

MAYFIELD MATTERS

FREE

YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

FREE



ISSUE 71 - Christmas 2013

Generous Sponsors of the Christmas *Mayfield Matters*



We would like to wish
All our readers a
Happy Christmas and
a Prosperous New Year

Guímid Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain faoi mhaise oraibh go léir!

*Thank you to
all those who
contributed
articles and
adverts to
MAYFIELD MATTERS
throughout the year.*

Ceremony of Light



For more information,
see inside.

*See inside for
Christmas Mass times,
Confessions
Carol Services (for
Our Lady Crowned
and St. Joseph's) and
lots more.*

MAYFIELD MATTERS is a local community newsletter produced in the Mayfield CDP Community Resource Centre by volunteers with the support of the CDP staff; it is funded through the adverts placed in the newsletter, fundraising and some small grant allocations.

O Little Town of Bethlehem

Fr. Michael Keohane, Our Lady Crowned Parish

Bethlehem is an inspiring place. It is also a very tragic and isolated place. I have visited Bethlehem several times with different pilgrimage groups. While many pilgrims visit annually, it remains a poor place in contrast to the prosperity and bustle of nearby Jerusalem.

Yet, there is something truly special to awake for a few days in the 'little town of Bethlehem.' While it is economically isolated it is spiritually connected to the entire Christian world. It is a truly spiritual place. It might be economically poor but it is spiritually rich. It may not have the beautiful hotels, impressive roads and industries of Jerusalem but it has a unique heart and warm welcome. I recall one time innocently asking a brilliant local guide if one particular area was in Israel or the Palestinian area. He simply responded by saying that 'this is all the Holy Land.'

My best memory is when I celebrated Mass in an open area outside of Bethlehem called the 'Shepherd's Field' on a very warm and cloudless day. The Shepherd's Field is the traditional location of the appearance of the angels to the shepherds in the fields 'minding their sheep.' We sang 'Silent Night' in thirty degree heat but in a truly special place. One of the people present noticed a modern day shepherd leading his flock nearby. It brought the entire gospel account of the birth of Jesus to life. It was a special moment.

This year, the birth of Jesus will be celebrated simply in Bethlehem. It will be simple, prayerful and authentic. It will be inspiring for those present and a brief report may well be carried in our news bulletins. It is a special moment for the small Christian community resident in Bethlehem. The birth of Jesus will not be confined to the past but will be celebrated in the present in the right way, as spiritual, simple yet profound.



May the power of this simple celebration reach every heart and home in our area. We welcome that inspiration for our lives this Christmas. People who may be sad and broken hearted this year need this truth and simplicity. So many of our young Mayfield people are abroad and we think of them. Illness and worries can dominate Christmas. Please God, we can welcome the power and simplicity of the newborn infant, Jesus Christ. Perhaps, the more we need and ask, the more we will be inspired by the simplicity and presence of the newborn Infant.

A truly happy and holy Christmas to one and all.



SUPERVALU

The Murray Family
and the staff of
SuperValu, Mayfield
would like to wish
all their customers
a Happy Christmas
and a Prosperous New Year



*THANK YOU
for your custom
throughout the year*





CEREMONY OF LIGHT



You are invited to attend the
Ceremony of Light Remembrance Event
at 7pm on Monday the 9th of December 2013

At this event a Christmas Tree will be lit in
Innisowen, Iona Road, Mayfield.

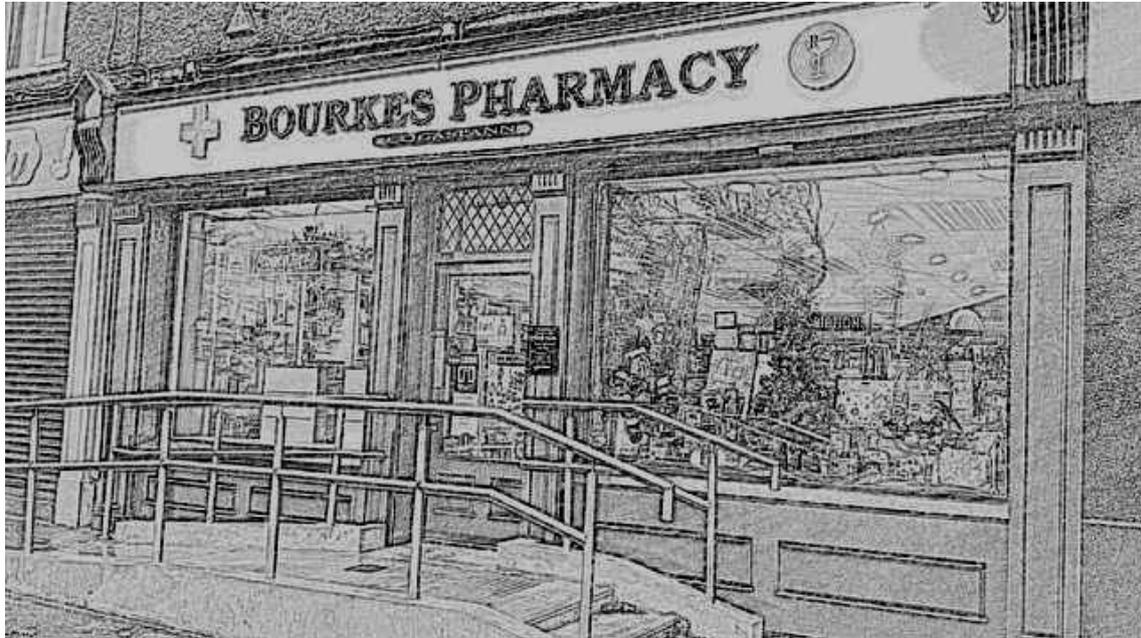
The tree will provide people with an opportunity to place tokens of remembrance. This event will include a candle lighting ceremony and singing by the Roseville Choir.

Everybody welcome

SOME EMERGENCY NUMBERS

GROW Information Hotline: 1890 303 302
AWARE: 1890 303 302
Samaritans: 1850 609 090
Mercy Urgent Care Centre: 021 4926900
Doctors: Southdoc: 1850 335999
Community Garda: 021 4558510
Bord Gáis: 1850 205050
Shine a Light: 021 4300135

Console: 1800 201890
Parish Mobile (Our Lady Crowned): 086 230 8622
City Hall: 021 4966222
Mike / The Warden: 086 7968947
Mná Feasa Helpline : 021 4211757
Women's Aid: 1800 341900
Cuanlee Women's Refuge: 021 4277698



Mandy and staff wish all our customers a very Happy Christmas and every good wish for the New Year!

We stock a range of perfumes and Christmas gifts for all the family at competitive prices.

Shop local this Christmas

Thank you to all our loyal customers, we look forward to seeing you in 2014!

Opening Hours

Mon - Fri: 9.00am - 6.00pm
Sat: 9.30am - 1.00pm; 2.00 - 5.00pm

Contact Us

Tel: 021 4502862 Fax: 021 4502957
e-mail: info@bourkespharmacy.ie
Web: www.bourkespharmacy.ie

N & G Barbers

Now Open in Mayfield
(Between All Round Beauty and Looney's Chipper)

WOULD LIKE TO WISH OUR CUSTOMERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR

Christmas Opening Times

Fri, 20th: 9.30am - 8.00pm
Sat, 21st: 8.30am - 5.30pm
Sun, 22nd: 12 noon - 4.00pm
Mon, 23rd: 9.30am - 5.30pm
Xmas Eve: 8.30am - 3.30pm
Xmas Day: CLOSED
St Stephen's Day: CLOSED
Fri, 27th: 12 noon - 4.00pm
Sat, 28th: 10am - 4.00pm
Sun, 29th: CLOSED
Mon, 30th: 10am - 4.00pm
New Year's Eve: 10am - 4.00pm
New Year's Day: CLOSED

Normal opening hours resume from Thursday, 2nd Jan 2014

Tuesday Special

Senior Citizens'
Dry Cut
Only €6

Wednesday Special

School Students
+ Juniors
Dry Cut
Only €6

Price List

Gent's Dry Cut	€9
Gent's Wash & Cut	€12
Senior Citizens	€8
School Students	€8
Juniors (under 7)	€7
Father & Son	€15
Hot Towel Shave	€12
Hot Towel Shave & Dry Cut	€18

Gift Vouchers Available



Contact Neil or Grace:
021 2390019
No appointment necessary
Home visits on request
Loyalty cards available



MY CHRISTMAS ON THE COSTA DEL SOL

Cecily Lynch



The plane to Malaga was like the No 208 bus to Mayfield. Loud cries of delighted greeting from neighbours and friends from the Barracks and the Glen rang out as I took my seat: “Miss Lynch you're the spit of your mother!” It was heart warming.

An enormous crib adorned Malaga Airport, dwarfing even the planes. We saw it as we made the descent; the figures were huge and dressed beautifully in rich velvet and lace. Everybody craned their necks to see it; it seemed to hover in the air. Somebody cried out that it was flying faster than our jet, but that must have been an optical illusion.

The velvet sea reflected the enormous stars and the miles and miles of coloured bulbs strung along the tiled promenades. Bells rang out in the warm darkness, for it was Christmas Eve. A glittering liner passed smoothly, trailing Christmas music and balloons in its wake. The air was soft and gentle, and smelled of palm. I took off my raincoat.

On Christmas morning the hotel orchestra played Strauss waltzes from old Vienna, couples danced among the palm trees on the beach. Bells pealed continuously, the population was in fiesta mood, the cafes were full to the brim, street musicians at every bend, children dressed in white marched through the streets singing hymns, boys dressed as pages scattered rose petals before the Virgin and Child; there were fanfares, marching bands and the Baby Jesus was carried in triumph onto the beach where the local fishing boats were blessed in a rollicking ceremony. I limped back to the hotel, exhausted.



The next day the bull rings opened. Huge crowds, wild and excited, crushed into the stands. The bulls were released and promptly rushed the fence with much snorting and stamping. The crowds seemed thrilled. ‘Ole Ole, Ole’ they roared, screamed, yelled. The bulls were retired and dancing girls came on. The crowd booed, and the bulls were released again, charging the gate and fences. The crowds went wild.

My next stop was the Amusement Park and Dolphinarium. There was an electric canoe which chugged up a hill and the rode the rapids down, like Niagara Falls. The queue stretched a half a mile for this one. In the Dolphin arena the trainers whistled and the dolphins leaped in huge arcs. I was charmed. It was beautiful to watch. Parrots and cockatoos screeched in the next enclosure. A sea-lion waddled into his pool. What a novel way to spend Christmas! I was entranced.



