

MAYNOOTH NEWSLETTER

August 2008

Gardening, Crossword, Sudoku, Recipes, Local News



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Editorial

A topic which may be, and in fact will be, of major interest to the residents of Maynooth, along with the residents of all areas, will be the new Energy ratings which become mandatory on all houses from January 2009.

All houses, both those for rent and those for sale, will have to have BER Certificates issued showing the energy rating achieved by independent assessors who are qualified to carry out the ratings. Essentially these ratings will clearly indicate to prospective tenants and prospective buyers, the expense which may be incurred in heating and running the property on an annual basis.

There is no doubt that the rating level achieved by each property will have direct ramifications with regard to the desirability or demand for the property and also of course on the price that a prospective buyer will be prepared to pay for the property.

There are of course various corrective measures owners of all property can take to ensure the energy rating for their property is improved, such as higher level insulation, installation of double glazed windows etc etc and it is to be recommended to all residents to seek advices from those qualified BER assessors as to how to improve their heating bills, comfort, and prices achievable when selling.

Brid Feely,
Editor.

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Maynooth Community Council Notes

There was a minutes silence as a mark of respect for the death of Marie Gleeson's son at the beginning and the chairman spoke a few words.

The most important item discussed at the meeting was the draft development plan for Maynooth. It was agreed that the September meeting would be devoted to this topic. It was generally agreed that there is enough land rezoned in Maynooth and no more rezoning is needed.

Another planning issue that was raised was the NUIM/Carton House plan for development in the grounds of Carton House. It had been agreed that there would be an objection lodged to this plan that spans the two counties of Kildare and Meath.

The Tidy Towns committee drew attention to the fact that the judging for the competition takes place between the 4th June and 31st August. The committee were congratulated by many members on all their hard work. The topic of public art was discussed and the fact that signs should be erected at various points in the town such as the Mill Wheel that is now beside the Manor Mill shopping centre.

There were congratulations all around on the Festival and thanks expressed to Andrew McMullon who worked so hard along with Marie Gleeson and members of the office staff. The funding given by Tesco and Kildare County Council was mentioned and the fact that all the events in the Castle were a particular success as well as the football. The poster competition and the children's table quiz as well and the children's day were successful and well attended. It is hoped that the women's football will begin again next year.

Finally John McGinley mentioned the local area plan for the harbour area and the traffic management plan for the town. It is hoped that the integrated plan for the harbour area will go ahead with one developer that will ensure that the area will have a uniform appearance.

The traffic management plan was discussed at length and the changes will be outlined elsewhere in the magazine. There will be CCTV cameras linked to the control room in Naas and this will be the best, most sophisticated system in the country. The lights will be linked and vehicle activated. The footpath at Mill Street will be widened and the lights at the Bank of Ireland will be taken out. The need for Garda enforcement of traffic laws was also discussed at length – pay parking should sort most of these problems.

Muireann Ní Bhrolcháin
(Secretary, Maynooth Community Council)

If anyone wants to join the Council or make a comment please email maynoothcc@eircom.net Or call into the new office in the Tesco shopping centre You can ring the office at 6285922

All About August

August is the eighth month of the year in the Gregorian Calendar and one of seven Gregorian months with the length of 31 days. August begins (astrologically) with the sun in the sign of Leo and ends in the sign of Virgo. Astronomically speaking, the sun begins in the constellation of Cancer and ends in the constellation of Leo.

This month was originally named *Sextilis* in Latin, because it was the sixth month in the ancient Roman calendar, which started in March about 750 BC under Romulus. It became the eighth month either when January and February were added to the beginning of the year by King Numa Pompilius about 700 BC or when those two months were moved from the end to the beginning of the year by the decemvirs about 450 BC (Roman writers disagree). It was renamed in honour of Augustus in 8 BC because several of the most significant events in his rise to power, culminating in the fall of Alexandria, which fell in this month. Lore claims August originally had 29 days in the Roman Republican calendar. Augustus took two days from February and gave it to August when Sextilis was renamed in his honour. August's flower is the gladiolus or poppy, and its birthstone is the peridot.

- In Irish, August is known as *Lúnasa*, a modern rendition of Lughnasadh, from the god Lugh. The first Monday in August is a holiday in the Republic of Ireland.
- In Polish, the month is called *sierpień*, meaning "month of sickle".
- In French, the month is called *août*.
- In Portuguese, Spanish and Italian, the month is called *agosto*.
- In Japanese, the month is called *hachigatsu* (八月), meaning, simply, "eighth month."

- In Russian, the month is called *Avgust* (Август)
- In Greek, the month is called *Augustos* (Αύγουστος)
- In Dutch the month is called *Augustus*
- In Lithuanian the month is called *rugpjūtis*
- In Welsh the month is called *Awst*



August, from the *Très riches heures du duc de Berry*

Ancient celebration

Lughnasadh was one of the four main festivals of the medieval Irish calendar: Imbolc at the beginning of February, Beltain on the first of May, Lughnasadh in August and Samhain in November. One early Continental Celtic calendar was based on the lunar, solar, and vegetative cycles, so the actual calendar date in ancient times may have varied. Lughnasadh marked the beginning of the harvest season, the ripening of first fruits, and was traditionally a time of community gatherings, market festivals, horse races and reunions with distant family and friends. Among the Irish it was a favoured time for handfastings - trial marriages that would generally last a year and a day, with the option of ending the contract before the new year, or later formalizing it as a more permanent marriage. In Celtic mythology, the Lughnasadh festival is said to have been begun by the god Lugh, as a funeral feast and games commemorat-

ing his foster-mother, Tailtiu, who died of exhaustion after clearing the plains of Ireland for agriculture. The first location of the *Áenach Tailteann* was at the site of modern Teltown, located between Navan and Kells. Historically, the *Áenach Tailteann* gathering was a time for contests of strength and skill, and a favored time for contracting marriages and winter lodgings. A peace was declared at the festival, and religious celebrations were also held. A similar Lughnasadh festival was held at Carmun (whose exact location is under dispute). Carmun is also believed to have been a goddess of the Celts, perhaps one with a similar story as Tailtiu.

Poetry Corner



An Irish Airman Forsees His Death

*I know that I shall meet my
fate*

*Somewhere among the
clouds above;
Those that I fight I do not hate,
Those that I guard I do not love;
My county is Kiltartan Cross,
My countrymen Kiltartan's poor,
No likely end could bring them loss
Or leave them happier than before.
Nor law, nor duty bade me fight,
Nor public men, nor cheering crowds,
A lonely impulse of delight
Drove to this tumult in the clouds;
I balanced all, brought all to mind,
The years to come seemed waste of
breath,
A waste of breath the years behind
In balance with this life, this death.*

William Butler Yeats



Mother Nature

*Trees grow in fields of green
Flowers bloom its colourful blends
Creating a landscape to be seen
Nature beauty that never ends
Seedling blow in a purring breeze
Landing on their destined ground
Unending life for such as these
To a scattered landscape forever bound*

*Streams flow so pure and clean
Down hills and valleys unending flow
Towns of old are in my dream
Where Mother Nature forever grow
Children play on meadows free
Living fantasy lifes that never end
With young hearts full of glee
Combining Nature as a friend.*

Patrick Murray

Sonnet To Liberty

*These are the letters which Endymion wrote
To one he loved in secret, and apart.
And now the brawlers of the auction mart
Bargain and bid for each poor blotted note,
Ay! for each separate pulse of passion quote
The merchant's price. I think they love not art
Who break the crystal of a poet's heart
That small and sickly eyes may glare and gloat.*

*Is it not said that many years ago,
In a far Eastern town, some soldiers ran
With torches through the midnight, and began
To wrangle for mean raiment, and to throw
Dice for the garments of a wretched man,
Not knowing the God's wonder, or His woe?*

Oscar Wilde

You Take My Hand

*You take my hand and
I'm suddenly in a bad movie,
it goes on and on and
why am I fascinated*

*We waltz in slow motion
through an air stale with
aphrodisms
we meet behind the endless potted palms
you climb through the wrong windows*

*Other people are leaving
but I always stay till the end
I paid my money, I
want to see what happens.*

*In chance bathtubs I have to
peel you off me
in the form of smoke and melted
celluloid
Have to face it I'm
finally an addict,
the smell of popcorn and worn plush
lingers for weeks*

Margaret Atwood



Clubs, Organisations And Societies

Maynooth Citizens Information Centre Know Your Rights

Question

I am planning to go travelling for a few months on a trip including countries in different parts of the world. What precautions should I take and what assistance can I get from embassies overseas?

Answers

The Travel Advice section of the Department of Foreign Affairs website, www.dfa.ie, can advise you of the precautions you may need to take and risks you should be aware of for the particular countries you are visiting. The contact details for Irish embassies overseas are also listed.

The website has a Travel Registration facility for Irish citizens travelling or living abroad. This is particularly useful if you are travelling to remote destinations or areas where you may be at risk. When you register online, your details will be passed to the Irish embassy or consulate nearest your destinations and will only be used for the purposes of contacting you if necessary or if requested by your immediate family, or in case of an emergency such as a natural disaster, civil unrest or a family crisis.

If you are in a country where there is no Irish embassy or consulate, you can contact the embassy of any other European Union (EU) country for assistance which will treat you the same as it would treat one of its own citizens. The embassy can also act as the channel of communication with the Irish authorities where this is required.

The embassy will help with the relief and repatriation of EU citizens who are in distress. It will offer assistance in situation such as accident, illness or death, and it will assist victims of violent crime. It will also help in cases of arrest or detention.

You will need to produce your passport as proof of your nationality but if your passport has been stolen other proof of nationality may be acceptable.

Question

Am I entitled to a certain period of notice if I am let go from my job.

Answer

If you have been working for your employer for more than 13 weeks you are legally entitled to a minimum period of notice. You may be entitled to more notice than the minimum if this is specified in your contract of employment, but your contract cannot reduce your entitlement to less than the minimum. Your employer can only give you less than the minimum notice if you agree with this. You could, for instance, agree to accept payment in lieu of notice so that you are let go but are paid as if you had continued to work for the minimum period.

The amount of notice that you are entitled to by law will depend on how long you have been working for your employer:

13 WEEKS TO 2 YEARS – 1 WEEK'S NOTICE
2 TO 5 YEARS – 2 WEEKS
5 TO 10 YEARS – 4 WEEKS
10 TO 15 YEARS – 6 WEEKS
15 YEARS OR MORE – 8 WEEKS

(Continued on page 9)

Clubs, Organisations And Societies

(Continued from page 8)

If you do not receive your entitlement to notice you may refer your case to the Employment Appeals Tribunal by completing Form T-1A. You can contact the Employment Appeals Tribunal at Davitt House, 65a Adelaide Road, Dublin2 Tel: 01 631 3006, Lo-call 1890 220 222

Your employer may dismiss you without notice in the case of serious misconduct. If you are unfairly dismissed you can bring your claim to a Rights Commissioner. You can contact the Rights Commissioner Service at the Labour Relations Commission, Tom Johnson House, Haddington Road, Dublin 4. Tel: 01 613 6700, Lo-call 1890 220 227. If you, or your employer, object to a Rights Commissioner hearing, the claim may be made directly to the Employment Appeals Tribunal.

Question

I posted a small packet to a friend that never arrived. I didn't send it by registered mail but by An Post standard mail. Is it possible to get compensation?

Answer

For Standard Post items, An Post pays compensation for items lost, damaged or substantially delayed (7 days within Ireland; 10 days for international items). The compensation payable includes the cost of the postage fee, the cost of the replacement of the packaging and content, and a small compensation to cover other relevant and reasonable costs incurred.

You can complain within one month from receipt of an item; three months from posting of mail within Ireland; and six months from date of posting of international items.

You can apply for additional compensation of €15 if your complaint is not resolved within specified time limits that vary depending on the delivery destination. Compensation payments for Standard Post are generally made in stamps but you can request a cheque instead.

