more frequent trips locally - like the pharmacy down the street or the boutique - significantly reduces the number of cars traveling long distances and also on a fine/dry day you can even walk, thus getting some fresh air and exercise in the process. This not only eases the burden on major roadways but also contributes to cleaner air. By choosing local businesses, we cut down on the hassle of navigating crowded carparks, being stuck in traffic jams and transform a stressful time into simple, quick transactions.

Local businesses offer something that large businesses cannot replicate: personalised service and convenience. They are deeply invested in the community they serve. Your personal pharmacist knows your name, your favourite restaurant knows

your usual order, and your hairdresser knows exactly what you mean by 'just a trim'. The level of familiarity minimizes hassle and offers a tailored, human experience. This is the difference between being a customer and being a valued member of the community.

Our community's health is a direct reflection of our spending habits. By consciously choosing the local supermarket, the family-run butchers, or the independent boutique, we are investing in local jobs, reducing congestion, and making our daily lives easier. It is time we recognised the collective power of our wallets and committed to nurturing the businesses that make our town unique and vibrant.



Kevin Molloy switching
on the Christmas lights

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THIS CHRISTMAS

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Maynooth Newsletter

Recording the Social Footprint of Maynooth since the 1970s

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

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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

As we end 2025 there is no doubt that if I stopped to ask anyone in the town about what is the biggest issue in Maynooth this year, the chances are that they would cite the high volume of traffic and the impact that road works on getting through and around the town. The creation of the cycle lanes in Mill Street as part of the active travel plans should be completed soon. There is much public concern of the inclusion of two bus stops as part of the development. There is nothing better than seeing the real impact of such a decision before anyone can judge it.

As a resident of Maynooth for thirty-five years, the entire period has been marked by a range of developments including houses, new roads and an expanded built environment. Just looking at 2025 alone, two new large student accommodation complexes have been completed in the centre of the town. These were badly needed as Maynooth University continues to increase student numbers.

As Maynooth marks 850 years since the settlement of the Geraldines at Maynooth Castle, the redevelopment of the town continues. One such area is the environs of Maynooth Harbour area (see Figure 11.2). The plan approved includes a range of developments which will significantly change the landscape. The inclusion of a new community hub and public library is welcome. It would be great if this facility was delivered as a priority, as it is long overdue.

Figure 11.2 Maynooth Central Settlement Consolidation Site Urban Design Framework



Source: Maynooth and Environs Joint LAP 2025-2031 (Kildare County Council)

As mentioned above, in 2026 Maynooth will mark 850 years since the settlement was established at Maynooth Castle, at a point where two rivers meet. I am honoured to have been appointed as Chairperson of Maynooth Local History Group (MLH) and a range of activities have been planned to mark this significant anniversary. MLH welcomes input from individuals and other community groups and businesses to the celebrations.

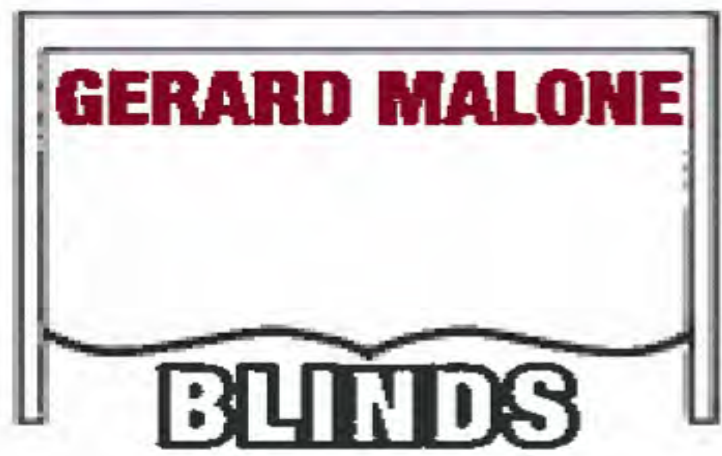
So far, the response has been great from community groups offering to participate in events. Additionally, Maynooth University, Kildare

County Council and Heritage Ireland are supporting the celebrations. While details of the individual events are still being worked on, the key activities can be summarised as follows; Exhibitions, Talks, Walks and Musical/Theatre events. MLH can be contacted at maynoothlh@gmail.com

This edition of the Maynooth Newsletter covers the period December 2025/January 2026. Maynooth Community Employment scheme has produced this newsletter for 40 years. There are big plans to be revealed early next year on the future format of the Maynooth Newsletter. For now, I want to thank all our contributors and advertisers for their support. I would also like to acknowledge the commitment of our staff who work tirelessly to deliver on our mission of "recording the social footprint of Maynooth". Being the time of year, I wish all of you best wishes for Christmas and hope that you achieve everything that you wish for yourself in 2026.

Paul Croghan
Editor

**Submission Date for February Edition is
5pm on 23rd January 2026**



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Sparrowhawk

He's come unexpected,
sitting brazen on our garden fence,
watching, waiting.

He may be hoping
for some unwary wren or
chaffinch,
but there is none around.

I've seen him dive upon
a full-grown, foraging starling,
rend him screeching in his claws.

Is he just here by chance,
resting before the next fierce
swoop?
No, that's too glib an explanation.

He must have spotted me
gazing through our plate glass
door,
then why does he not flee?

Am I too insignificant,
too much a kind of prop,
ineffectual scarecrow

COLIN SCOTT

Maynooth 850 - Historic Milestone for Our Town in 2026

Maynooth is arguably the most historic town in Ireland and is the seat of the most famous family in Irish History. Historian Seamus Cullen outlines the events that has shaped Maynooth since the arrival of the Fitzgeralds.

In 1176, during the period of the Norman Invasion of Ireland, Strongbow the Lord of Leinster granted an area of land consisting of the plain of Maigh Nuad to Maurice FitzGerald, one of his loyal followers. This land grant became the Manor of Maynooth which was centered on a fortification which became the earliest section of Maynooth Castle. Subsequently, a settlement emerged adjacent to the Castle along the road leading to Dublin which became the town of Maynooth.

While an ecclesiastical community existed in nearby Laraghbryan from the Early Christian Period, the FitzGerald foundation at Maynooth became the first community of Maynooth, which has existed in an unbroken line to the present day.

Maynooth has had a very historical and colourful heritage throughout its 850 years of existence. Originating in the 12th century as an outpost of the Leinster branch of the powerful Geraldine family to the 15th century when it became the permanent seat of Earl of Kildare, the title bestowed on the FitzGerald.

During the 15th and 16th centuries Maynooth acquired a near capital status due to the power exercised by the Great Earls of Kildare who ruled Ireland in a semi-independent fashion while serving as the Kings deputy.

In the 18th century the Earls of Kildare were elevated to a higher title becoming the Dukes of Leinster. The family produced two martyrs of national importance, Silken Thomas and Lord Edward FitzGerald, as well several other leading figures in Irish history including Lady Eleanor McCarthy founder of the Geraldine League. Maynooth can boast more history makers that feature in the Irish Dictionary of National Biography than any other town in Ireland.

Throughout its 850 years of existence Maynooth was at the centre of many events of national importance from the capture of Maynooth Castle during the Kildare Rebellion in 1535 to the symbolic assistance provided to the 1916 Easter Week Insurgents by the small contingent of local volunteers led by Donal Buckley. The town can boast an involvement in every major historical event throughout the 850 years of its history including - The Flight of the Earls 1607, the Confederate Wars in the 1640s, the Rising of 1798 and 1803.

Maynooth has an important architectural history. The building programme of the Leinster family during the Georgian Period in the early 18th century produced a remodelled country residence, Carton House and their city residence Leinster House. During the period they also rebuilt Maynooth town creating a linear main street with parallel side streets.

Maynooth College founded in 1795, which became the leading Catholic College in the country, gave Maynooth a position of importance rivalling the capital status enjoyed by the town in the 15th century. This importance was evident on several occasions when decisions of national significance were made at bishop's meetings such as in March 1918, during the Conscription Crisis, which effectively blocked the implementation of Conscription.

Today, Maynooth is unique due to a number of aspects: A University town, a suburb of Dublin, the fourth largest urban centre in county Kildare with a population of almost 20,000, and undoubtedly one of the most historic towns in the country.

The Maynooth 850 committee, part of the Maynooth Local History Group is planning a series of events throughout 2026 to mark 850 years of history which includes a wide range of educational and cultural activities.



MAYNOOTH CEP & MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

**WISHING ALL OUR CUSTOMERS, CONTRIBUTORS
AND ADVERTISERS
A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A PROSPEROUS 2026!**



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Cllr Angela Feeney

**“Wishing you all a Merry Christmas
&
a Happy New Year”**



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Phone



Email

If I can help
Email: afeeney@kildarecoco.ie
Call: 087 - 238 - 1962



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Cllr. Angela Feeney Maynooth Labour News

Email: afeeney@kildarecoco.ie



NOVEMBER UPDATE

Opening of New Lidl Store

It was great to see the new Lidl store opening. Another first for Maynooth. Ireland's first Net Zero Energy supermarket, opening Thursday, 6th November. A major milestone in sustainable retail development. Developed in partnership with the Irish Green Building Council, it is designed to operate as a Net Zero Energy building, generating as much energy as it consumes annually. It features a 575 kWp solar panel system spanning its roof and car park, the equivalent of 13 tennis courts, cementing Lidl's position as Ireland's largest commercial solar energy generator. Built with sustainability at its core, the construction process utilised concrete made from 50% recycled materials, glulam timber roof beams, and low-carbon wall and roof panels. The building's design will save enough energy to power more than 40 Irish homes each year. The site will feature a pollinator-friendly community garden, a living wall, and roof plant boxes irrigated by a rainwater harvesting system. Customers will also have access to six EV charging points, 12 e-bike and e-scooter chargers, and enhanced cycle parking facilities.



Opening of New Dressing Rooms at Maynooth GAA

I was honoured to attend the official opening of Maynooth GAA new dressing rooms at their Moyglare Hall facility. They look amazing and are a great addition to the club. Minister McConalogue officiated at the event along with our great Club President Tommy Fay.



Good News on Maynooth Eastern Ring Road

Kildare County Council confirmed that a letter of acceptance for the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road Main Works Contract has been issued Friday 31st October 2025, to the successful contractor John Cradock Limited. The Council will engage with John Cradock Limited over the next number of weeks to confirm the programme for works which will initially comprise of site setup, site clearance, fencing works and utility diversions. It is expected that the extensive earthworks operations and works to the bridge over the canal and railway line will commence in the first quarter of 2026.

'No Entry except Buses' Sign

I called for the 'No Entry except Buses' sign to be reinstated at the Bus Terminus on Straffan Road near Circle K. This was removed in 2017 and the area engineer said this sign will be reinstated.

Mullen Park Road Update

I have called for the urgent opening of the Mullen Park Road. It is needed now due to the new fire station located there and new Lidl store as well as residents of Mullen Park. It would also create safer access to pupils of the primary schools located on the Celbridge Road. The Council said that the opening is due very soon when the ESB connection is completed.

Public Realm in Maynooth

I raised the need for progress on planned major projects for Maynooth including the Harbourfield, Main Street, The Square and Carton Masterplan. The Strategic Projects and Public Realm Team in the Council confirmed that they continue to progress several projects for the Maynooth area. One significant project for the town is the development of the Maynooth Town Masterplan which, when finalised, will include several project proposals arising from consultation, surveys and previous plans for the town. The funding available to the project team at present is solely to deliver the Masterplan, after which we must submit the Masterplan to the Department of Housing, Local Government and Heritage for approval and sign off. Once approval from the Department is achieved, and where funding and resources are available, individual projects will progress to achieve the appropriate design and planning consent stages.



