



•Angela Jupe.

Angela Jupe to give talk in Maynooth on gardening

THE well known garden designer Angela Jupe will give a talk entitled 'Garden Talk' in Maynooth on 21st March.

Her talk, which is being hosted by the Maynooth Flower & Garden Club, will take place at the Glenroyal Hotel and will commence at 8pm.

Ms Jupe is experienced in the restoration of heritage buildings and gardens as she is in the design of new garden creations.

She is a Director of the Royal Horticultural Society of Ireland and is a founding member of the Gardens of Ireland Trust.

Ms Jupe, now retired, lives at Bellefield House & Gardens, which she restored, in Shinrone, near Birr in County Offaly.

Phil Dully, PRO of Maynooth Flower & Garden Club, in promoting the opportunity for interested people to come and hear Ms Jupe speak said this week: "Angela Jupe possesses a wealth of talent and experience in both architectural and garden design."

She also maintains a website dedicated to the promotion of Irish snowdrops (irishsnowdrops.org).

The fee for visitors to Ms Jupe's talk in the Glenroyal Hotel on 21st March is €5 and this includes tea, coffee and biscuits.

Kildare man has stolen stepdaughter's childhood

by Isabel Hayes

A WOMAN, aged 24 has described how her life has been ruined by her stepfather who sexually assaulted and raped her for over a seven-year period from when she was a child.

In a lengthy victim impact statement read out in Central Criminal Court on Monday (20th February), the woman said she would never live a normal life due to the abuse she suffered "from a man who was meant to love and protect me as a daughter."

The court heard the 44-year-old Kildare man, who can't be named for legal reasons, met the girl's mother when she was a baby and started sexually assaulting her when she was aged 12. He started raping her regularly when she was 15.

The man was found guilty by a jury last month of 17 counts of sexually assaulting his stepdaughter between 2004 and 2007 and 16 counts of raping her between 2008 and 2011. Ms Justice Deirdre Murphy will sentence him on 6th March.

During his trial in January the man maintained that his stepdaughter had fabricated the allegations against him because he would not let her boyfriend into the house. He does not accept the guilty verdicts of the jury, the court heard.

The garda in charge of the case read out the woman's victim impact statement, in which she said her stepfather had stolen her childhood.

"When other kids my age

were out playing with their friends, I was being abused behind closed doors and that's something that will never leave me," she said.

She said that six years after coming forward about the abuse, she is still "constantly living a nightmare".

She said she suffers from severe depression, anxiety and panic attacks. She said she can't handle enclosed spaces and often retreats to her bedroom and self-harms.

The woman said she had dreamed of becoming a psychologist, but her severe depression had left her unable to pursue a career or form lasting relationships.

"I will never live a normal life," she said. "I've gone through life with a permanent mask on, hiding how I feel...I will never recover fully from this. And for that, I will never forgive him."

The garda told Paul Burns SC, prosecuting, that the man married the girl's mother a few years after meeting her and they had more children together.

The man started sexually assaulting his stepdaughter in 2004, when she was just 12 years old and he started regularly raping her during her Junior Certificate year.

The court heard he first raped her on the landing of their home and then mostly raped her in her bedroom when her mother was out walking.

On one occasion he "froze" when he thought his wife had returned home, before continuing to rape her. On another occasion he made his step-

daughter watch pornography while abusing her.

The victim told the trial that she tried to stop him from attacking her by pushing him away, and that she cried throughout the rapes. She often put a pillow over her own head to cover her face during the attacks.

"She was afraid if she reported the incidents it would break up the family," Mr Burns said.

"The accused had also threatened to kill himself if she reported him to gardai."

At the age of 19, the young woman "couldn't take it anymore" and told her mother about the abuse. She then reported the man to gardai.

The man has two previous convictions for assault in 2006 and larceny in 1992. He worked for a period as a builder.

Roderick O'Hanlon SC, defending, said the mitigating factors of a guilty plea did not arise in this case. But he said the placing of the man's name on the sexual offender register would have an impact on his future.

Clane local area plan passed by small majority

by Kate Donoghue

THE CLANE Local Area Plan (LAP) was passed by a small majority of councillors at a special meeting of Maynooth Municipal District on 8th February.

The meeting's purpose was to consider the Draft Clane LAP 2017 - 2023 and the Chief Executive's Report on Submissions and Observations.

The proposal to adopt the Clane LAP and put it on display for a four week period was passed 5-4.

Those in favour were Fine Gael councillors Brendan Weld and Tim Durkan, and Fine Fáil councillors Paul Ward, Naoise Ó Cearúil and Daragh Fitzpatrick.