These provisions follow the Complaints and Dispute Resolution Guidelines issued by the Commission for Communication Regulation (ComReg). The guidelines apply to 'An Post and all Operators who have indicated that they are providing services within the scope of the universal service. Currently, this applies to over 20 postal service providers.

You may make a complaint to An Post Customer

Services, GPO, Freepost, Dublin 1. Tel: 01 705 7600 or 1850 57 58 59. If you're not happy with the outcome of the complaint you may contact ComReg, Block DEF, Abbey Court, Irish Life Centre, Lower Abbey Street, Dublin, L0-call 1890 229 668

Question

I have recently lost my job and want to do a training course in the area I'm seeking work in but I also need some work experience with an employer. Can I do this with Fás and can I continue to receive a special welfare payment if I do a Fás course?

Answer

Fás offers a range of training programmes that are listed by type and location on the website www.fas.ie. The Fás National Traineeship Programme combines a Fás training course with workplace coaching with an employer. On successful completion of the training you are given a nationally recognised qualification at Certificate or Advanced Certificate level.

Traineeships are full-time. The duration of the programme varies depending on the course. Most traineeships take from 20 weeks to 40 weeks to complete.

You will receive a weekly-full-time allowance while you are training. The amount depends on your age:
18 OR OVER €197.80
17 YEARS - €100.70
15/16 YEARS - € 80.60

But if you are receiving a social welfare payment that is more than this, your training allowance will match the amount you are currently receiving.

An extra training bonus of €31.80 is available to people who have been receiving Jobseeker's Benefit or Jobseeker's Allowance for a year or more or who start their Fás training after at least 12 months on a Community Employment Scheme or the Job Initiative Programme.

Your local Fás office can give you advice and information out about the traineeships available to you or you can contact Fás on Freephone 1800 611 116

Further information is available from your local Citizens Information Centre. Information is also available online at www.citizensinformation.ie and from the Citizens Information Phone Service, Lo-Call 1890 777 121

Puzzles—Sudoku

Easy

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

Medium

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



Super Difficult

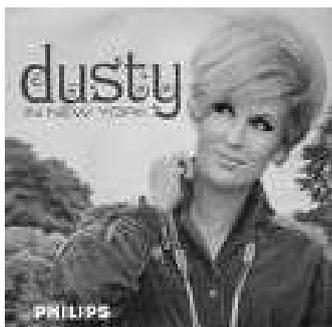
		7					6	
					8	1	2	7
		1			3	4	8	
			9	8			4	
	9						5	
	5			2	6			
	4	9	8			3		
5	2	3	7					
	7					5		

Difficult

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



Features



WHERE ARE THEY NOW

Dusty Springfield

Mary Isabel Catherine Bernadette O'Brien, professionally known as Dusty Springfield was born 16th April 1939. She was an English Pop Singer of Irish decent. Of the female artists of the British invasion, Springfield made the biggest impression on the US Market from 1963 to 1970. She was voted the top British female Artist by readers of new Musical Express in the years 1964, 1965, and 1968.

Dusty Springfield began her Solo Career in 1963 with the song "I ONLY WANT TO BE WITH YOU ", and in 1965 "THE LOOK OF LOVE" was also a hit for Dusty. In 1969 Dusty hosted eight episodes of the BBC TV Show "Decidedly Dusty".

She joined her brother Tom in a folk combo, "The Springfield's" . They became the most popular group in England prior to the advent of the Beatles. In 1962, with "Silver Threads and Golden Needles," the Springfields became the first British group to have a Top 20 hit in the United States.

In 1963, inspired by the music of American girl groups, Dusty left the Springfields and embarked on a solo career. She changed from the "wholesome" Springfields style to a more trendy "Queen of the Mods" image, with fashionable clothing, excessive bouffant hairstyles, and heavy black mascara.

In 1964, her first solo recording, "I Only Want to Be with You," made her the first "British Invasion" artist to enter the American charts in the wake of the Beatles. Springfield gained a wider audience by mixing American soul and British standards on her second album, Everything's Coming Up Dusty (1965).

Her biggest hit, the melodramatic "You Don't Have to Say You Love Me" (1966), was a major success on both sides of the Atlantic. But by this time she was shifting from Queen of the Mods to female drag queen. She claimed she learned her make-up techniques from female impersonators--as her hair and dresses became increasingly over-the-top.

While her campy image and emotionally overwrought recordings of Italian ballads (refitted with English lyrics) made her a cult figure among gay fans, Springfield seemed adrift stylistically until she issued her 1968 album Dusty in Memphis, recorded with the Atlantic Records session musicians who played on many of the soul music hits of the decade.

Although it featured the hit single "Son of a Preacher Man" and has long been considered her masterpiece, this sophisticated and finely-wrought recording was ahead of its time and was, at the time of its release, a commercial failure.

In 1971, frustrated and depressed by the direction of her career and hounded by the press, Springfield took the amazingly courageous if self-destructive step of coming out publicly as "bisexual," although, as recent biographies have detailed, she was in fact a lesbian.

She moved to Los Angeles and basically dropped out of sight, her career and personal life in shambles. She performed little over the next fifteen years.

In 1986, at the insistence of the Pet Shop Boys, she resumed recording, teaming with them on their world-wide hit "What Have I Done to Deserve This?"

In 1995, while recording what would be her final album, A Very Fine Love, she was stricken with breast cancer.

Shortly before her death on March 2, 1999, Dusty Springfield was inducted, however belatedly, into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame and awarded the Order of the British Empire by Queen Elizabeth II.

At her funeral, Pet Shop Boy Neil Tennant summed up her life and career aptly: "She was fab and, because of her music, she always will be."

Features



HANDY TIPS



DAMAGED, DRY HAIR:

A nourishing conditioner for dry or damaged hair which can be used for all hair types: Separate the white of an egg from the yolk, whip it to a peak. Add 1 tbs. water to the yolk and blend until the mixture is creamy. Then mix the white and yolk together. Wet your hair with warm water, remove the excess moisture, and apply the mixture to your scalp with your fingertips. Massage gently until the froth is worked into your scalp, then rinse your hair with cool water. Keep applying the mixture until it is used up and then rinsed until all of the egg is washed away.

COUGHS AND ASTHMA:

Steep 3-4 cloves of garlic in a cool, dark place for 2 weeks. Use several drops at a time, several times a day for coughs or asthma. Garlic is an exceptional cleanser for the body and has antimicrobial action similar to other antibiotics.

ENERGIZER:

Simmer 1 cup honey and 3 cups water together slowly. Allow 1 cup of the water to evaporate. Strain off the top surface, and put the remaining liquid into a stoneware crock or dark bottle. Put a towel over it so it can breathe, yet be free of dirt. Place in a cool place. You can add cinnamon, clove, or the juice of 2 lemons, if you like.

FATIGUE:

Take a glass of grapefruit and lemon juice in equal parts to dispel fatigue and general tiredness after a day's work.

HEADACHE:

Eat 10-12 almonds, the equivalent of two aspirins, for a migraine headache. Almonds are far less likely to upset the stomach.

NAUSEA:

Boil 1/2 cup of rice in 1 cup of water for about 10-20 minutes. After it is boiled, drain the water into a cup and sip at the rice water until symptoms are gone.

PAIN RELIEVER:

Mix 3 tbs. of honey in boiled water and drink. Honey has natural pain-relieving powers.

SUNBURN:

Mix 2 tsp. tomato juice and 1/4 cup buttermilk. Apply to affected area. Rinse after 1/2 hour.

WRINKLES & SKIN FRESHENER:

Combine 2 tbs. vodka, 1 tbs. fennel seeds, and 1 1/2 tsp. honey. Stir well and allow to sit for 3 days. Strain mixture. Use full strength or add 2 tbs. water to dilute. Use a cotton ball to apply to face as a toner. Apply coconut oil on the portions of skin and face where wrinkles set in and gently massage every night at bed time.

YELLOW TEETH:

Mix salt with finely powdered rind of lime. Use this as toothpowder frequently.

TOOTHACHE & MOUTH PAIN:

To ease toothache or other mouth pain, make a tea by boiling 1 tbs. fresh peppermint in 1 cup water and adding a little salt. Peppermint is an antiseptic and contains menthol, which relieves pain when applied to skin surfaces.

AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST BY NO MEANS

HANG-OVER:

Eat honey on crackers. The fructose in the honey will help to flush out the alcohol in your system.

Useful Telephone Numbers

Name	Details	Telephone No.
A.C.R.A	National Association of Resident Associations Contact Michael Quinn, 3 Laurence Avenue, Maynooth	6285258
ADULT CEILI AND SET DANCING	Contact: Rita Doyle	086-2862475/ 6286169
AN NUADA PLAYERS	Contact: Terry Nealon	086-8068068
BRIDGE CLUB	Contact: Joan Howard Williams	6289239
CASTLE COMMITTEE	Contact Tony Bean Sec. Gerald &Joan Howard Williams, Carton Demense	087-949459
CASTLE KEEP ART GROUP	Contact: Susan Durack Sec.	6289349
CITIZENS INFORMATION CENTRE		6285477
COMMUNITY GAMES	Contact: Joe Geraghty Margaret Houlihan	087-6181235 087-2054854
DENTIST	Dr. G.B. Glass Dr. G.A. O'Reilly Dr. J.G. Merrick	6289284 6286318 6286318
DOCTORS	DR. D. Gaffney DR. D. Nolan DR. C.D. O'Rourke DR. J. Corish DR. N. Wilson DR. M. Cowhey	6291169 6285943 6285210 6292556 5052135 6289044
FAS OFFICE		6290556
FLOWER CLUB	Contact: Moira Baxter, Applewood, Laraghbryan ,Maynooth	6289102
FOLK GROUP	Contact: Elaine Bean	087-9704912
G.A.A. CLUB	Maynooth G.A.A. Club Contact :Dominic Nugent	6285020 087-6368722
GARDA STATION		6291413/6286234
GATEWAY WRITER GROUP	Contact : Kate Dempsey	086-8583316
GOLF	Maynooth Golf Society Contact: Kevin Loftus	086-8261221
HEALTH CENTRE		6285415
I.C.A.	Contact: Norah Mc Dermot	6244695
KILDARE COUNTY COUNCIL		045-980200
LARAGHBRYAN CEMETRY COMMITTEE	Contact: Breda Holmes, Barrogstown, Maynooth Sec. Helen Johnson	6289757
LIONS CLUB	Contact: Freddie Melia,	6289555
MAHER SCHOOL OF IRISH DANCING	Contact : Catherine Maher	6285739 087-8222740
MARTIAL TAEKWON-DO	Contact: Gerard McClland	087-279621/6280868

Local Useful Telephone Numbers (Cont'd)

MAYNOOTH ADULT DAYTIME EDUCATION (MADE)	Contact: Bernadette Duffy	6016179
MAYNOOTH LOCAL HISTORY	Contact: Rita Edwards	087-6387687
MAYNOOTH BUSINESS ASSOCIATION	Contact: Brid Feely	087-2052649
MAYNOOTH FAIR TRADE	Contact: Dr. John Sweeney	087-2476516
MAYNOOTH JUDO CLUB	Contact: Mary Mc Donald	087-9677596
MAYNOOTH PHYSIOTHERAPY CLINIC & LEINSTER CLINIC		6290895
MORTALITY SOCIETY	Contact: Paddy Nolan	6286312
NORTH KILDARE JUNIOR TENNIS CLUB	North Kildare Club	6103909 6287243
PARENT AND TODDLER GROUP	Contact: Bronwyn Mooney	6289405
PARISH	Fr. Paul Coyle Fr. Liam Rigney Parish Office	6290553 6286220 6293018
POST OFFICE		6286259
MAYNOOTH COMMUNITY LIBRARY	Librarian: Bernadette Gilligan	6285530
ROYAL AMENITY AND RESTORATION GROUP CANAL	Office Contact: Mark Kennedy, 83 Maynooth Park Maynooth	6290980 6286443
SCHOOLS	Boys' National School Presentation Girls' Primary School Post Primary School Scoil Ui Fháich	6293021 6286034 6286060 6290667
SCOUTS	Scouting Ireland Contact: Johnny Dowling	086-1017492
SENIOR CITIZENS COMMITTEE	Contact: Patricia Cusker, Silken Vale, Maynooth. Josie Moore, Greenville, Straffan Road, Maynooth.	087-2982455
SOCCER CLUB	Contact: Edel Pat Moynihan	087-2998661 087-9078861
ST. MARY'S BRASS AND REED BAND	Contact: Melanie Oliver	087-9704910
SWIMMING CLUB	Contact: Edel	087-2680405
TIDY TOWNS	Contact: Secretary	087-3153189
U3A	Contact: Bernadette	6289131
VIOLENCE IN THE HOME		1800-341-900

Features

The Cookery Demonstration

A Short Story

Anne, Kay and Sheila stood chatting at the corner of their housing estate they were all newly married and had quickly become firm friends when they moved into their new homes. Kay had just told them she had seen a poster in Brennan's, the local newsagent, telling of the upcoming ladies' Club meeting; there was to be cookery demonstration by Angela Lavery, a well known TV cook, and new members were welcome to come along and join the club.