More Good News for Men's Shed

Some welcome news. I have been informed by Kildare County Council that funding has been secured for Maynooth Men's Shed to enable them to purchase a new facility which they will have installed at their new location. Pictured here with members of Maynooth Men's Shed when they attended the Council meeting in October when I submitted a motion calling for Council support for this great cause.



afeeney@kildarecoco.ie



087 - 238 1962

Calling All Cyclists

Join the Galway Cycle on April 10th and Make a Difference for The Gavin Glynn Foundation!



Cycling enthusiasts from Maynooth and beyond are gearing up for the annual Galway Cycle event, set to take place on April 10th -12th, 2026. This year, the event proudly supports the Gavin Glynn Foundation, a children's charity that provides support to families battling childhood cancer who need to travel overseas for treatment not available in Ireland.

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 10th, arriving in Galway City's Eyre Square, and returning to Maynooth on April 12th. 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 the Gavin Glynn Foundation.

Event Highlights:

- **Date:** 10th – 12th April 2026
- **Training Kickoff:** January 10th, with regular sessions tailored to build endurance safely.
- **Location:** Car park of St. Patricks College, Maynooth
- **Pre - 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.

Founder of the Gavin Glynn Foundation, John Glynn, is delighted to partner with the Galway cycle for 2026. "We are really looking forward to getting as many people on board to cycle from Maynooth to Galway and back and helping us to raise funds and awareness of families battling childhood cancer who need to travel overseas for treatment not available in Ireland.

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 The Gavin Glynn Foundation 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 10th, 2026, and help us pedal for purpose. Together, we can make a difference for the Gavin Glynn Foundation.



St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Maynooth, Co. Kildare

Last month saw our annual Band Mass for deceased members, which is a very special occasion for the

Band members who passed away. We owe a great debt to those who have helped to keep the band alive over the years, giving their time to ensure the survival of St. Mary's Band Maynooth through many difficult times.

Speaking of difficult times on Saturday 6th December, we are having our annual collection where you will be meeting our member's shaking buckets with some of them providing seasonal music in Manor Mills and Supervalu Shopping Centres while we hope to visit Tesco to do the same at some stage during the following week. The Band, in common with most, have seen their costs rise during the year and the Christmas collection is one of our main sources of income during the year so hopefully it will be well supported.

A week later on the 13th you will have a further opportunity to support the Band when we have our Christmas Concert which this year will be in St. Mary's Church of Ireland on

Saturday 13th at 7.30pm where we will be including many seasonal pieces in our programme. It will be another chance to hear our Academy Band performing during the Concert; Full details are contained in the poster attached to this piece.

The Concert brings the curtain down on a very successful year for the Band with brilliant in Ardee and Clonakilty competition success for both bands, and the visit of a Band from South Carolina in the USA. Because of your support, we try to play as many recitals as possible in Maynooth including Picnic in the Park and Culture Night among others.

Last but not least we would like to thank the people of Maynooth and surrounding areas for their support during the year which has helped to keep the Band going for so many years and it might seem a long way away, but in 2031 we will be celebrating the Centenary of the reforming of the Band in 1931 so that is something we are looking forward to.

Wishing Everyone A Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

St. Marys Brass and Reed Band

CHRISTMAS

Concert

13
DECEMBER 2025
19:30 PM

ST. MARYS CHURCH OF IRELAND

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
WWW.GR8EVENTS.IE/SMBRB-CHRISTMAS-CONCERT



We would like to congratulate Lidl Ireland on the opening of their 1st Net Zero Supermarket on the 6th of November. Solar Panels on the roofs will provide all the electricity necessary to run the store. The sustainable community garden is an example to all of us. The living Walls, EV Charging Stations powered by renewable electricity.

November was a very busy month for our Volunteers despite the rain on the 15th. We planted more spring bulbs around the town, outside the girls school and the council car park.

Thanks to the ICA ladies for hosting our tea/coffee one Saturday morning. We brought along our Entente Floral Gold Medal for a photo opportunity. The ladies were kind enough to allow us bring one of their creations to Velenje for the final of the Entente competition.

On our final clean up of the year we hope to treat the volunteers to a Mulled Wine and Mince Pies morning in the square after clean up. Fingers crossed for good weather.

The Christmas Tree will be delivered to the square on the 29th November thanks to John Kavanagh for organising the purchase and delivery every year.



Please contact us on our email if you wish to volunteer at maynoothtidytowns@outlook.ie and follow us on Facebook at Maynooth Tidy Towns Association

Mary Molloy PRO



Our Argentina volunteers Mariana & Steven Semmolani with the Presidents Prize for the Retrofit House Meadowbrook



Mary Connolly, Vincent Mulready, Iris Hildebrand at Landys Field opposite the Castle.



St Mary's Church of Ireland, before the volunteers Antonia Cassells, Rupert, Mary Connolly, Vincent Hanniffy, Albina Moshkova got started.



Vincent Mulready, Breedge Conway and Eamonn O'Flaherty, Chairman Maynooth GAA



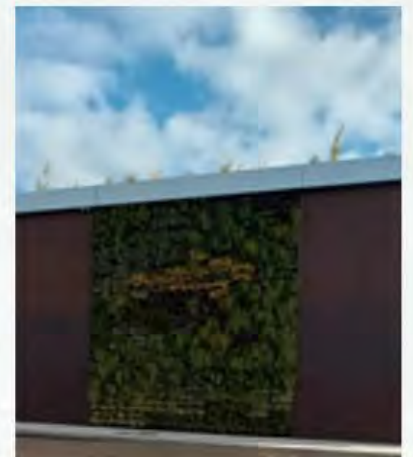
The Net Zero Energy information sign at Lidl, Maynooth.



Paul Cahill and Mary McGaver outside Lily's Café after clean up.



St Mary's Church of Ireland looking fantastic after the clean-up by Antonia Cassells, Rupert, Mary Connolly, Vincent Hanniffy, Albina Moshkova.



The Living Wall at Lidl, Maynooth.



Royal Canal Notes

December 2025

Education ~~ Heritage ~~ Recreation

HAMILTON WALK

On Tuesday 4th November, the annual Rowan Hamilton Walk took place along the Royal Canal from Broom Bridge to the Dublin Planetarium.

This walk is organised by the staff and students of Maynooth University in remembrance of the great mathematician and astronomer.



It was at Broom Bridge that Hamilton, while walking with his wife along the canal, was inspired with his famous "Quantum Theory". He etched the basics of the theory on to the bridge so he wouldn't forget it, before continuing to the social event he was to attend.

A plaque on the bridge commemorates this great event and some of the etching is still visible at present. This theory is of such importance, that it is still currently used in space travel today.

One can travel by Irish Rail, Dublin Bus or Luas to see this famous bridge



A world-renowned mathematician. Astronomer and speaker of up to eight languages, Hamilton was a longtime friend of the great poet William Wordsworth, who spent a lot of his time at the Planetarium.

ACCOLADES

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

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

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

We also appreciate the efforts, assistance and kindness shown by the MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER staff and supervisor with regards to publishing matters. We must also thank the previous supervisor who retired during the year

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

CHRISTMAS JUMPER WALK

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

This year we are walking a new route from Leixlip Louisa Bridge to Maynooth on the newly completed "Greenway", with a short stop at Pike Bridge.

The finished "Greenway" is suitable for prams pets and wheelchairs so all are welcome. Irish Rail and Dublin Bus will be operating Saturday Schedules on this date for those who want to travel to Leixlip for the walk and the J.J. Kavanagh 139 will be operating the weekday service on the usual hourly basis.

As always, we would like to thank those members of the group who will be helping on the day. If you have one then please why not wear your Christmas Jumper for the occasion

SEASONAL GREETINGS

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



An Nuadha Players Brings Magic, Music & Mayhem to the Stage with This Year's Panto: *The Sword in the Stone*.

The legend of King Arthur gets the full panto treatment this Christmas as An Nuadha Community Theatre proudly presents its 2025 pantomime: *The Sword in the Stone* — a hilarious, family-friendly adventure packed with magic spells, outrageous villains, plenty of Irish wit, and one very stubborn sword!

Audiences of all ages will join young Arthur on his epic journey from stable boy to legendary hero, guided (and occasionally misguided) by the wonderfully eccentric wizard Merlin and his apprentice Merlot. But Arthur will need all the help he can get from his not so helpful friends Hmm & Haww to defeat the wicked Judge Blackthorn and finally pull that famous sword from the stone — with a little audience encouragement, of course!

Written and directed by Rían Glynn, *The Sword in the Stone* features a cast of more than 30 local performers — from talented youngsters making their stage debut to familiar favourites returning for more panto mischief. Expect dazzling costumes, catchy tunes, and a script packed with jokes that will keep both children and adults grinning from ear to ear.

An Nuadha Players wish to extend a heartfelt thank you to our main sponsors, Kildare County Council, Life Credit Union, Maynooth University, St. Patrick's College, Karaoke House and Dance LA whose generous support makes this beloved community tradition possible. Their commitment to local arts helps bring magic to the stage for families across Maynooth.



Performances will run from 4th to the 7th December. Tickets are already selling quickly so book quickly to avoid disappointment.

Tickets: Available at <https://annuadhaplayers.ie/> or in Maynooth Bookshop

Dates:

Thursday 4th December 7:30

Friday 5th December 7:30

Saturday 6th December 2:30 & 7:30

Sunday 7th December 2:30

Prices:

Adult €18

Concession (Student/OAP) €15

Family €55

Group of 10 or more €15 each





2025

The past year has seen the completion or significant completion of two major schemes in and around Maynooth. The two are the Royal Canal Greenway between Leixlip and Maynooth and the Mill Street refurbishment. Both are a huge improvement on what was there previously. We welcome the Greenway and its completion from the Dublin border to Athlone. We hope that the second half from Athlone to Galway will progress in the coming year. We welcome the fact that after many years, Kildare County Council is now providing access gates with the proper spacing in accordance with the National Cycle Design manual. However, it is frustrating that while the section closer to Leixlip has been finished with a high quality sealed blacktop surface, the other section closer to Maynooth is left with a dust surface. Next door, Meath County Council has just completed a new greenway which is totally sealed. Several years ago, the Danish authorities announced that as part of their efforts to decarbonise, that they would sealed "superhighways" in order to enable more cycling by 2030. It is not as if Ireland is projected to meet its targets in relation to climate change action and can afford not to maximise cycling and walking.. In 2026, we are looking forward to working with Maynooth Tidy Towns and Maynooth Sustainable Energy Community in 2026 on a sustainable transport project which also involves the Maynooth schools.

Funding for Local Climate Action

The Department of Climate, Energy and the Environment has given Kildare County Council an allocation of €897,000 for climate related projects by communities to improve their local area. The project themes include community energy and travel. KCC has published on its website a list of successful applicants from the first round. The most popular application involved solar panels on community premises which is very welcome. The only applications relating to transport were for cycle parking.

Bollards at Moyglare Road

From some of the comments on social media about parking by non-residents in housing estates, you would think that this was the major parking issue in the town. An increasing number of drivers are ignoring the efforts by Kildare County Council to discourage parking by the addition of more bollards on the shared path opposite St.Mary's Boys School. Drivers parking their car can take up over half the width of the path. Maynooth Cycling Campaign has lodged a complaint to the Leixlip Gardai and look forward to their intervention.

AMG

Maynooth Cycling Campaign held its AGM on 11th November in the ICA Hall, Leinster Street and a new Management Committee was agreed. We welcome Michael Murphy to the Committee and thank Karen Moore for her work over the past years. If any one else wishes to join the Management Committee, you will be more than welcome!

