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Duke and Duchess of Leinster Visit Maynooth to Mark 850th Anniversary



9th Duke of Leinster Maurice Fitzgerald and the Duchess of Leinster Fiona Fitzgerald at Maynooth Castle

Maynooth 850 Committee was delighted to welcome the Duke of Leinster, Maurice Fitzgerald, the 9th Duke of Leinster, and the Duchess of Leinster, Fiona Fitzgerald, to Maynooth on Saturday, 5 September, as part of the town's celebrations marking its historic 850th Anniversary.

The Duke and Duchess received a warm welcome. Then Event Organiser Gerry Quinn led them on a tour of some of the town's most significant historic sites, many of which are closely connected to their ancestors. Their visit included Maynooth Castle, Carton, the John Paul II Library, Crew Hill, St Mary's Church of Ireland and the local market in the Square.

The Fitzgerald family's connection with Maynooth dates back to 1176, when Maurice Fitzgerald was granted extensive lands, including much of what is now County Kildare. Their castle at Maynooth became the seat of the Fitzgerald family's power, and over the centuries the family rose to become one of the most influential dynasties in Ireland.



Susan Durack addresses the attendance at Maynooth Castle

At the castle, Susan Durack, Secretary of Maynooth 850, gave a presentation outlining the Duke's ancestral links with Maynooth. She spoke of the great honour of having the Duke and Duchess of Leinster return to the castle during such a significant milestone in the town's history.



From left to right: Declan O'Connor, Denise McCarthy, Peter Nevin, Geradline O'Kane, Duchess of Leinster Fiona Fitzgerald, Duke of Leinster Maurice Fitzgerald, Mary MacNamara, Susan Durack, Gerry Quinn, Seamus Cullen, Jennifer Sheridan, Thomas Quinn and Maria Skibniewska.



Alan Cleary and Catherine Colthurst presenting the Duke and Duchess with a copy of their book which is called "Ireland's Uncrowned Kings" at Maynooth Castle.

Continued Page 3





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 email or addressed to:

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Letters to the Editor

Letters to the Editor, for publication, should be sent by email 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, 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 dates 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 digitize all available issues of the Maynooth Newsletter dating back to 1975.

These back issues along with the current issues are available by following the archive line 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

Age is but a number is a good philosophy to adopt for us as individuals, but as a community in Maynooth we are getting older. Just to put some numbers on it, if we compare the two census results for 2002 and 2022. In that twenty year period the population of Maynooth increased from 10,151 to 17,239 which is a 70% approx increase. Looking specifically on information available from a number of sources to compare the age cohorts over 65 years of age, the percentage in 2002 was 4.8%. But in 2022 it is estimated that the percentage of Maynooth population over the age of 65 years old has jumped to be 7.8%. Much of Maynooth's housing stock was built in the 1990s so it is not surprising that these inhabitants have grown older here. How well have the services developed to support our aging residents?

There are a number of social outlets for our retired and aging residents to enjoy. Art, light exercise, reading and other practical endeavours are already available. There are also numerous volunteering opportunities at all levels of skills where you would be welcomed. October 1st marks "International Day of the Older Person" and if you meet the criteria but feel that you need to be more active or make more friends, why not start this year to enjoy being whatever your number is. There is plenty of opportunities right here in your town.

Being included is an experience that we all need regardless of our age. For adults with Autism there is an event in the Glenroyal Hotel on Thursday 22nd October starting at 9am and running up to 3.30pm.

It is specifically aimed at offering autistic jobseekers and employers the chance to connect and create more inclusive workplaces- jobseekers attending will have the opportunity to:

- Meet employers currently recruiting and discuss inclusive roles.
- Learn about DSP employment supports including WPEP, WSS, Work & Access schemes.
- Participate in tailored CV and interview workshops.



Many of you will have seen Maynooth featured on the RTE 1 Programme "Nationwide" on Monday 21st September. The programme was devised around the Maynooth 850 celebrations but covered a range of other aspects of Maynooth in 2026. While the programme content was restricted by the 21 minutes of broadcasting time, the producers said that they could have done more than one programme on Maynooth.

Maynooth 850 events continue in October and will be advertised. The events are free but must be booked through Eventbrite.

Paul Croghan
Editor

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



The Duke and Duchess also officially launched a new update and reprint of a local history book originally written by Sister Alphonsus from the Presentation Convent Primary School in 1996. The book was created to introduce young people to the history of Maynooth. The new edition has been produced in both Irish and English and will be distributed to schools throughout the town as a classroom resource. Speaking during the launch, the Duke said he was honoured to be in Maynooth and reflected on his family's many memories and connections with the town.

(photo) Susan Durack, Duchess Fiona Fitzgerald, the Duke Maurice Fitzgerald & Sister Annette launching the reprint of the book written by Sister Alphonsus over 30 years ago

The next stop was the John Paul II Library at Maynooth University, where the Duke and Duchess were welcomed with traditional Irish music performed by two University students. The reception was hosted by Paul Croghan, Chairperson of Maynooth 850, and attended by the Mayor of Kildare County Council, Tim Durkan, Local Representatives and invited guests.

The Duke spoke again about his family's deep connection with Maynooth, reflecting on how his ancestors had laid some of the foundations of the town and wondering what they might have thought about the remarkable development of Maynooth and the community it has become today.

He also thanked everyone involved in organising the Maynooth 850 celebrations, recognising the considerable time, effort and dedication that had gone into making the anniversary programme such a success.

The Duke and Duchess then visited the Maynooth Local Market, where they met traders and enjoyed the warm community atmosphere. Their tour continued to Crew Hill, a site with its own place in Maynooth's military history, where cannon fire is believed to have been directed towards the castle.

Their final visit was to a Maynooth graveyard, where a wreath was laid in remembrance of members of the Fitzgerald family who are buried there.

The visit of the Duke and Duchess of Leinster was a memorable and significant occasion for Maynooth 850. Their presence brought the town's long and fascinating history to life and highlighted the enduring connection between the Fitzgerald family and Maynooth.

The visit was a tremendous success and a fitting part of the celebrations as Maynooth marks 850 years of history, heritage and community.



**The 9th Duke of Leinster
Maurice Fitzgerald**



**Paul Croghan, Chairperson of
Maynooth 850 welcoming the
Duke & the Duchess**



**Mayor of County Kildare Cllr Tim
Durkan officially welcoming the
Duke and Duchess to the county**



**Deputy Mayor of
Clane/Maynooth MD Cllr
Donna Phelan welcoming the
Duke and Duchess**

Photo Gallery capturing the Historic Visit on page 4

Gallery of Duke and Duchess of Leinster

Visit Maynooth to Mark 850th Anniversary



The Duke & the Duchess speaking to Susan Durack, secretary of Maynooth 850



Alan Cleary, Maynooth Castle, showing the exact scaled replica of Maynooth Castle to the Duke & Duchess



Duke and Duchess with Jennifer Sheridan Maynooth 850 Treasurer and her family



John Shannon and Sofia Almeida performing at the Maynooth University Library reception for the Duke & Duchess



Duke Maurice Fitzgerald speaking at the John Paul II Library reception



Naoise ó Cearúil T.D. speaking at the reception in John Paul II Library



Deputy President of Maynooth University Prof. Aidan Mulkeen welcoming the Duke and the Duchess to the University



Rev Dr. Michael Shortall, President of St. Patrick's College



Paul Croghan, Rev Dr. Michael Shortall, Rev Clement Ninziza, Duchess Fiona Fitzgerald, Duke Maurice Fitzgerald, Kildare Mayor Cllr Tim Durkan, Cllr Donna Phelan, Cllr Angela Feeney & Professor Aidan Mulkeen



Kildare Mayor Cllr Tim Durkan, Cllr Donna Phelan, Cllr Angela Feeney, Professor Aidan Mulkeen & Paul Croghan



Gerald MacCann, photographer speaking about Maynooth 850 Heritage exhibitions which were viewed by the Duke and Duchess



From left to right: Kildare Mayor Cllr Tim Durkan, Susan Durack, Peter Nevin, Paul Croghan, Mary McNamara, Denise McCarthy, Duchess of Leinster Fiona Fitzgerald, Duke of Leinster Maurice Fitzgerald and Gerry Quinn.

Duke and Duchess visiting family graveyard in Maynooth.



Historic Hibernia Launches New Book on the History of Medicine in Ireland

Local history enthusiasts have launched their latest book, *Before the Doctor Came: Medicine in Early Ireland*, at the Maynooth Bookshop, continuing their commitment to bringing Ireland's rich history to a wider audience.

The book launch took place at Maynooth Bookshop on Thursday, 17th of September, and was attended by friends, history enthusiasts, and supporters.

Written by Katherine Colthurst, a tour guide and heritage professional with a background in history, *Before the Doctor Came* takes readers on a fascinating journey through medicine, healing, and healthcare in Ireland. The book explores the people, practices, and beliefs that shaped how generations of Irish people understood illness, treated disease, and cared for one another long before modern healthcare transformed our lives.