Opposing it were Cllrs Pádraig McEvoy (Ind) and Teresa Murray (Ind), Cllr Réada Cronin (SF) and Cllr John McGinley (Lab).

In his arguments against adopting the plan as it stood, Cllr McEvoy said, "the public need to know they're losing 20% of the land along the Liffey."

This was in response to a motion put forward by Cllr Weld that the buffer along the River Liffey be reduced from 100m to 80m, as per the Newbridge LAP.

Planning officials advised a buffer of 100m to embrace the town's relationship with the river for uses such as recreation, potential future green-ways and for flood prevention.

Cllr McEvoy argued that the reduction of the buffer along the river was going against core strategy, sending a message that they didn't respect it.

However, Cllr Weld's proposal to reduce it to 80m was passed by a majority of 5-4.

Another proposal by Cllr Weld was that the plan include the submission of 1.9 hectares owned by Clane GAA Club and Mr P Jordan for low density residential zoning.

Planning officials recommended against the change as assessment had shown that there is a flood risk at this location.

Cllr Weld's proposal was passed with the caveat that no development take place until sufficient works are done to address the possible risk.

Again, Cllr McEvoy advised against opposing core strategy. "We have to balance the risks," he said, "and not just look at adding more housing."

Community Garda to take up position in March

by Laura Mc Loughlin

A COMMUNITY Garda for the Maynooth area is likely to take up his post in March, according to Superintendent Gerry Wall of Leixlip Garda Station.

Sup Wall said a Community Garda for the area has already been appointed but that they are currently finalising what his exact duties will be.

Sup Wall made the comments to LIFFEY CHAMPION at the hoisting ceremony for Maynooth's purple flag in the Glenroyal Hotel on Thursday, 16th February.

"They will most likely be located in Maynooth," said Sup Wall. "We are finalising his duties."

The appointment of the community Garda comes after a hard fought campaign locally by the Community Policing for North Kildare Action Group, led by local councillor Teresa Murray (Ind).

Sensors installed to fix Kilcock's traffic problem

by Kate Donoghue

KILCOCK traffic lights, that were recently installed to facilitate Greenway works, have had smart sensors added to try and counter recent traffic problems in the town.

The sensor system, which adjusts traffic signals according to demand, was commissioned by the council on 15th February.

Designed to cater for a full range of traffic conditions, the system is called MOVA (Microprocessor Optimised Vehicle Actuation), and is programmed to minimise delays.

Frank O'Rourke, TD (FF) is optimistic that the system will go a long way towards fixing congestion in Kilcock.

"The hope is that by the end of the week at the latest, the sequencing of lights will be managing itself based on flow, volume and times," said Deputy O'Rourke.

"It should certainly reduce the traffic problems in Kilcock because it's based on what's happening in real-time rather than what has been inputted manually."

Since the lights were instated at the bridge in the town, there have been reports of delays and congestion so severe that people have been avoiding the town as a result.

Residents have expressed concerns that local businesses will experience a negative effect if this continues.

"Our concern is in keeping Kilcock vibrant and making sure any delays are minimized," said Deputy O'Rourke.

"It's important that the new system is operating as quickly as possible to as to get back people's confidence."

Deputy O'Rourke added that he has received assurances that the council will continue to monitor the situation until everyone is happy and traffic congestion is down to a minimum.

Alterations of pedestrian crossing still on agenda

by Kate Donoghue

PLANS to amend the pedestrian crossing at the entrance to Presentation Girls School in Maynooth are being kept on the agenda, heard a meeting of Maynooth Municipal District on Wednesday, 8th February.

Cllr Teresa Murray (non-party) put forward the motion that alterations be carried out at the crossing on the R148 to increase visibility and safety.

Cllr Murray said there had already been near-misses at the location and that "something has got to be done".

"I was told about a parent walking with a buggy onto the pedestrian crossing. A lady driving around the corner didn't see the buggy.

"It could have been absolute carnage.

"The position of the crossing encourages children and parents to cross there for school."

Maynooth Municipal District Office will inspect the location to determine what remedial works are required.

Cathaoirleach Brendan Weld (FG) said the matter would remain on the progress report so that it would stay in the forum.

TIMES PAST...



THIS photograph was taken in O'Keeffe's Lounge, Kilcock in about 1988-'89 and is of a group of local people, some at least from Newtown village in the parish.

The photo, which is in colour, has suffered some damage but is still clear

enough for readers to identify everyone in it except the woman who is out of view at the back.

• If you have an old photograph that you would like to see published in LIFFEY CHAMPION, do write to the editor at Liffey

Champion, The Cornmill, Mill Lane, Leixlip, Co Kildare, or email him on editor@liffeychampion.net . You are welcome also to give the editor a call on (01) 62455533. All photographs submitted will be returned promptly.