Cycling Without Age

Last March, we received a grant of €200 from Kildare Community allocation for servicing of the trishaw. Unfortunately, during the year the trishaw developed two problems which cost €265. We applied for the additional funding of €65 from the Community fund but were refused. Maynooth Cycling Campaign is not sustainably funded from our membership. The Council has already cost the Campaign nearly €500 as it declined to accept our existing insurance under the Irish Cycling Campaign. The trishaw is owned and insured by Kildare County Council. If we are not reimbursed for the €65, we will have to reconsider our involvement with Cycling Without Age. Maynooth Cycling Campaign is an independent local lobby group for better cycling facilities in Maynooth and Kildare generally. If you would like to support our efforts, we welcome new members. Why not join us - you can find details here below.

Cllr. Donna Phelan

MAYNOOTH LEA - KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL

Get In Touch:

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



NOVEMBER UPDATE

Official re-Opening of Lidl in Maynooth



The highly anticipated new Lidl store has officially opened its doors on the Straffan Road, bringing a fresh wave of excitement and convenience to Maynooth. The €10 million investment delivers a bright, modern, and spacious shopping experience, complete with an onsite bakery, extended product ranges, and ample parking for customers. The opening has already brought a welcome buzz to the area. As a councillor, I'm delighted to see Maynooth continue to grow with positive investment that supports local jobs and offers more choice for families. Lidl's commitment to engaging with our community, including supporting local initiatives such as the Maynooth Autism Friendly Town Committee, reflects exactly the kind of partnership we value here.



Maynooth GAA Allstars

The Maynooth GAA All-Stars will be finishing up for Christmas on the 30th of November. I want to wish all the wonderful families who join us every Sunday a very Merry Christmas hopefully Santa is good to you all! Thank you for your support, energy and smiles each week. We look forward to welcoming you back in January 2026.



Maynooth GAA officially open their new dressing rooms on the Moyglare Road

The new Maynooth GAA dressing rooms were officially opened this week, marking a fantastic milestone for the club and the wider community. This project has been years in the making, driven by the hard work of the club's executive, volunteers, coaches, and supporters who fundraised tirelessly to make it a reality. The modern, purpose-built facilities will support players of all ages and abilities, providing a safe, inclusive and professional space that reflects the incredible growth of the club. Congratulations to everyone involved in bringing this brilliant community asset to life.





Mens Sheds get a new permanent home



I'm delighted to share that the Maynooth Men's Shed have found their new permanent home, thanks to the incredible support of Maynooth Town Football Club. Together with Deputy Naoise Ó Cearúil, I've been working closely to secure a suitable premises and funding for a new workshop to be located onsite. This partnership highlights the strong community spirit that Maynooth is built on and ensures the Men's Shed can continue their great work supporting wellbeing, friendship and skill sharing among local men. Their new anti vandal cabin is ordered and hopefully will be on site by Christmas.



Maynooth's Christmas Lights

The Christmas lights will officially be switched on soon, bringing that magical festive glow back to our town. A huge thank you to Mark Nolan, who once again worked tirelessly to organise this year's display. While the council allocated €11,000 through LPT, an additional €15,000 had to be fundraised to make these lights a reality an incredible effort supported by our community. "Thank you" will never feel enough for the work, generosity and spirit that goes into lighting up Maynooth each year.



Kildare Sports Partnership

Kildare Sports Partnership is rolling out another brilliant year of inclusive sports through their Sports Ability Programme! From learn-to-cycle sessions and swimming to athletics, yoga, and family-friendly outdoor activities, there's something for every ability and age. Families can stay informed by joining the Sport Ability WhatsApp group, with even more exciting events like the annual Kildare Sports Ability Day coming up in 2026. If you're looking for fun, confidence-building activities in a supportive environment, this programme is the perfect place to start!



Dog Fouling Stencilling on Greenway

New stencilling is on the way to support my ongoing dog fouling campaign across the town. Keep your eyes peeled you'll be seeing these reminders pop up very soon!



Sensory Friendly Science Friday 21st November



A huge thank you to the incredible staff and students at Maynooth University for making the Sensory-Friendly Science Night such an amazing success. From the thoughtful booklets shared in advance to the one-to-one support each child received throughout the evening, every detail was planned with care and inclusion at its heart. We are so lucky to have this level of dedication and expertise on our doorstep. Your hard work made a world of difference to so many families thank you sincerely for creating such a magical experience.

Sensory Friendly Science Friday 21st November



I absolutely love volunteering with the Maynooth Autism Friendly Town Committee, and evenings like the MEC Careers Night really show the tangible difference our work is making. Seeing our town take real, practical steps to include and support everyone is something I'm incredibly proud of. It's a privilege to be part of a team that puts inclusion at the heart of every event and every conversation.



Community Voices

I love attending events where our community comes together to show just how much we care and to make sure the Council sees and hears the groups who drive Maynooth forward. The vision for an improved Leinster Street, including a new community hub, is a perfect example of what can be achieved when local voices come together with a shared purpose. It's inspiring to witness that level of commitment and pride in our town.

Establishment of Kildare's First Womens Caucus in KCC

We are currently in discussions to establish Kildare's first Women's Caucus within Kildare County Council. I'm proud to be helping drive this forward. After years of community advocacy, I've seen firsthand the impact that strong female representation can have and why it's so important to encourage more women to step into public life. This caucus will support and elevate women's voices, remove barriers, and hopefully inspire more women and girls across Kildare to get involved and lead with confidence.



Comhairle Contae Chill Dara
Kildare County Council

CAPITAL PROGRAMME 2026-2028

Some major projects in Maynooth were delivered this year, including the new Fire Station, and Fitzgerald Place is on track to launch in early 2026. We always welcome investment in our town but with Maynooth growing at an alarming rate, we need to see even more progress to keep up with demand. The new Capital Programme was published last week, and it's encouraging to finally see funding allocated to long-overdue projects.

These include:

- A feasibility study for the expansion and development of Blacklion.
- The MERR fully funded and scheduled to begin in early January.
- A feasibility study for the Maynooth Outer Orbital Road (Kildare side) in 2027 the first time this road has ever appeared formally in a council document, despite years of discussion.
- The MOOR feasibility study in Meath to happen first, in 2026.
- A feasibility study for a new Maynooth Community Centre in 2026, with funding earmarked for late 2027 and completion expected in 2028.
- The Maynooth Town Masterplan, which has been pushed out but remains funded for 2026, 2027, and 2028.
- The Harbour Field development, scheduled to start in late 2027 and finish in 2028.
- Capital funding allocated for the Maynooth Swimming Pool to begin in 2027, with most of the work completed by early 2028.

It's important to remember that inclusion in the Capital Programme is not a guarantee that these projects will be delivered but it does mean they remain on the agenda unless removed. That's why continued pressure and strong local representation matter.

We cannot afford to wait for the new North Kildare Council Depot before progressing a Community Centre in the old Fire Station. Maynooth has waited years for key projects, and it's simply not good enough anymore. The land is there, the need is clear, and the community deserves action. The same goes for school infrastructure. Lands zoned for education won't turn into actual schools unless the Department of Education decides to build them. We have been lobbying hard for a new Primary Care Centre for Maynooth, and while the Council has zoned the land, the HSE has confirmed that the term "Primary Care" is not exclusive to their health centres it could just as easily be used for a nursing home or a GP clinic. They also told us they don't use catchment areas in the same way the Council does, which is incredibly frustrating for a rapidly growing town like ours.


What we need now is a significant upgrade to our existing Health Centre and proper staffing and services to match the population we have today, not the population we had twenty years ago. Maynooth is expanding at a pace that requires real investment, not more delays.


All of this information is available in the Capital Programme document on the Council's website.

Cllr. Donna Phelan

Maynooth LEA - Kildare County Council

Happy Christmas & Best Wishes for 2026





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This is a political advert for Cllr. Donna Phelan, Kildare, paid for by Donna Phelan. For more visit fiannafail.ie/transparency.

MU HOSTS YOUNG SCIENTISTS FOR SCIENCE NIGHT 2025



Jace Hynes (8) from Maynooth, pictured with a Lego sustainable city

MU welcomed hundreds of families, students, and science enthusiasts to the North Campus for Science Night 2025, organised by the university's Faculty of Science and Engineering on Friday, November 14.

Held across the TSI and Callan Buildings, the event offered a hands-on exploration of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics for all ages, as part of Science Week 2025, which ran from November 9-16.

Visitors enjoyed a wide range of interactive activities and live demonstrations. Robot Soccer drew crowds as autonomous robots competed on the pitch, showcasing the engineering behind their behaviour.

Maths Through Magic Tricks combined illusion with number patterns, while CSI Maynooth invited attendees to step into the role of forensic investigators solving a fictional campus mystery.



Sophia Hennessy (6), Annabelle Lillis (6) and Isabelle Hennessy (8) from Maynooth



Fionn Reilly (6) from Kilcock



Grainne Fallon (5) and Jake Young (5) from Kilcock

The chemistry and biology zones captivated guests with experiments highlighting MU research into greener energy solutions. Meanwhile, astronomy enthusiasts gathered for 'When Ireland Looks Up: Irish Adventures in Astronomy,' a series of talks exploring Ireland's contributions to our understanding of the cosmos.

The event offered attendees of all ages an opportunity to engage directly with science and see first-hand how research and innovation are shaping the world.

MU LEADS DRONE RIVER RESCUE EXERCISE ON THE LIFFEY



Drone taking off from the GeoAerospace dockstation near Poolbeg, Co Dublin

A pioneering research and innovation exercise in Dublin has demonstrated how automated drone docking station technology, supported by artificial intelligence, can help first responders deliver faster and more effective search-and-rescue operations in busy urban environments.

The live demonstration, part of a national Drone Innovation Partnership led by MU collaboration with Dublin City Council (DCC), the Irish Aviation Authority (IAA), and Dublin Fire Brigade (DFB), simulated a water emergency incident on the River Liffey.

In the demonstration, DFB personnel responded to a report of a person entering the water. An automated drone launched from a remote docking station, autonomously navigated to the scene, and streamed high-resolution data and video to incident command teams. Artificial intelligence tools supported real-time assessment, helping responders rapidly locate the casualty and understand their condition.

By providing critical situational awareness within moments of an emergency call, the drone system enhances response coordination and decision-making — helping first responders make the right decisions faster where every second counts.



Teresa Hudson, Station Officer, DFB Organisational Intelligence Unit and Fearghus Foyle, CE of GeoAerospace, at the remote drone operator workstation during the exercise

Commenting on the exercise, Teresa Hudson, Station Officer, DFB's Organisational Intelligence Unit, said: "Drone dock station technology, properly deployed and operated, will ensure our firefighting and rescue teams can respond more efficiently to emergency incidents where time is always critical."

It examines innovative drone technologies, operations, and public-sector applications, building on previous drone traffic management research at Maynooth University as well as Dublin City Council's Smart City and Drone Strategy initiatives.

Speaking about the research, Principal Investigator, MU's Prof Tim McCarthy said: "These real-world search-and-rescue exercises allow us to understand both the capabilities and limitations of automated drone networks."

"This helps us scale AI-enabled emergency response in a structured, responsible, and effective way for the benefit of wider society."

The rescue featured in RTÉ One's new series of Futureville Ireland, which broadcasted during Science Week, on Wednesday, November 12.

