

# BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 3 Issue 2: June/July 2013



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# BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 3 Issue 2: June/July 2013

## REAMHRÁ



*So after five months of Global wetting, we hope that winter at last releases its icy grip on our Gulf Stream currents and our weather pattern returns us to more normal climates.*

*If ever the temperatures and the depressing grey climate mirrors the mood of a nation it is now and if ever a blast of heat and a few rays of sunshine for the farmers, turf cutters, allotment owners and what the rest of us need, it's needed these few weeks!*

*Still the mirage of seasons offers us the illusion of a time to harvest, which implies a summer to do some growing. Locally growth is not firmly on the agenda with over 20 premises closed on the main streets and continual reduced numbers in footfall for retail therapy as evidence by the CSI and the Retail Ireland data referred to in the magazine.*

*We are not unique in the new 'less is more' times we are in, but we can either curse the dark or light some candles. Some candles being lit are the optimism for a stronger tourist season in the past five. 80% of all the visitors who go to both the Connemara National Park and the Cliffs of Moher about 450,000 in the summer, have to skirt pass our town. If we managed to sell coffee to even 10% that would be a start. Waterways Ireland are looking forward to a stronger season for River traffic and Fáilte Ireland are confident that their international visitor traffic targets will be met with the Gathering. Hopefully all the relevant interests are maximising their offerings to these caches of potential customers.*

*Our Community is in the process of finalising an August Gathering, a Hurling Gathering in mid September and a Heritage Gathering for the month of October which should enhance numbers and visitors to the community.*

*Whether you are a resident or visitor there is quite a lot of activities to engage with and events to entertain. Do take part you won't be disappointed.*

*Le gach Dea Ghuí,  
Colm Croffy, Editor*



*There are few organisations that can survive in Ireland due to its small population without Volunteers. Clubs and Organisations that divide internal responsibilities into teams tend to have the best success and hence it follows that the more active members that you have the greater the success. Over the Summer months in Ballinasloe and its Hinterland there are many Summer camps ranging from Dancing, Water Sports, Music, Hurling, Football, Rugby, Soccer, Golf and Tennis to name a few and it is an ideal opportunity for parents and teenagers to get involved as I am sure an extra hand will be most welcome.*

*Similarly there are many organisations that cater for Adults ranging from the very active to the passive which provide an excellent social outlet. Don't wait to be asked, go out there and get involved. It has many benefits such as improving self esteem, developing new friends, opening up new social outlets as well as making new contacts in different walks of life. "You will get out of life what you put into it" so get out there, participate and enjoy the many activities that are happening in Ballinasloe over the coming months.*

*Seamus Duffy, Chairman,  
Ballinasloe Area Community Development*

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# BEC

Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre  
An Initiative of Ballinasloe Area Community

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# Ballinasloe Green Business Programme



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By "Greening" your business and becoming resource efficient you can potentially save a **MINIMUM** of 10% and much more, on your Waste, Energy and Water costs!

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Do you know your annual waste costs?

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Do you know your annual water costs?

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### More About the Programme

The Ballinasloe Green Business Programme is a free and confidential resource efficiency programme for all types of SMEs in the Ballinasloe area including the retail, hospitality, education, health care and manufacturing sectors.

The programme is implemented by Galway County Council and funded by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the National Waste Prevention Programme.

The objective is to assist business implement resource efficiency and cost savings through on-site waste prevention, water conservation and energy conservation.

Participation in the programme will guarantee various site visits and environmental assessments that will be carried out in your business by our experienced advisors, resulting in a confidential report tailored for your business containing recommendations on resource efficiency in the areas of waste, energy and water.

### Short presentations to introduce the programme will be given by:

Programme Introduction, Implementation and Potential Savings      Sinéad Ní Mhainnín, Galway County Council      6.00pm

Energy Awareness in Business      Paula Gallagher, Tipperary Energy Agency      6.15pm

Examples of Best Practice      Liam Tolton, Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland      6.30pm

Participation in this programme is **FREE**, all we ask is that you are committed to the process.



This programme is run by Galway County Council and supported by Ballinasloe Town Council, Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre, Ballinasloe Chamber of Commerce and the Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland



Further information or registration details please contact Sinéad Ní Mhainnín, Environment Section, Galway County Council [snimhain@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:snimhain@galwaycoco.ie) / 091-476488. Please register before Monday 17th June 2013.

# New Business on their Bike in Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre

**Writes Owen Dunne**

Newly established Bike retailers, Turas, set up shop in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre recently. The new online Bike Retail Company will bring new emphasis to the town of Ballinasloe, selling top quality bikes to cycling enthusiasts word-wide. Company founder and owner Mark McKeigue from Kiltormer is no stranger to the world of Cycling with great experience on the road. "I raced competitively for many years before I finished up. I realised that there was no Irish brand in the market and with the history that we have with the sport I thought it was an ideal opportunity" said Mr. McKeigue.

Starting up the business in the Enterprise Centre is a decision that Mark and his team are more than happy about. "We've found it to be a brilliant place to start up a company. They have been really supportive towards us. It has allowed us to grow and expand. Because of the flexible lease there is no added pressure. It's also an extremely accessible location" noted Mr. McKeigue.

Supplying the likes of Nicolas Roche, Rory Geraghty and promising tri-athlete Aaron O'Brien, Turas have wasted no time in establishing themselves in the industry. At present it is only the most expensive type of bikes that they sell, however they do hope to widen their supply in the future. "We only deal in the top of the range performance bikes at present so you'd be talking somewhere in the region of €1,750 - €5,000. But in the future we hope to expand our range to more affordable Leisure style bikes in the €600 category" stated Mr. McKeigue.

Many people would be forgiven for thinking that their arrival may be bad news for the other bicycle shops in town, such as Barry's Cycles, however that is something that Mark wants to dispel immediately. "We won't have any adverse affect on Barry's cycles as we deal in the real high end racer bikes. Rather than competing I believe we will complement each



Mark McKeigue and Mark Butler.

other. Barry has been very supportive towards us as we begin our business in the town." said Mr. McKeigue.

When asked where he'd like to see the business in 5 years time Mr. McKeigue said; "I would love to see us with our own factory producing Bikes in the IDA centre here in town. At the moment we employ 4 people but all going well we expect that to grow to 10." stated the business founder.

But he knows that when he thinks back to when he first started it will be the help of the Enterprise centre he will be thankful for. "I would highly recommend anybody who is searching for a location to start up their own business to consider the Enterprise Centre as the support here is second to none. Search with more than you fingers, be creative!"

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## Showcasing your Club, Society or Organisation

Are you a member of a voluntary Club, Society or Organisation in Ballinasloe and the surrounding area? Would you like to promote your organisation to the general public to grow your membership? Here at AIB Ballinasloe, we are looking to provide a forum for all voluntary groups to be given the opportunity to showcase themselves at a one day exhibition on the 15th September 2013 in Ballinasloe. If you are interested in nominating our club please contact Maeve Carty at AIB Ballinasloe by phone 090-9642271, email [maeve.a.carty@aib.ie](mailto:maeve.a.carty@aib.ie) or by dropping into the local AIB Ballinasloe branch.

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# Tough Times for our Retailers



## Writes Owen Dunne

With the current Economic Climate showing little or no improvement it is clear that times are tough for retailers of all sizes. The AIB in association with Local Shops and Communities group RGDATA have released a number of facts and figures in their new Magazine 'Outlook' highlighting the difficulties faced by Retailers.

Among the research carried out were a number of surveys between retailers and customers. Of the results on 'Changing Customer Behaviour' 4 stood out the most:

1. 96% of retailers agree customers buy more on special offer.
2. 93% of retailers agree customers are "shopping around" more between shops.
3. 83% of retailers agree customers buy less branded products.
4. 69% of retailers agree customers do more shopping online.

All of these trends in the buyer's mindset are mainly down to the large competition between various outlets coupled with the ever decreasing income of the average household. However retailers are still fighting to keep their customers and have used many tools to do so. Some of the most common ways retailers have responded to these trends are:

- 66% reduced number of floor staff.
- 60% reduced profit margin by discounting prices.
- 35% reduced the range of products in-store.
- 32% changed opening hours.
- 30% reduced number of managers/office staff.
- 29% increased advertising.
- 23% greater use of Internet Social Media/Mobile Apps.

There is no doubt that although people are still spending money, retailers are finding themselves in uncharted waters with difficult trading conditions never seen before. Of retailers who conducted the Survey 57% experienced a decrease in turn over in the last 12 months. 26% said their turnover has stayed the same while only 16% have recorded an increased turnover in the past year.

It is difficult for Retailers to be optimistic in today's environment however many believe that better things are to come with over half of retailers expecting their business situation to improve within the next 3 years with the same number planning to expand in the future. However nearly 60% of retailers have not decided what their exit strategy will be should they need to implement it.

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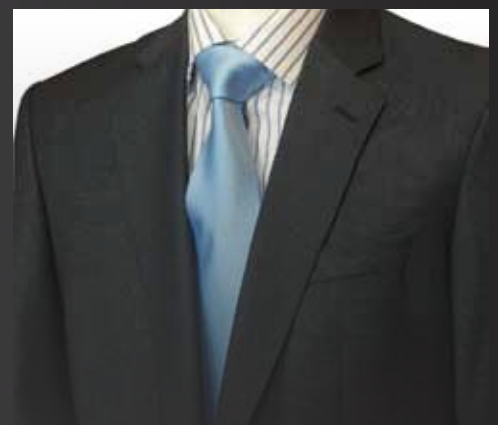




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## St. Michael's Square – Calling all Casual Traders

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# BEC

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# Coronation Street on Society Street



Samia with a group of Corrie fans during her recent visit to Fletchers.



Samia with Fletchers owner Seán Fletcher, Seamus Duffy (Local AIB Branch Manager) and his wife Yvonne

## Writes Pat Johstone

Samia Ghadie who plays Maria Connor in Coronation Street was in town last month and despite a tight schedule, she had time to have a few words for *Ballinasloe Life*. While she has been to Dublin 'loads of times' this is her first trip to the West of Ireland. She loves coming over because, she says, people are friendly and respectful. She will definitely be back to the west to explore the landscape and meet the people who come to tell her of their links to the soap. Like the lady who says her uncle, a farmer, always came in from the land to catch up on the goings on in the soap!

Of course her character has been sent to Ireland many times. Maria was at one stage married to Liam Connor an Irish bloke, so whenever Samia has to be away from the programme Maria went to Ireland. In autumn 2009, Samia took a short break from her role as Maria for maternity leave. Her daughter, Freya, was born in October 2009. Meanwhile Maria went on a break to Ireland to visit her in-laws.

Has she any Irish roots herself? Well, yes but she's not exactly au fait with them. There's Polish, Irish and Russian in her

ancestry and her father is Lebanese. Her English Grandad Ramsgar is the one with Irish connection but he himself was actually born in Manchester on the real Coronation Street. She agrees that she would make a very interesting subject for 'Who do you think you are?' and would be quite happy to do it.

In 2012 Samia told an interviewer that she would be happy to stay in Coronation Street for another ten years and said it does not feel like she has been on the show for twelve years. But as she is still enjoying her work on the cobbles her fans are likely to see this popular actress in their favourite soap for some time to come. Whatever happens it is likely that Samia and Maria will continue to see Ireland as a holiday destination. She had not heard of The Gathering but assured us that she would spread the word back in Manchester so we can expect more of the denizens of Coronation Street to pay us a visit.

Maria is gracious, friendly, down to earth and extremely relaxed but Seán Fletcher, who invited her over to meet and greet customers and fans at his Fletchers Expert Store in Society Street, is getting anxious that she might miss her flight. So I leave her to finish her lunch in Gullane's Hotel and wish her safe journey back to Corrie land.

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# Fodder Crisis in East Galway



**Writes Owen Dunne**

**The adverse weather conditions in 2012 and 2013 have resulted in reduced winter fodder quantity and quality on many farms. Lower fodder yields have been exacerbated by the increased number of livestock on many farms and the earlier than usual housing of livestock in many instances, particularly operating on heavy soils.**

After one of the coldest springs in living memory, farmer's fodder supplies are lower than ever. Teagasc Regional Manager for East Galway Brendan Henehan noted how difficult it has been for farmers not just lately but last year also. "There's no doubt about it that this has been the worst Spring in living memory the fodder problem can now be considered as a real crisis among the farming community, this is only compounded after the terrible 2012 we had" said Mr. Henehan.

Mr. Henehan also pointed out that Ballinasloe has been one of the hardest hit areas in the country. "Because the locality is based on a heavy soil and its close proximity to the River Suck there is no denying that it has been one of the hardest hit areas weather wise. The ground is simply too wet and too cold for proper growth. Most of the queries that I have received have been people from the Ballinasloe region and along the Suck" stated the Regional Manager.

Local IFA Rep Eddie Jennings advised their members on how to deal with the crisis by saying. "We want to encourage all our members not to throw away livestock and to do your best to keep stock fed. We also want our members to look forward to next year and keep a manageable herd and not

to overstock. We are currently in talks with the banks to roll out a deal with the agricultural sector and we hope they will assist by reducing the interest rate to make everything more feasible for future years" said Mr. Jennings.

Many are aware of the difficulties surrounding farmers at present including the AIB who recently announced a new support package to help relieve some of the burden. "AIB recently announced a €50m package to support the Agri Sector in response to the ongoing cashflow problems being experienced by farmers. This support combines both short and medium term finance options" said local AIB Branch Agri Consultant Eamon O'Reilly. The table below may prove useful to quantify the cost of attaining additional silage until a return to pasture.

#### Steps involved in completing the table:

1. Identify the number of livestock held on the farm by livestock category and insert in Column A
2. Estimate how long, in months, until animals return to pasture. Insert into Column B
3. Using provided forage requirements, quantify the total forage required for each livestock category in column D.
4. Adding together individual silage requirements, identify the total farm silage requirements.
5. Deduct silage currently on the farm from total silage requirements to quantify additional requirements
6. Identify the cost of silage being purchased (€ per tonne/bale as applicable)
7. Multiply the cost of silage by the additional requirement amount to quantify the cost of required silage.

**Table below: Quantifies the cost of attaining additional silage until a return to pasture.**

## COST OF ATTAINING ADDITIONAL SILAGE UNTIL A RETURN TO PASTURE

	Number of Stock (A)	Estimated time (months) until turn-out to pasture (B)	Monthly Silage Requirements		Silage requirements until turn-out (D = AxBxC)
			Pit Silage (tonnes) (C)	4x4 Silage Bales (C)	
Dairy Cows		Mths	1.60	1.80	Tonnes/Bales
Suckler Cows		Mths	1.40	1.60	Tonnes/Bales
In-Calf Heifers		Mths	1.30	1.40	Tonnes/Bales
Weanlings		Mths	0.70	0.80	Tonnes/Bales
Store Cattle		Mths	1.30	1.40	Tonnes/Bales
Breeding Ewes		Mths	0.15	0.17	Tonnes/Bales
Total Silage required until turn-out [E]					Tonnes/Bales
Silage Currently in supply (F)					Tonnes/Bales
Additional silage required (G = E - F)					Tonnes/Bales
Cost of Silage* (per tonne/bale) (H)					€
Total cost of required silage (I = G x H)					€

# Joyce Little: The Artist's Way

Writes Pat Johnston

**In Brackernagh there is a secret oasis, that's away from the noise of the town and perhaps even from the stress of the times. Go through the magic door into the secret garden and there you find the artist's studio.**

Purpose built about ten years ago, it is a large quiet space suffused with light. The glass doors at the end look out on to a cottage style garden filled with flowers and shrubs and an apple tree now in blossom. Through the arches the eye travels down through another green space and out onto a vegetable garden. This is the domain of Joyce Little and her husband Tommy Campbell, their own Shangri-la.