From the early Christian period through to the dawn of the twentieth century, the book examines traditional healing practices, medical families, physicians, and the changing understanding of illness and treatment throughout Irish history. Historic Hibernia was established by local tour guides and historians Alan Cleary, Vanessa Waldron and Katherine Colthurst, who share a passion for making history accessible and engaging. Through their work as guides, writers, and independent publishers, they have produced a growing collection of books exploring Irish, local, and maritime history.

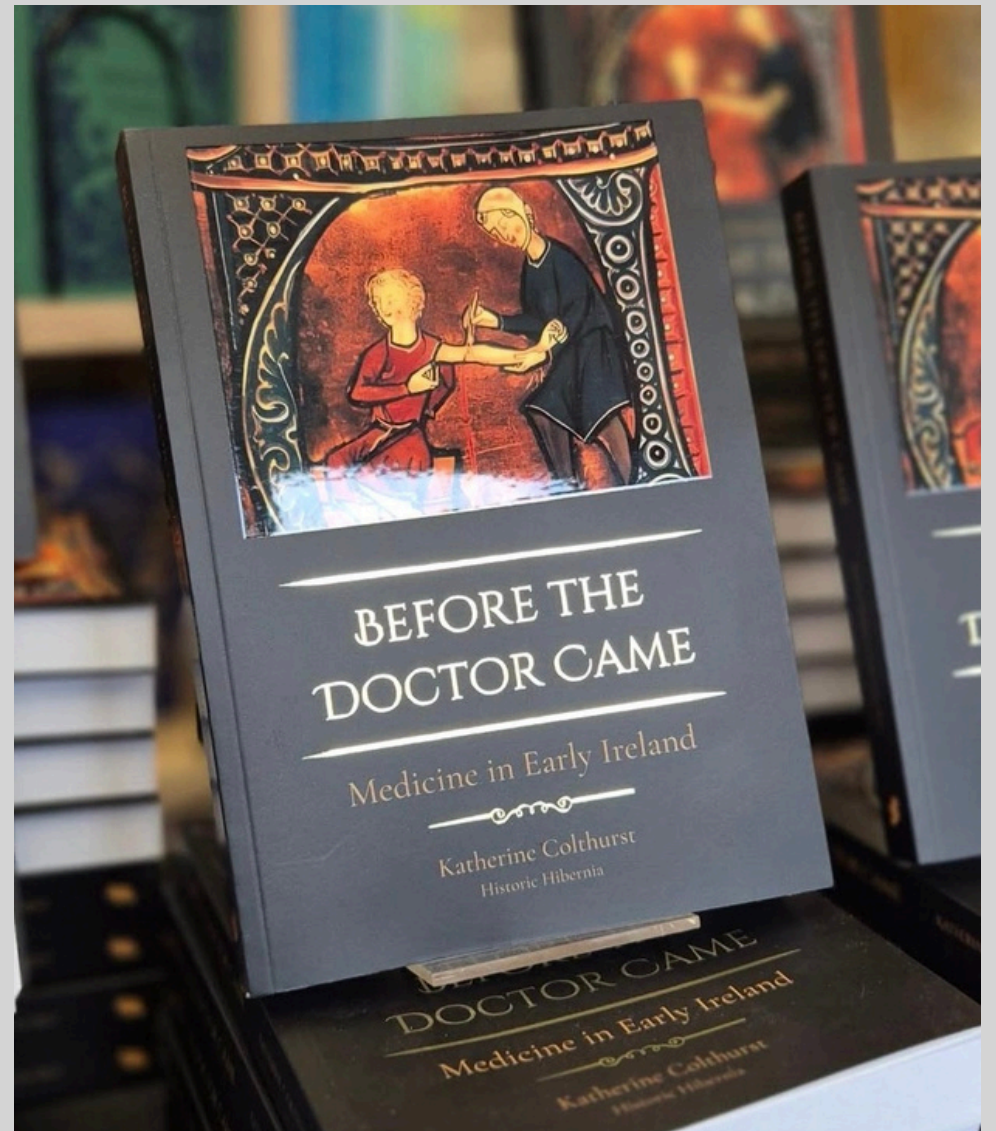
Their publications include *Ireland's Uncrowned Kings: Power, Intrigue and Rebellion from the Heart of Maynooth*, *The White Rose of Kildare*, *The Wizard Earl*, *Kildare's Titanic*, and *Thomas Andrews: The Man Who Built the Titanic*. Alan has also developed an Irish Maritime History series, examining significant events and stories from Ireland's maritime past.

Speaking about the launch, Katherine expressed their sincere appreciation to the Maynooth Bookshop for its continued support of local authors and independent publishing.

Special thanks were extended to Cian Byrne and Ursula Byrne, along with Vanessa Waldron and all the staff at the bookshop, for their assistance in hosting the event. Katherine also thanked everyone who attended the launch and supported the latest addition to the Historic Hibernia collection.

Before the Doctor Came: Medicine in Early Ireland is now available to purchase in-store at the Maynooth Bookshop and online through www.maynoothbookshop.com and www.buythebook.ie.

Historic Hibernia's growing catalogue continues to highlight the importance of local authors, independent publishing, and the preservation of Ireland's fascinating historical stories for future generations.



The article is the work of Alan Cleary. Images are from the Maynooth Bookshop.



Discover Your Story. Trace Your Roots

Ever wondered where your story truly begins? Let us take you there with our expert in-house Professional Genealogy & Family Researcher. Also our signature family tree chart lets you see your legacy come to life — ready to fill, display, and pass down for generations

Why choose us?

Personalised expert research.

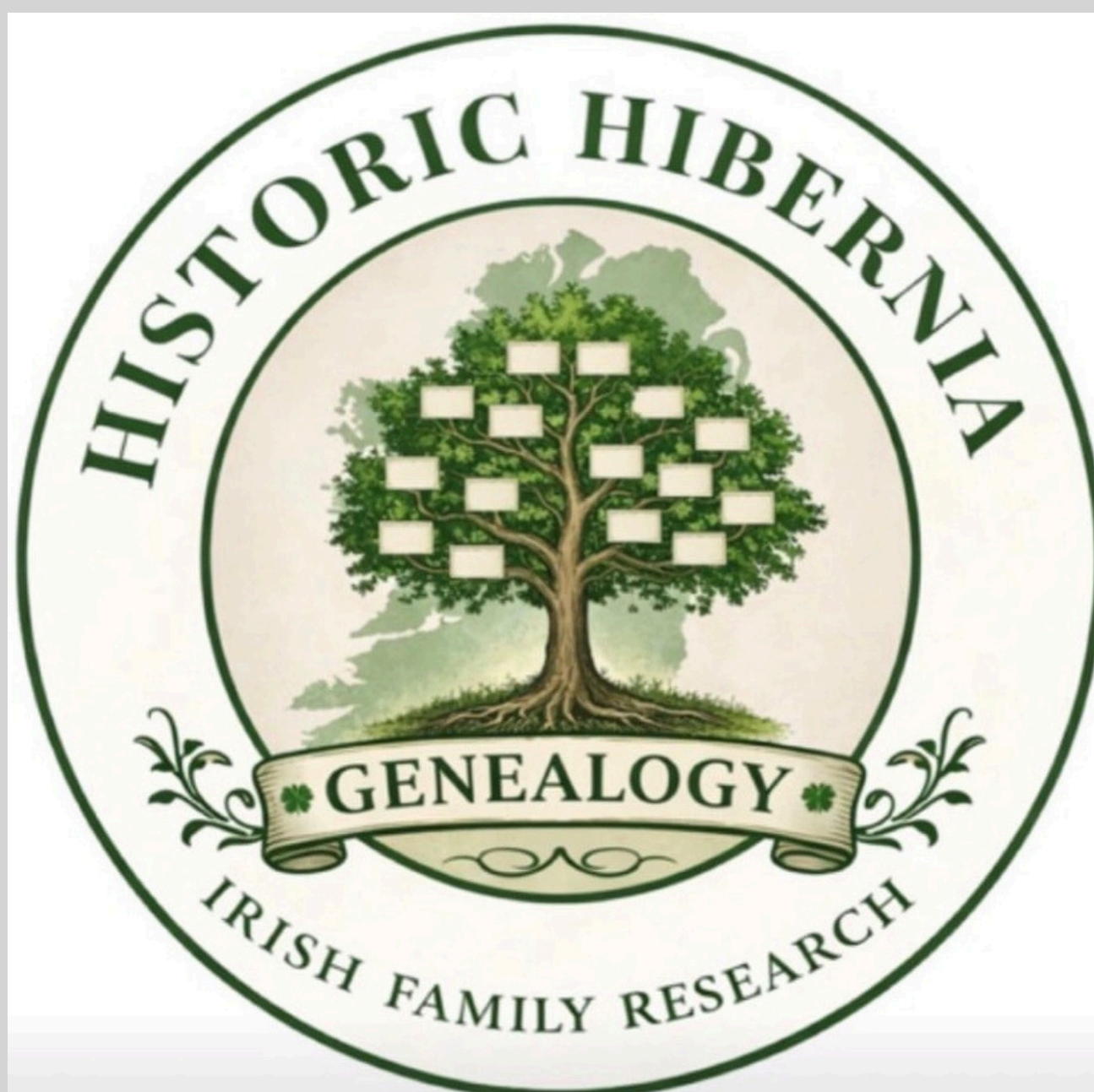
Beautifully presented results.