MU FORMALLY LAUNCHES NEW SCHOOL OF NURSING



Minister for Further and Higher Education James Lawless TD, Regional Executive Officer, HSE Dublin and Midlands Region Kate Killeen White; Founding Head of the School of Nursing Prof Fintan Sheerin and MU President Prof Eeva Leinonen.

Maynooth University (MU) has officially launched its new School of Nursing, marking a significant development for both the University and Irish healthcare. The new School represents a major contribution to the Government's Sláintecare vision for community-based care and to the future of healthcare education in Ireland.

MU's BSc in General Nursing welcomed its first students in September, following full approval by the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (NMBI) during the summer.

Established by Prof Fintan Sheerin with colleagues Dr Adeline Cooney, Dr Myles Hackett and Emma Guyatt, the programme reflects the recommendations of last year's Expert Review of Nursing and Midwifery Curriculum, giving MU an early lead in implementing a new national model for nursing education.

Delivered in partnership with the HSE Dublin and Midlands Region, the programme incorporates inclusive pathways and flexible progression routes to enable learners from diverse backgrounds — including mature and further-education entrants — to enter, advance and specialise in nursing. The curriculum reflects the national shift toward community-based models of care, preparing graduates for roles across integrated care hubs, minor injury units, and community settings.

The launch event took place in Maynooth University today and was officially opened by Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, James Lawless TD, who said: "This is a proud moment for Maynooth University and for Irish healthcare. The launch of the School of Nursing is more than an academic achievement; it is a strategic investment in the future of care. By training nurses in the heart of the community and opening doors to learners from all backgrounds, Maynooth is helping build a more inclusive and resilient healthcare workforce for the future. This is how we deliver on the promise of Sláintecare. I wish every student beginning their journey here the very best. Your work will shape the future of care in communities across Ireland."

Commenting on the launch, MU President, Prof Eeva Leinonen said: "When we launched our Strategic Plan in 2023, we made a commitment to launch a new School of Nursing at Maynooth University and today it is a reality. This School represents not just a new academic unit, but the foundation for a broader School of Health and Medicine — a new way of preparing healthcare leaders of the future, grounded in compassion, scientific rigour, digital innovation, and community partnership."

Speaking at the event, Prof Fintan Sheerin, Founding Head of the School of Nursing said: "Our programme places community and primary care at the centre of nurse education. Rather than training solely for hospital settings, we are preparing graduates to support health and wellbeing where people live — in homes, clinics and community care hubs. Compassionate caring will be blended with digital health, and students will learn in Clinical Skills and Simulation Laboratories that mirror real-world environments from their first weeks on campus."

The event also featured a keynote address by Michael J. Dowling, CEO Emeritus of Northwell Health, highlighting the strategic affiliation agreement between Maynooth University and Northwell Health announced last year to advance innovation in nursing education.

A panel discussion followed, featuring Rachel Kenna, Chief Nursing Officer at the Department of Health; Carolyn Donohoe, CEO of the Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland; and Kate Killeen White, Regional Executive Officer of the HSE Dublin and Midlands Region.

Kate Killeen White, Regional Executive Officer, HSE Dublin and Midlands Region, added:

"This launch marks an important milestone in advancing Sláintecare and strengthening healthcare delivery across the region. By training nurses locally and aligning education with service delivery, we're building a sustainable workforce ready to deliver high-quality, person-centred care closer to home."

The School of Nursing is based in the Eolas Building and will expand in the years ahead to include postgraduate programmes, research and innovation. The first intake of 27 students began the BSc in General Nursing in September, with numbers due to rise to 100 within four years to meet national demand for nursing education aligned with Sláintecare.

MU OPENS NATIONAL CENTRE FOR INCLUSIVE HIGHER EDUCATION



NCIHE Director Prof Katriona O'Sullivan and MU President Prof Leinonen pictured with the NCIHE team

MU officially opened the National Centre for Inclusive Higher Education (NCIHE), Ireland's first national centre dedicated to advancing equity, inclusion, and access in higher education.

The new Centre will be led by award-winning academic, advocate, and author of Poor, Prof Katriona O'Sullivan, and aims to create solutions to reduce inequality and expand opportunity across Ireland's higher education system.

It will lead a coordinated national effort to understand and implement what works to support students and staff from underrepresented and underserved communities to access, succeed in, and progress beyond higher education.

Commenting on the opening of the new Centre, Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science James Lawless TD said: "The Centre will play a vital role in shaping a more inclusive future for higher education in Ireland. By focusing on what works through research, evaluation, and collaboration, it will help ensure that opportunity in higher education is truly open to all, regardless of background or circumstance."

Speaking about the launch, Centre Director Prof O'Sullivan said: "At Maynooth University, we have always believed that equity, empowerment, and excellence go hand in hand. The launch of this Centre is our commitment to proving — through evidence and action — that equity strengthens the whole system."

Maynooth University has a long history of widening participation and supporting underrepresented learners through initiatives such as Turn to Teaching, College Connect, the Mountjoy Prison Education Project, and the STEM Passport for Inclusion.

Welcoming the NCIHE, MU President Prof Eeva Leinonen said: "The creation of the National Centre for Inclusive Higher Education is a proud moment for Maynooth University. It reflects our belief that universities should be engines of inclusion — where equity, excellence, and evidence work together to drive real change. Building on more than two decades of leadership in widening participation here at Maynooth, I look forward to the real impact this Centre will have on higher education in Ireland and beyond."

The launch event took place in Maynooth University and was addressed by the Secretary General of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science, Colm O'Reardon.

It also featured a keynote address by Prof Penny Jane Burke, Director of the Centre of Excellence for Equity in Higher Education at the University of Newcastle, Australia, followed by a panel discussion.

MU HOSTS TALK ON AI AND THE FUTURE OF LEARNING



MU alumnus Mark Hennessy of Microsoft and MU VP External Affairs Rebecca Doolin with the GPU that trained ChatGPT 3

Maynooth University celebrated Science Week 2025 with a talk for alumni on AI and the future of learning, where it explored some of the most pressing questions facing education and society today.

The event, AI and the Future of Learning, was held on MU's campus on Thursday, 13 November and brought together three alumni working at the forefront of the global AI revolution: Mark Hennessy from Microsoft, Marie Taylor-Ghent from PwC, and Adrian Trenaman from Google.

Hosted by the Development and Alumni Relations Office, in collaboration with the Faculty of Science and Engineering, it also featured two MU academics who are preparing students for a changing world of work: Prof Rosemary Monahan from the Department of Computer Science and an affiliate of the Hamilton Institute, and MU alumnus Prof John Keating, Science and Engineering Associate Dean of Teaching and Learning, Professor in the Department of Computer Science.

President of Maynooth Students' Union, Charli Middleton, a recent graduate with a BA in Politics and Philosophy, also contributed to the panel discussion, sharing a student perspective on the opportunities and challenges associated with the use of AI in a higher education setting.

The event took place in the Iontas Building on North Campus and was opened by Prof Ray O'Neill, Associate Dean of Science and Engineering. The panel discussion, which was open to the public, explored some of the most pressing questions facing education and society today, examining how higher education must adapt to a rapidly evolving skills and career landscape, as AI transforms the world of work.

The panel discussed the importance of a considered educational approach and underscored the importance of personal responsibility and critical thinking, ensuring that AI is used as an enabler to enhance learning and innovation.

Mark Hennessy brought a piece of scientific history with him to the event, sharing with the audience the Graphics Processing Unit (GPU) which was used to train ChatGPT 3.

MU HOSTS TALK ON AI AND THE FUTURE OF LEARNING



Mark Hennessy from Microsoft (2007 PhD), Prof Rosemary Monahan, Adrian Trenaman (1999 PhD), Marie Taylor-Ghent (2001 BSc), Rebecca Doolin MU VP External Affairs and Prof John Keating

Hennessy, who is based in the Microsoft headquarters in Seattle, worked with the OpenAI team on the burgeoning technology three years before ChatGPT launched in November 2022 so was able to share his experience from the AI infancy with the audience, many of whom were keen to snap a photo of the artifact after the event.

Speaking on the topic, Rebecca Doolin, VP for External Affairs at MU, who moderated the panel discussion, remarked: "Few technologies have transformed society as quickly or as profoundly as AI. Since the launch of ChatGPT, every industry - including higher education - has had to confront fundamental questions about its purpose and future. In universities, AI has sparked urgent conversations about academic integrity, teaching methods, and how we prepare students for an entry-level job market experiencing so much change. It's both a challenge and an opportunity - and at Maynooth University, our goal is to make sure our graduates are ready to navigate the technical and the ethical aspects of AI they will encounter in the future."

Among the attendees were Naoise Ó Cearúil (2011, BBL), TD for Kildare North and spokesperson on Artificial Intelligence & Gaeltacht Affairs and MU alumna Isabelle Smyth (1969, MA), who was among the first cohort of female graduates of MU.

Reflecting on the discussion, Marie Taylor-Ghent added: "AI is changing everything - and Maynooth is leading the way. 'AI and the Future of Learning' shows the University's commitment to shaping tomorrow."

Prof John Keating, whose current role explores the evolving use of AI in Teaching, Learning and Assessment, emphasised the transformative role AI will play in shaping academic settings of the future, saying: "AI will empower learners by enabling them to engage in self and collaborative learning using intelligent agents and tools. This will require significant adaptive change to current learning environments".



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Councillor Peter Melrose



The last couple of months have been a blur if I'm honest. From being involved in the Catherine Connolly campaign to the awarding of the contract for construction of the Maynooth Eastern Ring Road, I've barely had time to catch my breath.



Peter Melrose and President Catherine Connolly

Mullen Park Link Road: I have been liaising with KCC and ESB to expedite the pedestrian crossing connected to power. Apart from the obvious clean and tidy the road needs, there is very little left to do. Let's get that road open already!



Pedestrian Crossing Mullen Park Link Road

Developments: As I am sure you have seen, there is a LOT of construction happening in the town at the moment. Thankfully, Mill St. is materially finished save for minor works. Uisce Éireann have also completed their on-road works of the upgrade project on the Dunboyne Road. Yes, the road is a state, but there will be a resurfacing of the road. Two major projects, the network upgrade and the Maynooth Wastewater Transfer Pipeline, converge on the R157, so until all is completed it doesn't make sense to re-lay the road just to dig it up again.



Peter's wife and son crossing the New Mill Street Bridge.

There are also other developments commencing in the town, most notably on Lyreen Avenue/Dunboyne Road. These are to be houses and a gym, respectively. There have been several planning permission applications either submitted or granted recently, and I urge you to sign up to the Map Alerter service that Kildare County Council provides, which sends you planning updates for your chosen areas. Housing must be accompanied by supporting transport and community infrastructure, and I will make that clear in every application submission I make.

I've been working hard on trying to hold mobile phone providers to account. As many of you will be aware, phone coverage in Maynooth can leave a lot to be desired, particularly outside of the main centre. As the town has grown and expanded, the coverage has not, which leaves some of us (me) frustratingly hanging out of an upstairs window just to get enough signal to take a call. I conducted a survey and while the results are of no surprise to me, it's useful data to bring to Kildare County Council in their engagements with ComReg. It's a classic example of infrastructure not keeping pace with development, and I will do all I can to deliver for Maynooth.

In September, I hosted a community energy evening in the Glenroyal Hotel, with a view to form a Solar Meitheal, that is, a group of houses in an estate who come together to lobby for a group discount on solar panels. I'm delighted to say that we are advancing a Meitheal in the town, and we have received several competitive quotes from local suppliers. I hope to see panels on roofs by spring of 2026, and would then like to share my knowledge and experience of the process with as many other estates and groups as possible. These grants won't be around forever, and there's never been a better or smarter time to fold solar into your energy needs.