"Why, that's the very thing to give us a night out together and learn something into the bargain," said Anne.

"I agree." said Sheila, puffing on her cigarette, "as well as the cooking, we'll meet all the other ladies and learn what's going on around here."



"Right then," said Kay, "Be ready at 7.45 and we'll go down together!"

Anne, whose culinary skills were virtually nil, went inside her new house, fired with enthusiasm, remembering the meal she had cooked Jim's parents last week. She had gone to endless trouble doing the stuffed liver and bacon, but had left it in the oven too long. When she served it up and Jim was cutting into his, it shot off the plate and hit the window. Anne was mortified and glanced at her mother-in-law, Vera, who had a definite smirk on her face, although when she told Jim later, he said she was imagining it. However, the day was saved when Vera suggested they have some of the cake

she brought round. Anne smiled gratefully and went to get the cake knife. At least, she thought, now that I'm going to the Ladies' Club, I'll get a few tips and soon Vera will smirk on the other side of her face!

As Kay walked home, her main thought was how to wean Owen off his meat-laden diet. This cookery demonstration should provide a golden opportunity for her to ask for some suggestions as to how to introduce a more healthy vegetarian diet for Owen. After all, she couldn't help but notice the alarm on his face last evening when she presented him with her favourite nut loaf with a side dish of couscous; she'd also heard the grumble of his stomach! Still, he did eat it and didn't complain so maybe he wasn't quite as averse to a change in diet as he had once been.

Sheila went off to her house hoping she might learn to bake a currant cake. Tom, her husband, was so easy to please; he usually had a couple of pints on the way home and would bring back fish and chips for the pair of them. Afterwards they really enjoyed snuggling up together in front of the TV. When Sheila put it to him that she was going to the Ladies' Club for a cookery demonstration, Tom looked at her in astonishment.

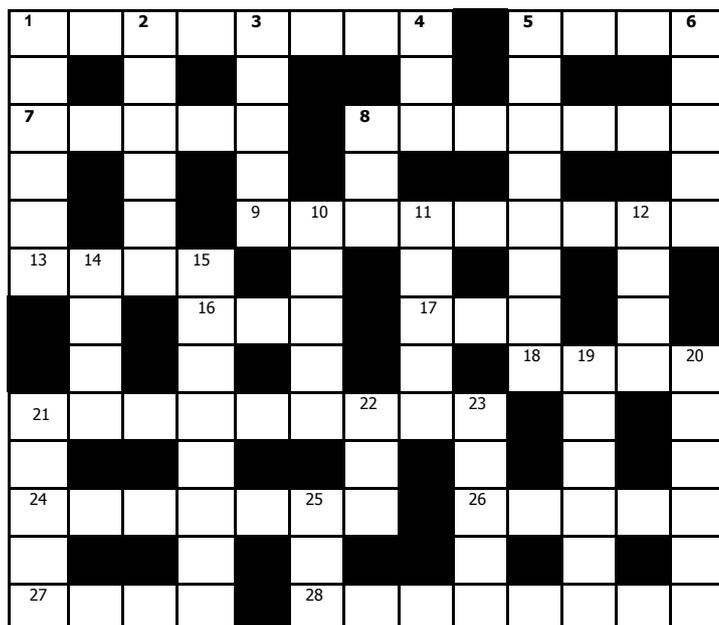
"I never realised you need to learn how to cook! After all, that cottage pie you made yesterday was grand."

"Ah, I want to learn how to bake a currant cake, just like your ma's! I know how much you like that," Sheila replied.

(Continued on page 24)

Features

Crossword No.: 69



Special Prize

Book Voucher

Give yourself the luxury of browsing and choosing the book(s) which take your fancy from the wide selection available in the store of our sponsor

The Maynooth Bookshop
68 Main Street, Maynooth

Winner

Elaine Houlihan
 Cowanstown, Maynooth

Entries in before:

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Across:

- 1. Deduct (8)
- 5. Protective ditch (4)
- 7. Tracking Device (5)
- 8. Desert (7)
- 9. Lethargy (9)
- 13. Container weight (4)
- 16. Seed (3)
- 17. Solid water (3)
- 18. Metal, symbol Pb (4)
- 21. University __ __ __, TV quiz (9)
- 24. Trigonometry term (7)
- 26. German River (5)
- 27. Secrete (4)
- 28. Short official statement (8)

Down:

- 1. Austere (6)
- 2. Large burrowing animal (6)
- 3. Pastoral (5)
- 4. Vessel (3)
- 5. Medieval musician (8)
- 6. Nerve - racking (5)
- 8. Beast of burden (3)
- 10. Fruit (5)
- 11. Oscillate (5)
- 12. Computer information (4)
- 14. Curve (4)
- 15. TV religious broadcast (8)
- 19. Join up (6)
- 20. Abase (6)
- 21. Joseph Heller novel, __ __ __22 (5)
- 22. Capture (3)
- 23. Actor, __ __ __ Flynn (5)
- 25. Pen - point (3)

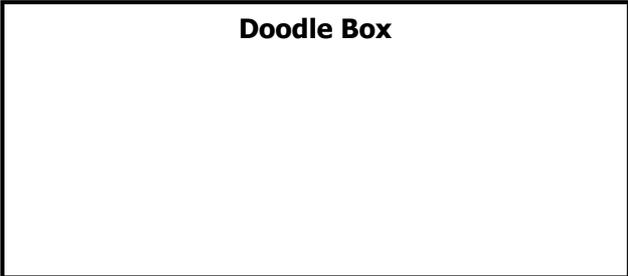
Solutions to crossword No. 68

Across:

- 1. Brisk, 7. Familiar, 8. Salad,
- 10. Rutherford, 12. Tendency, 14. Deny,
- 16. Reed, 17. Bergerac, 20. Buckingham,
- 23. Rowan, 24. Semolina, 25. Fetch.

Down:

- 1. Basket, 2. Spar, 3. Cash, 4. Fiery, 5.
- Kilometre, 6. Friday, Duvet, 11.
- Unwelcome, 13. Che, 15. Eggar, 16.
- Robust, 18. Crunch, 19. Silly, 21. Gone,
- 22. Mole



Features

(Continued from page 20)

With that, a blissful look came over his face as he thought of the slice of currant cake, lashings of butter on it melting and pooling on the plate.

"Of course, go along," he said, giving her a playful slap on the behind.

And so, Anne, Kay and Sheila set off on the short walk to the church hall, where the Ladies' Club meeting and the demonstration was to be held. When they arrived, they were met by a din of ladies' voices, all talking and laughing, glad to be back at the club after the long summer break.

The top table was taken up with the committee. Shortly after, the meeting commenced with a special welcome for the new members. The chairperson announced that, as it was a special demonstration by the famous TV cook, she would forgo the usual agenda and introduce their guest straight away. Angela Lavery stood up and everyone clapped. She was a smart, stout, efficient lady with a keen eye. She wore an apron over her suit, already prepared. While the ladies looked up at her, she let her gaze wander over the audience. All smart ladies here, she thought. Little did she realise there were some in the audience who could barely boil an egg!

The porter of the parish hall wheeled in the portable oven, and the utensils and ingredients were laid out. Angela went smartly through her repertoire— brown bread, scones, soda bread and currant cake.

I don't believe it, thought Sheila, the very things I want to learn!

Soon the homely smell of baking filled the hall as each bread and cake was demonstrated, with Angela prattling on all the while as the ladies frantically jotted down the recipes and notes. As the evening wore on, the baking was displayed on the front table and what a sight it was! Plain scones, soda bread, traditional brown bread and currant cake—all to be raffled after the meeting was over! The committee rushed around, selling the raffle tickets and once all the tickets were sold, the raffle was held.

None of the three friends won anything. Kay and Anne were a bit disappointed that there was no demonstration of savoury food, but perked up when Angela announced that she would be returning the following month with another demonstration.

So Anne would stick to the tried and tested pork and lamb-chops for the time being, while Kay would soldier on, introducing her vegetarian dishes gradually. Sheila, on the other hand, couldn't wait to get home to try her hand at currant cake! She also decided that she might try the belly dancing classes she had seen advertised on the notice board, hoping that Anne and Kay would come to those too! After all, cooking was necessary for life, but so was fun and what a laugh they would have learning how to belly dance!

Patricia Healy.

Clubs, Organisations And Societies

Maynooth Tidy Towns

First winner of Maynooth Tidy Towns "Person of the Year" is mourned

Maynooth Tidy Towns committee members were saddened with the news of the death of Mr. Tommie Holmes who passed away in July following an illness. Thankfully for virtually all of his ninety years he enjoyed good health and he was an inspiration to everyone with his active life. Even in recent years you could still meet him climbing the hill up the Straffan Road with the vigour of a man half his age. He was always very positive when you met him saying he was thankful to be alive and sporting a big smile to show he meant it.



The late Tommie Holmes & his wife Mary,
Paul Croghan, Mattie Callaghan, Bob O'Reilly &
Richard Farrell.

Living in Maynooth for over fifty years he was a person who witnessed much change but was still proud of the place that he made home. When Maynooth Tidy Towns committee decided to honour an individual resident for their private contribution to keeping the town clean and tidy we looked around for people who we felt deserved to be recognised. Most of the committee knew about the effort that Tommie was making in the Parklands/Railpark area as he was often seen picking litter in the area and keeping it as neat and tidy as possible. As the awards are always a surprise to the winners we engaged the help of Tommie's family. When Tommie received his award he commented that he did not deserve it because he did so little. From our perspective he was doing much more than most people and long after the award he continued. Maynooth Tidy Towns was proud of Tommie and will miss him. To Mary his wife with whom

Tommie shared so many years and to his three sons and their families we offer our sympathy on his loss. But many others in Maynooth will also miss this wonderful gentleman.

Best Estate and Shop Fronts Competitions 2008

Believe or not it is that time of year again and even by the time you read this the judge could have been in your area. Last year we had a new judge and at the end of the process she very kindly gave us an overview of her work with some helpful suggestions. The report below was published last October but we are printing it again as it might be useful to some areas. We intend to take on board some of the judge's views in making awards in 2008:

Maynooth Tidy Towns Best Estates and Shop Fronts Competitions 2007

Summary of the Judges Recommendations

We have a new judge for 2007 and we appreciate the excellent work that she has done in terms of the judging of the Best Estates and Shop Fronts competitions. Whilst not from Maynooth the judge works in the town and indeed is a former resident which meant that she had a good knowledge of the areas.

