

# Heydon's HEADLINES

NEWBRIDGE AREA

FINE GAE 

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2015



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HEYDON TD

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## CREDIT UNION OFFICE TO RETURN TO NEWBRIDGE

Naas Credit Union have confirmed to me that they are seeking a premises to open a Credit Union office in Newbridge following the extension of the Common Bond Area last February and based on the number of new members they have received from the Newbridge area. I have been advised that a significant number of people from the old Newbridge common bond area have engaged with Naas Credit Union and, to date, over 1,100 new members have joined up and are now doing business with them.

Encouraged by these numbers in what is a relatively short period of time, Naas Credit Union now intend to open an office in Newbridge as soon as suitable premises can be located and appropriately fitted out for their needs. This new office will help to optimise the services they can provide to Newbridge members.

This has been a very difficult few years for Newbridge residents and businesses with the loss of the Credit Union. Having worked initially to protect member's savings, my next goal was always to see a return of Credit Union services in the town again.

I am confident that this is now in sight and I have offered my full assistance and support to Naas Credit Union Chairman Peter Fullam and his team as they seek suitable premises in Newbridge.



## ARMY RECRUITMENT NOW ONGOING

A new army recruitment campaign will strengthen our defence forces and is good news for this area of South Kildare.

The recruitment campaign for General Service Recruits is open to people aged 18 to 25 and the closing date is Friday 4th September. I encourage anyone interested in applying to log on to [www.military.ie](http://www.military.ie) to access the online application process. Applicants will be required to undergo a range of assessments including physical fitness, psychometric tests, an interview and a security check.

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PROMOTES  
NEWBRIDGE**

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# RESULTS OF CURRAGH SURVEY PRESENTED TO MINISTER

## MINISTER COMMITS TO CONSULTATIVE FORUM FOR CURRAGH

Thank you to all who completed my recent online survey for users of the Curragh Plains or who took the time to get in touch in relation to it. I have set out some summary results below and **more detail can be found on my website [www.martinheydon.com](http://www.martinheydon.com)**

I compiled the results and presented my report to Minister for Defence & Agriculture Simon Coveney. The main recommendation from my review of the survey results was the need for more proactive management of the Curragh Plains.

Minister Coveney has now agreed to my proposal to establish a consultative forum of relevant stakeholders chaired by the Department of Defence which will examine the opportunities and challenges that arise and give a platform for those concerns to be addressed. This Forum will also undertake an examination of existing bye-laws under the Curragh of Kildare Act with a view to updating them.

I have met with Department of Defence officials in recent weeks to discuss the Forum and I am hopeful that it will be established by the Autumn.



### OVERALL POINTS NOTED FROM SURVEY

- There was a huge sense of pride from Kildare Residents in the natural resource of the Curragh Plains that is synonymous with Kildare;
- Conflicting views exist that while more needs to be done on the Curragh, the natural beauty and qualities that make it what it is, need to be retained and protected;
- More work is required in monitoring the Curragh Plains to protect against the main negative elements of litter, dumping, driving on the plains and illegal encampments;
- There appears to be a lack of detailed knowledge of the rich heritage and history of the Curragh even among local residents. I found a desire for more information;
- Many respondents noted the potential of the Curragh as a tourist destination if walking trails information boards or historic information could be incorporated into the area without disturbing the natural surroundings;
- There appeared to be a lack of detailed knowledge of who has responsibility for management of the Curragh Plains.

### FUTURE CURRAGH DEVELOPMENTS

- Expansion of the UN Training Centre into an **International Institute for Peace Support and Leadership training at the Curragh** is a proposal outlined in the New Defence White Paper, which will be examined by Minister Coveney and Government. The Institute would position Ireland as a **global leader in peacekeeping and conflict resolution**, building on our experience in this area and on the reputation of the Curragh and the Defence Forces generally.
- Along with the significant **redevelopment of the Curragh Racecourse and gallops**, I believe the time is now right for the establishment of a Forum to focus on the overall Curragh Plains.

# FREE GP CARE FOR UNDER 6'S & OVER 70'S

## WE'RE TAKING THE FIRST STEPS. GP CARE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 6

With the new GP visit card under 6s you can bring your children to the GP for free consultations and wellness checks.

### What services are provided under the GP Visit Card under 6s

GPs will provide general consultations, diagnosis and treatment as well as periodic health assessments focused on health and wellbeing and preventing disease. These checks will be carried out when your child is 2 and 5. It also includes enhanced care for children diagnosed with asthma.