I then visited a Butterfly Park, the sweetest little paradise of fluttering beauty. The temperature was forty degrees to suit the fragility of these pretty ones. Gasping, I retired to the Buddhist monastery next door, where from the platform holding a gigantic golden Buddha, I could see the dark coast of Africa. I was on the Balcony of Europe at Christmas time.

The plane touched down again into a cold and rainy Cork, but I was smiling – I had been to a magical land.

AJ's Hair Design

Proprietors : Amanda Looney
Jan Sweetman

Location: 3 Iona Park, Mayfield

Contact Numbers
(021) 4552254
(085) 8236561

NOW OPEN IN MAYFIELD

AJ'S HAIR DESIGN
LADIES & GENTS HAIR SALON

OPENING HOURS

TUES: 9.30AM - 5.00PM

WED: 9.30AM - 5.00PM

THU: 9.30AM - 6.00PM

FRI: 9.30AM - 8.00PM

SAT: 9.00AM - 5.00PM

PRICES FROM:

BLOWDRY €15

LADIES STYLING €25

GENTS CUTS €8

COLOURS FROM €50

HIGHLIGHTS FROM €55



HAIR STYLING BY:
*Amanda Looney
and Jan Sweetman*



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St Josephs
Community Centre
Mayfield

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6:30-7:15 - Total Body Blast

7:30-8:15 - Tabata Fitness
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Phone - 0872039974

Twitter - @chrismacfitness

EQF Level 4 Personal Trainer

EQF Level 3 Group Instructor



12 YEARS YOUNGER IN 12 WEEKS

Sue-Ellen Moloney

Local ladies from Mayfield are at the half way mark in their 12 years younger in 12 weeks programme.

The programme consists of:

- Free use of the gym, personal training sessions and a full diet and nutrition program (sponsored Pulse Fitness in Mayfield)
- Beauty, Image and styling from Caroline Aigbologa
- Life Coaching
- Confidence boosting skills
- Cookery Classes
- As treats to reward the progress they will receive complimentary microdermabrasion, Body Wraps, Nails, Teeth whitening etc.

Caroline Aigbologa who is the proprietor of Pampering at Pulse Beauty Salon runs the programme on a voluntary basis with the help of local people like Trudie Murray of Pulse Fitness and Sue-Ellen Carroll Local Area Representative.

The members of the program are:

Anita Ward, Lisa Murphy, Laura Hogan McCarthy, Judith Leahy, Vanessa Fitzgerald, Lynsey O'Donovan, Gemma Keohane Galvin, June Daly and Michelle O'Driscoll.

Sue-Ellen Moloney who will be MC at the night of the 12 Years Younger Reveal said. "It is a privilege to be involved in such an inspiring programme. Caroline and Trudie are a clear demonstration of true community spirit. They are giving up their valuable time and expertise to help transform the lifestyles of these ladies. Also the support and motivation these participants have offered each other is incredible and a lot of friendships have been formed that will outlive the twelve weeks. They have the support of the whole community and they have inspired lots of other people to follow their progress on Facebook and start making changes to their own diet and fitness."

At the 6-week mark the girls have lost 107 lbs between them.



BLUE

Pat Healy

Gentle waves lap on the beach
Beneath an azure sky,
The smell of grilling fish
From the nearby tavern.

My husband's faded shirt
Taken from the line
Enveloped in fresh air
With a hint of aftershave.

The startling blueness
Of my firstborn's eyes
Greeting her life
With an unflinching gaze.

The deep blue of a summer sky
As dog rose perfume
And the fresh mown grass
Waft on the breeze.

The clattering of instruments
As theatre staff
In scrubs of blue
Swim in and out of a sedated haze.

Julie's Hairdressing Salon

103 Old Youghal Road

Dillons Cross, Cork

021 450 7201

*Would Like To Wish Their
Customers a Merry Christmas and a
Happy New Year*

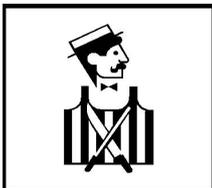
**Creative cutting
Artistic Colour
Easy Meche
Perming
Bridal Parties
Debs & Grads
Unisex**



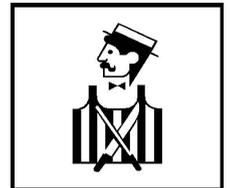
**OPEN MON-FRI. 9.00AM - 5.30PM
SATURDAY 8.45AM - 5.00PM**

GIFT VOUCHERS AVAILABLE

Coolmore Meats



**Butcher and Grocery Shop
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**Farm-Fresh Turkey 5kg
Half Green Ham
1kg Stuffing
Cranberry Sauce
Ham Glaze**

Special Offer €39.99

**Boned & Rolled
Plain Turkey Breast and
Half Green Ham**

**WE WOULD LIKE TO WISH ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR. THANK YOU FOR YOUR CUSTOM ALL YEAR!**

MAYFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL

FIRST YEAR GIRLS' VISIT TO SHANDON (by Lindsey Duncan)

Today I went to Shandon with all the girls from class Grainne and Class Ronan. It was a chance for the first year girls to get to know each other. We took the bus to North Main Street and we had to walk up the big hill to get to the Shandon bells. First, we went to Linehan's Sweet shop. They told us that they made all their sweets from scratch which I thought was really cool. I bought their Apple drops and I thought they tasted gorgeous. Then we went to the Shandon bells. It was €2.00 to go in. We wore earplugs to protect our ears. Then we went up to the second floor where we played a tune of our choice on the bells. When we got up to the top floor the view was beautiful. I thought that Ms. Carne had the hardest climb as she climbed to the top in heels. We then went into the Cathedral. Ms. Lynch pointed out that they had a very famous stained glass window - it looked gorgeous. We then went to a café in town for hot chocolate and muffins. We got back to school just in time to go home.

HOMEWORK CLUB / LINKS WITH U.C.C. & C.I.T.

Every Monday, students from U.C.C and C.I.T help us to run our Homework Club. First Years are given assistance with their homework and our 3rd Year students are given specialised help to prepare them for their Junior Cert. We welcome back as part of the 3rd level group Bibly Mosa, Ashvin Valaydon and Martin Desmond who are now studying in C.I.T.

GRADAM AWARDS

Gradam Awards night is one of the most important events in our school year when we celebrate excellence in the academic, social and sporting activities of our students. This year the prizes were presented by Past pupil Prof. Ronan O'Sullivan, Associate Prof. of Emergency Paediatrics, C.U.H. We were honoured to welcome him back to the school and as he recalled his time in M.C.S. he acknowledged how well his education here prepared him for his chosen career in Medicine.

ONE BOOK ONE COMMUNITY

We were delighted to welcome Orlagh Farmer of the All Ireland Winning Ladies Football team to launch this year's One Book One Community project. This is the fifth year of the project which is a Home/School Links initiative and our first year students and their parents will this year be reading 'The Ghost of Grania O'Malley' by Michael Morpurgo.

SCHOOL EXCHANGE TO SHANGHAI (by Megan Walsh-Farrell)

On 23rd October, I with 4 classmates flew to China. It was an experience of a lifetime. The flight took ten and a half hours flying over and thirteen hours flying back. When we arrived all of us were amazed by the tall buildings and unbelievable surroundings. The food was very different and unlike our Chinese food here. The chopsticks took a while to get used to but we also had knives and forks. The family I stayed with were so nice and welcoming and they never hesitated to help us. We visited a lot of sights, the Shanghai Museum, the Shanghai Science and Technology Museum and one of the tallest buildings in Shanghai, the Shanghai Financial Centre. We also attended a reception in the Irish Consulate with our teachers and the Chinese students and teachers. We went to their school and attended classes. Seven people travelled, Jack O'Driscoll Colm Wright, Stephen Barrett, Leah Harrington and myself, and two of our teachers, Ms. Fox and Ms. Daly. We enjoyed every second of our trip, it really was 'a trip of a lifetime.'

40th ANNIVERSARY OF MAYFIELD COMMUNITY SCHOOL

Mayfield celebrated its 40th Anniversary with a gathering of past and present staff for a service of celebration in the school. The gathering was addressed by Mr. John P. Murphy, the first principal of the school. Mr. Murphy spoke of the challenges the school faced as a new and different type of school in 1973. He recalled the unique features of the Community schools as they provided a multi-denominational education and a broad range of technical and academic subjects as well as providing a focal point in the community for Adult Ed. and Sports facilities. He thanked the parents and members of the Boards of Management who supported the school through the years and paid tribute to all those who had served in the school. Mr. T. Walsh, current principal said the the ethos of the school, nurtured in those early years was still a key element in serving the young people of Mayfield. He thanked the current staff for their caring and supportive work and thanked all the former staff for their years of service.

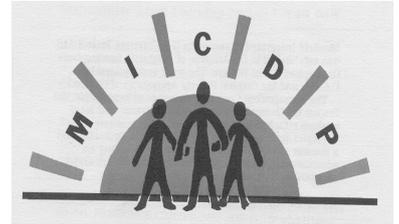


Mayfield Community Adult Learning Project C.A.L.P.



*c/o Mayfield CDP Community Resource Centre, 328 Old Youghal Rd, Mayfield, Cork.
Tel: 4508562*

Happy Christmas to all our learners who have participated on C.A.L.P. courses throughout 2013 and here's to a great 2014 when new learning opportunities will be available for you to take up and enjoy!



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Free Your Mind!

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Fionnuisce (above An Tobairín Health Shop)
Market Quay, Bandon

info@wisdomwithin.ie

www.wisdomwithin.ie



Mayfield CDP Community Resource Centre, 328 Old Youghal Rd.

Phone: 4508562

Fax: 4508507

mayfieldcdp@eircom.net



Resource Office:

This office is open Monday to Thursday 9.30am to 5pm and Fridays 9.30am to 1pm. Services provided to people and groups include:

PHOTOCOPYING * FAXING * LAMINATING

TYPING OF PROJECTS, LETTERS, CVs

BINDING OF PROJECTS

POSTERS * FLIERS * LEAFLETS

The centre is open in the evenings from 7 to 9pm.

Singing for Fun on a Monday night.

One-to-One Weight Management on Tuesday nights.

GROW meet on a Tuesday night.

Over-eaters Anonymous on Wednesday and Thursday nights.

The computer room in the centre is available to local people who need access to it during the day and evening hours.