Like many denizens of the town I have known Joyce through her work for a long time but I was very surprised when she told me that she had lived in Ballinasloe since she was a child when her father came to do some work on Galway Cathedral. Joyce is one of nine children born to Ted and Rita Little who lived in Dublin. Ted was a stone sculptor, the seventh generation of his family to work in stone. His five sons are sculptors. His daughter Jacinta was one of the first women apprenticed to the trade and did some of her training out in Ballybrew stone quarry in the Dublin Mountains. So Joyce grew up, she says, 'living with hammering and banging'.

Ted worked on many public monuments, on fountains, on the Garden of Remembrance, on Celtic crosses and on Galway Cathedral and then in Top Quarries and with the Office of Public Works in Portumna. So the family settled in Ballinasloe.

Joyce's mother, Rita was also gifted with her hands. She did crochet and hand knitting as well as flower arranging and she still does some painting. Joyce will say that her mother was a powerful influence on her. Being an independent woman, she supported her children in what they chose to do. She believed that they should be independent, self-reliant and self-fulfilled. Joyce's other sisters also worked creatively, Josephine as a hairdresser and Stella as a dressmaker.

Her parents' sense that Ballinasloe would be a good place to rear a family proved right and Joyce remembers a happy childhood, going to school with friends from Brackernagh and St. Joseph's and spending the free time up in Garbally grounds. 'You didn't need adult supervision; you could play in the woods and have picnics.'

For her second-level education Joyce chose St. Michael's Vocational School, or 'the Tech', despite the nuns trying to persuade her otherwise. From the age of 10 Joyce knew that she wanted to be a fashion designer and that vocational education offered more practical subjects. Her mother supported her choice. Pauline McNamara taught

domestic science as it was then. Joyce remembers one of the two 'town' girls in her class. It was mostly country girls who went to St. Michael's.

By age 16 Joyce was studying at the Grafton Academy of Fashion Design in Dublin where she would spend three years. Among her influences were French designers Yves Saint Laurent and Chanel and Sybil Connolly who was more of an individual, upmarket designer. Nothing existed outside of her chosen work and Joyce says the whole era of pop music and flower power passed her by. This was the Dublin of Guiney's, Cleary's and Arnott's and of course, Brown Thomas. Fashion remained the preserve of the well off and the chain stores had yet to colonise the streets.

Joyce worked as a fashion designer in Temple Bar which was a centre of textile manufacturers before its gentrification. While she had stayed with her grandfather as a student she could now move into her own bedsit and later share a bigger place with her brother Tom.

Joyce remembers her trips to the Dandelion market which sold unusual beads, macramé and 'floaty' materials. She loved unusual fabrics that she found there like tie-dyed and batiks and she herself liked to wear floaty, kaftan type dresses. But she was aware that this was quite exotic for Ballinasloe when even her friends would say 'Oh My God you are not going out in that!'

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Joyce was returning to town frequently now because she had a fella back there. Tommy had been around before she went to Dublin but now the relationship prospered and they got married in Harold's Cross. Joyce said at the beginning that she can't remember dates and that is proving absolutely true at this stage! Having worked in Dubarry for a year Joyce decided to set up her own business in Main Street. Many people thought it was a mad idea, especially since her proposed business premises was in poor repair but she thought 'it's now or never'. Again she had her mother's support though they both bristled at Joyce having to get a male guarantor for her dealings with the bank!

She traded under Little Fashions, specialising in bridal, evening and graduation wear. The high point of her career in fashion came in 1990 when she represented Ireland in the Euro-Fashion Awards in Chambéry, France. She was sponsored by the Arts Council and got great support from local business in Ballinasloe.

Work wasn't always as glamorous. Joyce remembers going down to the premises at 4am on a Saturday morning to finish and press garments and get them to the market in St. Michael's Square - without a car and only a bicycle for transport. But again she had her mother and sister and a girl called Ann Dempsey working with her and helping her also to raise her three small children.

At some point in her 17 years of self-employment Joyce was asked to teach

fashion design with AnCo, later Fás and she went from there to teaching day and evening classes with the V.E.C. She agrees that most opportunities came to her; she didn't have to actively look for work.

Towards the end of that period Joyce began to look at other avenues for her creativity and opted to study sculpture at N.C.A.D. on a part-time basis for five years. She went on to do a Fine Arts degree from G.M.I.T. and a Masters in visual Art in Dun Laoighaire. She recently attained a Diploma in Youth arts from NUI Maynooth.

Having moved from Main Street to Society Court, Joyce and Tommy found their present home in Brackernagh which offered them a place to bring family, work and business together. Here they raised their three children who are now adults. Mark is head chef in the award-winning Artisan Restaurant in Galway; Joshua is working in drawing and animation. Indeed the apple does not fall far from the tree! Zara is a writer in Wales and still studying. The bond between mother and daughter is deep as we saw in Zara's poetry at the recent Group 8 Exhibition:

#### MUM

**I miss the sound of your step  
On the stairs - slow and weary  
Like the stream of early morning  
Light. I miss the smell of Yves  
Saint Laurent penetrating the air.**

Joyce is a visual artist who now combines all her creativity and learned skills in her work. She uses textiles, print, paint sculpture and photography. 'To me what's important is the process, how it was made, perfected? What worked and what didn't? It's the beginning and the journey of making a piece of art; it could take six months to perfect. For example I could mix stone-dust and copolymer and it could take months to see if it works, that's the exciting part.' And she adds, 'I thought I had left textiles behind, but it still creeps into the work'.

Those of us who saw Joyce's work in the recent Group 8 Exhibition on the theme of 'The Gathering' can see this clearly. Her installation, 'Wish You Were Here' involved hundreds of postcards collected from friends and family from all over the world stitched together to form a wall hanging while in the middle were two family suitcases that had also travelled the world. Joyce says 'This work is about being away. In my immediate family, my two brothers and my only daughter live abroad. I have relatives and friends living in over twenty different countries. Some of these may never return to Ireland. While making this work, with this in mind, I wanted these people to be here.'

Most of her work, because it is installation, isn't saleable. Some of it goes into galleries or other large spaces. Joyce donated work from the 2011 Group 8 Exhibition on the theme of 'The Battle of Aughrim' to The Aughrim Interpretative Centre. This features a map of the Jacobite encampment and two women's dresses of the period one for each side in the war but asking the question 'Where were the women?'

'Work is something I have to do,' says Joyce - 'it's to do something I love and feel passionate about. To come into the studio is sheer joy, it's not work. I do this for myself. I went back to become an artist solely just for me. It's not about money or gain.' But, she adds, an artist does need an audience. When I put it to her that we Irish have not had an adequate education in the visual arts Joyce says that not everybody likes art and 'you can't make people like it.' The artist can show a body of work and explain it but 'once it goes on the wall it belongs to the viewer, the audience'. They may like the colour, line or tone without really knowing what it's about. An artist has to be confident enough in their own work, believe in it and have the courage to stand up for it. If an artist puts a statement on a work the audience will try to interpret that; it could be totally different from the artist's intent but it's still valid.

Joyce shares her creative gifts with the community in many ways. She teaches in Youthreach on Mondays and Wednesdays, preparing students for Leaving Cert, she teaches children during the summer and also holds adult classes. As artist-in-residence with the Brothers of Charity she works with T.O.P.E. in Poolboy and Fis Nua in Creagh. She is also a member of The Group 8 Artists Collective and as organiser of the annual East Galway Art Trail, Joyce has great praise for the libraries in the area who host the art trail and especially for the local library in Ballinasloe. Joyce says that there is much talent locally but many artists are self effacing and it is only when they are invited into an exhibition that this talent is seen.

This busy lady is now preparing a submission to Limerick Open Print Exhibition and gave Bealtaine workshops in The Aughrim Interpretative Centre during the month of May.

And after all that creative engagement with the community Joyce can retreat into her wonderful studio. Her children are reared, her parents living in Aughrim now and settled into retirement although Ted is still working at projects that take his interest. With Tommy working in his studio or out in their lovely garden Joyce is the picture of contentment.

# Shannonbridge Pottery Celebrating Their 20th Year

**Writes Owen Dunne**

Shannonbridge Pottery opened its doors to the public in 1993 and has been decorating pottery and fine bone china for over 20 years. The factory is situated in the heart of the midlands in Clondelara, beside Bord na Móna in Shannonbridge, Co. Offaly.

Since setting up business the pottery factory has become a major player in the market, mainly down to the hard work and dedication of its entire staff. "At present we have 9 working at decorating, gliding and firing of the table and giftware. There is a great team spirit here in the factory and that is one of the main reasons we find ourselves thriving 20 years on" said Chief Executive Charles Hoysted. Mr. Hoysted decided to set up Shop in the Midlands as he felt it was the most economical choice, bucking the trend of other businesses moving out of the smaller towns. "It's a much cheaper area to set up business with more or less all utilities at a lower rate. The location of Shannonbridge is also ideal as we do get a lot of tourists coming off the Shannon who would be interested in Irish hand Craft" notes Mr. Hoysted.

Over their 20 years in business the crew have built up strong relationships with stores both nationally and internationally. "We have the capabilities to compete

locally and internationally. With most local gift stores supporting our range of products, we also supply to a lot of the leading stores in Ireland and abroad. Even though we mainly export our stock internationally, we do supply a lot of the local shops around including Ballinasloe" said Mr. Hoysted.

Shannonbridge Pottery is making a real name for itself abroad with even the likes of a certain President approving of the hand crafted pottery. "When Barack Obama came across our *Shamrock Brushes* in Moneygall he liked them so much he decided to bring them home as a present for his Mother-in-Law" proudly stated Mr. Hoysted.

Although many businesses are finding it hard to survive at present, Mr. Hoysted is very optimistic about the future. "Ireland has been through a very tough recession and there will be more rough times ahead. However, we feel there are green shoots appearing and while we have enjoyed some great success we feel there are bigger opportunities in Shannonbridge to expand further, and if people stay and shop local I believe we can grow."

If you would like to learn more about Shannonbridge Pottery you can visit: [www.shannonbridgepottery.com](http://www.shannonbridgepottery.com) or Phone: 090 9674333



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# Parade Grand Marshal O'Neill

Co Marshals of the San Diego Parade, Liam O'Neill from Ballinasloe on left and Fr. Nick Clavin, Rahan, Co. Offaly on right with Parade chairman, Tony Mande



## Writes Ken Kelly

Ballinasloe man Liam O'Neill was this year selected as Co Grand Marshal of the 33rd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade in San Diego, Southern California. The former minor, under 21 and senior Galway footballer had as his Co Marshal the former Offaly All-Ireland footballer, Fr. Nick Clavin, who won All-Ireland medals in 1971 and 1972 with the Faithful County.

Liam O'Neill, originally from Dunlo Hill, is the eldest of five brothers who played football with Ballinasloe, before he himself represented Galway in minor

and Under-21 and then graduated to the senior team in 1967. During his twelve-year reign with Galway he appeared as a half-back in the All-Ireland finals of 1971, '73 and '74. He won six provincial titles and was a member of the Connacht team for five years. Liam won a coveted All-Star award in 1973 while his son, Kevin, won a similar accolade in 1992, representing Mayo, to become the first father-son combination to be so honoured.

In 1967, Liam moved to Mayo, winning eight senior football championships with Knockmore and Castlebar before

being appointed manager of Galway senior footballers and later Mayo seniors. "It was a great honour to be chosen as Grand Marshal on St. Patrick's Day here in San Diego, particularly with my friend, Fr. Nick Clavin, who I know so well from our footballing days. We had typical Irish weather for the parade, the skies opened, but it didn't stop the huge crowds coming out. There were over 120 entries including Irish Dancers, Floats, Marching Bands, Irish Wolfhounds, Emerald Societies, Antique Cars, Clowns, Police and Fire Units. It was the largest St. Patrick's Day Parade west of the Mississippi, I was told" said Liam.

Parade president, Mike Malone said it was "with great Irish pride that I welcome everyone to the 33rd annual St. Patrick's Day Parade and Festival, celebrating the Gaelic Athletic Association, a driving force in preserving Irish Culture in Southern California." He had a special welcome for the Co Marshals, Liam O'Neill and Fr. Nick Clavin, who he described as "legends in their lifetime on the football fields of Ireland."

Liam O'Neill is now working, for the GAA in Ireland, as the Games Development Administrator for San Diego, with responsibility for introducing Ireland's national games to San Diego schools and colleges with a view to progressing the Youth GAA programme there. He has also acted as mentor and coach to some of the local GAA clubs, including Clann na nGael, Setanta and Na Fianna.

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## FINE GAEL

# CU Factor Talent Competition



## Writes Niall Clarke

The final of the CU Factor Talent Competition took place in front of a packed Town Hall recently. The 17 acts performing were chosen from auditions three weeks previous. The performers ranged in age from 9 to 17 and comprised of 12 individual acts and 5 group acts. Each of the 17 performers must be complimented for their outstanding performances on the night. They treated the audience to a great night's entertainment of singing, dancing and music.

Five adjudicators were assigned with the most difficult task of selecting two acts; to represent Ballinasloe in the Galway final on the 19th May in the Town Hall theatre. After much deliberation the adjudicators selected a local trad band *Buttons and Bows* (Jane Corbett, Luke Corbett, Cora Hanrahan, Ronan Hanrahan, Maria Corcoran and Lucy Nally). 16-year-old Dylan Connolly who performed *A Passenger's Life is for Living*, was runner up on the night. 11-year-old David Kennedy from Eyrecourt who sang *I Dreamed a Dream* from *Les Miserable* finished in 3rd place. 17-year-old Olivia Caulfield from Ballydangan finished in 4th place after she sang Rihanna's *Stay*. Mia Costello (9) from Ballinasloe charmed the audience with her rendition of *Súil La Rúil* finished in 5th place. 6th place went to Aisling Kenny (12), Arlene Earls (12) and Sheena Cannon (12) who performed a contemporary Irish Reel.

MC Nigel Salmon and marketing officer of Ballinasloe Credit Union Niall Clarke were fulsome in their praise for all 17 contestants. Nigel in particular paid tribute to 16-year-old Sarah Daly from Kilconnell. Due to technical difficulties Sarah had to change songs just before the show but still put in an exceptional performance of Bob Dylan's *Make You Feel My Love* (Adele) and finished just outside of the prizes.