Competitive rates (history shouldn't cost a fortune!)

Because your family history isn't just the past, it's your legacy!

Ready to start your journey?

email: historichibernia@gmail.com



CIlr Angela FEENEY

Here to Help



✉ afeeney@kildarecoco.ie

☎ 087 238 1962

Labour ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

Harbour Field Maynooth

The recent announcement that the Harbour Field has been approved as a project under Round One of the Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund is great news for Maynooth. €4.4 million has been allocated to make it into the public park we all want.

It is an amazing amenity to have in the centre of the town and this funding will also enable it to be enhanced and improved for future use by all. This is a project I have been pushing for many years now and it is great to see progress being made at last.

Eve Larine

I was delighted to be invited to Eve Larine Mental Health Services in Maynooth for their BBQ and art exhibition.



The paintings were beautiful and the food was delicious. I always enjoy visiting the centre and well done to all involved in such a successful event.



Bus From Maynooth to Dublin Airport

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



A second application is also due to be submitted shortly for a similar 24 hour service connecting Celbridge, Leixlip, Lucan and Liffey Valley directly with Dublin Airport. This is a much needed service and will help reduce the need to drive to the airport and pay very costly fuel bills and car parking charges.



Autumn Retreat Programme

Hosted & facilitated by Susan Keane • Featuring sound bath with Kalyn Potter



11:00	Arrival, grounding & welcome
11:15	Breathwork
12:00	Yin Yoga
13:00	Nourishing lunch
13:45	Mindful Movement
14:30	Restorative sound bath
15:30	Reflection & close

€90

Saturday 10 October • 11am – 4pm • Maynooth

Rest • Nourish • Connect

Are you feeling busy, stressed or simply in need of some time for yourself?

Join us on Saturday, 10 October for an Autumn Retreat at The Barn Space, Maynooth — an oasis of calm in the heart of Maynooth.

This restorative day is designed to give you space to pause, rest, and reconnect. The programme includes breathwork, Yin Yoga, mindful movement, meditation, a deeply relaxing sound bath and guided reflection, with time to connect with others in a warm and welcoming setting.

A nourishing lunch is included, allowing you to step away from the busyness of everyday life and enjoy a day dedicated to rest and renewal.

Saturday, 10 October 11am – 4pm
The Barn Space, Maynooth
€90 including lunch



Sound Bath with Kalyn

A restorative element of the Autumn Retreat



Kalyn is a BAST certified Sound Relaxation Therapist, 500 hr-RYT Yoga Instructor and Yoga Therapist.

- Passionate about balancing performance with restoration
- Project Manager at Maynooth University, supporting under-resourced students

What is a sound bath?

A meditative experience where you rest comfortably while being immersed in the soothing sounds of Himalayan and crystal bowls.

The vibrations can support deep relaxation, inner calm and reconnection.



As part of the retreat, Kalyn will guide a deeply restorative sound bath.

Rest • Nourish • Reconnect



Book Your Place

Autumn Retreat

Saturday 10 October
11am – 4pm
The Barn Space • Maynooth



Hosted & facilitated by
Susan Keane



Restorative sound bath with
Kalyn

Investment

€90

Includes mindful yoga, nourishing lunch, restorative sound bath and reflection.

Spaces are limited. DM to book

Rest • Nourish • Reconnect

Maynooth Cycling Campaign

Notes for October 2026



Annual General Meeting

A date for the diaries - Maynooth Cycling Campaign will be holding its AGM on Tuesday 27th October. The location is expected to be in the ICA Hall, Leinster Street.

It's all a Load of Bollards!!!

Kildare Council Council recently provided additional bollards on the Moyglare Road. Maynooth Cycling Campaign welcomed their good intentions but after contractors erected them on site, we were astonished that they had been erected on the footpath on the west side of the road. We wondered had a map had been read upside down as we had witnessed drivers regularly parking cars on the east side of the road but were unable to recall any cars parking on the west side. Maynooth Cycling Campaign had made a number of complaints to the gardaí about drivers parking on the east side particularly in the vicinity of St. Mary's Boys' School. We wondered about the reason or reasons for choosing the east side and, as lack of funding is often given for inaction by the Council, where did the funding come from?

How to solve the M50 as travel times increase?

In August, there was a discussion on RTE radio's Drivetime on how to tackle the congestion on the M50. Most of the people who called in were motorists and descriptions of their experiences included being a "nightmare" and "carnage" with daily delays due to collisions. Their solution included providing an outer ring road or more exit ramps. A discussion followed between Sean O'Neill from Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII), the President of the Irish Hauliers Association and a motoring journalist. To be fair, Sean O'Neill pointed out that TII have done everything that they could do in terms of additional capacity and that there is not space to add further lanes. Brian Caufield of TCD was interviewed later in the programme and described that much improved public transport would be required but that the M50 is unlikely to improve in the short term.

E-Scooters and Young People

RTE also discussed the issue of involvement in collisions of young people riding e-scooters and the long term impact on their lives. The government has responded with proposals to require helmets and hi-vis for people on e-scooters but the issue will not be addressed until there is proper enforcement. There have also been calls from some TDs to make helmets and hi-vis obligatory for cyclists. Maynooth Cycling Campaign would be opposed to any such requirement as elsewhere where it has been introduced, it has resulted in fewer people cycling. We accept that there is a problem with some e-bikes which can travel at speeds higher than 25km/hr and which aren't pedal assisted. These are currently illegal to use on a public place unless the rider has tax and insurance but this is an issue which should be dealt with through enforcement.

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.



FROM HONEY TO HALLOWEEN AT MAYNOOTH MARKET

Autumn has arrived, and we're embracing the changing season at Maynooth Market.

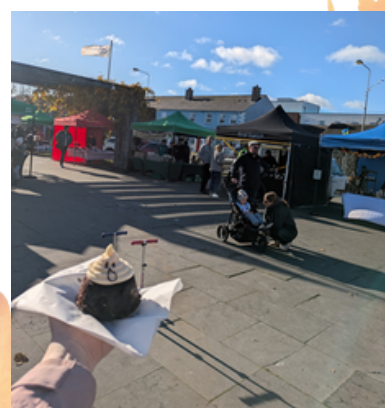
There's something special about Saturdays on Court House Square at this time of year, surrounded by the changing colours of the trees and the buzz of the town. A huge shout-out must go to Maynooth Tidy Towns, whose brilliant work throughout the year helps keep the Square and our town looking its best.



We're delighted to have locally produced honey from Dunnes Farm back at the market. A firm favourite with our customers, it's well worth picking up a jar while stocks last.



The market continues every Saturday, bringing together a great mix of local makers, bakers, growers and small businesses. Whether you're picking up fresh local produce, something handmade, a weekend treat or simply stopping by for a chat, we love seeing familiar faces and welcoming new ones each week.



And there's a particularly fun Saturday coming up this October. Halloween falls on Saturday, 31 October this year, so the market is set to get a little spooky! Expect our vendors to embrace the occasion with costumes, along with a few special surprises along the way

Wrap up and come enjoy autumn Saturdays on the Square with us. Keep an eye on our social media channels for all the latest updates.
[@themaynoothlocalmarket](https://www.instagram.com/themaynoothlocalmarket)

Pictures courtesy of Louise Archbold

Maynooth Market takes place every Saturday from 10am to 3pm in Court House Square.

We'd love to see you there this autumn.

The Fruit of the Oak

An acorn is a nut, which is partially encased in a cup, and grows on the iconic oak tree. This tree, often mentioned in folklore, symbolizes strength and endurance and can be found in the northern hemisphere, mainly in North America, Europe and Asia. There are over five hundred different species of oak, each having its unique type of acorn. The trees can be divided into two main groups, white and red oaks. White oak acorns are typically glossy and oval-shaped, a tan colour when ripe and are lower in tannins, nature's preservative, which can cause liver damage. Red oak acorns, which include the Pin oak's acorns that are nearly black, have stronger tannins and are bitter to the taste. They have a flat top and cap.

A peduncle is a stalk that attaches the acorn to a small branch of an oak; a cap protects the nut, which has a pointed end from where shoots emerge. Ireland has two native species; the common or pedunculate oak (*quercus robur* – in Irish *dair ghallda*) and the sessile (meaning without a stalk) oak which is often called the Irish oak.