Christmas Closing

The CDP Community Resource Centre will close on Friday, 20th December 2013 at 1pm and will re-open on Monday, 6th January 2014 at 9.30am.

The voluntary management and staff of Mayfield CDP would like to wish everyone a safe and peaceful Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Rooms for hire:

The Community Resource Centre has a training/meeting room (20-25 people capacity) which is available for use by individuals and groups. Smaller rooms are also available for use. Contact the resource office for costs involved.

Computer room:

The Community Resource Centre has a computer room with 8 computers which are connected to broadband and has WIFI access and are available to local people to use on a drop in basis. The room is also available for groups to use to run courses. To find out about this resource please contact the centre's resource office.

Mayfield Community Adult Learning Project C.A.L.P.:

This project runs community education, first step courses for adults living in the Mayfield community. Courses include Beginners computers, FETAC Level 3 computers, ECDL modules, Personal Development and First aid.

Rainbow Childcare Service:

This service is available to parents/carers of children aged 6 months to 5 years. Please contact Helena at 4508562 to enquire about available spaces.

Mayfield Community Garden:

A group of local adults have been working hard in the community garden that surrounds the Community Resource Centre. They meet on a Wednesday morning from 11.30am to 1pm to work on the garden. A trained tutor works with the group as the week's progress. The group is always looking for new 'gardeners' so if you are interested please contact the Community Resource Centre. A new addition to the garden is the poly-tunnel, so work is being done now to get that ready for planting vegetables. This is a resource in the community, it will cost you nothing to join the group but your time and as the produce is ready to harvest you can take it home to eat!

Mayfield Matters – local newsletter:

This local newsletter is produced in the Community Resource Centre on a bi-monthly basis by a group of volunteers. If you are interested in getting involved please contact the centre.

Age Action Ireland:

This organisation uses the computer room on a Tuesday and Thursday afternoons to run their one to one basic computer classes.

Alarms for the Elderly – for information on this scheme call into the Resource Office.

For further information regarding any of the above items please contact the Mayfield CDP Community Resource Centre, 328 Old Youghal Rd, Mayfield at 4508562 or drop into the centre and we would be delighted to talk to you!



RAINBOW

M I C D P

SESSIONAL CHILDCARE

021 450 8562

HE NDP pobal

Places still available but please call early to avoid disappointment.

To learn more about our centre and its services, contact Helena on: 021 450 8562 or email:
mayfieldcdp@eircom.net

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

ASTRONOMY MATTERS

Stanley Murphy



For this, the Christmas *Astronomy Matters*, I thought it might be nice to take a look at a Christmas star – *the* Christmas Star – the Star of Bethlehem. Referred to in Matthew’s Gospel in the Bible, the star is said to have revealed to three Magi (the “Three Wise Men,” thought to have been Zoroastrian priests and astronomers) both the coming and the birthplace of Jesus. But what *was* the Star which spurred the epic trek: a miracle, pious myth or astronomical fact? As this is an astronomy article I will confine myself, with festive context, to possibilities concerning the latter.

COMET? Could the Christmas Star have been a comet? According to NASA’s Don Yeomans, “A bright comet was recorded in 5 BC by Chinese astronomers as appearing in the constellation of Capricorn (the Sea Goat).” The comet, which was apparently visible for 70 days, was a “hut” comet, also called a “broom” or “sweeping star” and had a tail, or rays. The problem with the comet theory is that it didn’t appear twice (the Star of Bethlehem was seen by the Magi when they were in the East as well as when they travelled from Jerusalem to Bethlehem).

SHOOTING STAR? Did the Magi see shooting stars? Possible, even probable, but meteors and meteorites are too short lived to be the big, bright and sustained event we are told was witnessed.

SUPERNOVA? Was the Christmas Star light from an exploding star millions of miles away? The initial brilliance of a supernova is visible for weeks so it is a possible candidate for the Star of Bethlehem. Unfortunately, although astronomers can wind the clock back to pinpoint such phenomena, nothing goes back to the period of Christ’s birth.

NOVA – GUEST STAR? Might the Star of Bethlehem have been a *nova* or ‘guest star’? Less spectacular than a supernova, a *nova* (a huge explosion on the surface of a star in a twin system) fits the time frame. Recorded as guest stars by early Chinese astronomers (we know them as *novae*), one such *nova* was documented in 5 BC next to the star Altair in the constellation of Aquila (the Eagle). However, although it may have been spotted by the Magi, it is doubtful that it would have been bright enough to inspire them to make that journey from Babylon.

PLANET CONJUNCTION? So, if the Christmas Star wasn’t any of the above, what astronomical event *did* prompt the Magi to undertake their arduous journey in search of a new king of the Jews? The most likely answer is one that involves planets, those ‘wandering stars’ so beloved of astrologers. If so, Venus and Jupiter are the two most likely culprits. There is, however, another planetary possibility: the Magi’s Star of Bethlehem may have been two planets. One such event may be the planetary conjunction of Jupiter (the ‘king’ of planets) and Saturn (star of the Jewish people) of Saturday, 15th September, 7 BC. On that evening, as the Sun set in the West (due, of course, to the Earth’s clockwise rotation), Jupiter and Saturn ‘rose’ in the East where they appeared very close together in the sky in the constellation of Pisces (the Fishes) – a constellation, incidentally, that symbolised an end of one age and the start of a new one. The fly in the ointment of this otherwise plausible theory is that the author(s) of the Gospel of Matthew refers to a single star, not a conjunction:

Now after Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea in the days of Herod the king, magi from the east arrived in Jerusalem, saying, “Where is He who has been born King of the Jews? For we saw His star in the east, and have come to worship him.” (Matt. 2: 1-1).

CONCLUSION: From the point of view of astronomy, many difficulties face the Star of Bethlehem’s would-be revealer; but with quests such as this, entailing, as it does, a voyage through time and space, I don’t know that the journey might not be more enlightening than the destination. Whatever it was, the Star of Bethlehem remains fondly regarded; here it is as described in the Christmas carol, *We Three Kings*:

O star of wonder, star of night,
Star with royal beauty bright,
Westward leading, still proceeding,
Guide us to thy perfect light.

Clear skies and Happy Christmas.

Our church in the snow.



Photograph: Charlie Wilkins

Our Lady Crowned Parish Pastoral Council

Ruth McLaughlin

The members of Our Lady Crowned Parish Pastoral Council held their first official meeting on Tuesday the 5th of November. Discussed were ideas about finding ways on how to improve parish life. From a series of training sessions held over the past few weeks all the members really got to know each other and focused their attention on our hopes and aspirations for the future of our parish. Our Lady Crowned Church is a wonderful place of worship for our community and it aims to attract more people to participate in its services. Our mission statement will hopefully be demonstrated throughout all the ongoing and newly developed activities.

Mission Statement:

We the Parish Pastoral Council believe that by inclusively linking out community to our church we will achieve a place of encouragement, hope and faithfulness. We will endeavour to foster an atmosphere of togetherness, a sense of belonging and fun. We aim to provide a platform for parishioners to discover, share and celebrate the gifts of all, for the good of all, and so, grow in faith for the glory of God.

Christmas is coming upon us once again and we are very excited about all the celebrations. The beginning of Advent marks the preparation and anticipation of Christmas and we have a few activities for you to share at this special time. The Giving Tree has been a huge success for many years now and has given people the opportunity to be both generous and receiving of each others goodness. A big thanks to all, for all the amazing gifts and this year will again be very much appreciated. Our hope for the present time is that we see new faces come to celebrate Mass, experience God's love and receive a guaranteed warm welcome *home*.

We would also like to take this opportunity to wish all in our community and beyond a peaceful and holy Christmas.

CHRISTMAS DAY IN THE BORNEO JUNGLE

MICHAEL O'DONNELL

*“When you’re wounded and lain on Borneo’s plains,
And the women come out to cut up what remains,
Then roll to your rifle and blow out your brains,
And go to your God like a soldier.”*



It was Christmas day in the Jungles of Sarawak. The year was 1964 and the sun was beating down. I was a 19-year-old rifleman with the Royal Ulster Rifles, engaged on active service, on behalf of the Malaysian Government. Our patrol of ten men had opened a dropping zone for the supply plane to parachute our Christmas dinner. Two escorting jets flew by in salute - then the drop. The first parachute, a Roman candle, nose-dived into a swamp. The second parachute dropped spot on. A mad rush by myself and Cassidy, while the others mounted guard, to open the packs. We were met with a stench that even the Borneo rats could not stomach. Our comrades in the RAF had loaded the Christmas rations, in the sweltering heat, three days earlier and were prevented from dropping by enemy activity in the area. Not alone did the Indonesian Army want to shoot us: they also tried starvation tactics. A radio message from (Charlie Oscar) our Commanding Officer from West Cork: “Chaps have a good dinner.” If my self-loading rifle had had the distance I’d have given him a bloody nose (the same Lt. Colonel having issued orders before we went on patrol to, “Give the enemy a bloody nose” should we meet them on Christmas day).

A request to return to base was refused and we had no option but to invite our platoon for Christmas dinner in the nearest Kampong. Our Platoon Commander spoke to the Penghulu (Native Chief) and the Head Man duly provided roast Boar washed down with the local brew, Tuak (rice wine). The booze was served by young Iban girls who seemed to delight in our odd Western ways. We were sitting targets for the enemy who were reported lurking in the vicinity. Fortunately, as we discovered later the Indonesian army had a Battalion from the Island of Java who were Catholics. So a truce was unofficially called on Christmas day.

On St. Stephen’s day the Monsoon struck and we decided, against orders, to return to base. On our return we encountered activity in the bush. Hand signals pointing to a tree, possible sniper, officer indicates ‘fire,’ a body falls from the tree - it was an unarmed Urang-utan. We became the laughing stock of the Regiment. The tribes of Borneo Penans, Ibans and Dyaks (headhunters) are (Orang Ulu) country people who live in (Rumah’s) longhouses. They are the most peaceful people in the jungle until their culture is attacked and, like all people under attack, they retaliate.

My experience in Borneo helped form my political opinions and my respect for the environment. The Malaysian Government have done untold damage by chopping down the Rain Forests and, as a consequence, upset the eco-system. You can save Capitalism or the Environment: you can’t save both.