*Buttons & Bows* were also Overall CU Factor winners. Back (L-R): Sarah Corcoran (Ballinasloe Judge), Lucy Nally, Ronan Hanrahan, Shane McNeill (BCU), Luke Corbett, Niall Clarke (BCU) and Martina Doherty Ballinasloe Judge: Front (L-R): Maria Corcoran, Jane Corbett and Cora Hanrahan.

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# Ballinasloe Care and Repair

## Writes Owen Dunne

The Ballinasloe Care and Repair Service was founded in 2010 to help elderly people in many different ways. The service is completely free and of huge benefit to all of those who avail of it. The service is made up of locals willing to give a helping hand to those who need it in the community while on a voluntary basis. "There are currently several volunteers with a variety of skills who have been trained, fully Garda vetted and carry identification badges. A wide range of tasks have been carried out to date. There is no charge for this service but a donation may be made to Care and Repair if desired" noted Care and Repair administrator Paula Hughes.

The committee which consists of Joe Staunton (Chairperson), Margaret Brennan (Secretary), Eamon Lally (Treasurer) Mary Cunningham and Martin Lyons are always looking for new volunteers and would be more than happy to have your help.

The group are always well supported with funding coming from many outlets. "We receive funding from various sources including the Mercy Sisters Western Province, the Lions Club and Ballinasloe Carol singers. In recent times, Care & Repair were awarded the Maureen Cahalan award and Salmons Dept Store supported us by allowing us to do a car-park collection during the October Fair. We also held a table-quiz in the Countryman in Creagh where we received great support. We are always thankful of all the generous donations" said



*Pictured are: Joe Staunton (Chairperson), Margaret Brennan (Secretary), Eamon Lally (Treasurer), volunteers Mary Cunningham and Martin Lyons.*

Mrs. Hughes. Services run by the Care and Repair Group include: DIY jobs, Home Support and Nursing Home visitations. "We take care of all small DIY jobs including: gardening (lawn mowing, sowing flowers etc.), minor decorating, minor carpentry and plumbing. Any bigger jobs that may take some time we cannot do but will instead suggest a trades person for the job to our client" stated Mrs. Hughes.

As well as the DIY jobs they also provide basic Friendly visiting services. "Our Home Support Service includes helping people getting from A to B as well as paying them a visit in their own home. We also conduct regular Nursing Home Visits as part of our Befriending Service" mentioned Mrs. Hughes. The Care and Repair crew are always close at hand to help those in need of their assistance. "We mainly cater for people within a 10 mile radius of the town and over the age of 65. However, we do make exceptions for ill or disabled people under 65" said Mrs. Hughes.

So, if you, or someone you know, needs a hand with that small little task that could make life easier, or would like a visit from a trained volunteer, why not contact the Care and Repair office in the Social Services Centre, Brackernagh on 090 9630630 or email [bsloecarerepair@gmail.com](mailto:bsloecarerepair@gmail.com)



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# Fair & Festival Review the Year

**Writes Niall Clarke**

The October fair may be five months away, but the Fair and Festival are continuing to finalise the programme of events for the 2013 festival. Popular non-equestrian events such as the Queen of the Fair, Busking Competition, Street Entertainment, Tug of War, Craft markets, Dog show and Children's baking competitions are scheduled to take place this October.

The combined cost of hosting all of these free events is in excess of €18,000. Contrary to popular belief the Fair & Festival committee do not receive any of the revenue from the stallholders that pitch up in the town centre or from the traders in the fair green. Despite any significant revenue generating activities the committee continues to promote and advertise the event at a cost of €8,000 per annum. While the F&F festival committee do not directly benefit from this expenditure the €3 million that 60,000 visitors spend in the town during the first week in October does have a very positive impact on the business community in Ballinasloe and its hinterland. The cost of Insurance (€8,000) is another significant expenditure for the Fair & festival committee which reviewed the event and their operations at their annual general meeting recently.

On the equestrian side of events the F&F committee at its own expense continues to promote the equine industry in Ballinasloe and Ireland by working with international media to promote the Horse Fair to an international audience. The committee spend in excess of €7,000 running competitions such as the Horse of the Fair, Pony of the Fair, Cob of the Fair and All-Ireland Foal Competitions as a result the quality of horses standing on the Fairgreen as increased significantly in the past number of years.

Its worth noting that in the absence of these quality animals both the domestic and international buyers would not return to Ballinasloe year after year. Despite having no direct input into events on the Fair Green out side of the lunging arena the committee continue to liase with the ISPCA and other animal welfare groups to promote animal and patron safety on the



Fairgreen. To help promote sales and animal welfare veterinary facilities are paid for by the Fair and Festival committee on a site adjacent to the green.

The majority of the Fair and Festival revenue comes from our sponsors who give generously every year. It's true to say that without this monetary support all of the activities listed above could not take place. A full list of sponsors is on the festival website [www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com](http://www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com).

Chairperson Timmy Broderick stated "As we approach the 2013 event the F&F committee would like to thank all of our sponsors for their continued support in these challenging times and we invite new sponsors to come on board for 2013."

Elected to serve for 2013 were Timmy Broderick, John Slattery, Mary Phelan, Tomas Gullane, Mal Croffy, Kathleen Croffy, Ciara Croffy, Caroline Crosby, Jim Doherty, Nancy Cregg, Pat Finnerty, Cathal Concannon, Larry Reynolds, Kevin Murray, Niall Clarke, Stanley Clarke, Anthony Lawless, John Flynn, Kieran Egan. The Committee would also welcome new members, for more information on meetings contact the festival secretary Mary Phelan on 0872071869.



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*Scoil Chroí Naofa N.S.*



*Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh N.S.*



*Aughrim N.S.*



# Renovated Church Re-opened

**Writes Owen Dunne**

The newly renovated and refurbished Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Creagh was reopened after extensive work inside and out. Locals are extremely happy with the resultant work as Adm Fr. John Garvey points out: "Many people have passed through its doors since, to take part in Mass, or for a time of private prayers, or to see how the place looks now. They're delighted with the improvements. The word 'beautiful' is the one used most by visitors to express their reaction" said Fr. Garvey.

The small Chapel has come a long way (in many senses of the word) as was noted by Bishop John Kirby during his homily at the re opening mass. "This church was originally the Church of Ireland garrison church in the military barracks in Athlone. Following our national independence in 1922 and the sale of part of the barracks land to St. Peter Parish for the site of the new Church of St. Peter and Paul the garrison church was sold to St. Michael's Parish Ballinasloe. The stones of the church were individually numbered and the edifice was transferred stone by stone to this location. Bishop John Dignan dedicated the church to Our Lady of Lourdes in 1933, the 75th anniversary of the apparitions." said Bishop Kirby.

The Bishop was very impressed with the new look of the Church especially its main features. "The altar and the tabernacle have pride of place, highlighting the main function of the church

as the place of the Eucharist. The new ambo and presider's chair further emphasise the importance of the celebration of Mass. A new baptismal font has been brought forward to the sanctuary and the sacred oils are given a prominent location in the same area. The stained glass windows of Harry Clarke can now be seen in their full splendour. We are delighted that the plans have turned out so well." noted Bishop Kirby.

The aim of the refurbishment was to create a more comfortable and serene environment in which locals or passersby could reflect. "Some of things we wanted to improve in the church were opening up the space and preserving and enhancing the best existing features while maintaining an environment that is conducive to prayer" said the Adm. The fact that nearly all the material used in the renovation was recycled is something that Fr. Garvey is quite pleased with. "It has been particularly fortunate that so much of the Connemara marble material could be re-used in the new layout. The altar, ambo, chair, baptismal font, reredos and steps comprise (almost entirely) of marble already in the Church. The door of the aumbry, which will contain the holy oils, has come from the gates, which were part of the altar rails" stated Fr. Garvey.

In conclusion Fr. John stated "At present there are final adjustments being attended to. The financial statement already promised is being worked on and will be issued as soon as available. To the many people who have been involved, thanks again." 🌿



*Marie Power (organist) and members of the Creagh Church Choir.*



# Gaelscoil Comhaltas Workshop

**Writes Pat Johnston**

Ballinasloe Comhaltas held all day Music Workshops in Gaelscoil Ui Cheithearnaigh recently where over 50 young people gathered to hone their musical talent.

Demand for all the workshops was high and the organisers were very happy with the response. Nollaig Ní Laoire specialised in concertina while Laura Kenny and Gráinne Smyth worked with the fiddle players and Sarah Corcoran gave a singing workshop. Tony Treacy worked with the banjo while Declan Rynne who teaches daily in Gaelscoil Ui Cheithearnaigh taught the flute. The biggest demand was for the button accordion with James Hogan. Gráinne Kenny did a session with the whistle players and Maureen Ni Thuairisc did a Comhrá Gaeilge.

The day culminated in an afternoon concert where all the workshop participants put their heightened talents to good use. Many of these young musicians will be attending and competing in the Co. Galway Fleadh Ceoil which is being held in Castleblakeney on the weekend of May 17th.

Comhaltas has been running Junior Music Sessions since 2003. The sessions are held every 3 to 4 weeks in local venues, from September to June. The Junior Music Sessions are for the young



members of the branch to promote music and singing in the area and has been a great success to date. In fact so great is the interest that the sessions run concurrently now at three venues: Máire McLaverty, at Clonwyn House, Portumna with Maureen Browne and at Maud Millars in Ballinasloe with Carol Bleahene.

They hosted The Big Junior Gathering Session in Hayden's Hotel Ballinasloe where all the young musicians came together for one huge session of music, song and dance.

The Branch has a weekly adult music session in The Emerald Bar every Friday night all year around. Musicians and singers from far and near are welcome to come along and join in. And it's never too late as adults who wish to take up an instrument are welcome to join the Kilconnell 'Late Learners' classes with

Máire McLaverty. Ballinasloe Comhaltas was founded in 1954. The Branch has hosted many County and Connacht Fleadhanna. They last held the County Fleadh 2009 and Connacht Fleadh 2013.

The current Chairman, Thomas Corcoran, was the founder of the Junior Music Session and Singers Circle. Ballinasloe Singers Circle was founded in 2005. The concept of the Singers Circle is to preserve the passing on of the old ballads and solo singing style to the new generation and to hear new work in a relaxed environment. The Singers Circle is held on the 2nd Thursday of each month from September to June in The Dunlo Tavern, Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe.

**So if you interested in singing, telling a scéal, or just listening, please do come along. Admission is free. For info email [thomascorcoran62@hotmail.com](mailto:thomascorcoran62@hotmail.com) or mobile 086 3777532**

## Town's August Homecoming

**Writes Owen Dunne**

Ballinasloe's August Homecoming Is 'Gathering' Steam! The weekend of 'The Homecoming' is filling up fast and promises to be one the big weekends of Ballinasloe's Summer. Chief organiser of the event Kevin Murray expects it to be a memorable occasion." It all kicks-off on Friday, August 23rd. Events are being added to the programme all the time and it's shaping to be a great weekend in the Town. There will be music and dancing and much more" said Mr. Murray.

There will be something for everyone on the day with a host of events and activities planned. "We're going to have boat-trips on the river Suck to Shannonbridge and back, historical talks and walks, an art exhibition of local artists, a tea-dance, ceili's, musical lessons and dancing classes. There will also be reunions of different shapes and sizes taking place including an exhibition match as part of Ballinasloe Rugby Clubs

Reunion" noted Mr. Murray. There will be plenty of Music on show also with 'The Gathering Music' taking place in three different pubs per night. "The music will be selected to cater for all tastes. There will, literally, be something for everyone. The Town will be hopping for the weekend" stated Mr. Murray.

**Some music events confirmed so far are:**

- Friday 23rd: Brendan Shine plays in Gullane's Hotel.
- Saturday 24th: The Conquerors in Hayden's Hotel.
- Sunday 25th: Declan Nerney in The Shearwater

This is an event for the entire Community to enjoy and everyone can take part. "Local clubs and societies have been invited to get their thinking caps on, to organise events and get on the programme. It will be a carnival atmosphere. So now is the time to tell friends and family about the big weekend of the summer, get them to



come home for a night or two and enjoy the chance to meet up with some old friends" said Mr. Murray.

If you want to keep updated with what's happening throughout the build up, take a look at the 'Ballinasloe August Homecoming' Facebook Page. There will also be a couple of B.A.H. fundraisers this Summer so keep an eye out. All support is greatly appreciated.

**If you would like to help out, run an event or get involved in anyway at all, contact the B.A.H. Secretary Thos Ryan on (087) 6774211.**

# Suck Navigation System Poised for Summer Season



**Writes Colm Croffy**

Despite the numbers of marine pleasure craft holidays plummeting on the Shannon-erne Waterways System in 10 years, the town and its river enthusiasts are holding out for a strong boating season. The Poolboy Lock and Suck Navigation system built by the OPW at a cost of €12 million in the end of the 20th century, was opened on the 18th of May in 2001 and remains of all the facilities developed over the past 20 years, one of the most town centre orientated pleasure craft marinas.

The high water mark for the Cruising Holidaymaker was in 2007 when close to 4,000 craft traversed the Poolboy Lock, bringing visitors to the most westerly accessible points on one of Europe's longest accessible waterway systems. The rising cost of cruiser hire in the late noughties and fall off in

Continental visitors saw Emerald Star and other large Hire Companies reduce their numbers of available boats in 2008.

The horrible wet summers of the past three years have left water levels unseasonably high in the Suck and Shannon which reduces the ability of the larger, newer boats to traverse under the Bord na Mona Bridge south of Correen Ford and have made many enthusiasts deter completely from overnighing in town. According to Waterways Ireland Annual Reports - there has been a 42% drop from 14,500 in Shannon Traffic to 8,500 in 2012, which undoubtedly has impacted on the Poolboy Lock and Marina.

This season despite the early year record waterfalls, is seeing some normal signs of ebb and flow "The upstream and downstream water levels on the Suck are getting close to 2008 when we had good boating numbers! Its looking well" says Lock-Keeper, since day one of the system, David Coyne.

Most visiting cruisers are now hired out of Portumna or Coosan and the Marina is seeing a return of group weekend trips from all variety of anglers and waterways enthusiasts. David has been observing and listening to the visitors to the town for some 12 seasons in a row and is adamant that the great majority leave full of positive memories and experiences of the locality "They love the feel of the place, they enjoy the hostleries and the fact that when they get off their boat they are effectively in the town square, they all remark how unusually nice that it is on a River holiday."