### What is an Asthma check?

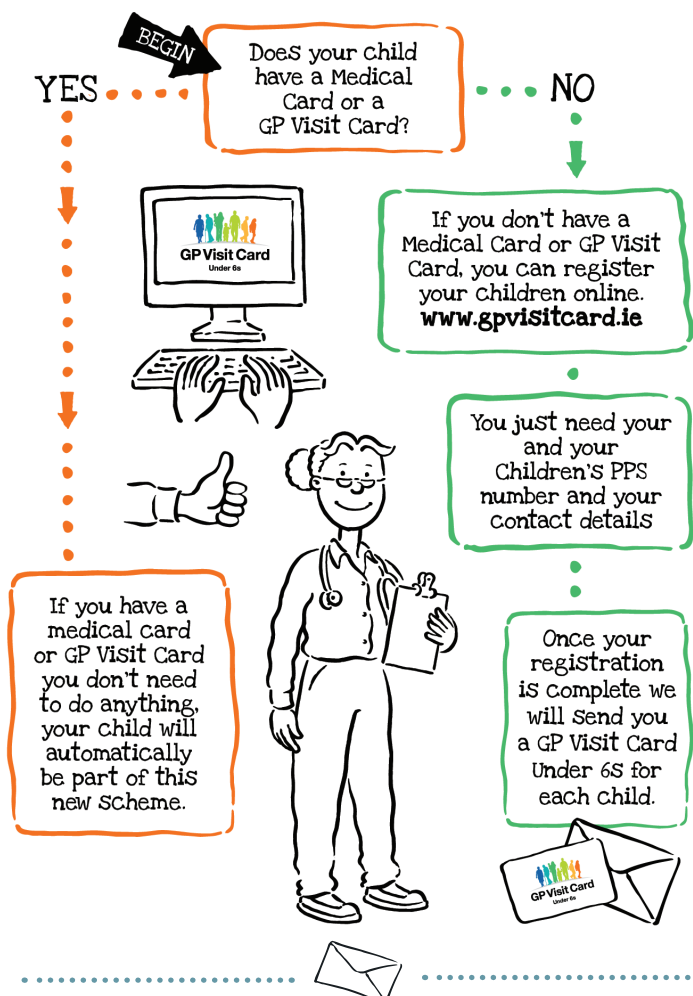
Each asthma check details the severity of your child or children's asthma and involves a review of medications including making sure your child is using inhalers correctly. Your GP will advise you on how to improve your child's asthma care, including advice on smoke free environment, flu vaccination to prevent influenza and education on what to do if your child's condition is getting worse.

A written plan, tailored to your child, will be given to you to help you manage your child's asthma. Asthma checks have been shown to improve control of asthma in children and reduce hospital attendance.

For more see [www.gpvisitcard.ie](http://www.gpvisitcard.ie) or call LoCall 1890 252 919.

Rates charged for 1890 (LoCall) numbers may vary across different service providers and calls made using mobiles may be more expensive.

## HOW DO I GET MY GP VISIT CARD UNDER 6S?



Registration forms can be returned to  
GP Visit Card Under 6s, PO Box 12629, Dublin 11

**IF YOU HAVE ANY QUERIES ON GP VISITS OR MEDICAL CARDS,  
PLEASE CONTACT MARY IN MY OFFICE ON 045-487624.**

## FREE GP CARE FOR 70'S PLUS

From the 1st August everyone aged 70 and over will be eligible for a GP Visit Card, regardless of income.

This means you can visit your GP and not have to pay for the visit.

Over 36,000 people aged 70 or older currently pay to attend a GP as they are not covered by a medical card or a GP Visit Card.

To get a GP Visit Card aged 70 or over, fill in the

application form at your GP, Pharmacy, or download it from [www.gpvisitcard.ie](http://www.gpvisitcard.ie)

The GP Visit Card is funded by the Government and administered by the HSE.

For more see [www.gpvisitcard.ie](http://www.gpvisitcard.ie) or call 1850 000 000 for more information

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## HOPKINS FESTIVAL COMMITTEE MEET MINISTER



*Myself and Minister Heather Humphries with Hopkins Committee Members Vivienne Abbott, Des Egan and Sean Dunne.*

The hard working committee of the annual Hopkins Society do great work every year in organising a series of events and activities which bring many visitors to Newbridge. I was delighted to facilitate a meeting between members of the Committee and Minister for Arts Heritage and the Gaeltacht Heather Humphries in advance of the festival this year to discuss the festival in Newbridge and future funding options.

## RECENT TRIP TO LOURDES WITH CURRAGH MILITARY

I was delighted to have the opportunity recently to travel to Lourdes with the Curragh group as part of the annual military pilgrimage. It was humbling to spend time with and look after such wonderful positive

individuals in an amazing setting. Our military personnel do us proud on all their missions around the world but in Lourdes I saw at first hand the esteem in which they are held by their international colleagues.



## ADVICE CENTRE OPEN DAILY

**Need Advice, Assistance with Forms, or Help Dealing with any State Departments?**

My Office and Advice Centre on Moorefield Rd, Newbridge is open Mon–Fri from 9–1 and 2–5. Mary is there everyday and would be delighted to meet you. Feel free to drop in or call the office on 045-487624 for assistance or for a clinic appointment.



*I am pictured with Minister for Education Jan O'Sullivan and Board of Management Chair Gerry Kierans at the recent official opening of the extension to Athgarvan NS. Well done to principal Kate Gallagher, the staff, parents and all who helped to bring this to completion.*



**I am now on snapchat as well as facebook and twitter. Follow me at username martinheydon to keep up to date with my activites.**

### YOUR LOCAL FINE GAEIL TEAM

**CLLR FIONA McLOUGHLIN HEALY**

P: 086-7811012 E: fiona@fmcloughlinhealy.ie

**CLLR MARK STAFFORD**

P: 086-8648558 E: markstaffordfg@gmail.com

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## MARTIN HEYDON TD

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