Best Estates

The judge was asked to visit each area twice once in July and the second in early August. However, because of the bad weather experienced this summer the judge actually surveyed each area on three occasions an additional

(Continued on page 27)

Clubs, Organisations And Societies

(Continued from page 26)

one being done in late August when the weather improved as she felt that people may not have had a chance to get to do any work in July because of the weather conditions that prevailed.

The maximum marks available were 510 and the highest score secured was 459 by the large best estate. As many of the residential areas were close in score, the judge awarded a higher score where good quality work was evident. One such case was the runner up best large estate where the quality of finish on edging was evident.

The judge recommends that estates be encouraged to devise unique features for their areas that can be easily maintained. A good example is the features at the entrance to Moyglare Village and Cluain Aoibhinn. Another recommendation is that some estates that are so closely linked geographically should work together to maximise the entire areas. Two cases mentioned are Cluain Aoibhinn and College Green and Beaufield and Meadowbrook. In both cases the judge found herself moving between the areas and having to check where she was at any time. In the case of one large estate the judge recommends that the Tidy Towns encourage the residents and perhaps the local authority to work together to devise a major new plan to enhance the area which has very attractive rolling landscape levels but unfortunately appears neglected with badly maintained features and much litter which unfortunately impacts on the potential to be a major winner.

Best Shop Fronts

The judge found that it was not difficult to select a winner here as with few exceptions there was little evidence that the traders were making a unique effort for the Tidy Towns. The judge recommends that this competition be reviewed and that it could take the following format in future.

All Premises in the Main Street area should be encouraged to support the Tidy Towns campaign. This could include a window display supporting the campaign for the eight weeks of the judging period. Perhaps Tidy Towns could do an annual sticker that could be displayed in the window of premises stating that this business is a Tidy Towns supporter. The judge appreciates that some businesses are more capable of providing financial support than others but the connection between the business sector and Tidy Towns needs to be more obvious.

There are now a number of shopping centres such as Tesco, Manor Mills, Newtown, Greenfields as well as Aldi and Lidl. While some are well presented it might be a good idea to have a competition between Shopping Complexes in order to raise all standards and have a bigger participation than simply limiting it to the Main street/Side streets.

National Competition – remember that we still have a chance to “Make Maynooth Great in 2008”

Whilst it is likely that the National Tidy Towns Competition Judge has already been to Maynooth, they may still be back as judging officially ends on August 31st. No thanks to Kildare County Council for permitting major structural works during the height of the competition. The erection of the Traffic CCTV poles in the centre of Maynooth as well as the digging for pipe laying both in July cannot benefit the judging. Let's hope that the judge takes a lenient view as they should, but an area is marked as the judge sees it on the day the visit.

You too can play your part by assisting in keeping the town clean and tidy. It is only with support of business, the institutions and the residents of the town that the work of Maynooth Tidy Towns can make a difference. Together we can **Make Maynooth Great in 2008**

Paul Croghan
PRO
Maynooth Tidy Towns

Recipes

Summer berry sorbet

Serves 6

Preparation time over 2 hours

Cooking time no cooking required

This a refreshing super-smooth sorbet that makes great use of all the wonderful summer fruits that are now in abundance.

Ingredients

500g fresh summer fruits
juice and grated rind of 1 large orange
2 - 3 tbsp orange liqueur such as
Cointreau or Grand Marnier
2 egg whites
100g caster sugar

Method

1. Place the fruit, orange rind and juice, liqueur and 175ml water in a food processor and blend until smooth. I like to leave the seeds in but you can sieve your mixture if you prefer.
2. If you have an ice cream machine, churn the mixture until it starts to freeze, alternatively pour into a rigid container and freeze, stirring every 30 minutes or so until ice crystals start to form and it feels slushy.
3. Whisk the egg whites until stiff then gradually add the sugar beating until firm and glossy. Fold the meringue into the freezing fruit mixture and continue to freeze and stir until completely frozen. If making in advance, transfer the mixture to the fridge 30 minutes before serving.

SUMMER PUDDING

SERVES 8

Preparation 30 Minutes (Plus overnight in the Fridge)

1kg (2lb) mixed berries (use a combination of raspberries, blackberries, blueberries, redcurrants or blackcurrants)
160g (5½oz) caster sugar
10 thin slices stale white bread, crusts removed

1. Place the berries, sugar and 60ml (2fl oz) of water in a saucepan. Bring to a gentle simmer on a low heat and cook, stirring to dissolve the sugar, for 3-4

minutes, or until the fruit has softened and produced lots of juice. Set aside to cool.

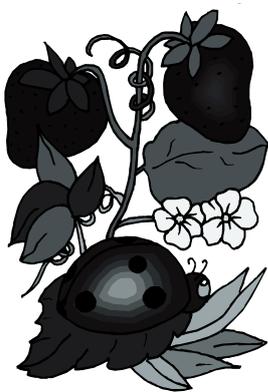
2. Pour the juice into a flat dish, reserving the fruit.

3. Cut one slice of bread into a circle small enough to fit the base of a 1.5l (48 fl oz) pudding basin, and another large enough to fit the top. Cut the remaining slices into triangles. Dip both sides of the smaller circle of bread quickly into the juice and place it in the bottom of the pudding basin. Dip both sides of each triangle of bread into the juice, then line the inside of the basin with the juice-soaked bread, overlapping them slightly to make sure there are no gaps.

4. Fill the bread-lined basin with berries, drizzle with any remaining juice and top with the larger circle of bread, trimming it to fit if necessary.

5. Cover the top of the pudding with clingfilm, then place a saucer or small plate that just fits inside the rim of the basin on top. Press the plate in, then weigh it down with a heavy can or two. Place the basin in a shallow dish to catch any juice that might overflow, and refrigerate for at least 12 hours.

6. To serve, run a thin knife around the inside of the basin and invert the pudding on to a serving plate. Cut into wedges and serve accompanied with plenty of thick cream.



APRICOT PURÉE

Ingredients: 225g fresh or 125g dried apricots. Method: Cover apricots with cold water and poach uncovered until tender. Drain and rub through a sieve. Flavour purée with sugar and lemon rind to give it a tangy taste.

HOT NEW POTATO SALAD

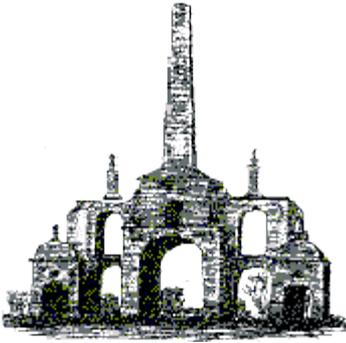
Serves 4-6.

Ingredients: 450g new potatoes. 1 avocado, halved and stoned, 1 large spring onion, finely chopped. 1 tbsp chopped mint. Salt and freshly ground black pepper, 2 tbsp French dressing. 1 tbsp chopped mint. Method: Cook new potatoes in salted water with sprig of mint for 18-20 minutes. Peel avocado halves and mash them with the onion, mint, salt and pepper to make a very thick sauce. Mix in the French dressing. Drain Potatoes, pile in a serving dish and spoon over them the avocado dressing. Keeps well in refrigerator and can be served cold if you have any left over!

Features

Conolly's Folly

Conolly's Folly (Irish: Baois Uí Chongaile), a.k.a. The Obelisk or originally The Conolly Folly is an obelisk structure located near Celbridge and Maynooth, both in north County Kildare, Ireland.



It was built beside Castletown estate (containing Castletown House), which contains two follies, both commissioned by Katherine Conolly, the philanthropic widow of Speaker William Conolly to provide employment for hundreds of the poor of Celbridge when the famine of 1740-41 was at its worst. The Obelisk was built in 1740 after a particularly severe winter. As a folly, it filled the view (vista) at the back of Castletown some 2.5 miles (4 km) away.

Designed by Richard Castle, it is 42 metres (140 feet) high and is composed of several arches, adorned by stone pineapples and eagles, topped by a massive obelisk pillar. It was restored in 1965 by the Irish Georgian Society, and marks the grave of Mariga, first wife of the Hon. Desmond Guinness of Leixlip Castle.

The name Conolly is used, rather than the more common spelling Connolly, as it was the spelling used by William Conolly and by all his descendants. It derived from the Gaelic 'Ui Conghaile'

It is currently undergoing restoration work as it has fallen into disrepair.

Quotes by Oscar Wilde

A little sincerity is a dangerous thing, and a great deal of it is absolutely fatal.

A man can be happy with any woman as long as he does not love her

Always forgive your enemies; nothing annoys them so much.

America had often been discovered before Columbus, but it had always been hushed up.

America is the only country that went from barbarism to decadence without civilization in between.

Anyone who lives within their means suffers from a lack of imagination.

Arguments are to be avoided; they are always vulgar and often convincing.

At twilight, nature is not without loveliness, though perhaps its chief use is to illustrate quotations from the poets.

Biography lends to death a new terror.

Consistency is the last refuge of the unimaginative.

Every portrait that is painted with feeling is a portrait of the artist, not of the sitter.

Horoscopes



ARIES—March 21—April 20

All your energy should be directed into money making opportunities for advancement at work. Take time to catch up on gossip and on paper work. Your lucky day is Monday, Number 4, Colour Green.



TAURUS—April 21—May 21

You may want to take a look at your direction in life. Your self esteem will benefit, friends will be loyal and caring. Check your personal papers and make sure every thing is in order. Your lucky day is Thursday, Number 3, Colour Yellow.



GEMINI—May 22—June 22

Don't be critical, or overly opinionated with dislikes. Deception will play an important factor in relationships. Travel will be to your advantage. Your lucky day is Friday, Number 6, Colour Pink.



CANCER—June 23—July 23

Work quietly at your own goals and forget about situations that you can do little about. It might be best not to spend your money on luxuries this week. Your lucky day is Sunday, Number 8, Colour Black.



LEO—July 24—August 23

Your time, not your cash will do a lot more for your relationships. Look into cost factor and look past first impression. Your lucky day is Saturday, Number 10, Colour Gray.



Virgo—August 24—Sept 23

Don't settle for less then the best, you can meet your potential. Tie up your personal papers, or push to have legal settlements completed. Your lucky day is Thursday, Number 12, Colour Orange.



LIBRA—Sept 24—Oct 23

Luck is with you, regardless of the financial venture. Don't make unreasonable promises as they will come back to haunt you. Your lucky day is Wednesday, Number 17, Colour White.



SCORPIO—Oct 24—Nov 22

Make career changes that may increase your Income. Take time when making big decisions. You are at the start of something big. Your lucky day is Monday, Number 23, Colour Gold.



SAGITTARIUS—Nov 23—Dec 21

Put some work into home improvement. You should get help with painting, and moving furniture. Friends and family will give a hand. Many hands make light work. Your lucky day Friday, Number 26, Colour Blue.



CAPRICORN—Dec 22—Jan 20

Keep your eyes and ears alert for any evasive or deceptive statements. Take some time to change your house around. A change is good for you. Your lucky day is Sunday, Number 8, Colour Lime Green.



AQUARIUS—Jan 21—Feb 19

Try not to push your philosophies on others. Don't be disappointed if you don't get your way emotionally. The key to feeling good about yourself is to do something about it yourself. Your lucky day is Monday, Number 31, Colour



PISCES—Feb 20—March 20

Don't let friends convince you that you should contribute to something that you don't believe in. You could be cornered, so be prepared to tell the truth. Don't make promises that you can't keep. Your lucky day is Wednesday, Number 29, Colour Red.

Pet Corner

A Mouse Story.



Recently I went up to my bedroom where to my horror I saw a mouse drinking from the water I had for my dogs. Yes they sleep in my bedroom! The mouse looked at me and fled under the bed. What was I to do? That night I thought it would be a good idea to let the cats sleep with me. All was well and not a sound of the mouse until about two o'clock in the morning when my cat Taz decided to go out. About ten minutes later she came back in the window with a baby mouse in her mouth. I now knew how the mouse under the bed had got in. She dropped the baby mouse on the bed, and by this time I was out of bed and doing my nut. Bedlam reigned. The upshot was that between the pup and the cat the poor little thing was dead. I had to mop up and change my bedding. I put the two cats out and decided to take my chance with the mouse.