As organiser of Maynooth Local Market, it is always a privilege for me to walk to the square on a Saturday morning and see busy vendors and happy customers. I'm delighted to share that we will be hosting two special Christmas markets on Saturdays December 6th and 13th. We will have the kids' area with Christmas books courtesy of Maynooth library, live music on both days from St. Mary's Brass Band and a local choir group, as well as all our usual vendors with special Christmas deals, and several guest vendors which I am very excited about. The square is a wonderful place for a stroll and hope to see you there.



Halloween Maynooth Market.



Maynooth Harbour

Finally, I would like to take this chance to wish you all a restful, enjoyable, and safe holiday season. Turn off those devices, get out in the fresh air, and catch up with friends and family. I'll see you in 2026.

Peter.



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Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee



Our 60th anniversary is coming to a close. We had a wonderful celebration in the Geraldine Hall on the August Weekend. We were delighted to see the many who attended “friends of Maynooth Senior Citizens” from both recent times, and times past. Our seniors put on a fabulous art exhibition, a culmination of creative endeavours over the past couple of years. We had 30 paintings in acrylic and it is important to bear in mind that each painting represented an hour’s work during our morning club activities. There was a display of photographs of Maynooth Seniors at the various social gatherings down through the decades.

This photographic exhibition garnered so much interest among our attendees. The display was organised and compiled by our former Chairperson of 30 years, Josie Moore. Josie also did the honours in launching the celebrations and who better to do it than herself. She brought to life the organisation’s history and where we stand today. We are lucky to have Josie on our committee because there is nothing like experience and it is really down to her expertise and management that this organisation has lasted so long in our community. Thanks to all who made it such an enjoyable day for all – Garry Bermingham (Chairperson at the time) for his opening remarks; the committee members who pulled out all the stops; Elaine and Eithne Bean and Melanie Oliver who gave us great music on the day and to Willie Kiernan for looking after the sound system.

The other big event for us was the Annual Table Quiz which took place in the Newtown Inn in November. A great fundraising event which was well attended by the community and so well supported by local businesses. Please remember our local businesses when doing your Christmas shopping. Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee are advocates for “Shop Local”. Thanks to everyone who took part, to Paul Daly, Quiz Master and MC for the night, and his Team of score keepers – Elaine and Eithne Bean, Melanie Oliver, Brendan Malone. They did a tremendous job.

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With sincere thanks from the Maynooth Citizens Committee
for your generous support.

Our annual raffle will take place at our Christmas Lunch in the Springfield Hotel on Sunday 7th December. Thanks to all who bought tickets at our weekend selling points in Manor Mills and Supervalu. We received a great response from our local community. Tickets will be sold on the day of the lunch as well.

We would like to thank all those who gave and continue to give donations to Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee, this is very much appreciated. Through these and our fundraising efforts we can ensure that we can endeavour to help our seniors by providing a safe space to meet, have a cuppa and a chat and to take part in activities that they would like to do. At present we have a strong art group, bingo, wellbeing and movement classes, digital awareness, paper crafts, flower arranging, outings to the local school musicals and local art exhibitions. And there is more planned for 2026. A sense of isolation and loneliness can creep up on us, especially in older age.

We remember all those who lost family members during the year. Ar dheis Dé go raibh a hanam dílis.

Thank you to everyone for your overwhelming support. May you all have a restful and peaceful Christmas and may 2026 bring comfort and joy to all.

**Susan Durack, Chairperson,
Maynooth Senior Citizens Committee.**



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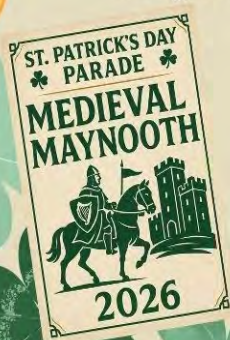
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ST PATRICKS DAY PARADE 2026 THEME REVEAL! **Medieval**

The St. Patrick's Day Committee is delighted to announce that the theme for this year's parade is Medieval Maynooth! As Maynooth celebrates its remarkable 850th year in existence, it's the perfect moment to honour our town's rich and storied past. The Maynooth Historical Society will be sharing fascinating insights into the history behind the celebrations, and we can't wait to see the creative costumes, floats and medieval magic our community brings to life.



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- Kennels, Garden benches, Decking, Side gates. All supplied and fitted.

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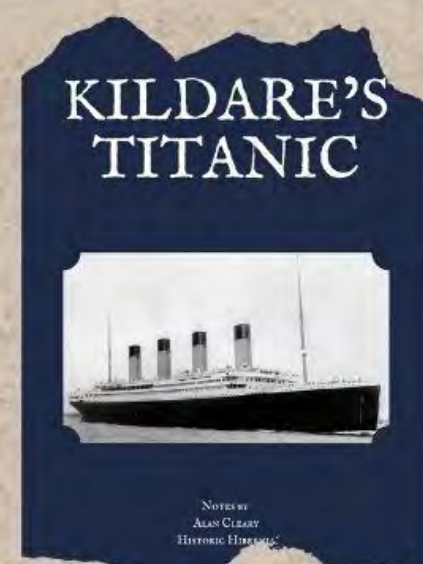
info@mulligansawmills.ie



KILDARE'S TITANIC

The sinking of the Titanic is one of the most enduring tragedies of the 20th century. It is a story that continues to fascinate, haunt, and inspire more than a century later. Much has been written about the ship itself but less often do we take the time to examine the human connections, those rooted here in Ireland, and closer still, in County Kildare.

The following article brings together two extracts—presented in no particular order—drawn from my recently self-published booklet by Historic Hibernia titled – Kildare's Titanic. It explores the often-overlooked connections between County Kildare and the ill-fated RMS Titanic, tracing local stories, personal links, and echoes of that great maritime tragedy as they reached even the heart of inland Ireland. These snippets of history aim to shed light on how Kildare's people and places were, in their own ways, touched by the world's most famous ship.



Name: Ernest Waldron King

Born: 1884, County Galway

Raised: Blackrock, County Dublin

Residence: 11 Bawnogues, Straffan, County Kildare (living with his mother)

Occupation: Clerk and Assistant Purser (White Star Line)

White Star Service: Served aboard RMS Olympic; on board during its 1911 collision with HMS Hawke

Signed on Titanic: April 9, 1912 (gave address as Clones, County Monaghan)

Fate: Lost at sea – body recovered and buried in Fairview Cemetery, Halifax, Nova Scotia

Ernest's early life was spent in County Kildare. Where his mother served as head of the Straffan Estate Schools, and he received his education. His father, a Church of Ireland rector and teacher, was based in County Monaghan. By the 1911 Census, Ernest was living with his widowed mother in Straffan and was unemployed. Later that year, he joined the White Star Line and began service on the RMS Olympic, where he held the position of clerk and assistant purser under Mr. Hugh McElroy. He was present during Olympic's dramatic collision with HMS Hawke in 1911.

On April 9, 1912, King signed onto Titanic and once again served as assistant to Chief Purser Hugh McElroy. The purser's office was a crucial function on board, managing not only the verification of passengers' tickets and crew wages, but also the safeguarding of valuables, money, and jewellery. The responsibility was so great that the purser's authority was regarded as second only to that of the captain.

Name: James Kelly

Born: 1867, Leixlip, County Kildare

Age: 45

Occupation: Road Labourer

Marital Status: Married to Kate Kelly (née Goff), since 1887

Residence: No. 9 Main Street, Leixlip, Co. Kildare

Ticket Class: Third Class

Fate: Lost at sea — His body was recovered by the cable ship Mackay-Bennett, but with so many dead and limited space, James was buried at sea in a canvas sack

Survived by: Wife Kate and children

His family faced immense hardship in the aftermath. With the help of relief funds and passage provided by the White Star Line, Kate Kelly and her children made the journey to America later in 1912 on RMS Olympic (Titanic's Sister Ship).

They settled in New Haven, Connecticut. But the family's story of loss did not end there. James's son, Thomas, was killed during the First World War, serving with the Connacht Rangers in Mesopotamia.

He is commemorated on the Basra War Memorial. Kate Kelly remained in New Haven for the rest of her life and passed away in 1955, having endured both personal tragedy and the upheaval of emigration.



Images of titanic are wiki / Public Domain

During the sinking of Titanic, Chief Purser McElroy was seen assisting passengers and maintaining order. Survivor Jack Thayer recalled that McElroy fired two shots into the air, likely with an officer's revolver, in an attempt to control the chaos. While McElroy's body was recovered and buried at sea, Ernest's was also recovered and laid to rest in Fairview Cemetery in Halifax, Nova Scotia, along with over 120 other Titanic victims. His headstone bears a striking tribute: 'Erected by Mr. J. Bruce Ismay to commemorate a long and faithful service'. It stands as a poignant reminder of King's dedication and the trust placed in him by those at the highest levels of the White Star Line

More than a century after her tragic sinking, the story of the Titanic continues to captivate the world. As readers, we can only imagine the emotions and echoes that stories like these still stir—reminders of how deeply the Titanic touched even the most unexpected corners of Ireland. To know more, to ponder further, and to uncover additional local connections, don't forget you can discover much more within my short but informative booklet, Kildare's Titanic—available locally and online. It's a small volume with a big story to tell. ✨
Alan Cleary – Tour Guide, Historian and Author.



Images of titanic are wiki / Public Domain

Kildare's Titanic is available to purchase online by contacting = historichibernia@gmail.com or Instagram at [@historic_hibernia](https://www.instagram.com/historic_hibernia), and both online and in-store locally at The Maynooth Bookshop.

Ireland's Uncrowned Kings

James FitzGerald, 1st Duke of Leinster: An Irish Statesman Between Two Worlds

James FitzGerald, 1st Duke of Leinster, inherited a legacy shaped by centuries of political turbulence—one that his father, Robert FitzGerald, had worked tirelessly to stabilise. While many earlier FitzGeralds had clashed with the English Crown, James followed the more diplomatic path his father had forged, balancing loyalty to Britain with a firm and unmistakable pride in Ireland. His open Irish patriotism earned him a reputation among contemporaries as “more Irish than the Irish themselves,” a sentiment that did not always endear him to his English peers, some of whom looked down on him despite his high rank as a Duke.

James began his political career at just 19, serving as Member of Parliament for Athy, though his time in the Commons was brief. Three years later, he succeeded to the earldom upon his father's death, stepping fully into his role as one of Ireland's leading noblemen.



Leinster House and a Vision for Dublin



Determined to expand upon his family's legacy, James commissioned the construction of Kildare House in 1745. Later renamed Leinster House, it would become one of the most significant Georgian residences in Dublin. Although he initially sought a site on the fashionable south side of the city, none was available. Undeterred, he chose a plot on Molesworth Fields—then considered an unfashionable backwater. When questioned about his decision, he reportedly replied with confidence: “They will follow me wherever I go.”

Impressed by architect Richard Cassels' earlier work on Carton House, the FitzGerald family seat in County Kildare, James hired him once again to design the new Dublin residence. The result was a masterpiece of Georgian architecture, so admired that it later inspired James Hoban's design for the White House in Washington, D.C. Today, Leinster House stands as the seat of Dáil Éireann, a lasting testament to the FitzGerald family's enduring influence on Irish history.

Marriage to Lady Emily Lennox

On February 7th, 1746, James married Lady Emily Lennox, the second daughter of Charles Lennox, 2nd Duke of Richmond, and god-daughter of King George II. The marriage brought further prestige to the FitzGeralds, linking them to one of Britain's most prominent ducal families. Together, James and Emily had 19 children, although tragically eight died in childhood.