I Speak Of Ireland

Kevin Lynch

I speak of Ireland

Of Dingle's
half-pea walls
the bricks and the mortar
the air of men's calls

The far apart restaurants
the space and the greet
ferocity of weather
the land and her teeth

I speak of Ireland

Of the mouths of old ruins
that quieten one's toe
as soft as a baby
by pools of Dunloe

I speak of Ireland

The curve of her care
her intricate walls
unpursing
so fair

The view from the sails
looking out to the sea
my heart beats for Ireland
and she beats for me.

Frances Nolan,

N.C.C.L.C.CH.M.I Ch.Pod.Org

CHIROPODIST

Glanmire Medical Centre
Glanmire, Co. Cork.

Gift Vouchers Available
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Tel. 021 486 6745
Mobile: 086 369 3204



**Home Visits
on Request**

Volunteers Needed to Tutor over-55s on Internet



Age Action Ireland organises basic computer classes for over 55's in a variety of locations in Cork and Waterford City and County. The aim of the programme is to make older people comfortable using computers and the internet.

Tutoring is done on a 1-to-1 basis in small classes. Both tutors and learners find the classes rewarding and fun. Basic computer skills needed but patience and good humour just as important.

Training provided

For more information:

Call: 021 4536556 - Text: 0871956026

Email: gettingstartedcork@ageaction.ie

Memories of Tivoli

Michael O'Leary

O lovely lane of my boyhood dreams,
Encircled by woods and running streams,
The things I did in those days gone by,
Will live in my heart till the day I die.

Though my life has changed since my days in the lane,
The lessons it taught me will always remain,
Those grand old folk that lived down there,
I'll cherish their names with loving care,
The Fields, the Joyces to name a few,
Are part of me now in the things I do.

As the bough is bent so shall it grow,
And from that old lane I learned that is so:
For it taught me to keep my feet on the ground,
And remember to keep my thoughts always sound.

But when I lie and the night is still,
My heart and mind they travel at will,
To the times gone by when I played as a boy,
In that little lane so filled with joy.

Christmas, a Poem of Praise

Harry A. O'Shea

Around this dreary time of year,
When all the trees are dark and bare.
And birdsong is not there to cheer,
The world prepares for Christmas.

He chose to come as one of us,
Though He was Lord of the universe.
Angels sang at this holy birth,
Son of the holiest, Mary.

And Joseph, too, was present there,
Solid worker, man of prayer.
His job to nurture and to care,
For the wondrous Son of God.

And so we celebrate each year,
with holiest praise and family cheer.
Greeting cards and texts and more,
May Jesus come to bless once more.

Newbury House Family Centre Ltd.

021 4507999

Childcare Services



The primary focus of the childcare service is to support families from the locality by providing a high quality childcare service.

We offer the following childcare services:

ECCE Free Pre-school
Special Needs Service
Early Years Centre Crèche

Family Support Services



We are here to provide services to families and individuals who need help.

At Newbury House we support families in every aspect of our work. The coordinator will work with each family on an individual basis, support can range from providing information on services available to giving someone the opportunity to speak in confidence about an issue they are dealing with.

Child & Family Counselling



We offer a low cost counselling service.

Counselling provides you with a safe space to talk. You can talk about any personal or family problems that may be troubling you, in a private and confidential setting

If you would like further information please contact the centre on 021 4507999

DOOLAN'S / COW BAR

*Wishing all our
patrons a
Very Merry
Christmas
and a Prosperous
New Year*

*We would like to take
this opportunity to
thank you
for your custom over
the past year and
hope to enjoy many
more years
together*

DECEMBER MUSIC:

Sun, 1st: *Roy Buckley*
Sun, 8th: *Tanya Louise*
Sun, 15th: *Chris O'Shea*
Sun, 22nd: *Millennium*

**DJ'S ON:
ST. STEPHENS NITE
AND NEW YEAR'S NITE!!!**

*JOIN US FOR
WOMEN'S LITTLE CHRISTMAS
ON
MONDAY, 6TH JANUARY*

**TICKETS ARE ONLY €10 EACH,
WHICH INCLUDES:**

*A beef dinner (served with creamy potato,
stuffing, croquet, peas, carrots
and roast gravy)*

Complimentary Drink

*Music with In The Nick Of Time
A Visit From A Very Special Guest...*

Rocking around the Christmas tree

Geraldine McAuliffe



Dancing to Rock and Roll in the fifties and early sixties in Cork was something special. At Christmas the Arcadia ballroom was full of very enjoyable entertainment. We had a great selection of Showbands that frequently performed in the Arcadia Ballroom. The most popular bands were The Royal Showband, The Dixies, Clipper Carlton and, of course, the late Joe Dolan who had a great following.

Quite often we had to join the long queue outside the Arcadia ballroom on Saturday night. It may have been a wet, dull, dark and misty night but we didn't care for when we entered the ballroom, rock and roll music was playing - boy, was it fun. Constantly walking to work and cycling kept us extremely fit. There were no gyms in those days, no taxis, and motor cars were scarce. Walking home usually took over an hour, but even though it may have rained or snowed it was all well worthwhile.

Preparing for the dance on Saturday night involved having your famous bubble bath and oatmeal face pack, and of course the popular cucumber sliced thinly and placed over your eyelids. Sure you were a sight for sore eyes. Next in line were the hair rollers being put in, and a large net placed over them. When this procedure was over, the hair had to be back-combed, and usually a large amount of lacquer was sprayed over your head. Your hair was so stiff that it could easily have made a great home for many a bee to reside in.

Our house was usually available for the starching of the undershirts, and two galvanised buckets were placed on the poor misfortunate gas stove. Two of my friends would bring the famous Robin Starch, and this would be put into the buckets, and with plenty of stirring we hoped that it would be stiff enough to starch our undershirts in. This procedure took most of the night and usually ended with tea and cakes. We also observed the weather forecast because it was essential to have it dry. Out went the white petticoats blowing happily on the line for all the neighbours to see.

Christmas time was fun in the dance hall and usually some person would bring mistletoe into the dance, and this gave everyone a great opportunity to steal a kiss from someone you fancied. When ladies choice was called we would select a partner. This was your golden opportunity to have Mr. Wonderful in your arms. It was all part of the fun, as you rocked the night away.



The last waltz was your indication of whether you attracted the opposite sex, or not, because it was during the last waltz that you got your invitation to be seen home, but that meant only as far as the door. Forget about being invited indoors as the most famous Mantra was "Keep your Head and your Morals" and be home early. It is nice to look back on those memories, and to share them with those who remembered that particular era.

CHURCH OF OUR LADY CROWNED

Arrangements for Christmas 2013

MASSES

Tuesday, 24th December - Christmas Eve: 6.00pm and Vigil Mass at 9.00pm
Wednesday, 25th December - Christmas Day: 9.30am and 12.00 noon
Thursday, 26th December - St Stephen's Day: 9.30am

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday, 16th December at 9.30am

CONFESSIONS

Saturday, 21st December at 10.00am
Tuesday, 24th December: 12 noon - 1.00pm and 3.00pm - 4.00pm

ST JOSEPH'S CHURCH, MAYFIELD

Christmas Mass Times

Celebrating the Birth Of Christ

Tuesday 24th December, Christmas Eve: 6 pm and 9 pm
Wednesday 25th December, Christmas Day: 11 am

Confessions

Every Saturday after 10.15 am Mass
Saturday, 21st December 5 pm to 5.45 pm

Evening of Carols

Our Christmas carol service organised by the Marian Singers will be held in St Joseph's Church Friday 13th December at 7.30 pm. Schools' choirs along with visiting choirs will sing at our service. Everyone is welcome to this evening of carols.

Adoration chapel

Christmas/New Year Schedule

Closed all day Tuesday, 24th (Christmas Eve). Re-opens Tuesday January 7th
With usual opening hours.

Thanks and Season's Greetings

As we reflect on the past year, we have to be grateful for. We have been blessed in many ways, both individually and as a parish. Thanks be to God for another Christmas, for the gift of his Son and the promise of eternal life. We take this opportunity to thank each one of you for your ongoing support and goodwill over the past year. May you enjoy a very happy Christmas and may the New Year bring you peace and happiness.

Rev. Myles McSweeney. Fr. Michael Kidney SMA

A big thank you to the Sacristans, Eddie and Olan and their assistants, Niall and Donal, Ann McCarthy and the Altar servers, Collectors, Parish Choir, Marian Singers, Parish Council and Finance Committee and all involved in Ministry (Word, Eucharist, Adoration). Thanks also to the Altar society and all who decorated the church for Christmas, to the people of the Parish for your support, cooperation and generosity.



irwinspharmacy

77 Shandon Street, Cork T: 021 4304165

DECEMBER 2013

Mon 23rd	9.00am to midnight
Tue 24th(Christmas eve)	9.00am to 8pm
Wed 25th (Christmas Day)	Closed
Thurs 26th (St Stephen's Day)	10.00am to midnight
Fri 27th	10.00am to midnight
Sat 28th	10.00am to midnight
Sun 29th	10.00am to midnight
Mon 30th	9.00am to midnight
Tue 31st	9.00am to midnight

JANUARY 2014

Wed 1st (New Years Day)	10.00am to midnight
Thur 2nd	9.00am to midnight

OPEN ALL OTHER TIMES

Mon-Fri	9.00am to midnight
Sat/Sun/Public Holidays	10.00am to midnight



Irwins Pharmacy, Togher T: 021 4962777
Irwins Pharmacy, Mayfield T: 021 4506633

DECEMBER 2013

Tue 24th Dec (Christmas Eve)	9.00am to 3.00pm
Wed 25th Dec (Christmas Day)	Closed
Thur 26th Dec (St Stephen's Day)	Closed
Fri 27th Dec	9.00am to 6.00pm
Sat 28th Dec	9.00am to 6.00pm
Sun 29th Dec	Closed
Mon 30th Dec	9.00am to 6.00pm
Tue 31st Dec	9.00am to 6.00pm

JANUARY 2014

Wed 1st Jan 2014 (New Year's Day)	Closed
Thur 2nd Jan 2014	9.00am to 6.00pm

*Wishing all of our customers a Happy
Christmas and a prosperous New Year.
For any URGENT REQUIREMENTS whilst we are
closed during this period contact:
Irwins Pharmacy, Shandon St on 021 4304165*

CORK COMMUNITY PROJECT



‘A Red and White Christmas’ CD from Cork Community Project is now available in shops in Mayfield!

The Cork Community Project is a collaboration between the three Foróige based projects in Mayfield, COPE Foundation, the Voices of Cork Community Choir and Mayfield Community Gardai. It links children and teenagers with and without disabilities to existing arts community groups across Cork City.