When I came home from work the next day I went into my bedroom to see little mousey looking up at me from under the bed. I was advised by my friends to get a mouse trap but I could not bring myself to kill this little creature. By this stage I was calling him Jerry. As you know all creatures like their comfort, so I cleared the floor of everything and put down two of the dogs towels. About ten minutes later I went back up and sure enough he was sitting on top of the towels. I threw another towel over him, and bundled the pile altogether and put the lot into a cat box. I brought the box outside far out of the cats sights and I emptied it. At first he didn't move but after a minute or so he started to get his bearings. Jerry took one look at me and said to himself "I am out of here". He darted off into the forest and I was delighted to be able to give him back to nature. As for the cats — the bedroom windows are shut. One death and one Jerry was enough for me.

Tips for Keeping Your Cat Healthy

Regular Check-Ups`

You should take your cat to the Vet not only for regular vaccinations but for regular check ups as well. Your Vet would know best if there is anything wrong with your cat's coat, organs, body parts, and mannerisms.

Proper Grooming

De-clawing is never advised, it is an amputation and your cat will suffer greatly! it is recommended that you clip your cat's claws as needed. Just taking the sharp tips off is enough and then provide them with a scratching post and they will do the rest. Brushing your cats fur will help to keep it smooth and get rid of loose hairs before they become hairballs and they will love you for it. Always brush in the direction of the hair growth.

Poisons Out of Reach

Store cleaning agents, automobile liquids and pest poisons in securely lidded containers. Store all your containers out of your cat's reach. Also check if our houseplants are not among the numerous plants that could be toxic to your feline friend.

Pet Tag

Cats are naturally curious and occasionally like to roam around. Make sure you attach an identification tag on your cat's collar to make it easier for others to return your cat.

Play Time

Your cat needs to play to keep from getting bored and depressed. Provide a variety of toys for your cat. You should also make it a habit to constantly play and interact with your cat.

Do Not Medicate On Your Own

Certain human medicines are extremely dangerous to give to your cats and could cause death in a very short amount of time. Do not medicate your cat on your own. Always consult the Vet even in minor medical cases.

Right Food

Cats need animal-based, moisture-rich protein. They should only be fed specifically formulated cat food. Other pet owners also consider a raw meat diet to be a healthy option for cats.

Features

Donadea 10K Race



Donadea Running Club, having been established as recently as 2007, has taken great leaps forward in their participation and promotion of the sport of running. Based in Donadea and running out of St. Kevin's GAA club, its members include those who hail from the neighbouring areas of Clane, Celbridge, Kilcock and other surrounding areas in Kildare.

The club are currently busy arranging their inaugural 10K race – a yearly event – which will take place on October 11th. It is hoped that with the support of runners from all over Kildare, and indeed the rest of Ireland, the race will help raise much needed funds for the event charity; St. Raphael's special needs school in Celbridge.

The school functions as an integral part of the St John of God Kildare Services. Originally it was designed to cater for the educational needs of young people in the moderate range of Intellectual Disability between the ages of 5 – 18. In 2000 following the re-development of one wing of the school, two classes for children in the severe/profound range of disability were opened. In 2004, one class for children within the Autistic Spectrum Disorder was established. To date they have three senior classes for children within the Autistic Spectrum Disorder. In September 2008 a junior class for children within the Autistic Spectrum Disorder will be set up. Overall the school caters for the needs of children functioning in the moderate, severe and profound ranges of Intellectual Disability. St. Raphael's catchment area covers Celbridge, Lucan, Leixlip, Maynooth, Rathcoole, Newcastle, Sallins, Prosperous and Clane. The school gives each child opportunities to develop attitudes and skills that will enable him/her to experience a quality of life as close as possible to that which is available to those in society at large. The term "quality of life" embraces personal choice, relationships, personal development, integration and participation in the community life.

More details about the race can be found on the club's website where you may download an entry form or alternatively, the event can be entered online at www.activeeurope.com

Club contact details- Website: www.donadearunningclub.com E-mail: donadearunningclub@yahoo.ie Phone: 087 6630047

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LETTER TO OUR READERS

* This is just a note to remind you all that the **Newsletter** exists for your *
* enjoyment and that we welcome all contributions from our readers. We *
* would like to hear from any organisation or indeed from individuals with *
* something to say or suggest. We hope you continue to enjoy your monthly *
* read and keep us informed of your activities. *

* *Community Council & Newsletter Staff:* *

* Maynooth Community Council Office *

* Unit 5, *

* Newtown Shopping Centre, *

* Tesco, *

* Maynooth, *

* Co. Kildare. *

* Tel: 01-6285922/6285053 *

* *E-mail maynoothcc@eircom.net* *

*

Features

Lisa's Autumn Wedding

A Short Story

It was three days before Lisa and John were to get married. Lisa's Mum was fussing around the house trying to get everything organised for the big day. It was to be in St. Joseph's church, in their local parish and Father Martin was to marry them. They had already got their rehearsal's done for the big day. It was a lovely time of the year to get married. The evenings were just getting a bit dusk early and the leaves on the ground were plentiful. She had bought her wedding dress in a bridal boutique in the local town. It had cost an arm and a leg but Lisa's mum thought that her only daughter was worth it. John was a lovely guy and was always very courteous and polite to everyone. He would make Lisa a lovely husband.

The dress was bought but they still had to get the flowers and the cake was ordered but not delivered yet. Lisa's Mum still had to get her own wedding outfit. The invitations were gone out about one month now. Then there was the music and the venue for the reception had just been booked the previous week. They were now fairly on top of things.

The bridesmaids dress were of a sea blue, and would look lovely in the Autumn sunshine. Lisa's two bridesmaids were her two best friends. She would not have a wedding without them. John's best man was his best friend. Lisa's dad was walking her up the aisle. Her dress was of an ivory colour with little ivory beads on the bodice, with a long slender skirt around her perfect figure with a four foot train. She would look beautiful on the day. They were nearly organised.

That night John came around to invite Lisa out for a meal and maybe go to a musical. He had bought tickets for a musical in the town. So Lisa just ran upstairs to give herself a last minute look in the mirror before going out with her future husband. This time next week they would be married. John brought Lisa to a lovely little restaurant in the middle of the town. They ate their meal and chatted about what it would be like to be married to each other.

Then John looked at Lisa and said "what ever happens to us I will always love you with all my heart. And I know that you will love me too". Lisa picked up her wine and said "cheers to us and our married life". Things couldn't get any better. They went to the musical and John dropped Lisa home. "See you on Friday". Lisa let herself into the house and went to bed.

Her hen night was the following night and she and the girls were having a party in the local hotel. At the hotel a waiter came into the function room and called Lisa to one side. There is a telephone call for you. It is a man. Lisa was worried. Who would be calling her on her hen night.

When she got to the phone it was John's best friend. Hi Lisa it is Jim here. What is it. Has something happened to John? "Yes you could say that,. What's happened?, I can always cancel the Party." Don't do that. John will be alright. You go on with your party, but you call around to John's parent's house tomorrow night and you will find out". Lisa put down the phone but she was very disheartened about everything now. What could possibly be wrong. It was so close to their wedding day. Lisa got home that night and let herself into her own house. The house was dark upstairs but her parents had left the hall light on for her.

The following day at work she could not concentrate as she usually did. She came home from work and ate her dinner. Then she got ready to meet John. When she got to John's house he was outside with his friend Jim. When she saw him she knew Jim was playing a trick. She was very cross with Jim. You said that something happened to John. John gave her a kiss and said "I wanted you to come over so I could give you this. It is my wedding present to you. To my special girl that I will always love to the end of our days". "What is it?"

It was a red car. It must have been expensive. "John I love you and you will get my present to you on our wedding day", and they kissed in the Autumn sunshine.

Enda Clavin

Gardening in the Month of August



Essential tasks for August

Keep your garden looking its best with our guide to the essential jobs that need doing in August.

Flower garden

Watering container plants

Ensure containerised plants especially evergreens never go short of water during the summer while they're developing their flower buds for next spring's display. A shortage of water now can lead to a case of bud drop next year for plants, such as camellias and rhododendrons. Pots that have dried out should be submerged in water and left to soak for a few hours, ideally in a bowl, bath or water-butt. Even if it rains, pots often remain dry as they stand in the rain shadow of a house and their foliage acts as an umbrella. Keep your containerised plants healthy with our tips for effective watering.

Supporting plants

Support the stems of tall perennials and lilies with bamboo canes and watch out for lily beetles and their larvae. Pick any off and destroy them immediately.

Deadheading

Deadhead roses as the blooms fade, cutting off the flowers just above the uppermost leaf on the stem. Trim back lavender bushes after flowering to remove the old blooms and shoot tips. Take care not to cut back too heavily into any old wood. Removing faded flowers from perennials and annual plants will also ensure a continued display of blooms.

Dried flowers

Cut everlasting flowers, such as helichrysum and achillea, and grasses, such as pennisetum, when they are at their peak. Hang them upside down in a warm, airy position to dry naturally, ready for decorative arrangements.

Prune wisteria

Summer prune wisteria this month, shortening their long wispy sideshoots back to about five or six leaves from the main framework. If the plant's flowering performance was poor last spring, drench the soil with a high-potash fertiliser for an improvement.

Clematis

Clematis thrive in fertile, well-drained soil in sun or partial shade, but ensure the roots and base of plants are in the shade to keep them healthy. Blackened shoot tips may indicate clematis wilt. Cut out affected stems, but leave the main pruning until late winter and early spring. Discover the best way to train clematis.

General care

Holiday watering

There are several things you can do to help prevent plants drying out. Move any baskets and containers out of full sun to a position where they are shaded at the height of the day. Stand terracotta pots on gravel trays topped up with water, so the pots can gradually absorb the reservoir of liquid. You can also install an automatic trickle watering system on an outside tap, which is controlled by a timer and will turn water on and off each day.

Take Cuttings

Continue taking summer cuttings of fuchsias, pelargoniums and tender perennials. These root quickly at this time of year, forming sturdy young plants that will successfully overwinter on a bedroom windowsill. Many houseplants, including coleus and African violets, can also be propagated from cuttings now.

Trim hedges

Trim hedges, especially hedging conifers that can become tall and annoy neighbours. Be considerate, and cut their tops down to 3m (10ft) at a maximum.

Pests

Watch out for ants nesting in patio pots, where they can disturb root growth and reduce a plant's performance. Standing pots in a large saucer of water helps deter them from settling in. Vine weevil is a particular problem in greenhouses and patio pots. Now is a good time to treat compost with biological pest control nematodes, which search out and kill weevil larvae. They can also be applied to the soil around attacked plants.

Weeds

Hoe weeds out of gravel paths, then carefully apply a residual path weedkiller to keep the area weed-free.



Party Political

Cllr. Gerry McDonagh - Resigning County Council seat – to contest Leixlip Town Council Elections in 2009

Cllr Gerry McDonagh has tendered his resignation to Kildare County Council with effect from Friday 11th July 2008. He was co-opted in 2005 as replacement for Catherine Murphy following her election to Dail Eireann. In addition to his membership of the Council he has also been a member of several committees including, Kildare VEC; Kildare Community Network; Leixlip Area Committee; Twinning Committee, Finance Committee etc.

Cllr McDonagh had been primarily working as a full time councillor since the Autumn of 2007 when his contract of employment ended. He has recently become self employed and needs to invest considerable time into the start up phase. "I would find it impossible to do justice to both the Council and my new work commitments, he stated. With the present work climate and the state of the National Economy it is important that I focus primarily on my main source of income."