Their surviving correspondence reveals a marriage defined by affection, resilience, and shared hardship. They weathered the grief of losing children, the stresses of political conflict, and the long separations brought about by James's public responsibilities.

James died in 1773 at the age of 51. Emily lived for more than forty years after him, passing away in 1814 at the age of 82. She later remarried, choosing William Ogilvie, the tutor of her children—he tutored a young Lord Edward FitzGerald, who would become one of the central figures of the 1798 rebellion. Yet her marriage to James had already left a profound mark on the FitzGerald dynasty, blending English aristocratic lineage with a deep and enduring commitment to Ireland.



Author's Note -

Some extracts and insights in this article are drawn from *Ireland's Uncrowned Kings*, written by Alan Cleary & Katherine Colthurst. The book explores the power, intrigue, and remarkable history of the FitzGerald family.

It is available online or in-store at the Maynooth Bookshop, or can be purchased by contacting historichibernia@gmail.com or via Instagram at @historic_hibernia

All the information from this article is from Alan Cleary's book “Ireland's Unknown Kings”. And the photographs are all from wiki/public domain.



Christmas in Maynooth



The tree all ready for Santa



Santa arriving in style



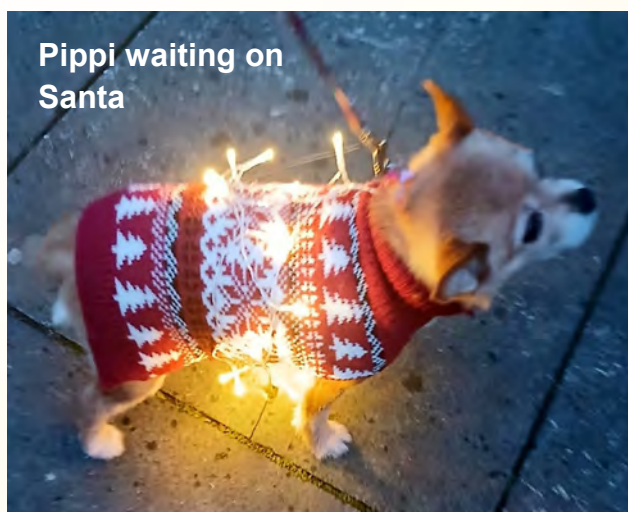
Kevin Molloy switching on the Christmas Lights. Photo from Maynooth Tidy Towns



The manger all lit up



The crowds enjoying the Christmas music while waiting for Santa to arrive



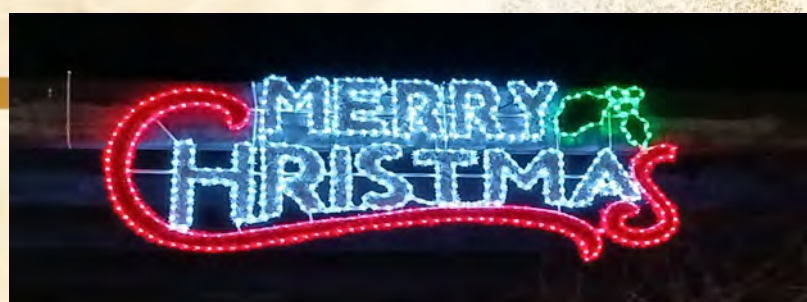
Pippi waiting on Santa



The Maynooth Brass & Reed Band providing a wonderful concert of cheerful Christmas music to get everyone in the Christmas spirit



The main street looking very festive



KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Service which provides a free and confidential

Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie

and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121



Auto-Enrolment Pension – My Future Fund

What Is Auto-Enrolment?

Auto-enrolment is a new pension savings scheme for certain employees who are not paying into a pension. They will be automatically included in the scheme but can opt out after 6 months. The introduction of the Auto-Enrolment Retirement Savings Scheme, called My Future Fund, will start from 1 January 2026.

Under the scheme, the employee, employer, and Government all pay a certain amount into the employee's pension fund.

A new public body, the National Automatic Enrolment Retirement Savings Authority, NAERSA, has been set up to administer the auto-enrolment scheme. The scheme is supervised by the Pensions Authority.

Who Will Be Automatically Enrolled?

You will be automatically enrolled in the new pension scheme if you are an employee and:

You are aged between 23 and 60

You are not currently part of a pension plan

You earn €20,000 or more per year

If you previously contributed to a pension but now do not, and you meet the other conditions, you will be automatically enrolled.

If you earn less than €20,000 per year, or you are not aged between 23 and 60, you can choose to join the pension scheme if you are not already part of a pension plan.

Does My Employer Have To Participate?

If your employer does not meet their auto-enrolment obligations, they will be subject to penalties and possibly to prosecution. If they don't make contributions on your behalf, they may be fined and have to make repayments with interest.

What Happens If I Already Have A Workplace Pension?

You will not be enrolled in the new auto-enrolment scheme if you are paying into a workplace pension plan. You can read more about occupational pensions on our website.

What Happens If I Change Jobs After Being Enrolled?

If you change jobs after being automatically enrolled, you won't need to change pension or join a new scheme. You will remain a member of the auto-enrolment scheme. You do not have to do anything, as the National Automatic Enrolment Retirement Savings Authority will manage the change.

Is Auto-Enrolment Better Than My Personal Pension?

Whether auto-enrolment or your personal pension is better for you depends on your situation and circumstances.

You should review your personal pension and compare it with the benefits of auto-enrolment to see what works best for you.

Can I Opt-Out Of (Leave) The Pension Scheme?

After you are enrolled, you must stay in the pension scheme for at least 6 months. You can opt out after 6 months but before you have been in the scheme for 8 months.

Your contributions will be refunded.

Opting Out After A Change In The Contribution Rate

When there is a change in the contribution rate, you can choose to opt out 6 months later, up to 8 months later.

You will be refunded the amount of the increase in the contributions rates you paid in those months.

Suspending Your Contributions

You can also suspend (pause) your contributions at any time after the first 6 months. All contributions, including those from your employer and the Government, will be suspended.

All the existing contributions in your fund are kept there until you start making contributions again.

If you suspend your contributions, you must wait at least 12 months before you can start making contributions again.

What Happens To My Savings If I Opt-Out?

Contributions that are not refunded, including those made by your employer and the Government, stay in your savings pot and will continue to be invested.

If you stop working or move abroad at any time before retirement, you will stay enrolled, but you will not make additional contributions. Your existing savings will continue to be invested.

This means you can still access a pension pot at retirement.

Automatically Re-Enrolled After 2 Years

If you leave the plan or suspend your contributions, you will be automatically re-enrolled after 2 years if you are still eligible for the scheme.

However, if you are making contributions to another pension plan through your employer's payroll, you will not be re-enrolled for that employment.

How Much Do I Pay?

The amount you pay will be a set rate of your annual salary. Your employer will match your contributions, and the Government will contribute an additional amount. You cannot pay more or less than the set rate.

You and your employer will pay 1.5% of your annual salary in the first year. This will increase to 6% by year 10.

The table below sets out the rates you, your employer, and the Government will pay:

Year of the auto-enrolment scheme	Employee Contribution Rate	Employer pays	Government pays
1 to 3	1.5%	1.5%	0.5%
4 to 6	3%	3%	1%
7 to 9	4.5%	4.5%	1.5%
10 and after	6%	6%	2%

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Example

The table below includes an example of a worker earning €20,000 a year:

Year of the auto-enrolment scheme	Employee pays	Employer pays	Government pays	Total payments per year
1 to 3	€300	€300	€100	€700
4 to 6	€600	€600	€200	€1,400
7 to 9	€900	€900	€300	€2,100
10 and after	€1,200	€1,200	€400	€2,800

What Is The Maximum Contribution?

For every €3 that you contribute to your pension fund, your employer will put in €3, and the Government will put in €1. This means that for every €3 you contribute, €7 will be added to your account.

Both the employer's and the Government's contributions are capped at €80,000 gross annual salary.

This means that for the first 3 years, the maximum amount an employer can contribute is €1,200 a year. This is because 1.5% of €80,000 is €1,200. The maximum amount the Government can contribute is €400 a year, which is 0.5% of €80,000.

If you earn over €80,000, you can still contribute but your employer or the Government won't match your contributions on any income over €80,000.

More Information

You can watch the Department of Social Protection's videos on auto-enrolment and read its information on auto-enrolment.

You can also read frequently asked questions about auto-enrolment. The rules for auto-enrolment are set out in the Automatic Enrolment Retirement Savings System Act 2024.

Online Shopping Rights

Introduction

The Consumer Rights Act 2022 (pdf) introduces new rights when you buy online, by catalogue or over the phone. This page explains these consumer rights.

They only apply if you bought something on or after 29 November 2022 from a seller based in Ireland or the EU.

You have different rights if you:

Bought online, by catalogue or over the phone on or before 28 November 2022

Bought from a seller in the UK

Your rights

When you buy online, you have the right to the same protections

under consumer law as buying in a shop.

Extra Rights

When you buy goods online you are entering into a contract called a distance contract. With this type of contract, you do not enter into the contract in person and you cannot check the products before you buy. Because of this, you have extra protections under consumer law – see below.

Before You Buy

Under consumer law you have a legal right to certain information before and after you buy online.

Information Before You Buy

You have a legal right to information before you buy, including:

The seller's business name, address, phone number, email address and other communication channels

Product details (if not already clear)

Total price, or how it will be calculated

Personalised price, when this applies (this is where the price is calculated based on your profile or online behaviour)

Length of the contract

Details on payment and performance

Any extra charges, for example, delivery charges

Your right to cancel, where it applies

Any conditions that apply to deposits, when applicable

Delivery information

The information must be clear, understandable and given to you before you buy.

Information Before You Checkout

The seller must make sure you always know when you are making a payment. Sellers cannot use pre-ticked boxes for additional payments.

Information After Buying

You must get a copy of the signed contract or confirmation of your order. The confirmation must be on paper or in another durable format such as email.

If there is a dispute about what information was provided, the seller must show they gave you the information.

Your Right To Cancel

You have a right to cancel within 14 days when a product is not bought in a physical shop.

This is also known as 'withdrawal' or 'cooling off' period.

This means you can cancel the contract up to 14 days from when the contract was agreed and get a full refund.

You do not have to give a reason for cancelling. The 14 days starts once you physically receive the goods.

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KNOW YOUR RIGHTS

Citizens Information Centre, Dublin Road, Maynooth

Know Your Rights has been compiled by Citizens Information Service which provides a free and confidential Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie and from the Citizens Information Phone Service - 0761 07 4000 or Lo-call 1890777121



If the seller does not give you information on your cancellation rights, your right to cancel is extended by 12 months. If the seller gives you information on your right to cancel within this 12-month period, the cooling-off period ends 14 days from the date you get the information. You can read more about cooling off periods for services or digital content or services.

How To Cancel

Before the cooling-off period ends, you must tell the seller you want to cancel. You must do this in writing by email or post, or by using the cancellation form provided by the seller.

The European Consumer Centre (ECC) Ireland has a letter template which may be helpful.

Right To A Refund Within 14 Days Of Cancellation

You must be refunded within 14 days of cancellation, using the same payment method you used, unless you agree to a different payment method.

Excluded Purchases

The cooling-off period does not apply to certain purchases.

Examples are:

Personalised or custom-made products

Products with a short shelf life that spoil quickly

Products that cannot be returned for health or hygiene reasons

Leisure services that are for a set date or period such as hotel bookings, car rental or concert tickets

Passenger transport services such as bus, rail or air

Who Pays For The Cost Of Return?