The CD called “a Red and White Christmas” is the first product of the Cork Community Project and it costs just 10 euro with all proceeds going to the three Mayfield based Foróige projects and the COPE Foundation to fund future initiatives in the Cork Community Project. Lord Mayor of Cork, Cllr. Catherine Clancy, is Patron of The Cork Community Project.

The CD is packed with well known Christmas songs, some with a twist. A reggae version of “Rocking Around the Christmas Tree” and a punk/rock version of “Santa Claus is Coming to Town” features, along with a rearranged rap version of “Deck the Halls.” The eclectic mix of songs were recorded by various groups of young people who have come together especially for this project. These include a rock group, a rap group, a newly formed Voices of Cork Youth Choir and a 300 strong children’s choir from 11 different schools.

There are also various adult choirs from all around Cork featured performing classic versions of Christmas Carols. The massed Choirs include The Voices of Cork, The COPE Foundation Choir, The Carrigaline Singers and many more. All recording and performing groups include members from Foróige COPE Foundation and schools around Cork City. The St Nicholas Brass Band, The Barrack Street Band and The Cork Adult Flute Ensemble provided the accompaniment to each group during recording and performances. Renowned Soprano Mary Hegarty also sings on the CD.

One of the biggest highlights so far was performing at the turning on of the Christmas lights in Cork City to an audience in excess 15,000! The Steering Group of the Cork Community Project hope to sell lots of CD’s and continue to involve young people from Mayfield in more projects again in the New Year.

Cork Community Project Steering Group

Mairead Quarry, Foróige, St Josephs Youth Programme. Deirdre Dennigan, Foróige, Mayfield LDTF Phase 1, Martina O’Keeffe, Foróige, Mayfield LDTF Phase 2 (Lotamore & surrounding areas), Eamon Nash, Cope Foundation, Brenda Stillwell, Voices of Cork, Helen Courtney, Garda Síochana. Denis Howard, Garda Síochana. Caroline O’Donovan, Voices Of Cork, Margaret Roche, Voices Of Cork, Maire Ni Loingsigh, Community Volunteer. Paul Sherlock, Cope Foundation. Natasha Walshe, Volunteer St Josephs Youth Programme

CHRISTMAS @ HENNESSYS OF MAYFIELD

HENNESSYS

SAT 21ST ~ DIVA SENSATION
SUN 22ND ~ CLANN EIREANN
STEPHENS NIGHT ~ 9 TO 10.30 JINTY MC GRATH
STEPHENS NIGHT ~ 10.30 TO 12.30 DJ ALAN
SAT 28TH ~ ATMOSPHERE
SUN 29TH ~ STRINGS ATTACHED
NEW YEARS EVE ~ 9 TO 10.30 JINTY MC GRATH
NEW YEARS EVE ~ 10.30 TO 12.30 GEMINI
NEW YEARS NIGHT ~ JINTY MC GRATH

OF MAYFIELD

WISHING ALL OUR CUSTOMERS
A MERRY CHRISTMAS



A CHRISTMAS QUIZ

Dan Murphy



'Christmas is coming, the geese are getting fat, someone spent a penny in the old man's hat.'
Ah, good old Spike Milligan. I hope 'Yule' enjoy these festive posers...

- 1 Who wrote the song, 'White Christmas'?
- 2 Can you name the first movie to feature that same song ?
- 3 What were the names of the "Three Wise Men"?
- 4 The Christmas carol, 'Silent Night,' was composed by whom ?
- 5 Charles Dickens' immortal *A Christmas Carol* was first published in what year ?
- 6 The Christmas tree, candy cane and the advent calendar are traditions that are held to have begun in what country ?
- 7 Whose is the first recording of 'Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer'?
- 8 What was the first 'song' to be played in space?
- 9 Can you name all of Santa's reindeer?
- 10 When was the 25th of December set as the birth date of Christ?

Merry Christmas!

Answers at bottom of second last page.

Christmas is a time for remembering old friends

MAYFIELD STREET LEAGUES, 1952

Winners: Lotabeg



Photo taken in Forge Field

Courtesy of Vincent Condon.

Back row (left to right): Stephen Malone, Denis Foley, Paddy Joe Walsh. **Team:** Jerry Forest, Christy Roche, Mick Dennehy, John Mulhall, Tom Ahern, Billy Hurley.

Centre row: Gerald Quirke, Tom Dunphy, John Noonan, Paddy Forde, Donie Hurley, Mick McCarthy, Ned Kearney, Denis Ahern.

Front row: William Quirke (trainer), Toss Ahern, Vincent Condon, Dinny Hurley, Joe Savage, Timmy Lotty, Pat Flanagan, Paddy Brennan.

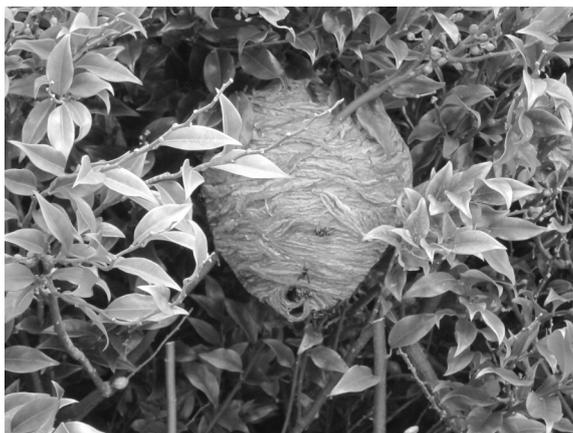
A DELIGHTFUL CHRISTMAS BOX

Charlie Wilkins

Winter can be very bleak and for many there's little in the garden to tempt them outside to the cold and wet. Most have been sated by summer's generosity so they allow themselves and their gardens a winter break while concentrating on other seasonal pleasures, and yet, anyone who abandons the garden altogether during winter can hardly be called a keen gardener. I'm not for a moment advocating a mad rush outdoors every time it stops raining and the biting winds moderate, but a half hour today, perhaps, and another during the week ahead would certainly work wonders for the gardener's constitution if not the general appearance of the garden.

In saying that, I look back in these blanched and pinched days to winters past. Then, fully active and in my 20's I was an all-weather gardener and nothing but total darkness drove me indoors. In my 30's I stopped gardening in the rain and in my late 40's drew the line at gardening in biting east winds. In my 50's I put off till the morrow what should have been done on the day, and now that I have reached an indeterminable age, the only gardening jobs I do in winter are the vital kind; keeping the driveway clear of leaves, ice and debris, covering tender plants, feeding the birds, putting out bait for possible vermin, and watching for the arrival of the first bulbs of the new season.

And yet this month and next are the very best for distributing fragrance around the garden! In summer, there is always too much competition from barbecues, suntan lotion, and new-mown grass, but the scents of winter-flowering shrubs so freely distilled and dispensed, seem to hang forever in the cold air. With these, there is little need to bury your nose in the flower.



Sarcococca, the Christmas box, is one of these, the most wonderful of the evergreen, winter-flowering fragrant shrubs. It flowers in the dead of winter and these can be white or pink-tinged, yet tiny enough to go unnoticed among its three inch long dark-green leaves. However, these work overtime producing vast quantities of perfume that will on a calm day catch your attention at a distance of 20 feet and more. It's a determined little plant, flourishing in sun or shade and in any kind of soil. Gradually it will attain a height of about two feet and in the process make a kind of thicket from which bits may be prised for propagation. It also suckers freely and these may be dug and replanted at virtually any time of the year. The blooms are sometimes followed by red or black berries, another reason why this plant is gaining popularity with flower arrangers.

Be advised that there are several species of Sarcococca in cultivation, all evergreen and all with white axillary clusters of tiny petal-less flowers. The most often offered for sale (also the most suited to small gardens) is the variety *humilis*-sometimes sold under its common name of Christmas Box. It is the smallest in the entire family. When planting, try to follow on with an under-planting of snowdrops in February. Then, the white of the snowdrops will not alone look handsome (set against the dark evergreen leaves of the Sarcococca) but when you draw near to inspect the snowdrop bulbs you'll get zapped with the delicious scent! Look for Sarcococca *humilis* now and plant when the opportunity arises. A word of caution before closing. This shrub is not a handsome looker and one could easily pass by without giving it a second glance. Buy it for the fragrance it pours out in mid-winter and plant it near to the back door so that every time you move outside with the washing its perfume will strike you. Hide it behind something large if you like, for you are not growing beauty but cultivating perfume.

St Patrick's Infants N.S.

"Spreagadh is Cúram"

Halloween Capers

Lots of fun was had by one and all on October 25th when staff and children dressed up in their Halloween costumes and enjoyed a range of organised activities facilitated by our wonderful Parents' Association.

Sponsored Walk

In October we held our annual sponsored walk to raise money for resources in our school. Everyone was delighted to get out into the local community and enjoy the Autumn sunshine while taking note of historical buildings, place names and areas of special note. A big thank you to all those who contributed.

Maths Week

Maths Week took place recently and in St Patrick's Infants we eagerly joined in the promotion of Maths through a variety of activities. Every opportunity was seized to develop problem solving and mental maths skills, play maths games and to take part in maths trails outside the school.

Useful websites : www.nzmaths.co.nz and www.Nrichmaths.org

Farran Woods

Our Junior Infants donned their wellies, hopped on the bus and headed off to Farran Woods to celebrate national tree day in October. Great fun and excitement was had by all as the children explored the woodland habitat, trampled through the Autumn leaves and stopped off at the woodland cottage for a well deserved rest.

Visit to Collins' Barracks

On October 16th, the senior infants from rooms 9 and 20 marched up to visit our neighbours in Collins' Barracks to celebrate Cork Week .While there they saw a military parade comprising of army bands, tanks, army machinery and soldiers. They were also allowed to try out the many military vehicles on show and got to experience what it is like in army lorries, tanks, boats and even motorbikes. They returned to school as trainee soldiers complete with camouflage face paint.

Parental involvement

A big thank you to all those parents, grandparents and family members who have been taking part in our in-school maths and Literacy initiatives including Maths games for Fun, Story Sacks etc. Your participation is very important in motivating the children towards a better education.

Cork Opera House

Senior Infants to visit Cork Opera House on Friday 13th December for a production of Aladdin.