The sessile oak, *quercus petraea* or in Irish *dair ghaelach*, favours poor, hilly, acidic soil which can be found especially in Killarney, County Kerry and Glenveagh, County Donegal. It is the national tree of Ireland but, after centuries of harvesting, the truly native oak trees are hard to find. The sessile oak has male and female flowers on the same tree. Male flowers are green catkins, actually clusters of tiny flowers that produce pollen, while the female ones are inconspicuous red flower buds. Once pollinated, the sessile oak has clusters of acorns in stalkless cups attached directly to twigs.

The pedunculate oak's acorns hang from long stalks and prefer heavy lowland soils that can become waterlogged in winter. Examples of these oak trees can be found in Charleville, County Offaly and Abbeyleigh, County Laois. It can take up to forty years before a young oak can have acorns and during its lifespan one tree can produce ten million acorns.

Humans can eat acorns but, since they contain toxic tannins, they must be properly processed, as they can be harmful to various organs. When correctly prepared they are made into a flour or roasted and eaten as a snack. Horses, cattle, sheep and dogs cannot consume these nuts as they can cause severe health issues, whereas jays, woodpeckers, pigs and deer can. Incidentally, hunters often wait in lower tannin woods, since they know that deer prefer their sweeter acorns.

High in tannins, red squirrels cannot digest unripe acorns. This has led to a decline in their numbers, whereas the greys, which have a more mature digestive system, can eat the entire oak crop before it has ripened. Grey squirrels also carry squirrel pox, to which they are largely immune but is deadly for red squirrels.

The amount of acorns, which an oak tree produces alters each year. A 'mast year' is when a huge amount of nuts are produced. This satisfies predators but allows sufficient numbers of nuts to grow into new trees. To conserve the trees' energy, a mast year only occurs every two to five years. The term 'mast' comes from the old English 'maest', which means the forest trees' nuts that have gathered on the ground.

Continued overleaf

WRITERS' CORNER



Short Stories/ Articles from our Readers

Continued

It is during the autumn that pigs are turned out into England's New Forest - an ancient practice called pannage, which dates back to the thirteenth century. Verderers were originally a court within the New Forest, authorised by the Crown and elected by the county, to hear cases within the Sovereign's forests. It could grant local people the right to let their pigs roam the woods. Today, commoners who wish to exercise such privileges must arrange for an agister, a local official employed by the Court of Verderers, to manage the forest and welfare of the forest's livestock. This agister inspects and puts an identification mark on the locals' animals at least fourteen days before the start of the pannage season, which is usually from September to November. Prior to being checked, their pigs must be ringed in the nose, which stops them rooting and digging up the forest floor. These pigs help remove the acorns from the forest floor and this prevents free-roaming ponies and cattle getting sick from eating such nuts, which they actually like.

In Celtic and Nordic cultures, the acorn symbolizes immortality, fertility and potential and, for centuries, some people have carried this little nut as a charm for good luck and prosperity. The acorn's attractiveness has been featured in architecture, art and emblems in heraldry as it represents latent strength. It is hard to believe that the mighty oak starts its life as just a tiny acorn.

Cheryl Devaney

Dual Goals

For Cheryl

Today, although it's late September,
The sky is blue; the sun is shining,
And you are outside tending flowers
While in my study I'm rereading
A poem about Valparaiso,
That magic place beneath the Andes
We yet may see when Covid's past.

Your flowers brighten up our garden
But they will fade when winter comes,
The poems I write may not be published
And yet I hope some will be read
By kindred souls without distain,
While what you, kneeling, cultivate
Will bloom when frost and Covid wane.

Patrick Devaney

MU PRESIDENT PROF EEVA LEINONEN CONGRATULATED THE GRADUATES

MU celebrated the achievements of 2691 graduates

Maynooth University (MU) celebrated the achievements of 2691 graduates, as students from across a wide range of disciplines receive their degrees and awards at the University's autumn conferring ceremonies.

The ceremonies took place from September 7-10 in the TSI Building on MU's North Campus. Across 11 ceremonies, 2260 undergraduate students will receive their degrees, alongside 391 master's graduates and 40 doctoral graduates.



MU celebrated the achievements of 2691 graduates



Partners Eoghan Brennan (from Drogheda, Co-Louth) and Maria Lidia Flores (from Raheny, Dublin) who met while on erasmus in Valencia, Spain



Olena Kanuika graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Product Design and Innovation

Recognising student achievement

Among this year's graduates is Olena Kaniuka with a BSc in Product Design and Innovation. Olena, who came to Ireland from Ukraine as a teenager, was drawn to product design because of its potential to address inequalities and improve people's lives.

A Glenveagh Scholar who also worked with the Maynooth Access Programme, she was named John McHugh Student of the Year at the 2026 Product Design and Innovation Degree Show. She was also accepted into the highly competitive 2026 InCube challenge, where participants live in a glass cube for five days, tackling a real-world problem with a team of innovators from around the world. She hopes to pursue a career in human-centred design, particularly in areas such as medical devices, interaction design and user experience.



Stephen McCarthy, who received his PhD in Ancient Classics

Among the University's 40 doctoral graduates is Stephen McCarthy, who receives his PhD in Ancient Classics. Stephen was a student and tutor in the Department of Ancient Classics over many years before becoming MU's Assistant Data Protection and Freedom of Information Officer. He returned two years ago to complete his doctorate alongside his professional role in Data Governance. His thesis, a commentary on Epicurus' Letter to Herodotus, an important account of ancient ideas on physics and cosmology, was highly praised by its examiners and recommended for publication.

MU President Prof Eeva Leinonen congratulated the graduates: "Graduation is a very special moment in the life of a university, and it is a privilege to celebrate the individual achievements of almost 2,700 Maynooth students this week. As a university, our goal is to support our students' ambitions by providing an education and environment that prepares them for the opportunities and challenges ahead."

"We want every graduate to leave us with the knowledge and confidence to pursue their goals, the ability to think critically and challenge convention, and the readiness to embrace new possibilities."

MU researchers build world-first DNA computer

Researchers at Maynooth University (MU) have developed a first-of-its-kind DNA computer, described as one of the most complex and fastest molecular computers yet reported.



The breakthrough, published in the flagship journal Nature, demonstrates a molecular computer made from strands of DNA that can perform multiplication, division and addition. Unlike conventional computers that run on silicon chips, the system is a collection of interacting DNA strands in water without a continuous electricity supply and needing only a little heat to kick-start the computation.

The research points to new possibilities for long-term data storage, energy-efficient computation and, in time, molecular systems that could operate inside cells for applications such as disease detection.

Prof Damien Woods of MU's Hamilton Institute and Department of Computer Science said the work opens a new direction for computing: "Silicon-based computers use so much energy – 23% of Ireland's electricity goes into computing and data storage. We've been blinkered by only seeing one type of computer, but there are other examples around us, including our brain."

Dr Abeer Eshra, Assistant Professor and computer scientist at the Hamilton Institute, who conducted many of the experiments, said: "A small droplet of liquid contains billions, and sometimes trillions, of DNA strands. These strands interact with one another to produce a result."

MU's leadership in DNA computing is supported by a €4 million European Innovation Council grant led by Prof Woods. The DISCO project, DNA-based infrastructure for Storage and Computation, aims to develop new ways to compute and store data using DNA technology.

The DNA computer was created by heating and cooling a mixture of water, salt and DNA strands, enabling it to perform calculations.

The team created the DNA computer by adding a small drop of water and salt to a test tube, together with short pieces of DNA and a longer DNA scaffold. The recipe is heated and then cooled, allowing the DNA to perform a computation. "The molecules interact, form a structure and that structure is the answer," said Professor Woods.

"One key innovation is that the system naturally finds that answer without needing continuous energy inputs," he added.

The researchers ran ten programmes, including 100-bit computations. One experiment added numbers in the range of about 11 million to 34 million taking up to 14 hours to reach a result, while a calculation of 10 plus 3 took only 30 seconds.

The computer was shown to be robust and reusable, performing up to 25 different calculations in a row. "The reaction happens fast in the test tube, but not as fast as silicon, nor is it intended to be. But compared to other DNA computers, ours is the fastest," said Dr Eshra, joint first author of the Nature study alongside Dr Tristan Stérin.



The paper's co-authors also included Senior Research Fellow Dr Constantine Evans and undergraduate researcher Janet Adio.

Pictured are three members of the five-person MU DNA computing research team: undergraduate researcher Janet Adio, alongside Prof Damien Woods and Dr Abeer Eshra of the Hamilton Institute

MU President Prof Eeva Leinonen, Minister for Further and Higher Education, James Lawless TD and SPCM President Rev Dr Michael Shortall

MU and St Patrick's College Maynooth announce landmark acquisition

Maynooth University (MU) has announced its intention to acquire a significant part of the South Campus from St Patrick's College, Maynooth (SPCM), marking a major milestone in the University's development. The acquisition of 28 acres and 24,000 square metres of built space will support the University's continued growth, ending its long-standing rental arrangement and creating opportunities for future investment in teaching, research, student facilities and shared community amenities.