The number of private boat owners to hire craft is still roughly 4 out of 10 using the Marina and of course the chestnut of where to launch a craft from still lingers. Boat owners have to go to Coreen Ford or use the Moycarn Lodge Marina's slipways to launch small craft. The Poolboy Lock Gate, one of the newest on the Waterway, is now open every day from 9am to 8.30pm



## Sunday Lunch Offer

All 4 courses only €18.50

### STARTERS

- Cream of Vegetable Soup with Crusty Roll—€4.00
- Warm Cajun Chicken Salad with Chilli and Orange Dressing—€5.00
- Crispy Torpedo Prawns with Sweet and Sour Dip—€5.00
- Creamy Chicken and Mushroom Vol au Vont—€5.00

### MAIN COURSES

- Roast Sirloin of Beef with a Rich Roast Gravy—€11.95
- Roast Stuffed Turkey and Honey Baked Ham—€10.95
- Grilled Darnie of Salmon with a Dill and White Wine Sauce—€11.95
- Panfried Breast of Chicken with Garlic or Pepper Sauce—€10.95
- Chicken and Smoked Bacon Penne in a Cream Sauce—€10.95
- 8oz Sirloin Steak, cooked to your liking and served with sauté Mushrooms n'Onions with Pepper Sauce—€12.50

*All above served with fresh cut seasonal vegetables and creamed potatoes*

### DESSERTS

- Selection of desserts—€4.50
- Tea/coffee
- Tea and Speciality Coffees—2/€2.50

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# Grand Old Lady of Kilclooney



**Writes Ken Kelly**

May Coughlan, that “Grand Old Lady of Kilclooney” passed to her eternal reward, at the May weekend, at the ripe old age of 106 years. Surrounded by family and friends, her passing at her home for more than sixty years, marked the demise of a remarkable lady, a legend and the parish’s oldest ever resident.

Born in Culliagh on 20th December 1906, May Murray was the eldest of eight children and lost her mother when she was only twelve years old. She went to school in Clonfad and her classmates included one Brendan Nolan, who years later became a Hollywood movie star under the name of George Brent.

As her remains reposed at the family home, mourners filed by to remember such a loving neighbour, an outstanding

wife, mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and a legend in her own lifetime. Her upbringing was difficult at times, her lifestyle was quiet, frugal and simple but she constantly thanked God for taking her to the great age. She was happy with her lot in life-not a woman to complain-and loved to chat and reminisce with family and friends.

At her funeral mass in St. Michael’s Church, Ballinasloe, her son John spoke of his mother’s remarkable life and some of the notable events she had witnessed for over a century. These included:

- Attending Mass in Ballinasloe for over one hundred years, firstly going with her father to the Old Creagh Church, when she was only 4 or 5 and attending her last Saturday evening Mass in St. Michael’s in her 105th year.
- Her vivid memories of British Rule in Ireland, as she was only 16 when the Free State was founded in 1922.
- Recalling the local Landlord and the First World War, in particular the threat of conscription in 1918.
- Remembering the Royal Irish Constabulary and the Struggle for Independence and how her home in Culliagh would remain in darkness as the dreaded Black and Tans returned to their barracks in Shannonbridge.
- Losing her shoes at a Sinn Fein rally in St. Michael’s Square in 1918 when the RIC baton charged the meeting.
- At the age of 104, casting her vote in the 2010 General Election.

- Attending the Eucharistic Congress in Dublin in 1932 and meeting her future husband on the way home.
- Living on her own until the age of 102.
- Receiving six Presidential Medals since reaching her 100th birthday.
- Living to be the six oldest resident of the State.

May’s life changed significantly as she cycled into town following her return by train from the 1932 Eucharistic Congress. She accidentally collided with a fellow cyclist, knocking him to the ground. He introduced himself as “Bill” and in 1939 they married. Bill Coughlan was a psychiatric nurse in St. Brigid’s Hospital and in 1950 settled into a new and happy life in Kilclooney.

John Coughlan described his mother as a “woman of great resilience, great determination and independence. Like many of her generation she experienced difficult times but perhaps the adversity she experienced in her early life stood to her. Of course, today we thank God for her long and healthy life but the passing of one’s mother is one of the saddest times.”

May Coughlan is survived by her sons Brendan (Galway) and John (Kilclooney), daughter, Bernadette (Dublin), six grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren, as well as numerous nephews, nieces and many other relatives and friends. Her remains were laid to rest along side her late husband, Bill, in Creagh Cemetery.

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# JUNE /JULY Events Guide

<b>1st JUNE</b>		
Michael Regan	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
Back to Our School Days (Over 18s)	Pillar House	9pm
Mainfafa Open Classic	Golf Club	All Day
Stephen Blake	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
Washout	Maud Millar's	10pm
Live Music	Downey's	8pm
DJ Keith Geraghty	Downey's	10.30pm
Outbreak	An Táin-Downstairs	9.30pm
Live DJ	An Táin-Upstairs	9.30pm
Gaegan Pagns	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
<b>2nd JUNE</b>		
Chequers	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
Country Dancing-Lisa McHugh	Carlton Hotel	9.30pm
Trad (John Wynne & Frank Kelly)	Pillar House	6pm
The Geagan Pagans	Pillar House	10pm
Mainfafa Open Classic	Golf Club	All Day
One to One	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The Rivuletes	Maud Millar's	8pm
Two Below	An Táin-Downstairs	9.30pm
Too Tall Paul	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
<b>3rd JUNE</b>		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	7.30pm
Live Music	Maud Millar's	10pm
<b>4th JUNE</b>		
Tea Dance	Gullane's Hotel	9pm
Uni Slim	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm
Novena 7.30am, 10am & 8pm	St. Michael's Church	Various
<b>5th JUNE</b>		
Blood Transfusion Clinic	Gullane's Hotel	5pm
Novena 7.30am, 10am & 8pm	St. Michael's Church	Various
Trad Session	An Táin	10pm
<b>6th JUNE</b>		
Blood Transfusion Clinic	Gullane's Hotel	5pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	11am
Kevin Rohan & Friends	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The Thursday Session Live	Maud Millar's	10pm
Novena 7.30am, 10am & 8pm	St. Michael's Church	Various
<b>7th JUNE</b>		
Paschal Brennan	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
The Gaegan Pagans	Maud Millar's	10pm
Lively Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
Comhltas	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
Novena 7.30am, 10am & 8pm	St. Michael's Church	Various
The Beahan Family & Friends	An Táin	6pm
<b>8th JUNE</b>		
Steve Brennan	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
Last Man Standing	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The Sumbrellas	Maud Millar's	10pm
One 2 One	Downey's	9pm
Ann Marie McLoughlin	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
Live DJ	An Táin-Upstairs	9.30pm
Shtick Her Down	An Táin-Downstairs	9.30pm
Novena 7.30am, 10am & 8pm	St. Michael's Church	Various
<b>9th JUNE</b>		
Country Dancing-Jim Devine	Carlton Hotel	9.30pm
Trad (John Wynne & Frank Kelly)	Pillar House	6pm
The Hoppy Bar Stars	Maud Millar's	8pm
Sharon Turley	Downey's	8pm
DJ	Downey's	10.30pm
Novena 7.30am, 10am & 8pm	St. Michael's Church	Various
<b>10th JUNE</b>		
Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	7.30pm
Novena 7.30am, 10am & 8pm	St. Michael's Church	Various
<b>11th JUNE</b>		
Uni Slim	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm
Tea Dance	Gullane's Hotel	9pm
Novena 7.30am, 10am & 8pm	St. Michael's Church	Various
<b>12th JUNE</b>		
Trad Session	An Táin	10pm
Novena 7.30am, 10am & 8pm	St. Michael's Church	Various
<b>13th JUNE</b>		
Country Dancing: Robert Mizzell	Carlton Hotel	9.30pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	11am
Bruno Groening	Gullane's Hotel	7pm
Kevin Rohan & Friends	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The Thursday Session Live	Maud Millar's	10pm
Singers Circle	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
<b>14th JUNE</b>		
Bojangle	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
Michael Regan	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The 2 Q's	Maud Millar's	10pm
Paul Watchorn	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
The Beahan Family & Friends	An Táin	6pm
Comhltas	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
<b>15th JUNE</b>		
Tony Henshaw	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
See Saw Swing	Pillar House	10pm
Coutry Comfort	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
Live Music	Maud Millar's	10pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
Bug & Ben	An Táin-Downstairs	9.30pm

Live DJ	An Táin-Upstairs	9.30pm
<b>16th JUNE</b>		
Wedding Fair	Carlton Hotel	2pm
Trad (John Wynne & Frank Kelly)	Pillar House	6pm
Loose Rooster	Maud Millar's	8pm
<b>17th JUNE</b>		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	7.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8pm
<b>18th JUNE</b>		
Uni Slim	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm
Tea Dance	Gullane's Hotel	9pm
<b>19th JUNE</b>		
Trad Session	An Táin	10pm
<b>20th JUNE</b>		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	11am
Kevin Rohan & Friends	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
Jukebox Gypsy	Maud Millar's	10pm
<b>21st JUNE</b>		
Ken & Steve	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
PJ Murphy	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The Calvinists	Maud Millar's	10pm
The Beahan Family & Friends	An Táin	6pm
Comhltas	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
<b>22nd JUNE</b>		
Chris Nash	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
Shawn & Paul Allen	Pillar House	10pm
Presidents Prize	Golf Club	All Day
One to One	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
Keith & Johnny	Maud Millar's	10pm
For Folk Sake	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
Kiwi Paddy	An Táin-Downstairs	9.30pm
Live DJ	An Táin-Upstairs	9.30pm
<b>23rd JUNE</b>		
Country Dancing-John Brady	Carlton Hotel	9.30pm
Kilconnell FACT Week	Kilconnell	All Day
Trad (John Wynne & Frank Kelly)	Pillar House	6pm
Presidents Prize	Golf Club	All Day
The Hoppy Bar Stars	Maud Millar's	8pm
Night Owls	Downey's	8pm
DJ	Downey's	10.30pm
<b>24th JUNE</b>		
Kilconnell FACT Week	Kilconnell	All Day
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	7.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8pm
<b>25th JUNE</b>		
Kilconnell FACT Week	Kilconnell	All Day
Uni Slim	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm
Tea Dance	Gullane's Hotel	9pm
<b>26th JUNE</b>		
Kilconnell FACT Week	Kilconnell	All Day
Trad Session	An Táin	10pm
<b>27th JUNE</b>		
Kilconnell FACT Week	Kilconnell	All Day
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	11am
Kevin Rohan & Friends	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
<b>28th JUNE</b>		
Liam Doyle	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
Kilconnell FACT Week	Kilconnell	All Day
Craic In The Granite	Aughrim	All Day
Buzz the Agent	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
The Beahan Family & Friends	An Táin	6pm
Comhltas	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
<b>29th JUNE</b>		
The Legends	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
Kilconnell FACT Week	Kilconnell	All Day
Craic In The Granite	Aughrim	All Day
Open Week	Golf Club	All Day
Stephen Blake	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
Kensey 3	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
Al O'Connor	An Táin-Downstairs	9.30pm
Live DJ	An Táin-Upstairs	9.30pm
<b>30th JUNE</b>		
Country Dancing-Mickey Flavin	Carlton Hotel	9.30pm
Kilconnell FACT Week	Kilconnell	All Day
Craic In The Granite	Aughrim	All Day
Trad (John Wynne & Frank Kelly)	Pillar House	6pm
Open Week	Golf Club	All Day
One to One	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
<b>1st JULY</b>		
Open Week	Golf Club	All Day
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	7.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8pm
Star Camp	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-2.30
AFC Soccer Camp	Ballinasloe AFC	All Day
Up River Summer Camp	Croffys Yard	10am-2pm
<b>2nd JULY</b>		
Open Week	Golf Club	All Day
Uni Slim	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm
Tea Dance	Gullane's Hotel	9pm
Star Camp	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-2.30
AFC Soccer Camp	Ballinasloe AFC	All Day
Up River Summer Camp	Croffys Yard	10am-2pm



# JUNE /JULY Events Guide

<b>3rd JULY</b>		
Open Week	Golf Club	All Day
Star Camp	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-2.30
AFC Soccer Camp	Ballinasloe AFC	All Day
Up River Summercamp	Croffys Yard	10am-2pm
Trad Session	An Táin	10pm
<b>4th JULY</b>		
Open Week	Golf Club	All Day
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	11am
Kevin Rohan & Friends	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The Thursday Session Live	Maud Millar's	10pm
Star Camp	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-2.30
AFC Soccer Camp	Ballinasloe AFC	All Day
Up River Summer Camp	Croffys Yard	10am-2pm
<b>5th JULY</b>		
Michael Regan	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
Ladies GAA Table Quiz	Pillar House	9pm
Open Week	Golf Club	All Day
The Crusaders	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The 2 Q's	Maud Millar's	10pm
Star Camp	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-2.30
AFC Soccer Camp	Ballinasloe AFC	All Day
Up River Summer Camp	Croffys Yard	10am-2pm
The Beahan Family & Friends	An Táin	6pm
Lively Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
Comhltas	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
<b>6th JULY</b>		
Ken & Steve	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
Bernie Strokes Clairvoyant	Carlton Hotel	7.30pm
Chris Nash	Pillar House	10pm
Open Week	Golf Club	All Day
Christy & Mike	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The Gaegan Pagans	Maud Millar's	10pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
Two Below	An Táin-Downstairs	9.30pm
Live DJ	An Táin-Upstairs	9.30pm
<b>7th JULY</b>		
Country Dancing-Mike Denver	Carlton Hotel	9.30pm
Trad (John Wynne & Frank Kelly)	Pillar House	6pm
Open Week	Golf Club	All Day
One to One	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The Hoppy Bar Stars	Maud Millar's	8pm
Pascal Brennan	Downey's	8pm
<b>8th JULY</b>		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	7.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8pm
Hurling Camp	GAA Cul	All Day
Arts & Crafts Summer Camp	Tiny Tots Montessori	9am-1pm
<b>9th JULY</b>		
Uni Slim	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm
Tea Dance	Gullane's Hotel	9pm
Hurling Camp	GAA Cul	All Day
Arts & Crafts Summer Camp	Tiny Tots Montessori & Creche	9am-1pm
<b>10th JULY</b>		
Hurling Camp	GAA Cul	All Day
Arts & Crafts Summer Camp	Tiny Tots Montessori	9am-1pm
Trad Session	An Táin	10pm
<b>11th JULY</b>		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	11am
Kevin Rohan & Friends	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The Thursday Session Live	Maud Millar's	10pm
Hurling Camp	GAA Cul	All Day
Arts & Crafts Summer Camp	Tiny Tots Montessori	9am-1pm
<b>12th JULY</b>		
Paul Burns	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
Aughrim Reaching Out	Aughrim	All Day
The Cool Hand Dunks	Maud Millar's	10pm
Hurling Camp	GAA Cul	All Day
Arts & Crafts Summer Camp	Tiny Tots Montessori	9am-1pm
Paul Watchorn	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
Comhltas	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
The Beahan Family & Friends	An Táin	6pm
<b>13th JULY</b>		
Back Stage	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
Aughrim Reaching Out	Aughrim	All Day
Smokes	Pillar House	10pm
Night Owls	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The Rivuletes	Maud Millar's	10pm
Gaegan Pagans	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
Outbreak	An Táin-Downstairs	9.30pm
Live DJ	An Táin-Upstairs	9.30pm
<b>14th JULY</b>		
Jason McGilligan and his band	Carlton Hotel	9.30pm
Aughrim Reaching Out	Aughrim	All Day
Trad (John Wynne & Frank Kelly)	Pillar House	6pm
Loose Rooster	Maud Millar's	8pm