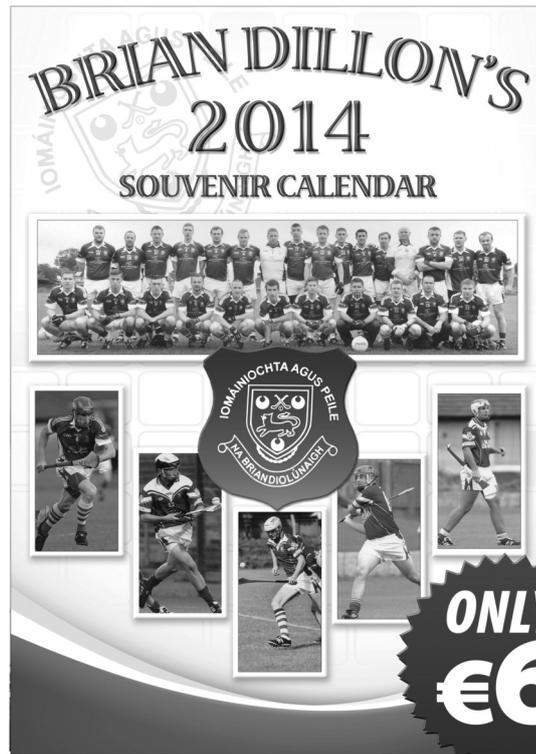
Our School production of The Christmas Story will take place on Wednesday 18th December.

Christmas Fete

Our school will organise a Christmas Fete in our school halla 9th-13th December



THE PERFECT PRESENT



NOW AVAILABLE

Featuring over 90 Great Photos!



Mr. JOE KAVANAGH

Working for you in our area

*Wishing you all and your families
a very Happy Christmas and a
Peaceful and Prosperous New Year*



Carrigmore, Middle Glanmire Road,
Montenotte, Cork City
Mobile: 086 230 7507
Email: joe_kavanagh@corkcity.ie



FINE GAEL

May it never end

Billy Herdman

This is the day that Santa's sleigh
Delivers all the toys.
The laughs, The fun, The midnight run
The prayers, The hope, The toys.
All children wait with bated breath
For this big man in red.
They yearn to see his bushy beard
As they curl up in their bed.

The leprechauns are all spruced up
And shining to the core.
They've thrown away their pipes of clay
No smoking anymore.
The gnomes the fairies and the elves
Are standing by the sleigh.
It's polished to perfection
To send Santa on his way.

At last the boss comes through the door
Arrayed in white and red.
With boots of felt and gleaming belt
He steps into his sled.
His workers gather round him
Deep in the Lapland snow.
They cheer him on, and when he's gone
They hear his HO HO HO.

The reindeer race across the sky
There prancing with delight.
The resting stop is Mayfield, Cork
It's their highlight of the night.
With a man so big that drives a rig
Across the endless skies.
And a million miles behind him
The tears rise to his eyes.

Because he's nearing Asia
To approach the Philippines.
The devastation haunts his thoughts
And darkens all his dreams.
But things will soon get better
As he gives each child a gift.
In these typhoon driven islands
He gives hopes and hearts a lift.

He wipes his tears, and the reindeer rears
At last the on their way.
Mayfield looms within their sight
On this hallowed happy day.
There's the library down below
Where students study hard.
Perhaps you'd like to join them
So just fill in a card.

As Santa skims above the road
With bags of treasure trove.
The moon above beams down with love
As he lands on Lagan grove.
Although he's old, he feels the cold
As he walks his magic way.
The bulging sack upon his back
It guides him like a ray.

The name keeps tumbling through his head
As he steals from door to door.
There Jacob, Jane and Killian
Along with thousands more.
He creeps into a bedroom
There's a gentle smiling face.
His noble call is worth it all
He loves this human race.

The children of Mount Brosna
Who tried to stay awake.
Had drifted into slumber land
But they left him milk and cake.
Then he floats down Kerry Road
And up to Silverheights.
He heaves a sigh and says goodbye
On this holy night of nights.

As he's leaving Mayfield
There's one thing he must do.
Stop at the Garda station
To the boys and girls in blue.
They work all over Christmas
To ease the people's fears.
So merry Christmas everyone
As he brushed away his tears.

GROW

COMMUNITY MENTAL HEALTH

GROW is a community mental health organisation which helps people who are experiencing any mental health or emotional difficulty. It also helps people who are looking to gain and maintain positive mental health. There are many reasons that a person might find themselves in difficulty – stress, anxiety, depression, loneliness and isolation. Some people come to GROW while struggling with a life crisis such as the loss of a job, a loved one or a relationship.

At a GROW meeting, you will find acceptance, support and friendship in a safe, non-judgemental environment.

GROW meetings are run by the members themselves, according to a well structured and successful format, following a 12-step programme. During the meeting, members can share their problems, learn how to rebuild their lives and report on their own progress. GROW's programme of personal growth is based on changing negative thinking and behaviour. It offers strategies on how to:

- *DEAL WITH AN EMOTIONAL CRISIS*
- *MANAGE FEELINGS*
- *THINK BY REASON*
- *REALIZE PERSONAL WORTH*
- *IMPROVE RELATIONSHIPS*

As the programme has to do with change of thinking and talking, change of ways and change of relationships, certain tasks known as Practical Tasks are undertaken by each member to help them make the gradual changes which contribute to good mental health. Developing understanding, acceptance, confidence, control and love is at the heart of the GROW programme.

Meetings are held around Cork City and County areas and last for approximately 1 ½ to 2 hours. They are confidential, non-denominational and free of charge, however a small donation to meet necessary expenses is usual, though entirely voluntary. There is also a variety of training and social activities to back up the essential group process. The emphasis of the meetings is to get people to avoid isolation and keep in contact with one another and to build links within the wider community.

The local meeting is held every Tuesday evening at 7.30pm in the Mayfield Community Resource Centre, 328 Old Youghal Road, Mayfield.

If you or someone you know is experiencing any emotional or mental health difficulty and would like more information, please contact Finola on 086-7702807, Local: 1890 474 474 or you can check out the GROW website on www.GROW.ie.

A Reader's Christmas

By Aidan O'Shea

My memories of Christmas are closely linked to reading. My very first Christmas book was *Lú the Leprechaun and Báinín the Cat* by Bríd Mahon. It was a delightful illustrated story in which a little boy like me had two secret allies. Lú could mend broken toys and trip any bully who crossed the hero's path. Báinín the cat, being magic too, spoke to the hero because he could make language from her purrs and cries. I did not want anyone to read the book to me, in case that they broke its magic spells.

When I was seven, father had bought a Philips radiogram. This featured a three-band radio (long, medium and short wave) and a three-speed gramophone (33.3, 45 and 78 revs per minute). He spent much time crouching on his knees tuning the radio to the BBC Home Service in the week before Christmas. We gathered round each evening to hear seven episodes of Dickens' *A Christmas Carol*. Father turned off the light and we listened in the firelight to the ghostly apparitions of Jacob Marley and the spirits of Christmas past, present and to come. My pulse still races when I think of those programmes. Their moral impact was stronger than a parish mission.

In a year or two, I had progressed to choosing my Christmas books in advance. Father was pleased with this, as he worked six and half days per week in the pharmacy. So he gave me a few pounds and I toured the bookshops; Mercier, Browne & Nolan's, Liam Ruiséal. If funds were low, there was Jockey Joe Kerrigan's second-hand bookshop by the Courthouse. My favourite choices were the William series written by Richmal Crompton, closely followed by The Famous Five books of Enid Blyton. Both series were full of mischief and adventure. I was absolutely dismayed when I discovered that both authors were female. How could a woman understand the pranks and scrapes of a boy like me? But they did, and their books are still in print.

Nowadays, my November book search is for my children and grandchildren. I recently attended a poetry reading in Triskel Arts Centre, with one eye peeled for Christmas gifts. People like to receive books signed by the author. Instead I found a book to keep for myself; *One Another* by Michael Coady (Gallery Press). Michael Coady (born 1939) is an Irish poet and short story writer, a local historian, a photographer, a genealogist, a journalist, and "a lapsed trombone player" (his own description), born in Carrick-on-Suir, County Tipperary, where he continues to live. This book is a delightful combination of poetry, short prose pieces and atmospheric photographs.

Here is a short extract celebrating Christmas from *Midwinter Butterfly*.

Because I was after making my First Communion that year, my father brought me to midnight Mass and up to the choir in the gallery where the organ is. From the church porch you have to go up this narrow stairs with two turns in it, so steep it's a bit like going up a ladder, with a railing to hold on to.

And when you get to the top and come out on a kind of balcony you see all the people below, and the altar way off at the top of the church, and the crib over to the side, and all the lights and candles and flowers, and the Christmas tree on the other side...When the choir started to sing with the organ you could feel the floorboards vibrating under your feet. It was like the whole building was turned into music...I was joining in with some of the easy carols, but other times the men and women were all singing different notes at the same time called harmony...Some of the choir make kind of funny faces while they're singing.

In the middle of it I looked up towards the roof of the church and then behind me at the big organ pipes that were playing. And suddenly a butterfly flew out of the pipes high up. He fluttered around in the light, then down across the empty space over all the people. Then he flew back up to the choir and before I knew what was happening he landed straight on top of my head and took a rest there for a minute. I didn't know what to do but I could feel myself blushing up to my hair. I looked up at Dad but his head was stuck in the music because they were all singing a big harmony chorus of "Fall on your knees, O hear the angel voices."

An old woman was looking over at me though, and she saw what happened. She sort of smiled even though she was still singing. When it was all over she said to me "James, you'll remember this night." I don't know where the butterfly came out of. He must have been dreaming up there behind the organ since summer.

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CONSPIRACY THEORIES ARE A CONSPIRACY

John Mallon

The whole idea of conspiracies is much discredited. Those who listen to them or even believe in such theories are usually ridiculed or labeled as stupid. Theories abound about what really happened to the Titanic, was the bombing of Pearl Harbour planned by the Allies, (to get America into the war) and was Pope John Paul I actually murdered in the Vatican.

But put three people in a room together for any length of time and two of them will begin to plot against the third. It is simple human nature. Knowledge is everything in our society as it always has been and keeping your knowledge secret or confined is the path to power and/or money. Insider trading is a classic example of this. It is a conspiracy to defraud or get rich through knowledge entrusted in the individual.

In the week of the JFK anniversary the air was thick with conspiracy theories about who was behind his untimely demise. Hundreds of books have been written on the topic, all with their own brand of speculation. But whichever one is the most accurate nobody is inclined to believe the official version of the events on that day in 1963. That one disgruntled lunatic with a bolt-action rifle could have done the damage on his own is simply unbelievable. However, several people working in tandem with powerful backing from an institution or even a Government could certainly have carried it out.