Commenting on the announcement, MU President Prof Eeva Leinonen said: "This marks a significant new chapter in the development of Maynooth University... This landmark agreement will build on the deep and longstanding partnership between Maynooth University and St Patrick's College and allows both institutions to look to the future with confidence."

SPCM President, Rev Dr Michael Shortall, said: "This agreement represents an important next step in our long history of collaboration and co-operation. It enables both institutions to advance their strategic priorities while strengthening our shared commitment to the future of this historic campus."



Minister for Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science James Lawless TD described the acquisition as "a landmark moment for Maynooth University, for the town of Maynooth and for County Kildare," adding that it provides "a strong foundation for the next chapter in the University's story and creates exciting possibilities for students, staff and the wider community alike."

MU welcomes European higher education leaders during Irish EU Presidency

Maynooth University welcomed university leaders, policymakers and academics from across Europe for the 4th European Universities Initiative (EUI) Forum, held as part of Ireland's Presidency of the Council of the European Union.

Jointly hosted by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science and the European Commission, the Forum brought together representatives of 55 university alliances, representing more than 500 universities, to discuss the future of European higher education collaboration.

The programme explored topics including student mobility, research and innovation, the proposed European Degree, inclusion, and the long-term sustainability of the European University Alliances.

MU President Prof Eeva Leinonen said: "We were honoured to host the Fourth European Universities Initiative Forum at Maynooth University... At Maynooth, we see European partnership as central to our mission as a globally connected university, and we are proud to contribute to a shared vision of higher education that is collaborative, ambitious and equipped to address the challenges facing Europe."



The Forum concluded with a performance by the award-winning Maynooth University Chamber Choir and a reception celebrating European collaboration.

Maynooth University Hosts 2026 Arqus Annual Conference

Maynooth University welcomed almost 300 students, staff and university leaders from across Europe for the 2026 Arqus Annual Conference, the first time MU has hosted the Alliance's flagship annual event since joining the Arqus European University Alliance in 2023.

Held under the theme Voices of Impact: Weaving Stories Across Europe, the conference explored the impact of European university collaboration on individuals, institutions and society.

Opening the conference, MU President Prof Eeva Leinonen said: "At a time when fragmentation often feels easier than cooperation, Arqus demonstrates the value of institutions choosing to work together with patience, trust, and shared purpose."

The programme featured contributions from MU staff across teaching, research and professional services, alongside cultural events including a joint performance by the Arqus Choir and the MU Chamber Choir.

During the conference, the European Commission also confirmed funding for Arqus Bridge, supporting the Alliance's next phase of development from 2026 to 2028. Welcoming the announcement, Prof Leinonen said: "The European Commission's support for Arqus Bridge marks an important step in the Alliance's development... creating new opportunities for our students, staff and researchers while strengthening our contribution to Europe."

MU Vice-President International Prof Patrick McCole highlighted the value of the Alliance, describing Arqus as "giving us eight best friends in Europe" and a platform to share expertise, learn from partners and strengthen collaboration across higher education.

Arqus 2026 attendees including students, staff and university leaders from across Europe



MU and Dublin City Council launch new online interactive data dashboard

Dublin City Council (DCC), in collaboration with the All-Island Research Observatory (AIRO) at Maynooth University (MU), has launched the Dublin City Knowledge Hub - a new online platform providing access to detailed data on Dublin city's communities, housing, economy and environment.

The first initiative of its kind developed by a local authority in Ireland, the Hub brings together more than 20 interactive dashboards and mapping tools, making reliable public data easier to access, explore and understand.

The platform enables policymakers, community organisations, researchers and the public to explore local trends and access information at neighbourhood level, supporting evidence-based decision-making and greater engagement with data about Dublin City.



Developed through a long-standing collaboration between DCC and MU's All-Island Research Observatory, the Hub combines trusted datasets from sources including the Central Statistics Office, Pobal and the Environmental Protection Agency. It will continue to evolve, with new datasets - including future Census 2027 data added over time.

Justin Gleeson, Director of AIRO at Maynooth University, said:

"The Knowledge Hub demonstrates what can be achieved through collaboration between local government and the research sector. By bringing together authoritative public datasets in an accessible and interactive format, the platform makes local evidence available to a much wider audience and provides a strong foundation for future planning, research and community engagement."

Alumni Reunion 2026

MU alumni are invited back to campus on Saturday, 5 September 2026 to celebrate the annual Alumni Reunion - welcoming all graduates of the University. This year, we particularly look forward to welcoming back those celebrating milestone anniversaries for the classes of 2016, 2006, 1996, 1986 and 1976.

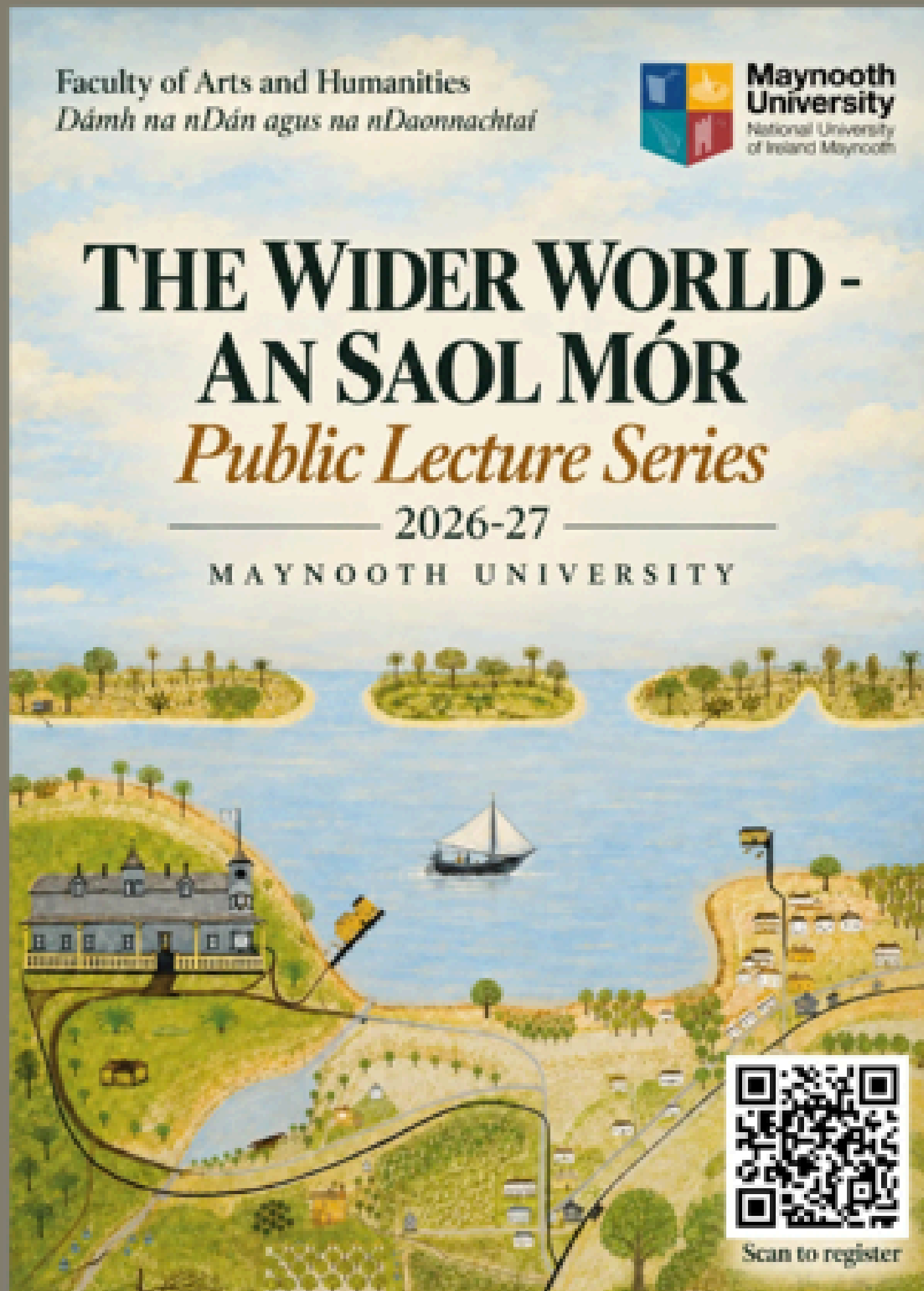
It is an afternoon event, from 12.30 - 4.30pm, starting with a welcome reception and drinks. The event includes musical entertainment and a three-course luncheon in Pugin Hall, St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

The reunion is an opportunity for alumni to revisit the campus, to reconnect with fellow classmates and MU staff, and to celebrate together. Guests of alumni are very welcome to join in the celebrations.