You are responsible for returning the product to the seller. The seller does not have to refund you for return postage costs. Some sellers will cover the return costs but it depends on the seller's return policy. The seller must tell you before you bought the product whether you will have to pay the return postage costs yourself.

If the seller did not tell you beforehand that you would be responsible for the return costs, then you can claim the costs back.

Taxes And Duties On Online Sales

You should be told how much VAT you have to pay at checkout.

If you buy a product from a seller based outside the EU, you have to pay VAT on all items, regardless of value. You have to pay customs duty for products over €150.

You may also have to pay VAT and excise duty for certain types of products such as alcohol and tobacco.

Revenue has more information about buying goods online and VAT. You can read more about taxes and other charges when you buy online from the UK after Brexit.

Your Rights When An Order Is Delayed Or Not Delivered

The seller must deliver your product to you either:

Within 30 days of buying them (unless you agreed a different date)
On the date you agreed with them

If the seller does not deliver the product as agreed in the contract or within 30 days, you can request a new delivery date.

You can insist that all items you bought in the one transaction are delivered at once. The seller cannot make you accept deliveries in instalments.

You can end the contract if:

The seller cannot or refuses to deliver within the new time frame you request

A new delivery date is no longer suitable for you, for example, you needed the product for a specific date or event

You must tell the business you are using your right to end your contract for non-delivery. The business must give you a refund within 14 days.

The European Consumer Centre (ECC) Ireland has a letter template which may be helpful.

Faulty Goods And Services

All products or services you buy online must meet certain conditions of quality, performance and durability to be in conformity with the contract you made when you bought it. In conformity means the product or service is as you expect it would be according to the contract you made with the seller.

There are slightly different conditions of quality, performance and durability for goods, services and digital content or services.

You are entitled to certain remedies when something you buy does not conform with the contract. A remedy can be a repair, replacement, price reduction or refund.

How To Complain

Complain in writing to the seller as soon as you can, to see if they can fix the problem.

If you cannot resolve the problem, you can:

Contact the Competition and Consumer Protection Commission (CCPC) for information and advice

Contact your bank or credit card provider to use chargeback. The CCPC has more information on chargeback

Take a claim against the seller using the Small Claims Procedure

Use out-of-court procedures such as the European Consumer Centre (ECC) Ireland (for cross-border disputes only)

Online Dispute Resolution (for national and cross-border online disputes).

More Information

Read more from the CCPC on buying online.

Competition and Consumer Protection Commission
Bloom House, Railway Street, Dublin 1
D01 C576

Opening Hours: Lines open Monday–Friday, from 9am–6pm

Tel: (01) 402 5555

Homepage: <http://www.ccpc.ie>



Christmas on the Square: Community, Camaraderie & What's Next



As we wrap up another memorable year on the Square, Maynooth Local Market would like to extend a heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported us throughout 2025. From the early-morning regulars who pop by for their weekly veg, to the families who make the market part of their Saturday routine, to the talented makers and producers who bring such colour and creativity each week - you are what makes the market special.

- Christmas is a time when we all spend a little more, and choosing to spend it locally really does make a difference. When you shop at the market instead of a large retailer, you're supporting livelihoods, fueling creativity, and helping small businesses in our own community thrive.
- This year saw our community grow stronger than ever. We welcomed new vendors, expanded our Kids' Zone activities, and enjoyed countless moments of connection, conversation, and community spirit. Whether you joined us for a quick browse or stayed for a chat and a cake, we're grateful for every visit.
- Karen from Skinny Pixels, one of our longest-standing photography vendors, summed it up beautifully: "Being part of the market isn't just about selling, it's the camaraderie, the laughter, and the feeling that we're all in it together. There's a real sense of belonging here, and that's what keeps me coming back every Saturday."
- Cllr. Peter Melrose, Chair of the Maynooth Local Market Committee, added: "The market works because so many people give their time, energy, and goodwill every week. It's a real team effort - vendors, volunteers, and the community coming together to create something special. We genuinely couldn't do it without that support."

If you've ever thought about getting involved, we'd love to welcome a few new volunteers to the team in 2026. Even an hour here or there on a Saturday makes a big difference.

Festive Markets – 6th & 13th December

To finish the year in style, we're hosting two special Christmas Markets on Saturday 6th December and Saturday 13th December with extended opening hours - 10am to 5pm. Expect plenty of festive cheer, seasonal bakes, unique handmade gifts, and beautiful local crafts - perfect for anyone hoping to support Irish makers this Christmas.

We're delighted to share that live music will feature on both dates, bringing an extra touch of magic to the market atmosphere. Our Kids' Zone will also be running, offering free activities to keep the little ones entertained while you browse. We'll be joined by new vendors across both weekends, adding even more variety to our regular line-up. If you haven't visited in a while, these are two dates not to miss.



Looking to 2026

As the market continues to grow, a small number of regular vendor spaces have become available for 2026. If you're a local producer, baker, grower, or maker interested in trading with us next year, we'd love to hear from you. Email maynoothlocalmarket@gmail.com for information on applying for a trading licence through Kildare County Council.

As we close out the year, we just want to say a big thank you for the chats, the support, the friendly faces and the weekly buzz that makes the Square such a lovely place to be. Wishing everyone a happy and restful festive period. Go raibh maith agaibh.





Santa shopping at I Love Organic



Santa in Maynooth!

Santa flew in specially this year to support some local businesses in Maynooth with his festive cheer! Follow Santa's lead and shop local this christmas



Donna Phelan and Angela Feeney with Santa





Events at Maynooth Community Library



For further information contact: www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie Ph: 01-6285530
facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService twitter.com/kildarelibrary

Events for Children

Song & Rhyme Time for 0-2 year olds

Friday 5th December, 10am - 10.30am

A story and song session for ages 0-2. There'll be a few short stories, and some popular Action Songs to engage younger attendees. All children attending this event must be accompanied by a parent/guardian

Booking link <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=22728728>

Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 4: Quality Education: Goal 13: Climate Action

Festive Christmas Concert and Sing-Along

Tuesday 16th December, 3pm – 4pm

Come and join "The Singing Strummers", (a merry group of retired women who meet in the Library every Tuesday to learn guitar) and friends, to sing along and get into the festive spirit.

No booking required, just drop in and join in the fun

Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 4: Quality Education: Goal 13: Climate Action

Story Time for Ages 3 - 6

Friday, 19th December, 3.00 pm - 3.30 pm

A festive story time with stories, songs and rhymes for ages 3-6. All children attending this event must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Booking link <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=22745418>

Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 4: Quality Education: Goal 13: Climate Action

Events for Adults

Housing and Homelessness Supports Information Clinic

Tuesday 8th December, 2.00 pm – 4.00pm

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 ****

Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 10: Reduce Inequalities: Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities: Goal 13: Climate Action

Luain Press Poetry Café

Tuesday 2nd December, 6pm – 7pm

Come on by Maynooth Community Library on December 2nd from 6-7 p.m. for poetry readings, chats, and creative writing activities.

****Drop in* no booking required***

Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 4: Quality Education: Goal 13: Climate Action

Smells, Spells and Kells An ECO LITERACY TALK by Rachel Sweeney

Wednesday 3rd December, 3.30pm – 4.30pm

In this illustrated talk, ecologist and artist Rachel Sweeney will introduce the relationship of LANGUAGE and ECOLOGY through a kind of multispecies storytelling, that combines music, traditional dance and nature poetry, to explore how Irish writing cultures bring to life the stories and legends of our natural world. RACHEL SWEENEY is an artist and ecologist who has worked in the area of creative arts and climate change for over thirty years. She is currently a Creative Collaborator for Kildare County Council Climate Action program.

This event is dedicated to the late writer and environmental activist Manchán Magan.

****Drop in, no booking required****

Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities: Goal 13: Climate Action

Age Friendly Programme

Age Friendly Coffee Morning

Wednesday, 10th December, 10.00am – 11.30am

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

****Drop in, no booking required****

Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 3: Good Health & Well being: Goal 13: Climate Action

Climate & Environment Book Club – Maynooth Community Library

Thursday 11th December, 6.30pm – 7.30pm

2nd Thursday of each month at 6.30pm (starting Thursday 11th December)

The book club is currently at capacity but it is possible to join a waiting list for the book club.

Curious about climate change, or keen to explore new ideas about living sustainably? Join us each month as we discover books that spark conversations about the world we share — from thought-provoking climate writing to inspiring stories of communities finding practical solutions. Together, we'll explore what authors, scientists,

(Continued on page 32)



Events at Maynooth Community Library

For further information contact: www.kildare.ie/librarymaynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie Ph: 01-6285530
facebook.com/KildareCountyLibraryService twitter.com/kildarelibrary



and storytellers have to say about how we live, eat, travel, and care for our planet. Through books, we can uncover fresh ways to think about everyday choices — from enjoying local, seasonal food to reducing unnecessary fossil fuel use — and imagine a better future for generations to come.

Come for the books, stay for the conversation — and discover how small ideas can grow into meaningful change. The first book for discussion will be Lie Of The Land by John Gibbons - this book will be available to collect from Maynooth Community Library from Tuesday 28th October.

Join the waiting list here: <https://buytickets.at/maynoothlibrary/1919422>

Kildare Libraries Service Supports the following Sustainable Development Goals: Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities: Goal 13: Climate Action

Exhibitions

Doodle Box Art : Kildare kids Annual Exhibition

2/12/2025 - 05/01/2026

Doodle Box invites you to join us for a special exhibition of artwork created by our young artists, (aged 5 to 15) who have spent the year exploring, experimenting, and expressing themselves through art. The work celebrates the creative confidence that grows when children are encouraged to play, take risks, and trust their ideas.

Exhibition Bookings

If you are a local artist or art group and would like to book our exhibition space, please contact us. Maynooth Community Library’s Exhibition Space is available to host exhibitions from October 2026.