Over the last week I have been watching documentaries on the 9/11 terrorist events, (on YouTube). What is beyond doubt is that a Nation was terrorised. But big questions remain as to who was really behind it, why did they do it, and how the hell could they get away with it. The official version would have you believe that 19 disgruntled Muslims with minimal training on a single engine, two-seater aircraft, could pass through security at airports, hi-jack huge jetliners in the sky, fly them many miles and then ram three of them into buildings. Any other version of events is called a conspiracy theory. Indeed, to believe the official version you have to also believe that the whole charade was a conspiracy by the terrorists involved, and remember too that the official version is a theory as well.

But the contradicting evidence is compelling and after watching hours of professional documentaries including evidence from trained professionals, it is impossible to believe the official version of what happened that day in either New York or at the Pentagon. But disbelieving it is to believe instead that persons unknown conspired to wrack havoc in the USA that morning. Worse than that, well over a third of Americans actually believe that their own Government was behind the attacks. How's that for a conspiracy?

Any amount of metallurgists and construction engineers have come forward to testify that the steel girders in the Twin Towers could not have melted nor could the building's core have been damaged so badly as to collapse like they did. There have been numerous examples of skyscraper fires over the last fifty years, many far worse than the ones that September morning, but never before have even one of these buildings collapsed because of it. Then a queue of lifelong explosives experts testified that the manner of the collapse of the Twin Towers on their own footprint was consistent with controlled explosions. Eyewitness reports after the strikes suggest that the aircraft involved were military jetliners and not commercial flights at all. And then there were the anomalies at the Pentagon. Not a single piece of a Boeing 757 was ever found there nor were any human remains or even a piece of luggage. A sixty-foot wide aircraft travelling at 500 MPH, we were told, created a mere fifteen-foot hole in the Pentagon wall. Even worse, the first witnesses to arrive at the field in Shanksville where the fourth aircraft apparently came down saw a large smoking crater but no evidence of a downed aircraft. One might expect chunks of engine or bits of tyres, something to point to a downed jetliner. The FBI came then and cordoned off the whole area.

Yesterday, on a friend's advice, I watched another hour-long documentary about a Dr. Judy Wood and the best-selling book she wrote on 9/11. She shows conclusively that what she terms as, "Directed Energy Weapons" were used to "Dustify" the very concrete and steels of the building involved and she uses the official video footage in support of her theory. The one-third of Americans who believe their Government was responsible is collectively known as "Truthers." Dr. Wood maintains that their 'truthers's' conspiracy theory was actually also created by the individuals that controlled the Directed Energy Weapon. In other words, the true perpetrators conspired to create a first and then a second conspiracy theory to deflect attention from the real truth (of the energy weapon).

But conspiracy theories are closer to home. Many believe that powerful people in this Country have got together to socialize their private debts. If a TD were to use his or her power to influence planning permission for a constituent, that would constitute a conspiracy, wouldn't it? Helping a guy to build his house extension is a bit of a venial sin by comparison to the mortal sin of knocking down two 110-story skyscrapers, but it's a sin nevertheless. Conspiracies, by their very nature, require privacy and silence on the part of the conspirators to avoid detection. It is in this silence that doubts emerge and these beget theories about what really happened. Simply put, conspiracies and the theories that abound because of them, are everywhere from the very big to the very small.

Readers of the Mayfield Matters may even begin to believe that the Editor has conspired with useless writers to fill blank space here. I for one, can assure you that this is just one of those stupid conspiracy theories.

HANIEL THERAPY

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- no referral needed**

Venue: Inniscarraig Centre, Western Road, Cork
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Date: **Every Tuesday 8.00pm-9.30pm**

Support Group for relatives and friends on 1st & 3rd Tues of every month

Venue: Inniscarraig *House*, Western Road (Daytime Group)
(Across the road from Erinville Hospital)

Date: **Every Wednesday 2.00-3.30pm**

Venue: Blackpool Community Centre,
90 Great William O'Brien Street

Date: **Every Thursday 8.00pm-9.30pm**

Support from people who understand

ST JOHN THE APOSTLE N.S.

The Board of Management, staff and pupils of St. John's would like to extend a very Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year to all our school community and friends. We are presently very busy preparing for our annual concert and Christmas tests.

Sport

The boys from 4th, 5th and 6th classes completed an energetic and successful campaign in the **Gaelic Football Sciath na Scol** competition. The school team got off to a great start back in September, when their pace and accuracy proved too much for the Gaelscoil Mahon boys. The next few games were tough as wintry conditions challenged the team but they played their hearts out and made the school proud on each occasion.

6th class boys will participate in the Garda Community **Basketball Blitz** on December 6th.

Science:

On Thursday November 14th a group of science enthusiasts went on a trip to **Blackrock Observatory**. While there, they enjoyed a guided tour of the observatory, discussed alien life, sent a message to Space and explored theories of evolution.

The thing I remember most about the trip was trying to save Blackrock from a disastrous meteor explosion.

Darragh Prendergast, 2nd Class

Literacy

Junior Infants are privileged again this year to be chosen for the **Happy Talk Speech and Language Project**.

Siobhán Dowling, Speech therapist, and the parents of pupils, have introduced the concepts of modelling, expanding vocabulary/ sentences and promoting the understanding of questions. Many thanks to the parents for their continued commitment to the project. The boys from 5th class are taking part in the **One Author, One Community** reading initiative. The book this year is *The Ghost of Grania O Malley*, by Michael Morpurgo and the boys have developed great techniques for analysing themes and settings of novels. They will explore the novel through Art and Craft after Christmas. **Station Teaching** has resumed in all classes as part of the Literacy Lift Off Programme. English Additional Language classes for parents continue every **Monday** and Thursday.



ArtClasses

The parents of Junior Infants, Senior Infants, First and Second Classes enjoyed Halloween Art Workshops with Artist Jean Barry Murphy.



Sacraments:

Preparations are ongoing in both 2nd and 6th class for the celebration of the sacraments of Eucharist and Confirmation next year. Miss Synnott's boys have been kept busy with new songs and prayers for their monthly 'Do This in Memory' mass. Miss O'Brien's pupils attended the Enrolment for Confirmation mass in November and are enjoying the activities in the special workbook. Both classes look forward to their regular visits from Fr. Keohane and Sister Imelda

School Choir:

The school choir were delighted to be part of the **Cork Community Christmas Project** where they rehearsed 4 songs in school with Miss Cronin, and then joined many other Cork schools to record a CD in Our Lady Crowned Church in Mayfield. The choir will also perform on December 15th in the annual Carol Service.

Dates to remember!!!!

-Christmas Carol Service- Dec. 15th, Our Lady Crowned

-Christmas Concert- Dec.18th, School Halla

-Santa's Visit – Dec.20th, School

-Christmas Holidays – Dec. 20th Back to School- Jan. 6th

-Credit Union every Monday

News from New Inn N.S.

September and October have been busy months in New Inn N.S. Our new Junior Infants are a great addition to our school and are settling in well. Our students have enjoyed nature trails through Vienna Woods, trips to Collins Barracks, Maths Trails, Maths Fun Day and science trips to UCC. Football coaching, swimming lessons and Chinese classes have all commenced. Our football team have played four Sciath na Scol matches to date and great fun was had by all. The mobile library has been visiting our school and students are enjoying borrowing books on a weekly basis. Our school hens have returned after their holidays and the students are tending to their needs on a daily basis. Sixth Class students have started their transition to secondary school programme and have been busy baking tasty treats in Home Economics. Students have put together the Halloween Edition of our school magazine - The New Inn Times and are looking forward to Halloween and their Mid-Term Break.

The students of New Inn N.S. have had a very busy first term. The mobile library has been visiting our school and students are enjoying borrowing books on a weekly basis. Football & Hurling coaching, Swimming lessons, Table Tennis leagues and Chinese lessons are now well under way. To celebrate Maths Week, 6th class students organised several maths activities for the younger students including; guess the weight of a cake, estimate how many sweets are in the jar, addition and multiplication bingo and maths trails. Our Parents' Association organised a very enjoyable Halloween Costume Parade with students putting great effort into their costumes. 6th class students have started their transition to secondary school programme –they have been busy baking tasty treats in Home Economics and are looking forward to studying Woodwork in the coming weeks. Our students took part in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal - the children filled shoeboxes with a range of simple Christmas gifts. These will be delivered right into a child's hands – in places such as hospitals, schools, shelters, churches, orphanages, community centres or family homes. Preparation for our Christmas Carol Service has also just begun.

On behalf of the whole school community we would like to wish everyone a very happy Christmas.

The Cotton Ball



18 Old Youghal Road,
Mayfield
Phone 021-4503096

Now serving:

Fresh every morning, Scones and Croissants with a cup of freshly brewed Maher's coffee or a pot of Barry's tea

From 12pm our very own gourmet sandwiches with our home made soup of the day

And not forgetting our own in-house Pizzas made to order.

FREE "Wi-Fi" ACCESS

GREETINGS FROM ST PATRICK'S GIRLS' SCHOOL

As we approach Christmas it's hard to believe that a new year is dawning. The school is a very busy place. Classes are working hard on the curriculum as well as enjoying activities like Irish dancing, camogie and violin.

The 1st classes made the most of a glorious Autumn by gardening; 5th and 6th visited Collins Barracks as part of Cork Rebel Week; 3rd class worked on story cubes with their parents October was 'Reading Month' in our school and everyone enjoyed the written word We had a book swap and many classes went to the library to meet an author Maria Burke; 2nd class had their enrolment for First Communion on November 12th; 4th class joined with other schools to record a Christmas CD in aid of Cope and Foroige.

What's more, our school choir will be part of the Young Voices Hallelujah Choir in City West on December 7th. The girls are really looking forward to this adventure. They will be carol singing in aid of the Guide Dogs in Paul St. on December 14th. The choir will also participate in the annual carol concert in St. Joseph's church.

Our Christmas pageant will take place in St. Joseph's church on Wednesday December 11th at 12.00 noon and 7pm. All are welcome. It promises to be as colourful and special as ever, a wonderful example of the team work which makes St. Patricks such a great school.

ALL THE PUPILS AND STAFF WISH EVERYONE A HAPPY AND PEACEFUL CHRISTMAS.