Tickets for the reunion are on sale now via Eventbrite and are €45 per person. Visit: mu.ie/alumnireunion2026-tickets or scan the QR code.



*Public lecture series for all exploring
culture, society, and ideas
from yesterday to tomorrow*



The Wider World – An Saol Mór is a new public lecture series from Maynooth University's Faculty of Arts and Humanities, bringing university research into conversation with the wider community.

Running from **October 2026 to May 2027**, this four-event evening series is designed for lifelong learners and anyone curious about the ideas, histories and cultural questions that shape the world.



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KWWSPCA WAG & BONE DOG SHOW

A HUGE SUCCESS AT PUNCHESTOWN

A huge thank you to all who attended our annual KWWSPCA Wag & Bone Dog Show at Punchestown Racecourse on Sunday 6th September. It was a fabulous day with dogs of all shapes and sizes having fun and entertaining the crowd as they paraded in the ring and jumped for joy in the high jump competition. Some of our rescue dogs came along to join in with the fun, including shelter stars Benny and Sailor, who both returned to the shelter sporting prize rosettes at the end of the day. If you'd like to know more about these two beautiful sighthounds, please click on the following link where you can read their profiles: www.kwwspca.ie/adopt-a-dog/

The dog show was a great success and we are incredibly grateful for the support and generosity given to this event. Special thanks to Punchestown Racecourse for use of their wonderful venue, to Mongey Communications for providing the sound system on the day and to Naas Vets for providing a subsidised microchipping service. We were very fortunate to have pet photographer Erica present, who generously volunteered her time and talent to capture the many magical moments throughout the day. You can see more of Erica's images from the day on our KWWSPCA Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/KWWSPCA/

We look forward to welcoming everyone back to do it all again next year!



Above is a photo of Benny and Sailor who are current shelter dogs that won at the dog show.



VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT DAY

The KWWSPCA dog section invites all dog lovers with an interest in animal welfare and a few hours to give each week to attend our upcoming Volunteer Recruitment Day on Sunday 4th October from 11am – 2pm. The event is an ideal opportunity for anyone who may be curious about volunteering with us to visit the shelter and learn more about our society and the day-to-day duties of a shelter volunteer. There will of course be a chance to meet a few of our dogs and to chat to some of our current volunteers about their incredibly rewarding and important work. If you think volunteering with rescue dogs might be for you then come along and join us on the day and find out how you can get involved. Eircode for the shelter is W12 EV60.

See our poster on next page for more details

Please note that the recruitment day is purely for those interested in volunteering with our dog section. If you are more of a cat person and would like to find out more about volunteering opportunities with our Kitty Cottage, then please text VOLUNTEER to 089 458 8162.

Further information about the Wag & Bone Dog Show is available on our webpage: www.kwwspca.ie/events/

The KWWSPCA is a registered charity, no CHY 6280 and can be contacted at kwwspca@gmail.com. We are run entirely by volunteers and every euro donated goes directly to the care of our animals. You can learn more about our society and how to get involved or make a donation on our website: www.kwwspca.ie. Further information about our events is available on our website: www.kwwspca.ie/events.

VOLUNTEER RECRUITMENT DAY

STRICTLY
OVER 18s



SUNDAY
4TH OCTOBER



11AM – 2PM



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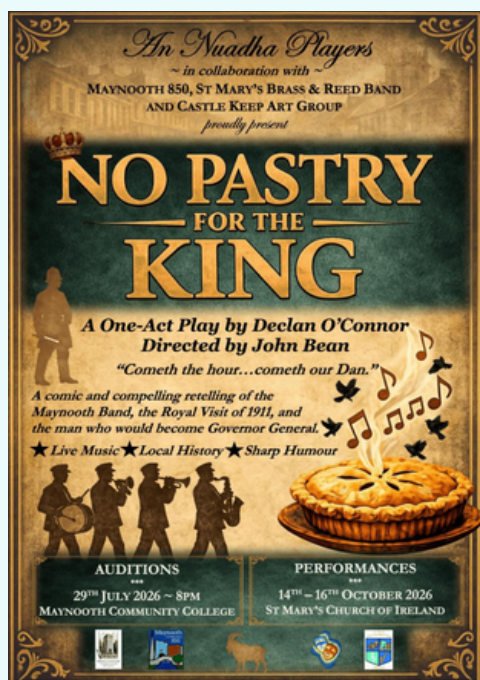


St. Mary's Brass & Reed Band

Maynooth, Co. Kildare

The highlight of last month, and indeed the entire year was our trip to the Bad Orb International Music Festival near Frankfurt in Germany. This was our fourth visit to the Festival where we joined with over 30 Bands from all over Europe in a magical weekend of music which seems to get better with every year.

The attached photo is from our Sunday recital in the Park beside our hotel which was a fitting end to our visit. Hopefully we will return to Bad Orb in 2028. Our planned recital in the Square for Culture Night was a casualty of the weather which was unfortunate but hopefully next year will be accompanied by more favourably conditions.



The Band will join forces with An Nuadha Players and Castle Keep Arts Group to present a One Act Play entitled "No Pastry for the King" in the Church of Ireland, Maynooth on Thursday 15th and Friday 16th of October at 7.30m each evening.

The play, by Declan O'Connor, centres around the Band and the Royal Visit to Maynooth in 1911. A great evening of live music, local history and sharp humour is promised and mostly importantly there is no entrance charge.

Tickets available on Eventbrite.ie



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FINAL TALKS OF THE SEASON

As our 2026 programme of historical talks at Maynooth Castle comes to a close, we look back on a fantastic season of history, heritage and fascinating stories.



Our final talk was A History of Medicine in Ireland, conducted by OPW Guide & Historian, Katherine. The talk explored over 1,000 years of Irish medical history, from the Early Christian period through to the early twentieth century, looking at the doctors, healers, surgeons, remedies and beliefs that shaped how illness was understood and treated throughout the centuries.

We were also delighted to welcome a group from our neighbours at Maynooth University for a talk by OPW Guide and Historian, Alan. It was about Silken Thomas's Rebellion and the Siege of Maynooth Castle. They heard the dramatic story of Thomas FitzGerald's ill-fated rebellion against King Henry VIII, and the events that led to the eventual fall of Maynooth Castle in 1535.

These talks mark the end of our regular monthly programme, which has taken place on the first Wednesday of every month since we opened in April.



Throughout the season, our guides & historians have also conducted additional talks during Heritage Week, giving visitors even more opportunities to explore the rich history connected to Maynooth, Kildare and Ireland.

A huge thank you to everyone who attended our talks throughout the season. Whether you joined us for one talk or came along time and time again, your support, encouragement, questions and enthusiasm have meant a great deal to us.

Thank you to every visitor who came through our gates this season — whether you joined one of our free guided tours, explored the castle through self-guided visits, attended a talk or simply came to discover more about this remarkable place. Thank you to all the primary, secondary and third-level students and teachers who visited us throughout the season. It has been a pleasure welcoming so many young people and helping bring the history of Maynooth Castle to life.

Thank you also to all the local organisations, community groups, historical societies and other groups who visited us. Your continued interest and support are hugely appreciated.

MAYNOOTH CASTLE IS NOW CLOSED FOR THE WINTER

Maynooth Castle is now closed to visitors for the winter season as of 23rd of September 2026.

We look forward to welcoming you back when the castle reopens during the summer months of 2027

For updates on reopening dates, events, talks and everything happening at Maynooth Castle, keep an eye on our Maynooth Castle Facebook page, send us a message on Facebook, or contact us at maynoothcastle@opw.ie You can also find information through Heritage Ireland.

From all of us at Maynooth Castle, thank you for making 2026 such a wonderful season.

Until next year — slán go fóil, and we'll see you in 2027!



The article is the work of Alan Cleary. Photo credit to Alan Cleary and Vanessa Waldron & Seamus Thompson.

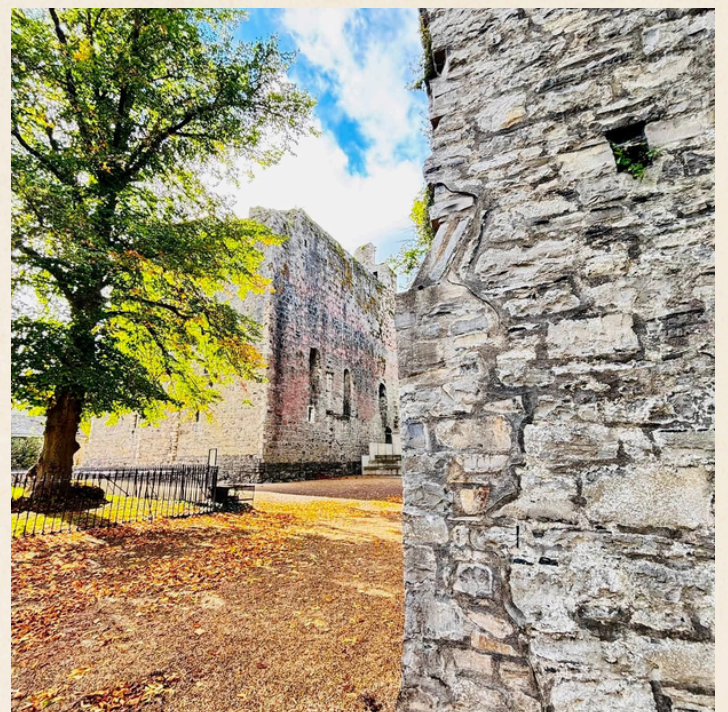
Maynooth 850 - A Historic Visit!