Church Choir on RTE Radio	St. Michaels Church	11am
Live Music	Downey's	8pm
<b>15th JULY</b>		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	7.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8pm
Football Camp	GAA Cúl Camp	All Day
<b>16th JULY</b>		
Uni Slim	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm
Tea Dance	Gullane's Hotel	9pm
Football Camp	GAA Cúl Camp	All Day
<b>17th JULY</b>		
Football Camp	GAA Cúl Camp	All Day
Trad Session	An Táin	10pm
<b>18th JULY</b>		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	11am
Daphne Maltpress-Talk	Gullane's Hotel	7pm
Kevin Rohan & Friends	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The Thursday Session Live	Maud Millar's	10pm
Football Camp	GAA Cúl Camp	All Day
<b>19th JULY</b>		
Vinny Mongan	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
Imposter	Maud Millar's	10pm
Football Camp	GAA Cúl Camp	All Day
Vicky Kenny	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
The Beahan Family & Friends	An Táin	6pm
Comhltas	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
<b>20th JULY</b>		
Sharon Turley	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
Pink Panther-Jazz Band	Pillar House	9pm
Captains Prizes	Golf Club	All Day
One to One	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The Sumbrellas	Maud Millar's	10pm
AnnMarie McLoughlin	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
Live DJ	An Táin- Upstairs	9.30pm
Shtick Her Down	An Táin-Downstairs	9.30pm
<b>21st JULY</b>		
Country Dancing-John McNichol	Carlton Hotel	9.30pm
Trad (John Wynne & Frank Kelly)	Pillar House	6pm
Captains Prizes	Golf Club	All Day
The Hoppy Bar Stars	Maud Millar's	8pm
Live Music	Downey's	8pm
<b>22nd JULY</b>		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	7.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8pm
Up River Summercamp	Croffys Yard	10am-2pm
<b>23rd JULY</b>		
Uni Slim	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm
Tea Dance	Gullane's Hotel	9pm
Up River Summercamp	Croffys Yard	10am-2pm
<b>24th JULY</b>		
Up River Summercamp	Croffys Yard	10am-2pm
Trad Session	An Táin	10pm
<b>25th JULY</b>		
Kevin Rohan & Friends	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The Thursday Session Live	Maud Millar's	10pm
Up River Summercamp	Croffys Yard	10am-2pm
<b>26th JULY</b>		
Chris Nash	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
Galway Summer Rally	Carlton Hotel	All Day
The Gaegan Pagans	Maud Millar's	10pm
Up River Summercamp	Croffys Yard	10am-2pm
One 2 One	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
The Beahan Family & Friends	An Táin	6pm
Comhltas	Emerald Bar	9.30pm
<b>27th JULY</b>		
Chequers	Carlton Hotel	10.30pm
The Chillbillies	Pillar House	10pm
Mary P & Liam	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
Streetwise	Maud Millar's	10pm
Kensey 3	Dunlo Tavern	9pm
Bug & Ben	An Táin-Downstairs	9.30pm
Live DJ	An Táin-Upstairs	9.30pm
<b>28th JULY</b>		
Country Dancing-Patrick Feeney	Carlton Hotel	9.30pm
Trad (John Wynne & Frank Kelly)	Pillar House	6pm
Vintage Rally & Show	Mountbellew	All Day
One to One	Hayden's Hotel	9.30pm
The Deans	Maud Millar's	8pm
Sharon Turley	Downey's	8pm
<b>29th JULY</b>		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullane's Hotel	11am
Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8pm
Up River Summercamp	Croffys Yard	10am-2pm
<b>30th JULY</b>		
Uni Slim	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm
Tea Dance	Gullane's Hotel	9pm
Up River Summercamp	Croffys Yard	10am-2pm

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or [info@ballinasloeenterprise.ie](mailto:info@ballinasloeenterprise.ie)

# Mattie Ganly: Life Contributor

Mattie Ganly, one of *Ballinasloe Life's* earliest supporters and contributors, passed away peacefully since our last publication. As a N.T. Gaelgeoir, GAA Player, Mentor, Enthusiast, Historian, Community Volunteer and Political Activist he appeared colossus like in the minds of most people.

However, Mattie will be missed most as a loving husband to his late Sheila, formidable father to his sons Ciarán (Boston), Grellan (Ballinasloe), Conor (Portlaoise) and his daughter Sinead (Dublin) as well as his Grandchildren.

'Ask Mahhee' was the common response to generations of townfolk who grew up in an age where the only accessible Google was the brain of a well educated National School Teacher. He was a son of a Killnasolan Hospital Attendant and a Sligo Mother who also worked at St. Brigid's Hospital.

During his many years as national school teacher he instilled in his pupils a real sense of the true history of their people, parish, place and country. From the Battle of Aughrim to learning about St. Grellan and the Ui Maine Tribe, from Hamlet to M'asal Beag Dubh, he would



impart his endless wealth of knowledge to all those who passed through Rang a Sé í Scoil Grelláin Náisúnta. Bhí grá i gcónaí ag Mattie don teanga, agus is minic a bhí sé ag imeachtaí Gaeilge, idir díospóireachtaí, léachtanna nó tráth na gceist mar chuid de Sheachtain na Gaelge nó i rith na bliana.

His love of Gaelic games was well-known. One of his most emotional visits to Croke Park occurred (only four weeks before

his death) when he brought his father's 1925 All-Ireland medal with him as he saw his beloved town winning the All-Ireland Junior football final against Kenmare Shamrocks. For those who met him on that evocative trip, fresh from his hospital bed it was a very poignant yet full circle day.

He was a committed contributor to *Life* and always could sharply decide an argument on a caption, photograph, or sceal quickly. Invariably he was mostly right! His encyclopaedic knowledge of the "seed and breed" of most of the chlanns that passed by his door or blackboard gave him a rich vein of material to mine from and he never lost his wonderfully loquacious narrative skills. He really was enthused by a publication that would try and explain our past and encourage our youth, in essence what he spent a life time doing!

All of us at *Ballinasloe Life* extend our deepest sympathy to Mattie's daughter Sinead, sons Ciarán, Grellan and Conor, his sister Mary and also Margaret, Sarah, Brendan and grandchildren Cathal, Cian, Oscar, Una and Seán. Ni Bheidh a Leithid Seo Aris Ann. For a fuller appreciation see [www.ballinasloelife.wordpress.com](http://www.ballinasloelife.wordpress.com)

# Ballinasloe Farewell to Pauline

Writes Liam Courtney

Ballinasloe and its wider environs were in shock when news broke of the untimely passing of Mrs. Pauline Treacy, who went to her eternal reward on the 16th April last. She had been one of the more iconic figures in the community and her final departure has left a deep void in the social life of the town where her voluntary input and contribution to so many local activities was legendary.

Pauline had been an active member of Ballinasloe RFC for over thirty years and was the current Senior Vice-President. She brought a single mindedness and energy to her club involvement like few others. While active in all aspects of its activities, the clubhouse and its management was her domain where together with her husband, Jackie, they organised and ran our club's social life.

She became well known throughout Connacht rugby circles and, indeed, further afield for the welcome that she gave to all comers to the club, the hospitality she provided and the graciousness with which she treated each and everyone at Graigueawoneen.



One can only wonder at all the games and different teams that Pauline saw come and go over the years. She acted as a mother-figure to the youth teams around the club, was a solace to those who felt down after defeat and was commander-in-chief when it came to keeping order and control at functions and parties. Perhaps one of her greatest attributes was that she could command respect from one and all; from the boisterous teenagers to the more vocal adults. She ran a good ship and we all appreciated it.

Pauline could also be quite opinionated when it came to on-field matters. A fervent Ballinasloe supporter, more than one referee received a 'flea in his ear'

after a game especially if Ballinasloe had been on the wrong side of the official's decision. But she held no malice and liked nothing better than the banter over a 'Cuppa' with referees after a game.

Away from rugby circles, Pauline was deeply involved in Ballinasloe life. She supported and worked with The Fair and Festival Committee and made a telling contribution to its programmes during the horse fair week. She had been Chairperson of Hymany/Curragh Park Residents Association and was very proud of the amenity areas and playground that were recently opened. She was a great advocate for *Relay for Life*, the Cancer Research Project, and immersed herself in much of its activity.

Pauline was a genuinely caring person, one of life's true ladies, who possessed a compassionate nature far beyond the capacity of many. Yet she was happiest when surrounded by her family, especially her grandchildren who adored her and whom she spoiled. Now that she has taken her leave, life will be the poorer for her passing but will have been enriched through her presence. Hers was a life well served. May she rest in eternal peace.

# 3rd Ada English Summer School



Speakers (L-R): Dr. Brendan Kelly, 2nd cousin of Ada English, Joan McMahon, President Soroptimist International Ballinasloe & District 2013-14 Margaret Millane, Ada English Summer School Co-ordinator Sharon Jeths, Declan Kelly, Una Spain, Brian Casey and Barry Lally.

## Writes Owen Dunne

**The third annual Ada English Summer School took place recently in Gullane's Hotel. Some of Ada's closest living relatives attended as special guests. The two-day event celebrated the life and times of one of the most influential Women in psychiatric medicine, independence, politics, culture and the development of St. Brigid's Hospital.**

Although it was the 3rd year of the commemorative occasion it was the first time relatives of Ms. English were in attendance, with her 2nd cousin 93 year old Joan McMahon from Co. Meath accompanied by her daughter Alison and grand-daughter Emma Bohan from the UK. Mrs. McMahon has many memories of her cousin. She spoke a lot about how she always found herself in awe of her as a young person growing up in 1930s Dublin. "She used to tell us wonderful Irish fairytales, always brought us handmade Irish fashion and was always dashingly dressed" recalled Mrs. McMahon.

On the opening night many tales were told with an open panel discussion, consisting of Jimmy Crehan, Adrian Ahearne, Seán Tully, Micheal Staunton, Liam Curley and Fr. Bernie Costelloe who all noted the importance of St Brigid's to the locality. As did Prof. Oonagh Walsh by saying "Thirty miles out of Ballinasloe there were only three touchstones: Hayden's Hotel, Ballinasloe Horse Fair and St. Brigid's Hospital."

In her opening speech, Town Mayor Carmel Greally took the opportunity to welcome Mrs. McMahon and her family as well as all the other attendees to the event and paid special tribute to the organisers; The Local Soroptimists and Co-ordinator Ms. Sharon Jeths for their work. She also noted the importance of the event in commemorating the life of the "Powerful and Influential" Ada English. After her speech Mrs. Greally then officially opened the Photo Exhibition which housed a large collection of memorabilia from times gone bye of St. Brigid's staff, generously donated by many from the locality.

Welcoming all the delegates, Soroptimists President Margret Millane thanked all for their efforts but singled out the main sponsors of the School - Ballinasloe Town Council, Galway County Council, Ballinasloe Credit Union, and Gullanes Hotel for their continued support in enabling the event to happen.

On the 2nd day of the event a host of speakers from all backgrounds were present including Dr. Brendan Kelly, Prof. Oonagh Walsh and Dr. Ciara Breathnach as well as locals Una Spain, Declan Kelly and Brian Casey who spoke very well on many different aspects associated with the Hospital.

Declan Kelly gave a presentation on the history of children's burial grounds in the locality. Una Spain gave a very visual presentation showing many pictures she had taken from inside the now derelict building and Brian Casey made a



Laying flowers at the grave of Ada English were: Alison and Emma Bohan, Joan McMahon and Margaret Millane.

very informative presentation on *The Decline and Fall of the Clancarty Estate*. After a full day of interesting and informative presentations delegates were invited to the resting place of Ms. English where Mrs. McMahon & Soroptimists President Millane placed a wreath on her grave to commemorate the event at Creagh Cemetery.

Across the road a Camogie Street League was under way on the old Cricket Field of St. Brigid's where Ms. English and many co-workers began the camogie club all those years ago. The winners of the U12 tournament were presented with the Ada English Memorial Cup by Mrs. McMahon and although the conditions were slightly wet nothing could dampen the spirits of the young camogie players.

The discussions on Ada and St. Brigid's didn't stop there though with many of the day's participants and attendees retiring to the Dunlo Tavern where a Singers Circle was in full flow, commemorating women in Irish Ballads.

Videos of presentations made during the School as well as an interview with Joan McMahon and Alison Bohan will be uploaded on: [adaenglishsummerschool.wordpress.com](http://adaenglishsummerschool.wordpress.com)



Presentation of the Ada English Memorial Trophy by Joan McMahon to the captain and mentors of Ballinasloe U12 Camogie team.

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## Tidy Towns: Keeping Ballinasloe Streets Clean

The Tidy Towns Committee in partnership with the Ballinasloe Town Council, Chamber of Commerce, The Vault, Canal House, Active Retirement, Creagh Youthclub and Very Active Residents Association are currently working to keep the streets of Ballinasloe Clean. For anyone interested in helping; the group meet up every Thursday at 7pm in the Town Square. The work being done is in the best interests of the Town and is something that Mayor Carmel Greally feels very strong about: "It's for the good of the town. We are currently in the

process of making our application to the National Tidy Towns Association who will be coming to inspect our streets in mid June" said Mrs. Greally. She has urged everyone to play their part in helping the town look well. "I urge everyone living in town including business to sweep up and keep the area outside your doors clean! If we all do our bit we can make a huge difference to the town. We hope to have the place looking spotless by the 13th June just before the National Tidy Towns judges arrive!"

*Dunnes of Ballinasloe*

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# Garden Club Going for 18 Years

Writes Owen Dunne

Ballinasloe Garden Club, now in its 18th year, has become one of the most popular and ever expanding clubs in town. The club now boasts 39 members at present who enjoy a varied and valuable gardening experience.


There are many benefits from joining the gardening crew as P.R.O. Marirose Cullinane points out: "We provide talks on gardening and flower arranging on the second Wednesday of each month in Gullane's Hotel and so far this year we have had some very well-known horticulturists and flower demonstrators visit us, with competitions among the members in beginners, intermediate and advanced. It is through participating in such competitions that members can improve their skills and gain new ideas from one another."

The group also have many days out and just recently attended Ireland's premier gardening event 'Bloom' in Dublin where they got to sample some of the best garden displays, speakers and wholesalers in Ireland. "We will then take a break for the summer recess and will resume again on Sep 11th with an arranging demonstration by Maria Carey, Dublin A.O.I.F.A" said the P.R.O.

They are also looking forward to a talk in October from a well known TV personality. "We are glad to welcome the renowned T.V. gardener, author, lecturer and broadcaster Helen Dillon. She will



...speak on all aspects of gardening, followed by a question and answer" said Mrs. Cullinane. The group do a huge amount of charitable work also and this November they hold their Annual Gala Fundraiser night, with all proceeds going to the local East Galway Cancer Support group. "This event has proven to be a very successful and enjoyable one for us over the years with thousands of Euro donated to local charities. It also gives us the opportunity to have a glass of wine and socialise with people we might not

have seen during the past year" noted Mrs. Cullinane. "The annual membership fee is €25. This covers most club nights. We welcome new members to the club and non-members are encouraged to join us also at our monthly meetings at a cost of €5 entry." If you are thinking of growing your own garden, Mrs. Cullinane has just one thing to say: "Spoil yourself, your family and friends with al-fresco eating. Even the smallest garden or patio or lawn can boast a barbeque. Happy Gardening!" 