Cllr McDonagh said "he enjoyed his time on the Council and had made some good friends at Community, Councillor and Official Level, an aspect he will miss. He stated the experience was a real eye opener, and gave him an invaluable insider's view of the working of Kildare County Council and County Kildare Vocational Education Committee. "There was considerably more work involved than I had anticipated but I particularly enjoyed the representative role between the citizen and the Council. Being a Councillor is officially a "part time" job which is difficult to juggle with full time work, it can only realistically be done with the co-operation of the employer."

While I am resigning from the County Council I am confirming my intention to contest next years election to Leixlip Town Council. I believe the experience I have gained at County Council level would be a considerable asset at Town Council level. The less demanding work of a Town Councillor, the fact that meetings are held in the evenings, would allow me to continue making a contribution at local level. Having had a flavour of public representation I found it was often the small things that made a difference locally, repair of paths; new signage; and assisting people who were having difficulty knowing how to access information from the Council etc etc.

I have in my letter of resignation sought for Catherine Murphy to replace me I expect a decision on this at the Council's monthly meeting on 28th July 2008.

Phone...Gerry McDonagh 087-6782207

MURPHY WOULD BE HAPPY TO RETURN TO COUNCIL

The return of Catherine Murphy to Kildare County Council will be a decision for the 25 members of that Council. Legislation allows for political parties to select their own replacements however with Independents all Councillors across party lines, in the case of Kildare, must agree to the replacement. Murphy was automatically disqualified from membership of the Council following her election to Dail Eireann in March 2005 under the Duel Mandate rule. Cllr Gerry McDonagh also an Independent was co-opted in her place on her recommendation, this was agreed to by the majority of Councillors at the time.

She declared her intention to contest the County and Town Council elections earlier this year having taken time out following the loss of her Dail seat. "I decided to take a break after the General Election which was a big disappointment for me. I had contested three elections in the space of four years and had two really enjoyable but really hectic years in the Dail, I simply needed time to recharge my batteries and take time out to think. I also had some things I wanted to do in my personal which I had put on the long finger. The issues that drew me into politics to begin with I still feel strongly about today; the lack of integrated planning, the need to build and shape communities rather than just build houses, the provision of decent public transport options, these are all underpinned by the need to build a society that is fair, backed by an economy that provides the means."

I am optimistic that my return to the Council will be facilitated by the Council at the end of July. While I respect the fact this will require cross party support, the custom and practice of the Council has been an honourable one, to date the mandate given by the electorate at the previous local election has been respected.

Catherine Murphy 087-2696450

Features

Honour the people's No to Lisbon

In the July issue of this newsletter we posed the question: What will Taoiseach Brian Cowan do? Will he align himself with his own people and respect the Irish people's vote by telling his EU colleagues that Ireland cannot ratify Lisbon as it stands, and therefore there is no point in the remaining States continuing with their ratifications?

Regretfully, it is now clear that Taoiseach Cowan and Minister Michael Martin gave in to Franco-German and EU Commission pressures to permit the remaining Lisbon ratifications to continue. They could have stopped these by saying that Ireland cannot and will not ratify the Lisbon Treaty, as the Irish people have rejected it. Furthermore, it seems they have entered into a duplicitous strategy of shafting the Irish electorate's sovereign decision, as follows. Firstly, all remaining states proceed to ratify to bring about a 26/1 situation by year's end. Secondly, the Irish government launches an official enquiry as to why the majority of the Irish electorate rejected Lisbon. Next, a short shopping list of 'demands' on company taxation, human rights, neutrality etc. is drawn up for Sarkozy, Merkel and the Brussels bureaucrats. Some of these demands will be graciously granted as Declarations and tagged on to the Lisbon Treaty. Concessions on a permanent Commissioner will also be granted. Finally, with threats of eternal banishment from the new Federal Union, a massive Yes campaign will be launched to bludgeon Irish voters in a referendum re-run in the spring of 2009.

However, this strategy cannot alter the fact that the Lisbon Treaty will remain intact as the legal and constitutional basis for a federal European super state. The Declarations would soon be superseded and become irrelevant footnotes to the Treaty.

Accordingly, The People's Movement holds that a popular, democratic campaign urgently needs to be undertaken nationwide to defend the people's verdict of 12 June. In this regard we note the lead given by the people of Sligo. At its meeting on Monday, July 7th, Sligo County Council unanimously adopted a motion which rejected calls for a rerun of the referendum on the Lisbon treaty. The text of the motion is as follows:

Recognising that the will of the people as expressed at the ballot box is sovereign, and recognizing that if all member states of the EU do not ratify the Lisbon Treaty it does not pass into law, and further recognizing that the people of Ireland exercised their rights as citizens to reject the Lisbon Treaty, this Council rejects the calls from Europe to re-run the Lisbon Treaty referendum, and we call on the EU Commission, the EU Council of Ministers, the EU Parliament and the authorities in the other EU states to accept and respect the verdict of the Irish people, as they accepted the will of the French and Dutch people following their decision to reject the EU Constitution.

The People's Movement is requesting that the members of Kildare County Council follow suit so that all the people of Kildare, irrespective of how they voted on the referendum, can play their part in honouring the sovereign will of the Irish electorate. Finally, below are extracts from congratulatory messages received after the Ireland's vote from our sister organisations in Denmark and Sweden.

People's Movement in Denmark:

According to the EU's own rules the renamed EU Constitution is dead after the Irish No. If the EU will not respect this, we must demand a referendum in Denmark," says Søren Søndergaard, MEP for the People's Movement in Denmark, congratulating the Irish people on their referendum. "For the third time the EU constitution project has been rejected in a referendum. In 2005 the peoples of France and the Netherlands voted No. Now the Irish have said a clear No to the slightly re-written constitution, called the Lisbon Treaty. According to the EU's own rules the treaty is dead," states Søren Søndergaard, member of the EU parliament for the Danish People's Movement in Denmark.

People's Movement in Sweden:

The Swedish people congratulates and is very happy with the Irish people's impressive vote for a NO in your referendum. The victory is even more impressive as Ireland are the only EU member country that has a compelling constitutional right to consult the people, when national rights are challenged. It is also very encouraging that you in your NO-campaign to the Lisbon Treaty resisted all the deceit and lies from the YES-campaign and the superior EU establishment

Michael Quinn
The People's Movement
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The People's Movement campaigns against any measures that further develop the EU into a federal super-state and works to defend and enhance popular sovereignty, democracy and social justice in Ireland. Visit <http://www.people.ie>

Party Political



Emmet Stagg T.D.

Maynooth Labour News



Cllr. John McGinley

Cllr. John McGinley's Submission on the Proposed Maynooth Development Plan

In response to Kildare County Council's invitation for Pre-Draft Submissions on the proposed Maynooth Local Area Plan Cllr. John McGinley has submitted the following on rezoning any more land for housing:

"I believe that there is no case for rezoning any further land for housing in Maynooth for the following reasons:

The Kildare County Development Plan 2005 to 2011 states:

"Given the level of land currently zoned for housing (2,700 acres in the county) it is not anticipated that any further housing/residential zoning will be necessary during the period of this plan. This however does not preclude additional such zoning in specific locations where the council is satisfied that a clearly established need for such zoning is evident."

There are 3,800 housing units occupied in Maynooth at present.

There is enough land already zoned residential to build a further 2,010 units, 1,117 of which have already got planning permission.

So the size of Maynooth can increase by more than 50% without any further rezonings.

In my opinion it would be planning madness to rezone any further land for housing in the Proposed Maynooth Local Area Plan."

Anyone Interested in an Allotment?

Cllr. John McGinley has submitted the following motion for the consideration of the Leixlip Area Committee of the Council:

"That consideration be given to providing allotments for rent on the 10 acres of land owned by the Council at Dublin Road, Maynooth."

Safety to the Rathcoffey Road Football Pitches:

Cllr. John McGinley has submitted the following question to the Leixlip Area Committee:

"What progress has been made on providing a safe route for children walking to the Rathcoffey Road football pitches in Maynooth"?

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Maynooth Traffic Management Plan

A draft copy of the Maynooth Traffic Management Plan proposals was discussed at the Leixlip Area Committee of the Council on 30th June.

The proposals include the new road from the Glenroyal junction across the bottom of the Harbour Field to emerge at Parson Street (This was part of the Harbour Action Area Plan). This proposal, when implemented, would result in Leinster Street becoming one way to The Harbour with footpaths on either side.

The size of the junction at Main Street/Straffan Road will be reduced with the three pedestrian crossings being moved closer together. The dangerous crossing at the Bank of Ireland will be integrated into the junction. The narrowing of the junction is being carried out at present.

The Mill Street carriageway would be reduced to 6m wide to encourage low traffic speeds. The footpath width on both sides would be increased to accommodate high pedestrian volumes. The traffic signals would be reconfigured to minimise queuing back from Main Street junction.

There will be no parking at the entrance to Carton Avenue to provide a large congregation area outside the school and there will be a new Pelican Crossing from Hands Corner across to Carton Avenue entrance.

The Plan also states that the Dublin Transportation Office are developing design proposals for a proposed Public Transport Interchange and Long-Term Car Parking Facilities at the Harbour Field. Cllr. John McGinley demanded that the Area Committee be kept fully informed of these proposals. It is Council Policy that any car parking at The Harbour Field would be underground.

Cllr. John McGinley has submitted the changes that he wants made to the Traffic Management Plan and when these are included the proposals will go on public display for comments.

Changes to Pedestrian Lights in Maynooth:

Cllr. McGinley informed the members at the Area Meeting on 24th June that the sequence of the pedestrian lights in Maynooth have been changed and are now dangerous for children as they may have to wait for a minute or more for a green light

which might lead them to think the lights are broken as the lights used to change immediately for pedestrians. John asked that if they are to remain so timed that a monitor be erected at each crossing to advise pedestrians how long before the light will change to green.

Harbour Action Area Plan

The Leixlip Area Committee were given a progress report on the Integrated Urban Design Framework Plan for the Harbour Area at their meeting on 30th June. Talks are still taking place with the Health Service Executive on what can be done with the Community Hospital and the Health Centre and it is hoped that there will be a resolution soon. At the request of Cllr. McGinley the houses in Parson Street have been included in the new Plan. The Area Engineer has also advised John that she will be carrying out the badly needed drainage and resurfacing of Leinster Street shortly.

Unfortunately, P. & G. Dormer has appealed the Council's refusal for this eyesore at the back of Parson Street to An Bord Pleanala. Cllr. John McGinley has asked the Council to make their views known to An Bord Pleanala. John and his colleague Deputy Emmet Stagg have also lodged observations to the Bord.

MCGINLEY LODGES OBSERVATIONS AGAINST APPEAL ON 5 STOREY DEVELOPMENT AT PARSON STREET/HARBOUR AREA, MAYNOOTH.

Cllr. John McGinley has expressed his great disappointment that P. & G. Dormer has appealed the Council's refusal of planning permission for 98 housing units and 10 retail units in 5-storey blocks with flat roofs, behind 11 to 18 Parson Street, Maynooth, to An Bord Pleanala.

Cllr. McGinley and his colleague Deputy Emmet Stagg have lodged observations in relation to the appeal lodged by P. & G. Dormer to An Bord Pleanala.

It is Cllr. McGinley's view that there is only one opportunity to get the development of the Harbour Action Area Lands right. The area is so large and significant that we must get it right, otherwise the townscape of Maynooth Town Centre will become an ugly development out of character with town's history. The proposal before An Bord Pleanala seeks to excessively develop the area to the exclusion of a co-ordinated approach. The Design takes no account

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of the unique Architectural Heritage of Maynooth or of the Historical Context of the Site. Cllr. McGinley and Deputy Stagg have called on An Bord Pleanála to comprehensively refuse planning permission for the proposal.

As Cllr. McGinley has stated in his original objection to Kildare County Council this Area needs to be developed as one project preferably by one major developer. It is essential to ensure that this sensitive area is developed to the highest standard and that we get the mix of developments right by looking at the whole area rather than just this one site in isolation.