As part of the Maynooth 850 celebrations, we were delighted to welcome the Duke and Duchess of Leinster, Maurice and Fiona FitzGerald, to Maynooth Castle, alongside members of the Maynooth 850 Historical Society and OPW guide staff and historians.

Maynooth's story stretches back 850 years to the 1170s, when Maurice FitzGerald was granted lands in the area by Richard de Clare, better known as Strongbow.

In 1204, Maynooth Castle was built, becoming the principal seat of the FitzGerald family and an important centre of power in the region.

The connection made this visit particularly fitting. The Duke of Leinster is a historic title in the Peerage of Ireland, first created in 1691. The current holder, Maurice FitzGerald, 9th Duke and Marquess of Leinster, was born in 1948 and is the elder son of the 8th Duke and his second wife, Anne.



Although the modern title carries no territorial landholdings or financial revenue, its historical significance remains closely associated with the FitzGerald family and their long connection with Ireland.

It was a pleasure to welcome the Duke and Duchess to Maynooth Castle and to mark this important milestone in Maynooth's history together.

A sincere thank you to the Office of Public Works, the Maynooth 850 Historical Society, and everyone involved in organising and supporting this memorable occasion.

Maynooth 1176–2026 – 850 Years of History, Heritage and Community.





MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY LIBRARY EVENTS



Events for Children

Europe and You Art & Craft and Quiz for Ages 6-9

Wed 7 Oct 3.30pm – 4.30pm

Come and discover the European Union. Help create flag bunting of the 27 countries and join us for a European themed quiz.

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=26856620>

Events for Adults

Skills For Life: Stay Safe Online

Sat 3 Oct 10am – 12pm

In this computer class you will learn:

How to understand scams, fraud, and online safety so you can browse and use the internet securely.

Pcs or Laptops will be provided for the class

Booking link : <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=27169336>

Toys Technology and Training (TTT) Programme

D-Code Dyslexia: Introduction to Structured Literacy (SL) with Mary Moran

Tuesday 6th October 6.30pm – 7.30pm

If your child is finding reading difficult or has been diagnosed with dyslexia, finding the right support can feel challenging. Join literacy specialist and educator Mary Moran for a practical talk designed for parents. Mary will share structured, effective strategies to build your child's reading confidence at home, leaving you with clear, actionable ideas you can use straight away.

This Lecture will:

- Introduce you to structured Literacy using the Dcode/Ncode programme, which is designed to teach even the most dyslexic how to read and spell.
- Explain why some children will not read without explicit instruction.
- Outline the five pillars of literacy acquisition when using the Dcode/Ncode programme.

Book Here: <https://www.tickettailor.com/events/tttkildare/2269906>

Think Beyond Borders!

Fri 9 Oct , 3pm – 4pm

To mark Ireland's presidency of the EU , join us for a special talk on the ERASMUS and International study abroad programmes and discover how an international university experience can open doors, build confidence, and broaden your horizons. Delivered by Maynooth University International Office staff, this session will explore overseas study opportunities and the benefits of a global education. There will also be a Q&A session, giving you the chance to ask questions and get practical advice.

Registration for this event opens in 4 weeks!

Booking link : <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=26913288>

Age Friendly Coffee Morning

14 Oct 2026 10:00am – 11:30am

Drop in to Maynooth Library for a chat and a cuppa. All welcome. Refreshments and daily newspapers provided.



MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY LIBRARY EVENTS



Groups and Clubs

Baby Wearing Kildare

Mon 5 October 10am – 11.15am

Join us for our monthly baby wearing meet up where we have slings and carriers to try and rent along with chats for all things baby wearing. We look forward to seeing you there!

For more follow us on Facebook @Kildare BWI Sling meets and library and instagram @Babywearing_ire_kildare

KCC Housing Supports Information Clinic

Thurs 15 October 2.30pm – 4.30pm

Looking for advice social housing supports or grants ? Call into this information clinic to learn about the supports available . *Drop in , no booking required *

Climate Action Events

Zero Waste Maynooth

Saturday 10th October 2pm – 4pm

We are delighted to host a swap to reuse and reduce waste in Maynooth. Pop in anytime from 2-4pm.

Ladies Clothes Swap

Bring one, take one. Any brands or sizes.

Clothes in clean and useable condition.

No large bags of clothes please.

Mending Station

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

Kids Toy Swap

Get the kids into swapping toys. Bring one, take one.

Small toys only and no broken items.

Cloth Nappy Library Ireland

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

Kids Clothes Swap

Delighted to have this addition to our events. Kids clothes are the best way to reuse. Clothes age two years upwards.

Circular living: Ireland's journey to a circular economy with Richard Curtin

Tuesday 27 October 7pm – 8pm

Richard Curtin has worked across the private, public, and advocacy sectors, including serving as the Dublin region officer for An Taisce's Clean Coasts programme. He later became the Community Climate Action Officer with Kerry County Council before joining Kildare County Council. Richard holds the position of Environmental Awareness Officer and is passionate about empowering communities to make a positive impact on the environment.

Booking link <https://kildare.spydus.ie/cgi-bin/spydus.exe/ENQ/WPAC/EVSESENQ?SETLVL=&RNI=27373957>



MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY LIBRARY EVENTS



Exhibitions

‘People’
Acrylic on canvas and paper by Antoon Knaap
From 30 Sep – 31 October

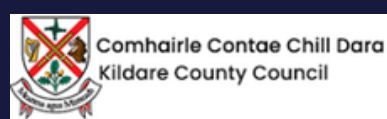
Antoon Knaap is a Visual Artist, living and working in Maynooth. The focus of his October Maynooth Library exhibition is "People". Antoon's work over the last few years follows a strict process. First his sketches are enlarged and partially cut out of stencil board. The stencil is used to transfer part of the image to a canvas or watercolor paper. He then applies vibrant colors with the brush, after which a second layer of spray paint is applied, finished by detail. Using this process stunning semi-abstract images result with vibrant colors, contrasted by black spray-paint.

Exhibition Bookings

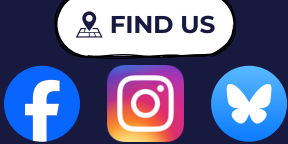
If you are a local artist or art group and would like to book our exhibition space, please contact us. Maynooth Community Library’s Exhibition Space is available to host exhibitions from July 2027.

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

For further information about Kildare Library Service events , why not subscribe to the library service events newsletter here : [Kildare Library Service - Newsletter Subscribe Form](#)



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THE MIRACLE PRAYER

Dear Heart of Jesus, in thepast I have asked for money 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 and 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 you 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 and favour will be granted, no matter how impossible.

Never known to fail.
Thanksgiving for favour received. RD



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Rates vary depending on loan amount. Loans are subject to approval. Lending criteria, terms and conditions apply. Over 18s only.

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.

Life Credit Union is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

Life
credit union

Household Benefits Package

The Household Benefits Package (HBP) helps with the cost of your electricity or gas bills. It also includes your **Free Television licence**.

You do not have to be living alone to get the Household Benefits Package and the utility bills do not have to be in your name. However, only one person in a household can get the Package.

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 'How to qualify for the Household Benefits Package' below.

Keeping Well and Warm in Winter

The cold weather can be difficult when you are older or have a disability or a long-term illness. The Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland provide information and advice about the supports that can help you to keep well and warm during the winter (pdf).

You can use comparison websites to check gas and electricity prices.

How to qualify for the Household Benefits Package

To get the Household Benefits Package, you must:

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

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

The above rules only apply if you are living with a spouse, partner or civil partner. You can get the HBP and live with other adults, for example, with a parent or in shared accommodation and their income will not be taken into account.

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 – see 'The means test' below.

How To Qualify

Qualifying social welfare payments if you are under 66:

- Disability Allowance
- Invalidity Pension
- Blind Pension
- Incapacity Supplement (for at least 12 months) with Disablement Pension (for at least 12 months)
- Carer's Allowance (full or half-rate payment), but you must be living with the person you are caring for.
- 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

Bereaved Partners

You can qualify for the Household Benefits Package, if you are aged between 60 and 65 and your late partner was getting the Household Benefits Package before their death. To qualify you must have lived together when the Household Benefits Package was first awarded and you must be getting one of the following payments:

- Bereaved Partner's (Contributory) or (Non-Contributory) Pension
- One-Parent Family Payment (Bereaved Partner)
- Bereaved Partner's Pension under the Occupational Injuries Benefits Scheme
- 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
- An ordinary Garda Widow's Pension from the Department of Justice, Home Affairs and Migration

If you were under 60 when your partner died, you can get the Household Benefits Package when you turn 60 if you meet these conditions.