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# Out and About in Ballinasloe



*Congregation at the reopening of Creagh Church*



*Back (L-R): Brian Derrane, Pat Finn, John Mc Devitt, Ballinasloe. Front (L-R): Debra Carr, Kate Donnelly (AWARE), Arthur Carr, Ciara Leslie, Fintan Leslie, PJ O'Connor and Annette Mc Devitt.*



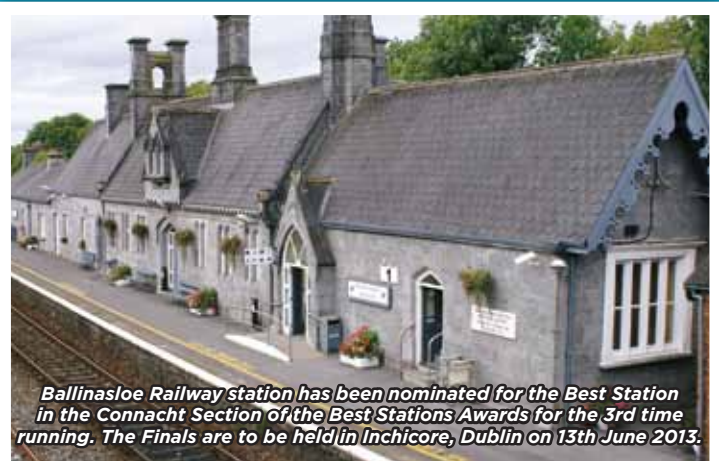
*Killalaghton Drama Group, Ballinasloe made a presentation of €1500 to Elaine Caulfield of the Motor Neurone Association recently. They successfully raised the funds by staging a play at Easter.*



*Ballinasloe's Mayor, Cllr. Carmel Grealy launches the new play equipment at Ballinasloe Leisure Centre, joined by local children and the members and staff of Ballinasloe Town Council.*

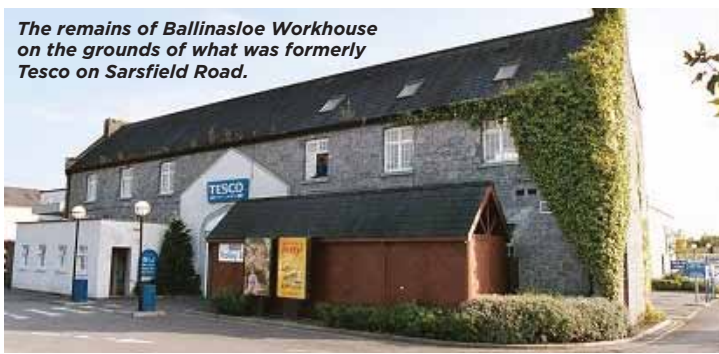


*Ballinasloe U12 Camogie, winners of Ada English Tournament, with Ada's cousin Joan McMahon.*



*Ballinasloe Railway station has been nominated for the Best Station in the Connacht Section of the Best Stations Awards for the 3rd time running. The Finals are to be held in Inchicore, Dublin on 13th June 2013.*

# O'Connor-Power: Regenerate Fenian



The remains of Ballinasloe Workhouse on the grounds of what was formerly Tesco on Sarsfield Road.

Writes Barry Lally

**It's one of the quirks of history that some individuals who figured largely in the national politics of their day are, on their demise, promptly forgotten. Such was the fate of John O'Connor-Power, an eminent 19th century parliamentarian and orator who was reared in this parish.**

Born the third son of Patrick and Mary Power (née O'Connor), on 13th February 1846 in Clashganny, Tulsk, Co. Roscommon, John's family home was in Ballygill, Creagh and Patrick was probably a tenant farmer on the estate on Dudley Persse, father of the future Lady Gregory of Coole Park. It was to Ballygill that John was taken shortly after his birth.

In his childhood he contracted smallpox and consequently spent some time in the Ballinasloe Fever Hospital (What remains of this institution can be seen in the grounds of what was formerly the Tesco Supermarket on Sarsfield Road) Though the infirmary was part of the Workhouse complex, his sojourn there should not necessarily be interpreted as evidence of family destitution, because workhouses often provided the only hospital facilities available in the provincial Ireland of this period.

His parents died in the late 1840s, having succumbed perhaps to one or other of the infectious diseases that accompanied the Great Famine, and John was brought up most likely in the household of either of his uncles, John and Thomas Power, both of whom farmed locally.

On the completion of his elementary education, Power left Ballinasloe at the age of 15 to join his brothers in Lancashire where he worked by day as a house painter in the family business, and, in the winter months, in a flannel mill, while continuing his studies at the Mechanics Institute in Rochdale.

Around 1866 he met Michael Davitt and was sworn into the Irish Republican Brotherhood (Fenians), a secret organisation whose aim was to secure Irish Independence by force of arms. He was part of a plot to raid Chester Castle for guns and ammunition in February 1867; however, the attempt was called off when it was discovered that the plan had been betrayed to the authorities. The following September he was involved in an attack on a prison van to rescue some I.R.B. leaders. This was the incident that resulted in the execution of the Manchester Martyrs, Allen, Larkin and O'Brien.

Power managed to evade capture and was later sent to the United States to discuss reorganisation of the Fenians. On his return he was arrested in Dublin in February 1868 and spent five months in Kilmainham and Mountjoy jails. Released in July, he moved to Galway as the Connacht representative on

the I.R.B. Supreme Council, and helped in arms distribution. While there he developed an interest in constitutional politics when he came under the influence of George Henry Moore, a Catholic landlord and Member of Parliament for Mayo.

Deciding that he needed to complete his formal education, Power enrolled in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, in January 1871. In addition to functioning as a diocesan seminary, the College in those years provided third-level courses for mature students. He spent three years in St. Jarlath's and financed himself by lecture tours in Britain and America.

Power favoured using I.R.B. influence to remould the conservative Home Rule movement in Ireland along more radical lines, the so-called 'New Departure' and was a leading speaker at the inaugural convention of the Home Rule in Dublin in 1873. Having won a Parliamentary seat in a Mayo by-election the following year, Power became a pioneer of obstructionist tactics in the British House of Commons, and embarked on several fund-raising tours of the United States, gaining a reputation as the Home Rule movement's finest orator and a serious rival to Parnell.

However, the R.I.B. came to believe that he was now irrevocably committed to constitutional politics and accordingly expelled him in 1877. This led to his being marginalised by Davitt and Parnell who felt he would alienate physical-force advocates whose support they were anxious to cultivate.

Power nevertheless retained credibility with small tenant farmers and addressed the first meeting of the Mayo Tenants' Defence League, precursor of the Land League, in 1879. He was the only Member of Parliament invited to or who attended the historic Irishtown meeting.

Topping the poll in the following year's General Election in Mayo, Power had as running-mate Parnell who was believed to have stood in an attempt to remove him from the political stage. This belief is given added credence when it is recalled that Parnell successfully presented himself for election simultaneously in two other constituencies.

Excluded from the Irish Parliament Party, Power abandoned obstructionist tactics and became a supporter of Gladstone, the British Prime Minister. Failing to defend his Mayo seat in 1885, Power subsequently made three unsuccessful attempts to re-enter Parliament, the last in Bristol South in 1895.

Power, who had been called to the bar in 1881, earned his living by journalism and the practice of law, and in 1893 married Avis Weiss, the widow of a surgeon and the mother of one son.

John O'Connor-Power died at his home in Putney, London, on 21st February 1919 and was buried in Abney Park Cemetery. His final years had been darkened by ill-health and the death of his stepson in the 1914-18 War.

# Creagh N.S. Credit Union Quiz Success



*Marty Whelan (Quizmaster), Stephanie Keating, Áine Bleahan, Niall Clarke (BCU) and Jimmy Johnston (ILCU President).*

**Writes Matthew Devine, Anna Kelly, Oisín Carroll and Chloe Johnston**

We recently represented Creagh N.S. in the Credit Union National Quiz final in Dublin. To get there we had to work hard and get through qualifying stages. After winning the Ballinasloe Quiz on Friday 1st February we headed to Moate where everything took off!

We travelled to Moate on 1st March by bus with the Under-13 team from Eyrecourt. The questions in Moate suited us and we were really glad we

had practised so much. In the end, we came a comfortable first. Eyrecourt got third. We were off to the National Finals in the RDS on the 7th April!

On 7th April, we travelled on the bus to the RDS where the national final was held. It was different to what we had expected with lots of entertainment including Marty Whelan as MC present. There were 50 Under-11 teams and 50 Under-13 teams. In the first round we got 6 out of 6. After the break in the 5th round, the scores went up, we were winning! Miss Keating calmed us down by getting us some yummy chips. We led

for a few rounds but had a minor disaster in round 9 and lost our first position.

Round ten suited us and we felt that we had a chance at winning second place but we had a long, agonizing, wait to find out if we would leave with a load of goodies, or nothing at all. After a twenty minute interval, Anna was the first to spot the scores. "Oh my God! We came second."

As reward for being All-Ireland runners-up, we were presented with a silver salver each, a multipad each, a goodie bag each, a perpetual trophy and €750 for the school. Even though we were runners-up, we had achieved a lot of firsts.

On our return to Ballinasloe, we were met in Gullane's by supporters from the Credit Union, the school and our families. We had a delicious meal courtesy of the Credit Union and then off home.

The following day in school, there were even more celebrations! There was a special assembly for us. Everybody gathered in the school hall and we were clapped and cheered in. It was very exciting. We were presented with our certs and salvers and the school was presented with a giant cheque. And best of all the everyone was rewarded for our efforts by getting no homework that night as well as a chocolate treat each.

It has been a great experience. We really worked well as a team and have become lifelong friends. We would especially like to thank Niall Clarke, Miss Keating and Áine Bleahene for all their support and hard work.



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# Freedom of the Great Outdoors



*Jimmy and Breda Brennan  
enjoying a holiday with  
the ICCC in Tralee*

## Writes Owen Dunne

Interested in doing something different for summer 2013? Why not head out with the Irish Camping and Caravan club for a totally new experience. The Irish Camping and Caravan Club are a family-orientated club, who organise stress-free fun for all weekends and holidays.

Local, Breda Brennan is a member of the club "The Irish Camping and Caravan Club is a voluntary organisation with five branches Leinster, Leaside, Shannonside, Corrib and the Northern branch. I am a member of the Corrib Branch, which covers the Connacht region including Ballinasloe. The five branches come together for the June Bank Holiday week-end and on two occasions we have stayed in Pádraig Pearse's GAA Club in Ballinasloe, where we booked local bands to

entertain us, visited Dubarry Factory and shopped in the town" recalled the Corrib Branch member. "The Corrib branch is in existence for 22 years now and we have many members from the locality. I'm originally from St. Joseph's Place myself and my husband is from Ahascragh. We live in Galway City and visit home regularly as we have family there, so we have a great connection with the town" noted Mrs. Brennan.

Images of damp dreary campsites can be quickly dispelled with many top quality parks based around the country. "The parks have great on-site facilities including: Games Rooms, Playgrounds, Camper's Kitchens, Showers, Toilet Blocks and TV Rooms, so regardless of the weather the sun will always shine on your holiday!" said Mrs. Brennan. So whether it's the countryside, seaside, lakes or mountains the Irish Camping and Caravan Club offers you the world from your doorstep. From out in the wilds or close to a town, it's easy to plan your ideal weekend or holiday with the club.

The club do not just restrict themselves to Ireland however as they often travel abroad, meeting lots of people from all over the world. "Our club is associated with the International Federation De Camping Et De Caravanning, Brussels (FICC) and every year member's travel abroad to different countries for the International holiday. In 1997 and 2007 Ireland hosted the prestigious FICC International Camping and Caravanning Rally in Millstreet, County Cork. This rally provided us with a wonderful opportunity to extend a traditional Irish welcome to our friends from all over the world" said Mrs. Brennan.

During the non-camping season, various social activities are also planned, such as spring walks, treasure hunts, go-karting, bowling and adult's and children's parties. There are many benefits from joining the club which Breda is well aware of "You make new friends, enjoy affordable stress-free holidays and get away from it all. So come on, if you have a tent, caravan or campervan, come enjoy the freedom of the Great Outdoors."

For more information phone Breda Brennan on Tel: 091 757713 or Mob: 085 1623972 or visit their website: [www.iccc.ie](http://www.iccc.ie)

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# Fourth Annual Stargazer Lily Foundation 10k Charity Run



10k Winner Niall Kelly

## Writes Owen Dunne

The 4th annual Stargazer Lily Foundation 10K Charity run took place recently with a good crowd taking part. Well over €2,000 was raised on the day from entry fees alone. Runners from as far afield as Donegal and Cork made the trip to take part in the yearly event.

114 people in total took part in the race and although it may seem like a good crowd it was somewhat down on previous years. "Although we were delighted with the turnout on the day we were a little disappointed that we didn't have as big a crowd compared to other years. We mainly put this down to moving the race from its original date on Pentecost Sunday to the Bank Holiday weekend which as it turns out is a massive week on the racing calendar with races all over the country" said chief organiser and local Annette McDevitt.

The race which was in aid of the Galway Hospice was officially started by the Hospice CEO Seán O'Healy as racers made their way up to the starting line from the Carlton Shearwater. "Overall it was a very successful day and despite the bitter cold wind everyone was in high spirits. The support from family and friends at the finish line was fantastic" noted Mrs. McDevitt.

The race, although run against a tough headwind was hotly contested but most importantly without injuries. "Thankfully we had no casualties to any of the runners. The only casualty we did have was to a table that was blown over in the wind and broken into 3 pieces!" joked Mrs. McDevitt. The feel to the event was kept very local with 2 Ballinasloe men Niall Kelly and Joe Ward taking 1st and 2nd respectively.

The support on the day from various organisations was superb including a lot of local volunteers which was full of young locals willing to give a hand. "I just want to thank the Civil Defence team for their involvement. I also want to specially thank the Local Guards and Traffic corps for helping out on the day. The local volunteers were also brilliant, especially our younger people who helped out in large numbers. I would also like to thank all our sponsors who helped make the event happen" A cheque of the overall funds raised will be presented to Galway Hospice CEO Seán O'Healy in the near future and plans are already being put in place for an even bigger event next year.



Ballinasloe 10k run participants leaving the Carlton Shearwater.

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# Garbally College Awards Day



## Writes Owen Dunne

Garbally College held their annual St. Joseph's Day celebrations on Friday 3rd of May. The day commenced with a morning of sporting activities followed by an Academic Mass to end what was a special day for the staff and students of the College.