ANGEL GUARDIAN N.S. LOWER MAYFIELD (1951) WITH THEN MINISTER FOR EDUCATION, SEÁN MOYLAN *Photo courtesy of Vincent Condon*



Can you spot yourself or a loved one in this photo?

12 DAYS OF CHRISTMAS AT THE MAYFIELD SPORTS COMPLEX

Day	On the 1st day of Christmas my true love gave to me ...	Was	Now
1	10 Teen Gym Passes	€40	€25
2	10 Aqua Aerobic Morning Classes	€50	€30
3	10 Aqua Aerobic Evening Classes	€75	€50
4	10 Aerobic Classes	€70	€50
5	10 Gym Passes	€65	€50
6	10 Family Swim Pass (2 Adults + 2 Children)	€120	€60
7	1 Month Gym & Pool Membership	€65	€45
8	3 Month Gym & Pool Membership	€170	€120
9	6 Month Gym & Pool Membership	€300	€200
10	12 Month Pool Only Membership	€250	€190
11	12 Month Senior Citizen Gym & Pool Membership	€220	€150
12	12 Month Gym & Pool Membership	€420	€320

These prices are only available to purchase from the 1st to 12th December 2013

Give the perfect gift of health and happiness this Christmas with all the above offers available as **gift vouchers**. For more information contact **021 4506232**



*Wishing you a
Happy Christmas
and a
Peaceful New Year*

DARA MURPHY

Please feel free to contact me at **021-4559353** or
dara.murphy@oireachtas.ie



Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Álainn

Imeachtaí/Activities

Winter market Dec 6th -Unveiling of new school mural to mark 20th anniversary of school.

Carol performances by Rang 2 in Montenotte Care nursing home in December.

New school of music started for pupils attending our school every Saturday morning.

Comhgairdeas Múinteoir Deaglán!



The staff, parents and pupils of Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Álainn are delighted with the appointment of Múinteoir Deaglán as their school principal. Deaglán has been a teacher in the school since 2000 and has been acting Príomhoide since 2012

Everyone is delighted that he will now lead the school into the future. Comhgairdeas Deaglán!

Science Week 2013

The pupils of Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Álainn really enjoyed studying Science as part of National Science Week 2013. Robert Hill paid us a visit from Armagh Observatory and put on a 3D show as well as showing the children how to launch rockets! Children from 4th to 6th class attended the X-traordinary Science Show in UCC and Senior Infants went on a trip to Blackrock Castle Observatory.



Winter Market 2013

Everyone always looks forward to Gaelscoil an Ghoirt Álainn's annual Winter Market. This year it will be held on December 6th in Brian Dillons Hall from 9am to 3pm. Entry into the market is free. On the day expect to see items made here in Cork for sale along with baked goods, bric a brac and a beautiful café.

A variety of must see entertainment on the day also.

FÁILTE ROIMH GACH DUINE!!!

Scoil Mhuire Banríon

This term has been particularly busy for everybody in Scoil Mhuire Banríon!

One author, One community

The launch of the 'One author, one community' took place in Mayfield Library on 23rd October. Our chosen author this year is Michael Murpurgo. Primary and second level schools from the community attended the launch. The Deputy Lord Mayor and Mr. Eamonn Kirwan, Cork City Library, spoke about the joy of reading and Mr. Paddy O'Brien entertained with stories, raps and poems. Some girls from 2nd class read 'The Butterfly Lion' and represented our school at the launch. Fifth class and their families are reading 'The Ghost of Grania O'Malley.'

Everyman Trip

On 23rd October girls from 3rd to 6th classes enjoyed a visit to the Everyman Theatre to be entertained by the adventures of 'Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat'!

Hallowe'en Disco

Witches, ghouls and goblins danced to the disco beat in the school hall, for our annual Hallowe'en Disco. Some were decked out in style by our ghost buster mams in the Wednesday sewing group!

All that jazz!

On Friday 25th October the entire school welcomed the great sounds of the 'Band of the Southern Command.' 'Michael Buble' sang some popular classics and in the true spirit of the jazz weekend the girls joined in with singin', swingin' and jazz hands!

Maths Week

Maths week took place from the 14th – 12th October. Classes performed daily for the morning assembly in the school hall and children and parents alike took part in number crunching, shape shifting and problem solving!

Science and Merits

Our monthly 'Merit Awards' are also an opportunity to enjoy the wonders of science this term. Classes carry out and demonstrate a variety of science experiments at every award ceremony. Facts, fun and who knows....a future Marie Curie in the making?

Road Safety Week

As always during the dark days of November we take a week to focus on safety in general, but especially road safety. Our Road Safety Week takes place from November 25th -29th. The girls are encouraged to wear their hi-visibility jackets and pay special attention to the 'Safe Cross Code.'

The clash of the ash

Third and fourth girls are enjoying indoor camogie in a 6 week programme rolled out by the School/Club Camogie Programme. Future All Ireland Champions in the making!

Fundraising

Our focus this term is, of course to help those in the Philippines. A number of fundraising projects will be rolled out over the coming weeks, including cake sales, non- uniform day, friendship bracelets etc. Thanks to the families of 5th and 6th classes who contributed to the 'Scoil Mhuire Banríon Bake Off' and to all who generously bought the lovely cakes.



CARBON MONOXIDE

The Facts...

Safety Precautions

- Ensure your appliances are correctly installed and **SERVICED ANNUALLY**
- Ensure that rooms in your home containing heating appliances are properly ventilated - **NEVER BLOCK VENTS**
- Make sure all chimneys are regularly swept and kept clear
- Use appliances only for the **PURPOSE** for which they were designed, e.g. do not use a cooker to heat a room
- **NEVER** use any appliance if you suspect it might be faulty
- If undertaking **ALTERATIONS** to your home which may affect the safety or efficiency of your heating installation (e.g. adding an extension, converting a garage, removing internal walls, changing a living room into a bedroom, double glazing / weather sealed doors) follow this safety advice:
 - Do not block or build around any existing air vents or flues
 - If creating a new living space, ensure it has ventilation in accordance with Building Regulations
 - If adding additional radiators ensure that your boiler can cope with the additional capacity
 - If you are altering or adding appliances to a natural gas or LPG installation, ensure that work is carried out to IS813:2002 Domestic Gas Installations
 - Get professional advice on ventilation and flueing before embarking on alterations to your house. Contact your fuel supplier for details of qualified personnel

Use Carbon Monoxide alarms but remember these are no substitute for regular inspection and maintenance of appliances, vents, flues and chimneys. Check that the Carbon Monoxide alarm complies with the EN 50291 standard.

Natural Gas

Choose room-sealed appliances. With room-sealed appliances fresh air intake for combustion comes from outside of the house and emissions are then discharged outside also. As such, the air in the room where the appliance is fitted is not used or affected by the appliance. Therefore room-sealed appliances (balanced flue or fanned draught types) are recommended for new and replacement boilers and water heaters.

Do you have an unsafe water heater?

Flueless gas water heaters are considered dangerous because they consume the air inside the room. This causes the products of combustion - including toxic Carbon Monoxide - to discharge directly into the room where the heater is fitted. If used for extended periods, the levels of Carbon Monoxide can build up to dangerous levels if there is a lack of ventilation. Open flue-type water heaters located in bathrooms are also considered unsafe. If you think you may have an unsafe gas water-heater contact Bord Gáis Networks now on 1850 79 79 79 for a free safety check.

Do you have a gas boiler which previously ran on oil?

In the past, existing oil boilers were modified to operate on natural gas. This was achieved by replacing the oil burner on the unit with a gas burner, with the old boiler casing and heat exchanger being retained. If you think you might have such an appliance contact Bord Gáis Networks on 1850 79 79 79 for a free safety check.

- **NEVER** use any appliance if you suspect it might be faulty. Have it checked. If you require a safety check of your natural gas installation phone 1850 79 79 79

*For new installations or alterations to existing installation always use a **Registered Gas Installer**.*

For further information call:
1850 79 79 79





HOME SECURITY INTRUDER ALARMS



Why install an intruder alarm system ?

It is widely accepted that intruder alarms are an effective deterrent against burglars, thereby helping to reduce the likelihood of your home being targeted. However, it is important to understand that an intruder alarm is not a replacement for good physical security. It should, rather, be regarded as a back - up to good physical and other security measures and precautions employed to protect your home.

What system is best for me ?

This is often a difficult decision to make and may be influenced by a number of factors including cost, design of residence, location and whether the house is suitably pre-wired. Your local Community Gardaí can offer advice and you should also talk to friends and neighbours about systems that they have installed. The alarm installation companies can provide specialist advice and your home insurance company may also be in a position to assist.

Choosing an Alarm Installer

All Alarm installers and installation companies must now be licensed by the Private Security Authority. A list of all licensed installers is available on their website. It is recommended that you obtain at least three quotes from reputable installers. The Gardaí do not recommend any particular alarm company but do recommend that all installed alarms should comply with the European Standard EN 50131.

Understanding and using your alarm system

It is important to understand how your alarm system operates. Your installer should explain the operation of the system to you and all other members of your family. Insist on a training session to demonstrate its features. Don't be baffled by techno-speak or other jargon, ask the installer to explain. Keep all instruction manuals in a known and accessible location. Do not write codes etc, on the instruction manual or on walls or doors near the control unit or keypad. This is a common practice and must be avoided.

**Any further information or advice required please do not hesitate to contact:
Garda Helen Courtney or Garda Denis Howard
Mayfield Community Policing Unit**



Answers to A Christmas Quiz



1 Irving Berlin. **2** Holiday Inn. **3** Melchior (Persia), Kaspar (India) and Balthazar (Persia). **4** Franz Xavier Grüber. **5** 1843. **6** Germany. **7** Gene Autrey (the 'singing cowboy'). **8** Jingle Bells. **9** Rudolph, Prancer, Dancer, Donner, Blitzen, Comet and Vixen. **10** 525 AD.

All Round Beauty

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Mayfield
021-4508976



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PAST AND PRESENT, A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND
A HAPPY NEW YEAR!*



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*Would like to wish all his customers a
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086 2111491

MAYFIELD MATTERS - YOUR COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER

All information printed in this issue is understood to be true and accurate at the time of printing. The views expressed herein are not necessarily those of *Mayfield Matters* or Mayfield CDP. We do not accept responsibility for information found to be untrue, but we do accept responsibility for any and all grammatical and typing errors.

Deadline for inclusion of stories, news or
advertising in the next issue is:

Monday, 27th January

Email items to: mayfieldcdp2@eircom.net
For further information contact us on
021 450 8562