The Means Test

If you are aged between 66 and 70 and are not getting a qualifying social welfare payment, you must pass a means test. In a means test, the Department of Social Protection (DSP) examines all your sources of income. Your weekly income must be below a certain amount to pass the means test.

The amount of means that you are allowed to have for the HBP is the current maximum rate of State Pension (Contributory) including any increases that you might get for your age, living alone and dependants, plus €200.

The main items included in the means test are:

- Cash income that you or your spouse, civil partner or cohabitant may have. Some cash income may not be included in the means test.
- Capital, for example, the value of savings, investments, shares or any property you have (but not your own home). Find out more about capital not included in the means test.

If you are applying for the Household Benefits Package and you need to pass a means test, a separate means test form will be sent to you to fill in.

Renting a room in your home

You can rent a room in your home and have an income from rent of up to €269.23 a week (€14,000 per year) without it affecting your Household Benefits Package.

The person renting the room in your home must use the room for a minimum of 28 consecutive days and cannot be an employee or an immediate family member.

The Means Test

Hospital and nursing home stays

You can stay in hospital for up to 13 consecutive weeks and continue to get the Household Benefits Package. If you move to residential care, you lose your entitlement to the Household Benefits Package. If you return home you may need to reapply. If you return home:

- Within 13 weeks, the HBP can be backdated to the date that it was stopped
- After 13 weeks, the HBP may be backdated to the date you returned home

Change of circumstances

You must notify the Department if your circumstances change.

What is covered by the Household Benefits Package?

There are 2 allowances in the Household Benefits Package:

Allowance 1

- Electricity Allowance (€1.15 per day) or Gas Allowance (€1.15 per day)

Allowance 2

- Free Television Licence

Electricity or Gas Allowance

If you have an electricity and gas supply, you must choose between the Electricity Allowance and Gas Allowance. You can choose only one. The utility bill does not have to be in your name.

The Allowance does not cover the cost of installing an electricity or natural gas supply to your home.

How is the Allowance paid?

The Allowance is paid into your nominated bank account or post office. The Allowance is paid on the first Tuesday of each month. If you are collecting your Allowance from the post office using your Public Services Card, you have 90 days to collect your payment.

From 8 September 2025, all new applicants for the Household Benefits Package will get paid the Allowance to their nominated bank account or post office.

If you are an existing Household Benefits Package customer and you are already getting a monthly credit towards your electricity or gas bill, you will continue to get the credit unless you change your supplier. If you change your energy supplier, you must tell the DSP.

Free Television Licence

Once you qualify for the Household Benefits Package, you can get a Free Television Licence from your next Television Licence renewal date. To get your Free Television Licence, you must select the Free Television Licence option on the HBP form when you apply.

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. If you cannot apply online, you can fill in the Household Benefit Package application form and return it to the Household Benefits Package section:

**Department of Social Protection,
Household Benefits Package,
Social Welfare Services,
College Road, Sligo, Ireland.**

F91 T384

A New Home for Maynooth Men's Shed

Maynooth Men's Shed are now officially based at the grounds of the Maynooth Town Football Club. Chairman Joe Brown spoke at a launch event attended by a large crowd including numerous community groups, saying *'The community spirit in this town is second to none and the people in this room are a testament to that'*.



attended the launch with Deputy Principal Niamh O'Donohoe saying collaborating with the Men's Shed on an award winning Intergenerational Skills Program was *'one of the best things we've ever done'*.

The Men's Shed has been operating in Maynooth for fourteen years having been founded in 2012. They meet on Tuesdays and Wednesdays at 10am and are involved in many community projects including stewarding the St.



Indeed, the group have been involved in many projects including building and repairing benches in parks, making bird and bat boxes for Tidy Towns and even designing and building boccia ramps for Motor Neuron Sports. Many students from Maynooth Community College also



The new setup was funded by Kildare County Council and much credit for arranging it all goes to Councillors Donna Phelan and Angela Feeney as well as TD Naoise Ó Cearúil. Mayor Tim Durkan commented that *'The Men's Shed does fantastic work for the community'*.



Patrick's Day Parade, construction and maintenance projects for community groups and skills share programs. They also do monthly field trips and excursions. Anyone interested in getting involved should contact Patrick Mc Cluskey on 086 406 7761.

Planning Applications received from 24/08/2026 to 23/09/2026 Information from Kildare County Council Website			
App #	Applicant Name	Development Address	App Date
26105	Elaine and Philip Neary	23 Parklands Crescent, Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	25/08/2026
26600968	Clonfert Pet Farm Ltd	Clonfert Farm, Clonfert South, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	27/08/2026
2660977	Niamh Barrett	Moneycooly, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	28/08/2026
2660975	Alex To	Donaghstown, Newtown Road, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	28/08/2026
2660976	Elizabeth Cascella	137 Griffin Rath Hall, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	28/09/2026
2660974	Shane Fagan and Jane Finnegan	5 Ashleigh Grove, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	28/08/2026
2660987	Clonfert Pet Farm Ltd	CLONFERT PET FARM, Clonfert South, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	02/09/2026
2660996	Doran Cray Architects	Cluain Lara, Railpark, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	04/09/2026
2661039	Rosca Oleg	8 College Green, Maynooth, Co Kildare	19/09/2026
2661068	Jack O'Hagan	Barrogstown, Maynooth, Co. Kildare	28/09/2026



Maynooth Community Employment Project

Producing the Maynooth Newsletter

Memories From the Archives

1986

Link to the Archive: www.maynoothcep.com

SPONSORED MARACYCLE HELPS COMMUNITY

A cheque for £300 was presented by John Burns of the Maynooth College Bookshop to the Chairman of the Community Council, Proinnsias Breathnach, in September. John raised this sum through sponsorships for his maracycle performance from 27th to 29th June.

The Maracycle was organised by Co-operation North and consisted of a 103 mile spin from Dublin to Belfast, followed by the same 103 mile spin from Belfast to Dublin. This was John's second Maracycle, although conditions this year were particularly tough, with cyclists enduring thunder and lightning storms, and torrential rain, on the way up, and blistering sunshine on the way down, leaving many cyclists sunburnt.

Sponsorships for the Maracycle were obtained from the business community in Maynooth, through the arm-twisting charms of Eileen Nolan and Bridie O'Brien — although it is not true that Bridie broke her arm in the pursuit of a reluctant sponsor! The community council expressed its gratitude to John Burns for his hard work on behalf of the community, to the business community for their generosity and all others who assisted in any way.

John Burns presents the proceeds of his sponsored Maracycle to Proinnsias Breathnach, in his bookshop. In the photograph are, from left to right: Birdie O'Brien, John Burns, Proinnsias Breathnach, John McGinley.



MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 112

OCTOBER EDITION

Price 30p

TAOISEACH VISITS MAYNOOTH

"Hurricane Charlie" gets there before "Whirlwind" Garrett



Breda Farrell, Greenfield, meets Miss Ireland.



First day at Boys' National School for local 4 year old.

FESTIVAL QUEEN

Local girl Noreen O'Keeffe, Maynooth Park, winner of Miss Festival Queen Celbridge.



Donal Carr (Clonfert Maynooth) Kilcock Boxing Club, Boxer of the Year being presented with the Leinster Arms Perpetual Trophy by Cllr. Emmet Stagg.



Maynooth Community Contacts Listing

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Maynooth Cycling Campaign 086-8252934 Maynoothcycling@gmail.com www.maynoothcyclingcampaign.com	Maynooth Fishing Club 01-6293202 info@maynoothfisheries.com	Maynooth GAA Club secretary.maynooth.kildare@gaa.ie facebook.com/maynoothgaa/	Maynooth Health Centre 01-6106130
Maynooth Kilcock Lions clubcontact@maynoothkilcocklionsclub.org facebook.com/MaynoothKilcockLionsClub/	Maynooth Library 01-6285530 Maynoothlib@kildarecoco.ie	Maynooth Newsletter 01-6285922 office@maynoothcep.com facebook.com/MCEPnewsletter	Maynooth Senior Citizens maynoothseniorcitizens@gmail.com
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North Kildare Tennis Club info@northkildaretennis.ie	Parish of St. Mary's Maynooth 01-6293018 maynoothparishoffice@gmail.com	SVP Vincent's Shop 01-6289643 geraldinebyrne.east@svp.ie facebook.com/profile.php?id=100064619179003	Zero Waste Maynooth 087-9949183 zerowastemaynooth@gmail.com facebook.com/zerowastemaynooth

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