Proposed Extension of 66 and 67 Bus Routes

The Council have agreed to Cllr. John McGinley's proposal and they will be working with Dublin representatives to see how the proposed extensions could be carried out.

John has passed on the views of the Beaufield and Meadowbrook Residents' Associations on the proposed extension of the 66 bus to the Council and Dublin Bus.

67A Bus Stops at Griffin Rath Estate, Maynooth--Inbound & Outbound--Hardstand Provision:

Cllr. John McGinley and his colleague Deputy Emmet Stagg have been putting pressure on Dublin Bus and Kildare County Council for some time now in getting bus stops at the entrance to Griffin Rath Estate.

The outbound bus stop is in place and Dublin Bus has advised Deputy Stagg that the inbound hard stand will be done in mid July. Once the hardstand is in place both inbound and outbound buses will be serving Griffin Rath Estate.

Improvement Works at the Public Car Park in Maynooth

Cllr. John McGinley was given the following reply to his motion:

"The Litter Warden will investigate the report of illegal dumping at the ESB sub station in Maynooth.

There are plans to locate a broadband hub at

this site (similar in scale to an electricity substation). Once this has been finalised, the position of the banks will be adjusted to reduce opportunities for illegal dumping."

STAGG WELCOMES CLIMB-DOWN BY GORMLEY OVER LOWER LIFFEY VALLEY SEWERAGE SCHEME

Deputy Emmet Stagg has welcomed the climb-down by the Minister for Environment over his decision to delay the Lower Liffey Valley Regional Sewerage Scheme though the introduction of new forms of contracts.

The Minister stated Deputy Stagg issued a circular on May 6th last stating that major contracts must use new forms of contracts from 13th February, 2008. This put in jeopardy the substantial work already completed by Kildare Co. Council on the Lower Liffey Scheme which will cost €12 Million and involved improvements to the sewer networks and pump stations in Celbridge, Kilcock, Leixlip and Maynooth. Work was due to start this Summer but was put on hold following the Ministers dictat.

Deputy Stagg asked the Minister to reconsider his decision based on the significant pollution risk which would be caused by the Ministers decision and which would have set the project back by 18 months.

The Minister has now advised Deputy Stagg that the Minister For Finance has agreed that, in order to avoid delay in project delivery, there should be some flexibility in relation to the application of the new forms of fixed price contracts and that, subject to certain conditions, tenders for water services contracts received before May 6th using the old form of contract should be allowed to proceed. Tenders for the collection network contracts under the Lower Liffey Valley Scheme were received prior to May 6th and accordingly this contract may proceed.

Welcoming the climb-down Deputy Stagg stated that the decision would now allow Kildare Co. Council to proceed with the work thus eliminating serious pollution risks.

Deputy Stagg also raised the issue of the delay in the Castlewarden to Ballygoran Water Supply Scheme with the Minister but the Minister has stated that Tenders were not invited for this project in time. Deputy Stagg intends to pursue this matter further with the Minister.

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HSE RELENT TO PRESSURE FROM STAGG ON PROVISION OF REPLACEMENT AUDIOLOGIST FOR CHILDREN

Deputy Emmet Stagg questioned the Minister for Health in relation to the decision to suspend the appointment of a replacement audiologist to carry out hearing tests for children in Kildare whilst there was a review of the delivery of the overall Audiology Service and pointed out that not filling the position would not help in reducing the waiting times for Hearing Tests for Children.

The HSE have now responded to Deputy Stagg indicating that a previous attempt to fill the position of Head of Audiology had been unsuccessful but that they intended to re-advertise the post in the coming weeks. The HSE also advised Deputy Stagg that they were seeking to fill the post of an Audiology Scientist on a temporary basis but were experiencing difficulties in obtaining applicants.

Welcoming the fact that the decision to defer the filling of these posts has been changed Deputy Stagg that it was critical that greater urgency was given to securing the right people for the Audiology Service in Kildare given that waiting times for hearing tests for children had risen from 3 to 4 weeks in June 2006 to 3 to 6 months now.

In conclusion Deputy Stagg indicated that he would continue to apply pressure on both the Government and the HSE on this issue.

NOT ENOUGH BEEN DONE TO REDUCE WAITING TIMES FOR EYE TESTS FOR CHILDREN

Deputy Emmet Stagg has continued to press the Government and the HSE in relation to the unacceptable waiting times for Eye Tests for Children at Maynooth and Naas Health Centres which have doubled since April 2007.

The HSE recently advised Deputy Stagg that the waiting time for new referrals in both Maynooth and Naas is now 13 months. Just over a year ago the waiting times were 8 months in Maynooth and 7 months in Naas. The HSE have also advised Deputy Stagg that extra clinic`s are being organised in Maynooth Health Centre for the Month of June.

Reacting to the response from the HSE Deputy Stagg stated that the waiting times were a disgrace and additional clinic`s should be arranged each month in

both Maynooth and Naas Health Centres with a view to eliminating the waiting times. It is extraordinary that children are treated in such a shabby way by the Government and it smacks of a push to privatise the service by effectively forcing parents who are concerned with their children's eyesight into using Private Opticians.

In conclusion Deputy Stagg stated that he intended to increase pressure on Minister Harney on this issue until service delivery improved to a point where waiting times are practically eliminated.

252 ELDERLY PEOPLE AWAITING LONG TERM CARE OR HOME CARE PACKAGES IN CO. KILDARE

Deputy Emmet Stagg questioned the Minister for Health in relation to the number of elderly people awaiting admission to a Public Nursing Home in Co. Kildare and the numbers awaiting assessment for Home Care Packages.

The HSE have advised Deputy Stagg that there are 107 people on the waiting list for long stay beds in Co. Kildare, 16 of whom are in acute hospital beds, and 145 people are on a waiting list to be assessed for Home Care Packages.

Describing the figures as appalling Deputy Stagg stated that the Government was failing to provide adequate services for 252 elderly people in Co. Kildare which was a shocking indictment of their policy on care of the aged. The fact of the matter is they simply couldn't care less and expect family members, neighbours and friends to care for people without proper training or support.

Our elderly citizens built up our Country to what it is today and Deputy Stagg indicated that he would continue to press the Minister and the HSE on these issues until proper services were put in place for the most valued members of our Community.

Cllr. John McGinley can be contacted at:

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Web: www.labour.ie/johnmcginley/



Party Political—Michael Fitzpatrick T.D.



Michael Fitzpatrick T.D.

Affordable Home Ownership – Easily accessible Information for the first time.

Mr. Michael Finneran, T.D., Minister for Housing, Urban Renewal and Developing Areas has launched an important new resource for affordable home purchase, nationwide. **The local authorities and the Affordable Homes Partnership are to market affordable homes available for purchase around Ireland on one website for the first time.** This site will provide extensive information on affordable home ownership and later this year, it will be extended to support also direct applications for affordable home purchase.

It was created at the request of the Department of the Environment, Heritage and Local Government and is collaboration between the Affordable Homes Partnership and all local authorities.

In welcoming the initiative, Deputy Michael Fitzpatrick urged anyone seeking an affordable home to check out this new website www.affordablehome.ie "Getting information on availability, eligibility criteria and application forms is now a much simpler process thanks to this new initiative, said Deputy Fitzpatrick. . Effectively, this website is a full information resource on affordable homes and will help everyone involved in affordable home provision such as public representatives, the construction sector and the general public.

This new website will also be an invaluable resource for everyone engaged in the development of affordable homes. The site will act as a direct access for prospective buyers to the affordable homes market. It is a very positive move by the local authorities and the Affordable Homes Partnership that will assist home searchers everywhere.

Each local authority has a page on the site, which provides information on their specific eligibility criteria and a copy of their application form. Affordable homes, which are available in each area, can now also be comprehensively detailed on this user-friendly website. There will also be information on each home, from size, features and useful facts on the locality.

In an attempt to facilitate the many new international communities in Ireland, information on the new website is translated into Polish, Lithuanian and Chinese as well as Irish. The first three languages were chosen based on CSO data and will help local authorities deal with queries from the public.

New Look , Easy to Use on line Certificate Service with a turnaround of just 1 / 2 working days!

Deputy Michael Fitzpatrick T.D. welcomes the introduction of this new service. Click on to www.birthsdeathsandmarriages.ie and take the stress out of obtaining your Certificates without having to take time off work. Have your Birth, Death or Marriage Certificate posted to you @ your work place/home. In addition, there is a Worldwide service for anyone born in the Republic of Ireland. Civil or religious Marriage Certificates.

Email customerservices@birthsdeathsandmarriages.ie or phone +353 1 801 33 33 for more information on these services.

Funding boost to keep Kildare clean – Fitzpatrick

Kildare is to receive a funding boost from the Government to tackle litter and graffiti.

"Kildare County Council will receive €32,000 from the Department of the Environment for public education and

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Party Political—Michael Fitzpatrick T.D.

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awareness in relation to litter and graffiti.”

“Kildare County Council is obliged to implement the Litter Pollution Act but will now include anti-graffiti awareness initiatives such as local media campaigns, clean-ups, primary and secondary school competitions, exhibitions and the production of videos, posters and leaflets.”

“This funding will be focussed where it is needed most as decided by Kildare County Council and will be particularly directed towards schools and voluntary initiatives by community groups who are working to clean up our towns and villages.”

“Keeping Kildare clean and keeping our towns and villages graffiti free keeps our communities more attractive and appealing for tourists and local businesses and it has a positive knock-on effect for us all,” concluded Deputy Fitzpatrick.

Good news for eligible students as Grant Income Limits increase - Fitzpatrick

The income limits for student maintenance grants are set to increase in time for the start of the 2008 academic year according to local Fianna Fail T.D.; Michael Fitzpatrick.

“The income limits are being increased in line with movements in the average industrial wage for students in receipt of the standard rates of grant.”

“The top limit for grant eligibility where there are less than four dependent children has been increased from €48,335 to €49,690. This will result in over 56,000 students from households with moderate incomes not having to pay the student service charge.”

“The increase in the income limits recognises wage increases and will increase the numbers of eligible students.”

“The annual income threshold for maintenance grants has also increased from €18,055 to €20,147 to reflect social welfare increases. This will help to ensure that students from families with the lowest incomes qualify for maximum rates of grants.”

“It is important that the financial constraints on students are recognised and practical supports are provided.”

“Anyone who thinks they might be eligible should check the ‘Students and Trainees’ section of the Department website, www.education.ie,” concluded Deputy Fitzpatrick.

Issued on behalf of Deputy Michael Fitzpatrick T.D.
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July 16 2008

Party Political—Michael Fitzpatrick T.D.

Explore Ireland's Rich Cultural Heritage by Bus !

Dr Martin Mansergh, TD, Minister of State with responsibility for the Office of Public Works and the Arts, has launched the Dublin Cultúr Bus, a free 12 noon to 5:pm shuttle bus service operating on Sundays between the city's National Cultural Institutions and other visitor attractions.

The free bus, which will run until the end of September serves:

Merrion Square, Dublin 2 (National Gallery of Ireland)

Dame Street, (Chester Beatty Library and Temple Bar)

Market Street off Thomas Street, (Guinness Storehouse)

Military Road, (Irish Museum of Modern Art)

Wolfe Tone Quay, (National Museum of Ireland, Collins Barracks - *Decorative Arts and History*)

Parnell Square, (Dublin City Gallery, the Hugh Lane; Dublin Writers' Museum and the James Joyce Centre)

Nassau Street, (National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street - *Archaeology*; Trinity College - the *Book of Kells* and the new *Science Gallery*)

The Cultúr Bus service runs every thirty minutes. The first bus departs from the National Gallery of Ireland, (Merrion Square entrance) at noon each Sunday.