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

Groups and Clubs

Maynooth Community Library Craft Club

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

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

Baby and Toddler Group

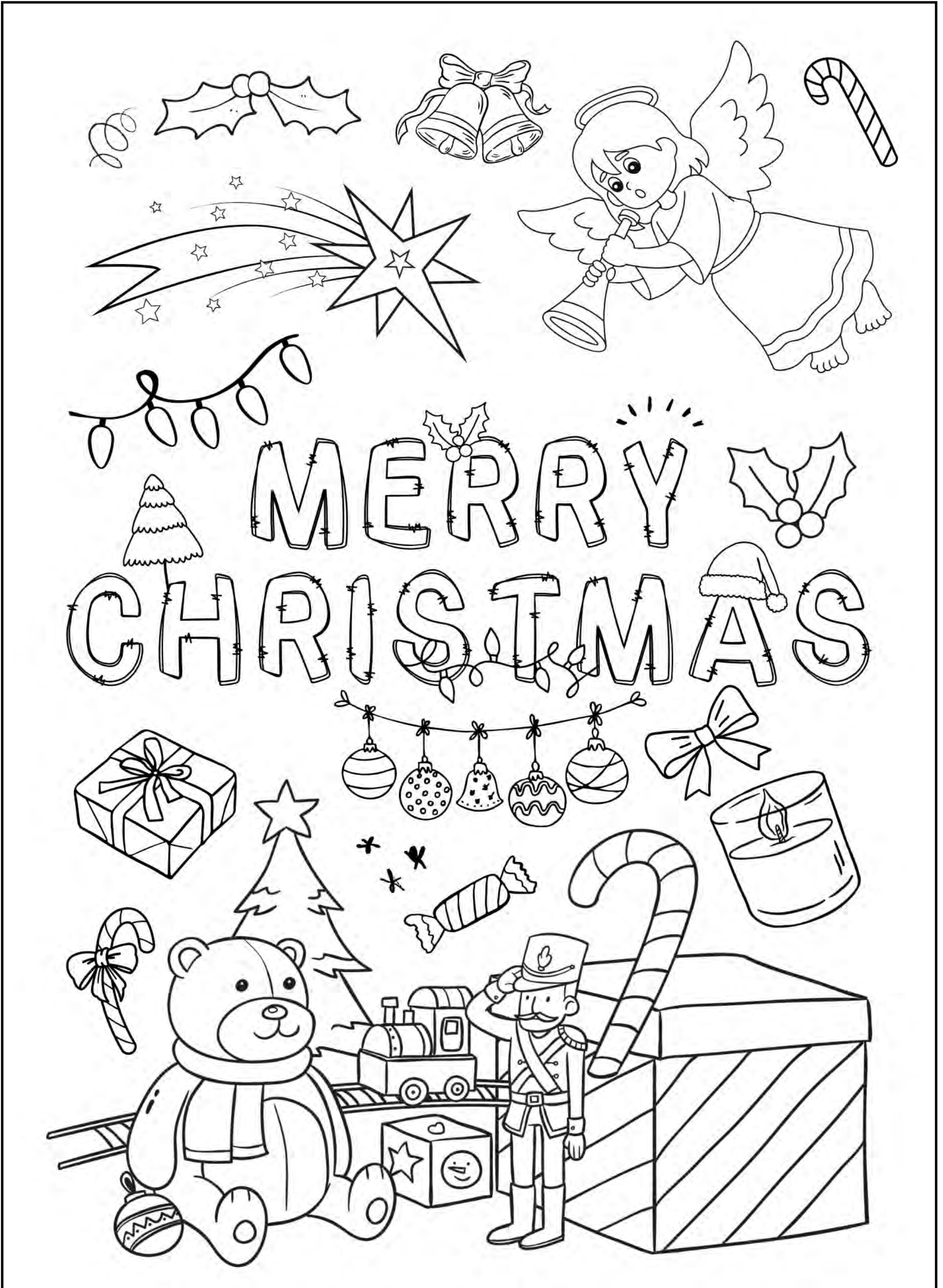
Every Thursday, 10am – 11am

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

No need to book, just drop in!

Kildare Planning Applications for Maynooth Area Planning Applications received from 24/09/2025 to 26/10/2025 Information from Kildare County Council Website				
App #	Authority	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
2561331	Kildare County Council	Chris & Jenna McKenzie	70 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	26/11/2025
2561307	Kildare County Council	Guilherme and Michele Tabelini	17 The Close, Mullen Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	20/11/2025
2561309	Kildare County Council	Chris & Jenna McKenzie	70 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	20/11/2025
2561303	Kildare County Council	Stewarts Care DAC	Maynooth Rd, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	18/11/2025
2561296	Kildare County Council	Stewarts Care DAC	Maynooth Rd, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	17/11/2025
2561291	Kildare County Council	Fiona Nolan	139 Kingsbry, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	15/11/2025
2561290	Kildare County Council	Niall Rooney	Maynooth Rd, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	14/11/2025
2561255	Kildare County Council	Stephen and Aisling Fitzpatrick	62 Leinster Wood, Carton Demesne, Maynooth, County Kildare, W23K2E2	05/11/2025
2561249	Kildare County Council	Michael Murray	9 Parklands Grove, Maynooth, Kildare	04/11/2025
2561241	Kildare County Council	Jimmy McMahon	Castletown Pharmacy & McMahons Bar & Eatery, Maynooth Road, Celbridge, Co. Kildare	31/10/2025
2561234	Kildare County Council	Eileen Maguire	20 Castlebridge, Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	30/10/2025
2561219	Kildare County Council	Kevin and Janet O’Sullivan	DÚN ARD, Newtown Road, Maynooth, Co Kildare	26/10/2025
2561211	Kildare County Council	Guilherme and Michele Tabelini	17 The Close, Mullen Park, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	24/10/2025

Colouring Fun at Christmas (Hard Copies Available in Office)

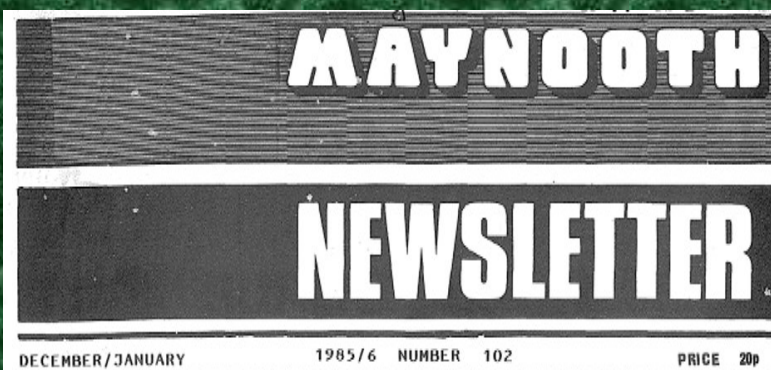




Memories From the Archives Celebrating 40 Years of Maynooth Community Employment Project Producing the Maynooth Newsletter

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com

December 1985



HAPPY CHRISTMAS



John & Eithne Carey of Caulfields, presentation of a new set of Strip to Terry Moore, Manager of the 2nd Team with Dominic Long.

Greetings to Australia

Happy Christmas and a Happy New Year to Dick and Dolores Rochford and family from Mr. & Mrs. Hand, Paul, Joan, Donal & family. Also the Bean Family, Main Street.



Frank Mahony presenting a new set of Strip from his Man's Shop to Liam Ferrelly, Manager of the 1st team with Sean Nolan



John Byrne presenting a cheque for £356, part of the proceeds of the sponsored Dublin/Belfast Matacycle to Peter Nevin, Joint Treasurer, Maynooth Community Council.

Also included in the picture are Siobhan Hall (Administrator), John McGinley (Secretary), Ann McStravick (Joint Treasurer), Tom Purcell (Vice-Chairman), and Proinsias Breathnach (Chairman, Maynooth Community Council).

The Community Council is grateful to all those who provided sponsorship for the Maracycle.

Recent Wedding

Congratulations to Sean Kelly, Ladychapel, and Caroline Bowe, Kilcock, who were married recently.

Recent Death

We express sympathy to the relatives of the late Nan Dunne R.I.P., Christown, Maynooth.



Presentation of cheque for £1,222 to Old Folks Committee by Maynooth Branch, Labour Party, being proceeds of Tony Smith Memorial Walk (1985).

Included from left to right, Kevin McGovern, Treasurer Old Folks Committee; Mrs Bridget Conlan, who was sponsored for £266, the highest sponsored walker; Mrs Imelda Delaney, Chairperson, Old Folks Committee; Cllr. Emmet Stagg; Mrs. Rose bean, Secretary, Old Folks Committee.



Gerry Mulcahy presenting a new set of strip to Liam McCall, Club Treasurer with Gerry Moen

MAYNOOTH OLD FOLKS COMMITTEE

Our first Party of this season was held on Sun. 10th Nov. in S.M.A. House. It was attended by about 90 Old People including visitors from Dunboyne and Lucan. Following Holy Mass which was celebrated by Fr. Dunne we had our usual tea and Social. The entertainment for the afternoon was very enjoyable and we thank all who came to entertain, especially the members of the Brass and Reed Band.

It was also a very special evening financially - our new Chairperson Mrs. I. Delaney received a cheque for £1,122 from Mr. Emmet Stagg on behalf of the Maynooth Branch of the Labour Party. This was the proceeds of their Annual Sponsored Walk for the Old Folks and we thank all who participated.

We also had present a young boy from Taghadoe, Robert Darcy who presented us with £12 which was the proceeds of a Halloween Collection. Sorry you had to rush off Robert. We hope you will come to another party and we can all meet you and thank you properly.

Our Annual Sale of Work took place on Sunday Nov. 17. I would like on behalf of the Committee to thank everybody who helped make this day so successful for us. We always get such great support for this annual event and it is very much appreciated. May I take this opportunity of wishing all our Old People and our many friends and benefactors the Peace and Joy of Christmas. Nollaig Shona dhiabh go leir. Carol Barton, P.R.O.

Recent Birthdays

Belated Birthday Wishes to Jim Kenny (Snr), Straffan Road, who celebrated his birthday on November 18th. Happy Birthday from his wife Annie and family.

Maynooth Community Contacts Listing

<p>Naoise Ó Cearúil TD 086 7280050 naoise.ocearuil@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/naoiseocearuil/</p>	<p>Réada Cronin T.D. 01-6183823 reada.cronin@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/ReadaCroninSinnFein</p>	<p>James Lawless T.D. 01-6183587 james.lawless@oireachtas.ie facebook.com/JamesLawlessFF/</p>	<p>Joe Neville TD 086-6062207 joe.neville@oireachtas.ie</p>
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<p>Cllr. Paul Ward 087 2294697 cllrpaulward@gmail.com</p>	<p>An Nuadha Players annuadhplayers@gmail.com facebook.com/annuadha</p>	<p>An Post Sorting Office Maynooth 01-6293390</p>	<p>Brass & Reed Band (St Mary's) sec@stmarysbandmaynooth.ie facebook.com/maynoothband/</p>
<p>Cemetery Committee (Laraghbryan) 01-6293018</p>	<p>Church of Ireland 01-6292163 secretary@meath.anglican.org</p>	<p>Citizen Information Centre 0818078100 maynooth@citinfo.ie</p>	<p>Cloth Nappy Library Ireland 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/NappyLibraryIreland</p>
<p>Community Welfare Services 0818607080 Kildarecws@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Employment Office 01-6106000 bo.maynooth@welfare.ie</p>	<p>Kildare County Council 045 - 980200 customerservice@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Kildare Civil Defence 045 980529 pmcneela@kildarecoco.ie</p>
<p>Kildare County Council (Local Office) 01 - 6286236</p>	<p>Kildare MABS 0818072600 kildare@mabs.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Autism Friendly Town 0863329050 autismfriendlytownmaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/maynoothaft</p>	<p>Maynooth Employment Services Office Kelly's Lane, Maynooth 01-6016360 EstMaynooth@welfare.ie</p>
<p>Maynooth Post Office 01-6286259</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Care Unit 01-6106351</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Church 01-5054990 office@maynoothcc.org facebook.com/maynoothcommunitychurch/</p>	<p>Maynooth Community Library 01-6285530 maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie. facebook.com/ KildareCountyLibraryService</p>
<p>Maynooth Cycling Campaign 086-8252934 Maynoothcycling@gmail.com www.maynoothcyclingcampaign.com</p>	<p>Maynooth Fishing Club 01-6293202 info@maynoothfisheries.com</p>	<p>Maynooth GAA Club secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie facebook.com/maynoothgaa/</p>	<p>Maynooth Health Centre 01-6106130</p>
<p>Maynooth Kilcock Lions clubcontact@maynoothkilcocklionsclub.org facebook.com/MaynoothKilcockLionsClub/</p>	<p>Maynooth Library 01-6285530 Maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie</p>	<p>Maynooth Newsletter 01-6285922 office@maynoothcep.com facebook.com/MCEPnewsletter</p>	<p>Maynooth Senior Citizens maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com</p>
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<p>North Kildare Tennis Club info@northkildaretennis.ie</p>	<p>Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth 01-6293018 maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com</p>	<p>SVP Vincent's Shop 01-6289643 geraldinebyrne.east@svp.ie facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064619179003</p>	<p>Zero Waste Maynooth 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth</p>

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