Fr. Iomar Daniels concelebrated the beautiful Mass for the large gathering of students, staff and guests present. Mr. Frank Kennedy delivered the homily which focused on 'goodness in people'. The choir which was made up of Transition Year and Fifth Year pupils as well as musicians added greatly to this special occasion.

The Principal, Mr. Stephen Reilly, provided an account of the students' academic and extracurricular achievements during

the year. He congratulated all of the students on their achievements and he thanked the staff for their hard work and dedication.

Bishop John Kirby acknowledged the great work being carried out in the school by Management, Students and Staff. He expressed his delight at the opening of the new Autism facility which provides for the educational needs of pupils with mild to moderate learning disabilities and autism spectrums. He also expressed his delight with the inclusive nature of education at Garbally College. He thanked the students for their generous contribution of €1,000 towards Trócaire.

The pupils in the Special Unit lead all present in a beautiful rendition of *Galway Bay* and *Singing in the Rain* which was the highlight of the day's celebrations. After

the Mass Ms. Sindy Henry announced the winners of the various academic, social, sporting and Special award winners and were presented with their awards by Bishop Kirby.

## ACADEMIC AWARD WINNERS

**1st Year:** Colm Reilly, Brian Burke, Saquib Zardari, Liam Downey.

**2nd Year:** James Grealy, Daniel Potter, Adrian Kenny, Thomas Richardson.

**3rd Year:** Alan Barrett, Conor Bleahene, Bryan Mulry, Yasir Zardari.

**5th Year:** Andrew Mannion, Tom Butler, Thomas Cahill, Alan Harney, Jack Barker.

**6th Year:** Oisín Murphy, Matthew McMorrough, Fiachra Muldoon.

**Social Concern Awards:** Daniel Walsh, Evan Blake and Ahmed Yousef.

## SPORTS AWARDS

**Senior Hurling:** David Shaughnessy.

**Senior Rugby:** Daniel Walsh.

**Senior Football:** Cian Dooley.

**Junior Hurling:** Eoin Stack.

**Junior Rugby:** Donnchadh Reilly.

**Junior Football:** Hubert Darcy.

**1st Year Soccer:** Oisín Kelly.

**Soccer Award:** Jordan O'Leary.

## SPECIAL CLASS AWARDS

John Joseph, Kieran Willmore, Stephen Mitchell, Nathan Hall, Adam Clogher, Conor Flaherty, Stephen Ryan, Darren Collevy, Ben Cooper, John Coughlan, Ciaran O'Shea, Joseph Tumulty, Niall Bannerton and Glen Kildea and the Overall Award went to Nathan Hall. 🍀

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# Newsreader Presents Awards

**Writes Owen Dunne**

The Annual Ard Scoil Mhuire awards ceremony took place recently. The awards highlight and reward the work and achievements of the students throughout the academic year.

Television Broadcaster and RTÉ newsreader Siún Nic Gearailt added a note of glamour to the awards ceremony in the School. The West Kerry native shared her own experiences in Education and urged the school cohort to find “What makes them tick in life” when making those all important career choices. She acknowledged the difficulties of our present economic situation but reminded the assembled body that “Good times will come again” and advocated perseverance for the future. She concluded her speech with some encouraging words by saying “You should all be very proud of what you have achieved and to regard life’s challenges as opportunities to grow and learn.”

Ciara Corbett proved an extremely popular recipient of the Bank of Ireland Student of the Year Award. Ciara was honoured by the teaching staff and her Leaving Certificate peers for her academic excellence, her generous spirit and enthusiastic participation in the musical life of Ard Scoil Mhuire. Ciara was presented with her award by Bank of Ireland representative, Mrs. Helen Keane. The school’s excellent academic record was marked by individual awards for the highest achievers in each class group. The Leaving Cert award will be presented next September, to the student who achieves the highest grade in this year’s exam.

Talented sportswomen were lauded for their skill on the pitch, track and court with Holly Burdess Leaving Cert awarded with the Perpetual Mary Casey Trophy for her dedication to sport in the school. At the end of the awards speech Principal Patricia Kilgallen spoke of how delighted she was of the students and staffs efforts. “All the students should be proud of their achievements. They, along with the staff of Ard Scoil Mhuire have worked extremely hard to make it to where they are today.”



*Holly Burdess who received the Mary Casey Perpetual Trophy*



*Rachel Kearns and Ciara Moloney who received Creativity Awards*



*Siún Nic Gearailt congratulating Bank of Ireland Student of the Year Ciara Corbett*

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# Success in Community Games



U11 rugby team who recently took on Munster in the National Spring Games Semi-Final.

## Writes Owen Dunne

Many of the town's young promising Community Games enthusiasts took part in the Spring national Finals in Athlone recently. Ballinasloe was well represented with a chess team a rugby team, a group of modelmakers and a number of athletes competing in the games. The Ballinasloe Rugby U11 team represented Connacht against Munster in the All-Ireland Semi-Final for the 3rd

Consecutive year, while the chess team were going for their 7th consecutive Gold in the Nationals, including local chess talent Billy McKenna who competed for his 8th National Gold Medal.

The games play a pivotal role within the community and bring together young people with varying skills and interests. This is something that organiser and town Mayor Carmel Grealy is very proud of: "It's always a great event and we're

very lucky with the talented bunch that we have this year and every other year" said Mayor Grealy.

Here are the locals who all did the town proud in Athlone:

**Mixed Distance Relay:** Shane Jennings, Rian Dolan and James Burke

**Swimming:** Charlie Mooney, Adam McGrail, Daití Ward, Lorcan Darcey, Niall Costelloe, Odhrán Dooley

**Model Making:** Lisa Naessens, Aisling Clifford, Orna Gornicka

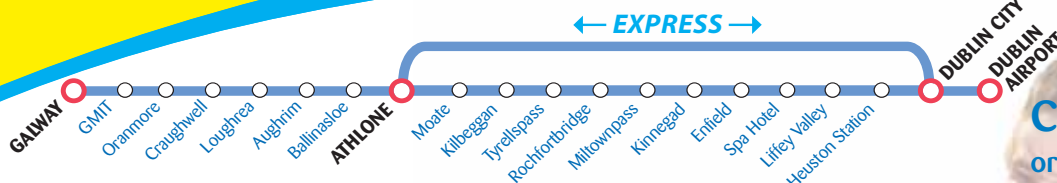
**Chess U16 Team:** Billy McKenna, Luke Moran, Lorcan Darcey, Daniel McMorrow, Conor Kelly, Odhrán Dooley

**Mini Rugby U11 Team:** Tom Fitzpatrick, Josh Dolan, Eva Hayes, Eoin Colleran, Cathal O'Hanlon, Luke Feehily, Luke Walsh, Adam Potter, Adam McGrail, John Devine, Joseph Carrey, Shane Fitzpatrick.

As well as the Spring National Finals, the locality also has many competing in the August Community Games County Finals which take place on 1st and 2nd June. These young promising stars qualified from the Local August Community games which took place in a wet and windy Duggan Park recently. The local sports gathering now in its 40th year failed to disappoint with some very promising talent on show. The very unsummer like weather did not dampen the spirits of the support however with a large crowd in attendance.

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# Good Year for Ballinasloe RFC



Ballinasloe RFC Annual Award Winners. Back (L-R): Jack Codyre, Seán Horan, Emmet Croffy, Noel Mannion. Front (L-R): Der Tierney, Ms. Geraldine Kelly, Tommy Dolan.



Ballinasloe RFC first team coaches (L-R): Mike Horan (Backs Coach), Noel Mannion (Director of Rugby) and Kevin Tierney (Forwards Coach).

## Writes Owen Dunne

With the 2012-13 season now at an end Ballinasloe Rugby Club can look back on what has been a very successful year. Club PRO Liam Courtney noted how proud he was of the club as he said: "From the minis section right up to adult rugby there was great commitment and honest endeavour put in by players, coaches and backroom staff alike that was reflected in the club's heavy involvement at the business end of the season."

When assessing the future of a club it is always important to look at the underage structure. In this club's case, it couldn't be better with plenty of strong players working their way up the ranks. "Our U19's competed in 2 Connacht Finals this season and were unfortunate to lose out on both occasions. We have some very promising players including Jack Codyre who was selected to play for the Irish Youths' side."

The even younger teams were just as prolific with plenty of Silverware brought back Suckside. "We had great success with our younger teams also with the U17's and U13's winning their Plate Finals, The U15s and U14s also left their mark on events with both reaching their respective cup finals. Our minis also took part in many blitz's throughout the Summer, with great participation from all" said Mr. Courtney.

The eventful year for the club was appropriately capped off with promotion to the Connacht Division 1A League for the first team. Despite some early wobbles, the coaching staff of

Noel Mannion, Mike Horan and Kevin Tierney never lost faith in their squad nor did the players, led by their captain Andy O'Hara. "There was an incredible improvement in the team's performances from game to game in the second half of the season. We didn't lose one league game after Christmas!" said the Club PRO. The team was also active in knock-out rugby and reached the final of the Heineken Connacht Junior Plate where they eventually lost out to Ballina. "I think on a whole, the lessons learned in that particular encounter were instrumental in eventually clinching promotion" noted Mr. Courtney.

The exploits of some of the best performers were duly rewarded with a number of call ups. "We had three players picked for the Connacht Junior Interprovincial squad: scrum half, Conor Loughrey, prop, Tommy Dolan, and wing forward, John Hayes who made the starting fifteen" stated Mr. Courtney.

After another successful season the local Rugby Club are already looking towards their future exploits "Everyone with an interest in the club will look back at the season and see a job well done and hopefully the efforts and the outcomes will be enhanced next season" remarked Mr. Courtney.

For anyone who wishes to join the club please contact Club Secretary Patricia Tierney on 0879176541. If you wish to keep updated on all matters Rugby in the Town you can check out their Facebook page at 'Ballinasloe Rugby Club'.

## Galway Motor Club's New Summer Rally Sponsor

Galway Motor Club, organisers of the Galway Summer Rally, are delighted to announce that The Carlton Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe in association with Ballinasloe Town will be the new title sponsors of the 2013 Galway Summer Stages Rally. Michelle Ryan, Marketing Manager of The Carlton commented "We are delighted along with Ballinasloe Town to be the title sponsor of such a prestigious event."

Donal Scannell, President of Ballinasloe Chamber of Commerce said "We are thrilled to have the rally based in Ballinasloe following the success of the finish of the Galway International Rally in the town in February. The rally brings a great buzz to the town as well as a much needed boost to the local

economy. Ballinasloe, 'The Gateway to the West', is a perfect location for the rally given its central location and access to the M6 Motorway. We hope that both visitors and locals will enjoy this colourful spectacle.

Mark Parsons, Clerk of the Course for the Galway Summer Rally stated, "The Carlton Shearwater Hotel and Ballinasloe Town is an ideal sponsor for the Galway Summer Rally. The Carlton Group has an established connection with the exciting sport of motor rallying through sponsorship of other rally events. The town of Ballinasloe could not have been more helpful in our preparations to date. The Rally will take place over the weekend of August 31st to September 1st and will be a round of the Dunlop

National and Top Part West Coast Championships. Headquarters will be Carlton Shearwater Hotel with Service and Scrutiny in close proximity. The event is expected to attract a full entry of over 130 cars and teams to the town.



# Gaelic Football & Hurling News

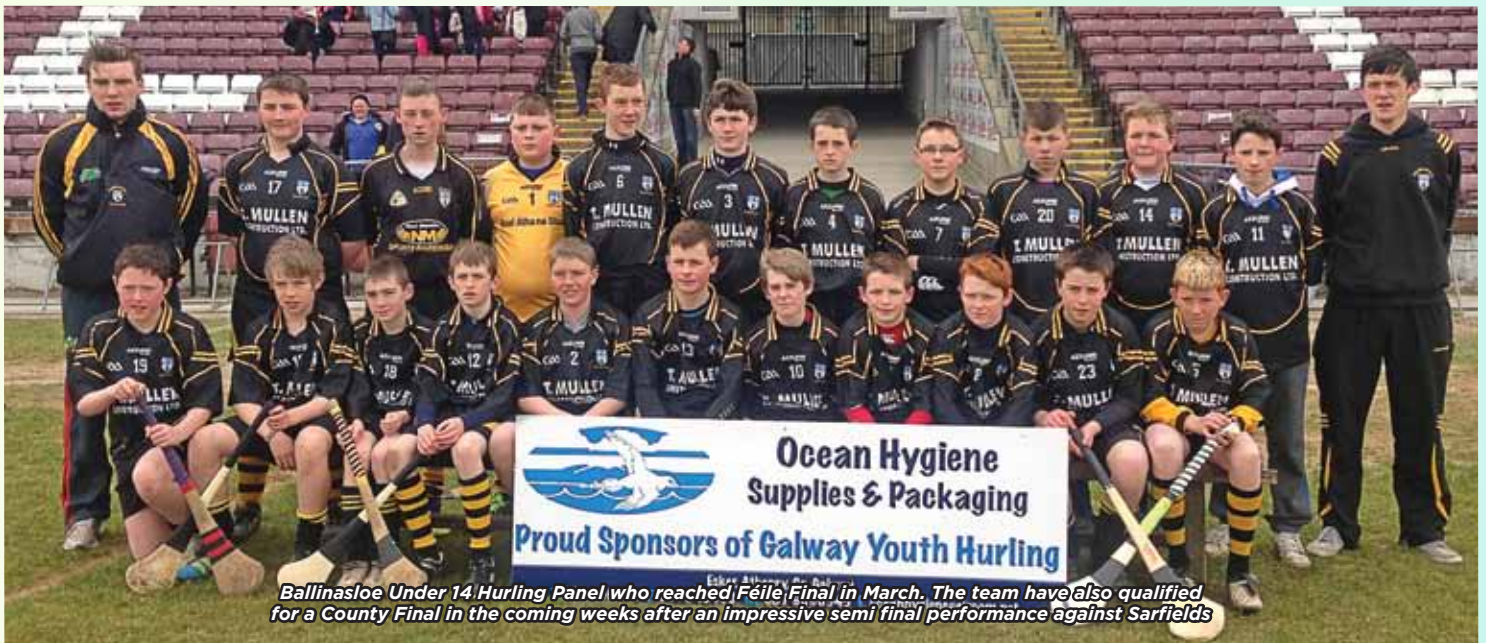
## Writes Owen Dunne

Since the All-Ireland Junior football win in February the All-Ireland Football Squad has seen a revamp, with last manager, Seán Riddell and selectors, Cathal Coleman and Pat Cunningham all stepping down, due to work commitments.

They were replaced by Lloyd Kelly who was a selector in the previous management and also an outstanding Goalkeeper, Referee and player. He brings with him a backroom team of James Manton, who has played football, trained and managed winning Juniors in 1997 and Intermediates in 2000 as well as Co-Selectors Benny Jennings, John Mitchell and Mike Tully. These three have played football at every level for Ballinasloe, Not forgetting the redoubtable Kitman Cathal Croffy, who was also infamously part of the previous management.

The Captaincy has also changed with Keith Kelly stepping down from what was a great year at club level for him with Paul Whelehan takes Captain and Luke Tierney Vice Captain.