Agreeing with Minister Mansergh, Deputy Michael Fitzpatrick said "Cultural activities provide people of all ages with opportunities to spend enjoyable recreational time together. A variety of events and exhibitions are planned to explore in our capital throughout the summer. With free access to many of these exhibitions combined now with this free Sunday bus service, I would particularly encourage the people of Kildare to enjoy all that our cultural heritage has to offer." We live so close to Dublin, it is the perfect opportunity for families to enjoy a lovely day out exploring our rich culture".

Further details about Ireland's designated **National Cultural Institutions** are available on the Council of National Cultural Institutions (CNCI) website (www.cnci.ie)

Issued On behalf of Michael Fitzpatrick T.D.

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June 30 2008

Party Political—Áine Brady T.D.

Aine Brady TD - Constituency Office Maynooth, No 2 Centre Point, The Mall, Maynooth - available to meet constituents every Monday. Please phone 01 618 3057 or 01 628 5257 for an appointment.



Aine Brady T.D.

School uniform assistance available for eligible families - Brady

Eligible families who are planning for the next school year should be aware of the available assistance with Back to School Clothing and Footwear Allowance, according to local Fianna Fail T.D. Áine Brady.

"Parents may need to spread the cost of returning to school over the summer but eligible families should be aware that assistance in purchasing uniforms and footwear is available from this month."

"Over 190,000 primary and post-primary pupils around the country benefit from this allowance."

"This vital allowance is to be increased by 15% from last year."

"Those eligible can receive €200 for each child between aged between 2 and 11 years and €305 for each child aged between 12 and 22 years."

"Parents can apply to their local HSE office for funding under the Scheme from now right until the end of September."

"Families who are eligible include those in receipt of certain social welfare and HSE payments, those who are in receipt of Family Income Supplement or taking in part in approved employment schemes or training courses."

"It may seem early to be planning for next year as primary schools break up for the summer, but it often suits families to spread the cost over the summer months and the Government is keen to facilitate that."

"If parents or guardians are unsure if they qualify they should contact their Community Welfare Officer at the local HSE office for more information, check the website www.welfare.ie, or LoCall 1890 66 22 44," concluded Deputy Brady.

Progress on Waste Water Investment for Kildare says Brady

Deputy Aine Brady has been informed by the Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Michael Kitt TD, that significant Waste Water Infrastructural projects in Kildare will be allowed to proceed, subject to sanctioning arrangements, under the old form of contract, which should reduce the time-line for the projects. The projects which will benefit from the announcement include the Lower Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme and the Derrinturn Waster Water Treatment Works (WWTW).

'In October 2006, the Government introduced new forms of fixed price contract for public sector construction projects in order to limit the risk of cost over-runs, and achieve better value for money for the state. Transitional arrangements for contracts which were being advanced under the old form of contracts came to an end on 13th of February last.'

'The ending of this transitional arrangement meant that the Lower Liffey Valley Sewerage Scheme and the Derrinturn WWTW would have had to be retendered. This had the potential to significantly add to the delay in the roll out of these much needed projects.'

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'I, together with some of my party colleagues, made representations to Minister Kitt and the Minister for Finance and sought a dispensation for these projects which had reached a very advanced stage in the tendering process. The Ministers have now confirmed that these contracts will be allowed to proceed under the old form, subject to final details to be worked out in the coming days. This will significantly reduce the timescale for the projects.' concluded Deputy Brady.

Unemployed young people to be given opportunity to return to education – Brady

Young people who are out of work for more than six months are to be given the opportunity to return to education, according to Kildare North Fianna Fail T.D., Áine Brady.

"The Minister for Social and Family Affairs announced this week that the €71million available under the Back to Education Allowance Scheme this year will be specifically targeted at young men and women between the ages of 18 and 25 who are signing on the Live Register."

"The Minister has asked the officials in her Department to operate a specific programme over the summer months to identify and contact young people who may be eligible to qualify for the Back to Education Allowance Scheme."

"Recent CSO figures showed an increase in the amount of young people signing on, and the Government is keen to address the trend."

"The Back to Education Allowance Scheme enables participants to receive a weekly rate of payment equivalent to their second or third level education. This payment is not means tested and there is also an additional payment of €500 paid to participants at the start of the academic year."

"This financial assistance enables people to return to education, up-skill or re-skill, with a view to improving their future employment prospects."

"In the last academic year almost 9,000 men and women availed of the Back to Education Allowance Scheme. It is a very successful scheme and I would like to encourage anyone who is struggling to find work to investigate their eligibility," concluded Deputy Brady.

DTA Bill will bring Focus to Transport Policy says Brady

Deputy Aine Brady, Convenor of the Joint Oireachtas Transport Committee, has welcomed the passing of the Dublin Transportation Authority Bill 2008 through the Dail's Transport Committee and said that the Bill will bring benefits to Kildare Commuters.

'The purpose of the Bill is to set up the Dublin Transportation Authority (DTA) so that we can get the effective implementation of Transport 21 and a coherent Integrated Transport System for the Greater Dublin Area. Kildare is included, by definition in the Bill, as been part of the Greater Dublin Area (GDA).'

'The Authority will be responsible for the Integrated Ticketing project, to promote Public Transport with a common Brand and to procure the necessary Public Passenger Transport Services. It will ensure, for the first time, that there will be a single accountable body responsible for the management of the surface transport in the GDA.'

'The Authority will ensure that more buses and a better train service will be provided for Kildare Commuters. The big advantage of the Authority will be the streamlining in the delivery of Transport 21 and related projects.'

'The Minister for Transport has also informed me that he intends to reform the 1932 Transportation Act. This will ensure that the kind of anti competitive practices, such as those alleged to have taken place on some of the Circleline routes, will be outlawed.' concluded Deputy Brady.

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Gaps in Broadband Coverage to be addressed

Deputy Aine Brady has been informed by the Minister for Communications, Eamon Ryan TD, that it is his priority to ensure that the final gaps in Broadband Coverage will be addressed in the near future. The information came following a Parliamentary Question to the Minister after Deputy Brady raising the issue of Broadband Coverage in the Timahoe area.

'Although broadband is now widely available in Ireland there are still some parts of the country where the private sector will be unable to justify the commercial provision of broadband services. These areas are being addressed by the National Broadband Scheme (NBS), which will provide broadband services to areas that are currently unserved and will ensure that all reasonable requests for broadband are met.' stated Deputy Brady.

'The first phase of the NBS procurement process (Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ)) is now complete. The remaining candidates have been engaged in "Competitive Dialogue" with the Department and are developing their proposed solutions to meet the Department's requirements.'

'The widespread provision of broadband services continues to be a priority for the Government. It is currently expected that a preferred bidder for the NBS will be selected in September 2008, with rollout to commence as soon as possible thereafter.' concluded Deputy Brady.

Details of broadband suppliers, prices and locations throughout the country are available on www.broadband.gov.ie.

€89,000 for Youth Clubs in Kildare says Brady

Deputy Aine Brady has been informed by the Minister for Education and Science, Batt O'Keeffe TD, that Kildare is to receive €89,000 towards the support of youth groups and schools in Kildare.

'The Government has allocated the funding from the Dormant Accounts Fund and RAPID Leverage Fund to enhance facilities for youth groups and schools.' stated Deputy Brady.

'Since getting elected last year, I have highlighted to all relevant Government Ministers, the requirement to continue to invest in facilities for our youth. Kildare has seen rapid residential development in recent years, and we must continue to invest in matching community and youth facilities.'

€1,000 Childminding Grant Launched says Brady

Deputy Aine Brady has been informed by the Minister for Children and Youth Affairs, Barry Andrews TD, that his Department has launched the New Childminders Development Grant, allowing for a Childminder to invest in Equipment, Toys or minor household adaptations to assist in childminding.

'The new Childminders Development Grant scheme contains a number of significant improvements, including a major increase in the maximum grant from €630 to €1,000 for Childminders, the Grant is also available to Childminders who have already been grant aided under the EOCP (Equal Opportunities Childcare Programme) scheme.'

'We must continue to invest in Childcare facilities. For many families, childminding is the primary source of childcare provision for their children and this is mainly due to the home-from-home environment that it offers. The Government recognises the valuable contribution of childminders and has established a variety of supports for the childminding sector.'

'Full Details of the Childminding Grant can be obtained from the Kildare County Childcare Committee in Kildare.' concluded Deputy Brady.

Further Details:

Kildare County Childcare Committee - www.kildarechildcare.ie - 045 861 307
Office of the Minister for Children - www.omc.ie

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Childcare Benefit: Check your entitlements: Local 1 890 400 400. www.welfare.ie

Carers Respite Grant increased in June

Deputy Aine Brady has welcomed the increase in the annual Respite Care Grant for carers, which has increased by €200 to €1,700, and is applicable from Thursday 5th of June last.

'Over the last two years, I have met with the Minister for Finance and lobbied to improve the conditions for our carers. The Respite Care Grant, which is not means tested, is paid automatically to any carer who is in receipt of Carer's Allowance and Carer's Benefit. It is available to all carers providing full-time carer and attention to an older person or a person with disability.'

'If carers provide full-time care for more than one person, they are entitled to €1,700 in respect of each person that they are caring for. Full details on carers entitlements can be got from the Carers Association in Naas or Carers Ireland on 1 850 24 07 24, or the Department of Social Affairs on 1890 66 22 44.'

EU proposal to encourage children to eat more fruit welcome – Brady

The European Commission has put forward a proposal to establish an EU scheme to provide free fruit and vegetable to school children according to local Fianna Fail T.D. Áine Brady.

"The proposal comes following discussions on the reform of the EU Fruit and Vegetables regime."

"It has been proposed that Member States opting to engage in the scheme will match the EU funding and set up additional national strategies including educational and awareness raising initiatives."

"It is only right that we should be encouraging children to eat more fruit and vegetables and formulate healthy eating habits at a time when childhood obesity is on the rise."

"The proposal for this scheme has gone to the European Council and Parliament and it is aimed to have the legislation adopted in time for the 2009/2010 school year."

"The national 'Food Dudes' programme is already running in national schools to encourage children to try and enjoy fruit and vegetables."

"I am hopeful that the EU Scheme to provide free fruit and vegetables will work successfully in conjunction with the 'Food Dudes' programme and will provide children with the tools form healthy eating habits for life," concluded Deputy Brady.

Smoke Alarm Scheme gets increased funding says Brady

Deputy Aine Brady has been informed by the Minister of State at the Department of the Environment, Michael Kitt TD, that €800,000 has been approved for the Community Smoke Alarm Scheme nationwide.

'The Smoke Alarm Scheme is a 2 year initiative to install smoke alarms in vulnerable households nationwide and is administered by the local authorities with assistance from the voluntary sector.' stated Deputy Brady.

'In 2007, local authorities typically purchased 500 alarms (2 per household) and this fund was used to recoup the local authorities in respect of the costs incurred.'

'Given the success of the scheme the funding has now been increased by 60% on last years level and it will allow us enhance our community based fire prevention strategy.' concluded Deputy Brady who was also informed that Kildare Co Co would receive an allocation to purchase a new fire appliance as part of a €10 million national investment in our fire appliances

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 addressed to The Editor, Maynooth Newsletter, Unit 5, Maynooth Shopping Centre, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.
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NOTE TO CONTRIBUTORS

We request all our contributors to make sure their material is legible. If possible, material should be typed, but as not everyone has access to computers, the best way to present material is to use either neat legible writing or block letters, on one side of the paper. In future all letters to the Editor must have the writer's name and address available for publication. We emphasise that material submitted after the copydate will not be accepted and will be withheld until the following copydate.

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In case of errors of fact we will publish corrections when we become aware of such.

In the case of unfairly impugning the reputation of any person we hereby offer that person or their reputation the right to reply.

LETTER TO OUR READERS

This is just a note to remind you all that the **Newsletter** exists for your enjoyment and that we welcome all contributions from our readers. We would like to hear from any organisation or indeed from individuals with something to say or suggest. We hope you continue to enjoy your monthly read and keep us informed of your activities.

Community Council & Newsletter Staff

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