The Intermediate football team have played 3 league games beating St. Brendan's, Glenamaddy and losing by a point to Oranmore. The Club extended it's congratulations to James Shaughnessy and Pádraic Cunningham who won All-Ireland U21 Football medals with Galway. Well done to Eoin McCormack on being appointed Captain of Galway Minor football team for the championship also to Brian Shaughnessy and Jack Parsons who are also on the panel. Ballinasloe Minor football had a very good league run, beating Corofin, Tuam, Annaghdown, Headford and getting to a Shield Final against Headford, they are also preparing to play Mountbellew in the championship in July.



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# Locals Chip in for Great Cause

**Writes Owen Dunne**

An Irishman and a Welshman walk into a pub and look what happened, Arthur Carr, Seamus McCarthy and crew donated a massive sum of money recently to Mental Health charity AWARE. In total, a cheque to the value of €6,720 was handed over. To raise this money was not an easy task but down to the determination of Arthur, Seamus and so many others they made the dream a reality.

“It all began back in August 2012” recalled Arthur. “Myself and Seamus decided to raise some much needed funds for AWARE. It was during the build up to the All-Ireland Final, so we approached Noel Treacy and the Galway County Board for 2 Hogan Stand tickets to Raffle as a first prize and were delighted when they came through for us. A Galway jersey signed by Joe Canning was the second prize.” The two men worked relentlessly to sell the raffle tickets and their efforts were rewarded with huge interest and a great sum was raised.

But that was not enough. “We were delighted with how the ticket and jersey raffle went but we knew that there was potential for more, so we decided to try and get our hands on some signed jersey’s.” These jerseys being the 4 provincial sides Leinster, Ulster, Munster and Connacht, signed by every player. An impossible feat considered by many but not by Arthur and Seamus. “It took a lot of phone calls and a lot of good luck to get our hands on the 4 signed jerseys but it was well worth it in the end” said Arthur. The down to earth attitude of the provincial clubs was something that Arthur was delighted with. “I couldn’t praise the 4 clubs enough for their support, they were outstanding! Gerry Kelly, outgoing president of Connacht Rugby and Noel Mannion helped with the acquisition of the Connacht shirt. Kenny Mahon from Belfast was the key in obtaining the Ulster jersey.” We also received tickets for home Heineken games from several of the clubs which were up for grabs with accommodation included. These jerseys were all beautifully framed by Brian and Penny Carney at no cost to fundraisers. The winner of the jerseys



Seamus McCarthy and Arthur Carr with the Heineken Cup.

was Josh McCarthy (Creagh), who has, in a wonderful gesture, donated them to the Ballinasloe RFC. Leinster were just as facilitating to the charity fundraisers by giving Arthur the loan of a very special cup “Leinster gave us the loan of the Heineken cup trophy to bring around the locality from which we raised even more money. It was a fantastic weekend!”

Kathryn Gibbon’s of the Pillar House also made a very generous donation after running a raffle as well as forwarding monies collected from her Scoil Mhuire Class of 86’ reunion. “There are so many people that I want to thank. I would especially like to thank The team that worked so hard that weekend including: Pat Finn, PJ O’Connor, Ciara Leslie, Fintan Leslie, Brian Derrane, David and Simon Carr, John, Annette and Alan McDevitt and Stephanie Lyons” stated Arthur.

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# Ballinasloe Town are Crowned The High Kings of Connacht



Above: The Ballinasloe Town squad for the final. Below (L-R): (1) Captain Petie Keighery lifting the Cup. (2) Celebrating outside Joe's Bar after returning home as Champions. (3) Man of the match Darragh Concannon.

## Writes Owen Dunne

**Ballinasloe Town AFC were recently crowned champions of Connacht, as they beat the holders Westport United 2-1 in dramatic style in the Connacht Cup Final. It is the first time since 2004 that the Suck-side Town lifted the Provincial Cup.**

Lecarrow was the venue for the eagerly awaited game between two sides who were paired off at the Semi-Final stage last year with Westport getting the better.

With the Town's other Cup run ending in slight disappointment after being beaten by Kilbarrack United in the FAI Junior Cup Quarter-Final, the Connacht Cup was one that they really wanted. "I always said to the lads that you learn more from the games you lose than the ones you win and that was certainly the case against Kilbarrack. It was great to get so far in that competition and it was only a matter of bringing that same type of performance to the Connacht Final" stated the Club manager.

The sheer determination and battling spirit of the locals was evident throughout the game as they clawed their way back after an early set back, going down 1-0 after 8 minutes. Darragh Concannon equalised mid way through the first half before Liam Lynch who was flown home from Canada grabbing the winner late on.

After the game captain Pete Keighery was over joyed and recalled what has been a fantastic season for the club. "This means so much to so many people the lads have shown such work, dedication and commitment. It's been a fantastic season. We've only been beaten once. We got to the last eight of the (FAI) Junior Cup. We're in two more finals next week in Roscommon, so hopefully we'll have four trophies on the table at the end of the season," concluded the Skipper.

Hero of the day Liam Lynch spoke of the winning mentality of the management team. "We're a club that keeps trying to progress. We have a manager - Enda Concannon - that keeps driving us on and Noel Lyons and Peter Tiley as the backroom team. They're winners. They want to win everything, so they drive that into the players"

Deputy Mayor and club stalwart Johnny Walsh paid homage to the club's performance not just in the Final but all year around. "The Club have done the town very proud this year by not only reaching the FAI Quarter-Final but by also winning Connacht's premier Cup competition. They now march on to try and complete the clean sweep in Roscommon which they are more than capable of doing" said the Deputy Mayor.

The Connacht Success does not mark the end of a brilliant Season for the Town however with two more trophies on the line. "We're also in the Challenge Cup and the Premier Division Cup Finals, so hopefully we can do the Quadruple" stated Mr. Concannon.



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## Exhibit by Young Local Artist: Lisa McDevitt



In my recent exhibition *Belichtung* (Exposure), I wanted to explore the underlying structure and expose what is hidden under our skin, what lies beneath and also expose emotions we all experience daily. This was my first exhibition. I am a student, studying art for my Leaving Cert, in Ard Scoil Mhuire. I study a wide range of mediums, but my main interest is in sketching, pen, ink and acrylics. My work is a mix of reality and gothic fantasy, mostly in black and white, sometimes with an added splash of colour. Colours can be distracting in some images and can take the focus away from the message you are trying to convey. I am heavily inspired by artists such as Pendelton Ward, Kat Von D, Kevin Liewellyn and Tim Burton, as well as lyrics from the bands *Asking Alexandria* and *Bring me the Horizon*.



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# Chess Club: Celebrates 11<sup>th</sup> Year

Writes Owen Dunne

Ballinasloe Chess club celebrated its 11th birthday recently since being re-formed in 2002. Being the first chess club formed outside of Dublin in 1839 it is steeped in History with names such as Lord Clancarty involved in the early years.

Today, the club now finds itself in a healthier state than ever with growing numbers. "The club has expanded in recent years and while it started out as a junior club involved solely in Community Games, it is now a well established senior club with two teams in the adult chess leagues. The club's Under 16 team will be competing in the Community Games national finals for the eighth consecutive year and are chasing a seventh national win" said club chairman John McKenna.

There is a huge emphasis on the younger players in the club with a large amount of junior members. "This year the club had over 50 junior members aged from six upwards and it was a busy year that culminated in the clubs junior championships with Jack Mitchell, Aoife Castle and Putu Colbert winning in the A, B & C divisions respectively. The senior club championship attracts the adults and strong juniors and this year was won by the club number one player Tommy Dunne Jnr." stated Mr. McKenna.

The club does not only cater for local players as they have members from further afield. "The success of the club has meant that it now draws in a number of juniors and adults from far and wide and at present it has members from Athlone, Shannonbridge, Loughrea, Athenry, Claregalway and Tuam" noted the club chairman. "The club's juniors have also fared well in school competitions with Creagh National School and Garbally College in the medals in the National Checkmate Competition. Several Ballinasloe juniors have used these competitions to qualify for playing for the Irish Junior teams and this year the club will have Cian Guinan competing on the Irish Under 14 team in the Four nations competition in Wales. The club's two adult teams had a successful season although they both narrowly lost out on promotion" said Mr. McKenna.



The Club's No. 1 player Tommy Dunne playing a pictured here playing four players at once.

The Chess club will start up again in September. The club meets at the Vault Youth Club, Marina Point on Wednesday nights at 7pm for Juniors and 8pm for Adults and stronger Juniors. Anyone interested in joining should contact John McKenna at 087 2544733.

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# New Ballinasloe Golf Academy

**Writes Owen Dunne**

Ballinasloe Golf Academy, a new state of the art golfing facility will open its doors to the public on Sunday June 2nd. The new facility will benefit local golfing enthusiasts as well as attracting those from further afield.

Young local entrepreneur Alan Naughton came up with the idea of building the Academy along with his father John Naughton to help local golfers practice their game as there was no such facility locally. Situated just off the motorway it is an attraction that Mr. Naughton hopes will lure people into Ballinasloe on a more regular basis. "I decided to start the Golf Academy because there was an opening there. There was a driving range in the area before but that has been closed for over 10 years which forced locals out of the town to Driving Ranges in Lougrea and Athlone. There is a huge membership in the local Golf Club so there should be strong demand for such a facility. I hope that this new State of the Art Driving Range will keep business local as well as attracting people from outside the locality" said Mr. Naughton.

There will be many facilities on the 6 acre site located at Birchgrove, Creagh including: Driving Range, Putting Area, grass tees, Short Game Area and Bunker Practice facility. The Academy will be open for more than 12 hours a day 7 days a week. The area will be completely floodlit to cater for night time use. There will also be 10 Driving Bays, 5 Target



Greens, 1 Private Pro Area as well as a Recreation Facility. Clubs will be provided free of charge for those who are considering taking up the sport but have yet to purchase their own clubs.

The golfing arena will be officially unveiled to the public on the 2nd of June with a few special guests lined up including local professional golfer Mark Staunton. "Mark will also be stationed at the Driving Range for certain days to give golfing lessons to those interested in improving their skills. There will be both individual lessons and group lessons available at reasonable rates" stated the young entrepreneur.

The new golf academy will be there for all to enjoy for people of all ages and all golfing levels. "Ballinasloe Golf academy will be open for everybody to use. It's designed to be used by people of all ages and golfing standards. People will

have the option to become a member for a small fee or pay as they play from as little as €4!" said Mr. Naughton.

A proud Ballinasloe man himself, Mr. Naughton was delighted that development and building of the Driving Range was kept local "Clogher Construction have been the contractors involved in the building. We also hope to create 2 part time jobs in the future to help with the upkeep of the facility as well as serving in the recreation area. We are also very grateful to Roscommon LEADER partnership who have part funded this project" noted Mr. Naughton.

For those who may be interested in becoming a member of the Ballinasloe Golfing Academy or if you would like more information you can contact them by email [ballinasloegolfacademy@live.ie](mailto:ballinasloegolfacademy@live.ie) or visit the Golfing Academy website [www.ballinasloedrivingrange.com](http://www.ballinasloedrivingrange.com)

## Garbally View Nursing Home

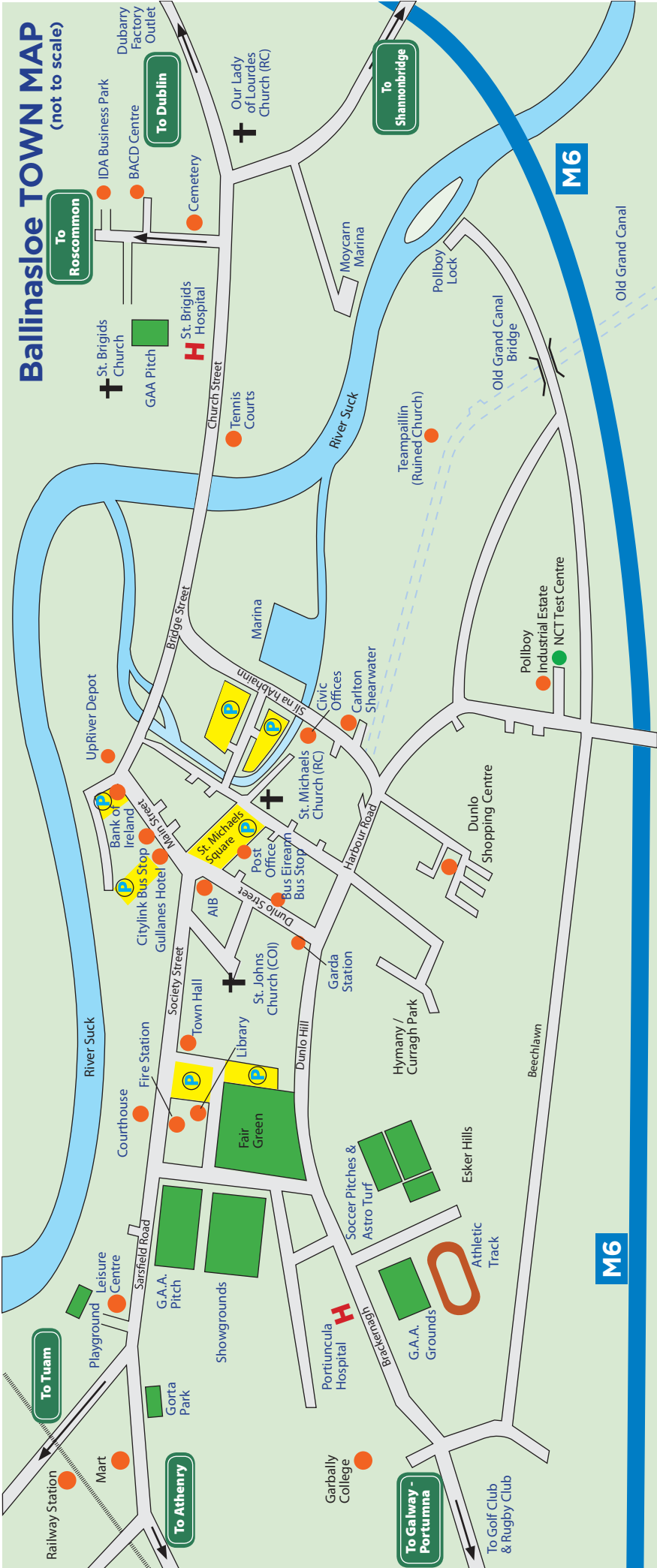
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# Ballinasloe TOWN MAP

(not to scale)



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*Members of the Active Retirement Association enjoying a Dawn Chorus as part of the Bealtaine Festival celebrations at the Marina, Ballinasloe.*





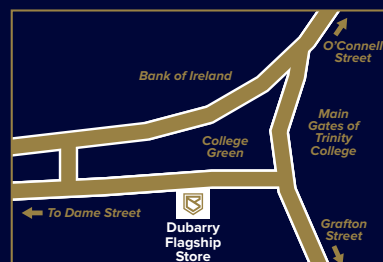
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