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AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 5 Issue 2: Jun '15 - Jul '15

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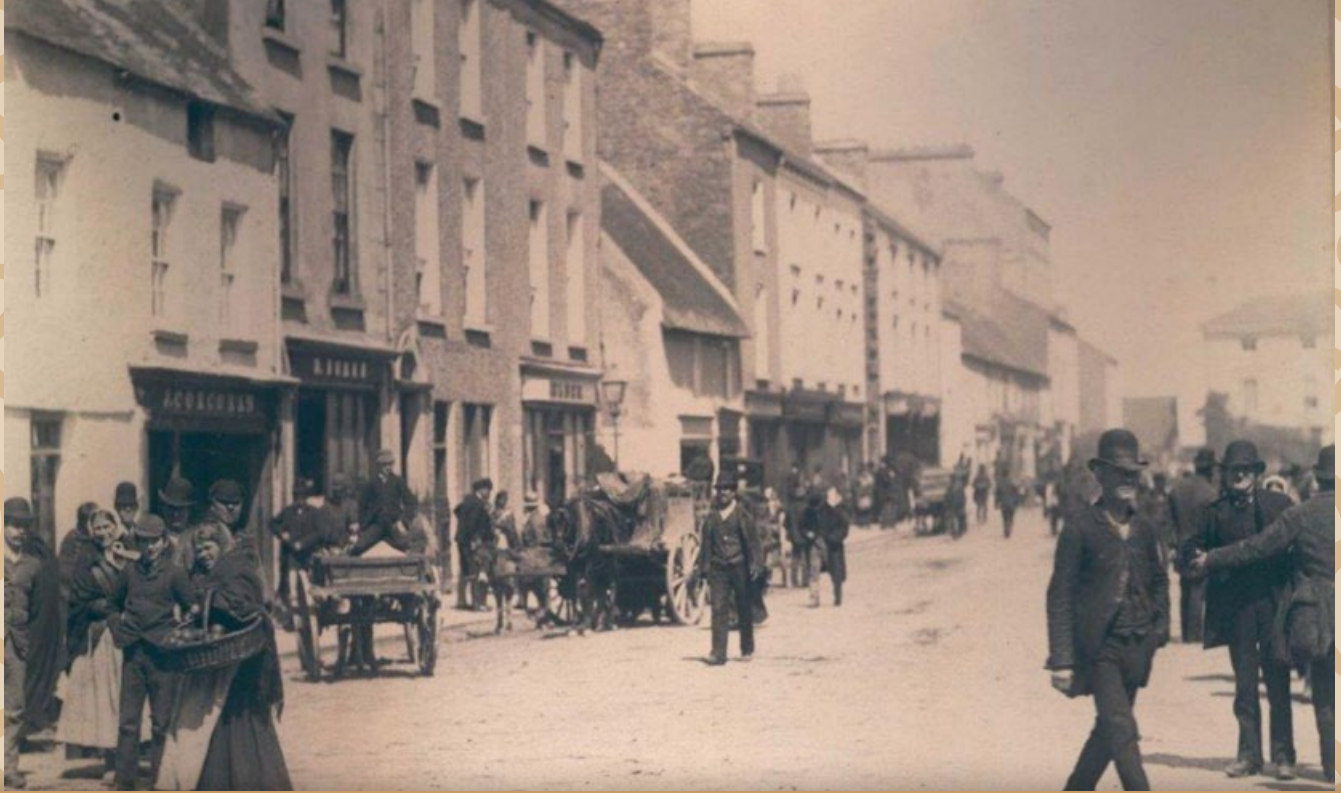


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BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 5 Issue 2: June-July 2015

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REAMHRÁ

An so it has come to pass – the big díg has begun. IT is vital, as it is that the discommoding that must happen, does so in a way that is mindful of residents and business owners.

News from our new Website project Ballinasloe.ie is mixed. Huge traffic to the site but after much huffing and puffing about previous presences on the world web and a herculean amount of voluntary work by Sinead Coleran – ONLY 43 of the 151 registered business in the town centre have bothered to update their business information into their FREE Listing section. The Life

team have offered training in social media and online marketing, to date the take up has been poor. Is this to be another opportunity frittered?

Summer is upon us and we will hopefully be seeing the Marina fill up – whose crews might pass a few hours in the centre meandering about but again (whilst LIFE will be available as it has been at the lock for the past four seasons) – how many hire craft contain marketing messages about what we have an offer here or how many staging posts along the middle reaches of the Shannon – Erne Waterway, feature a marketing message for the locale. Are we maximising the opportunity of the Marina at all or is this another piece of valuable infrastructure frittered?

For those who say there is nothing to do – please read of the five taverns and restaurants in this edition who are providing a myriad of entertainment, traditional music, and wonderful food and are prepared to broadcast that message through ALL the new avenues. Read of the new facilities in sports and leisure that have recently been upgraded.

Our cover photo features the old Convent which is being renovated as our newest piece of infrastructure – a considerable investment of €5 million to be opened this Autumn. The wags have christened it the “White Elephant” owing to the front façade. In reality - it is the lynchpin building and site opening up the back of Society Street/Main street to Gullane's car park. There are huge additional opportunities both within the site and indeed some of the space inside. It is up to us either to exploit it fully or let it be viewed again as another opportunity frittered?

Le Gach de Ghui

Colm Croffy, Editor
Ballinasloe Life.



On a recent visit to local National Schools on behalf of a sporting organisation, I was surprised at the number of junior students who are not involved in some active extracurricular activities, particularly in a Town where we have a huge array of opportunities, either run on a commercial basis or facilitated on a voluntary basis by individuals who give up their valuable time.

There is an opening for us as a Community to go against the anticipated trend nationally of increased BMI over the next 20 years and make a mark for itself to actively encourage greater physical activity combined with balanced diets. On a bimonthly basis in Ballinasloe Life, you can see the huge variety of activities ongoing for both the young and the old and encourage active participation in same.

We in BACD recently held our AGM which was well attended and our special guest Ann Phelan, Minister for Rural Economic Development and Rural Transport, addressed us and committed to support us in any way she can to continue the promotion work we are doing.

It is clear we need to work together as a Community and each individual organisation needs to keep in mind how they can work with other organisations and be part of the overall Team.

We also need more members in BACD to help fund our ongoing agenda and for €30 per annum you can have an active part to play, so please sign up and be part of the Team.

Seamus Duffy, Chairman,
Ballinasloe Area Community Development.

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Stephanie O'Halloran SKY Star

By Zara Hill

It's not every day that an Olympic Champion is in town, so when boxing hero Katie Taylor arrived at Ardscoil Mhuire in March to surprise TY student Stephanie O'Halloran, there was tremendous excitement all around. Little did Stephanie know, she was about to be crowned SKY Sports "Living for Sports Irish Student of the Year."

Stephanie from Brackernagh was chosen to take part in her school's Sky Sports; 'Living for Sport' project in 2013, following the tragic passing of her father.

The initiative of the award is to celebrate the outstanding achievements of students who have gained confidence and life skills as a result of their involvement in sport.

Beginning in 2013, Stephanie was one of 20 girls from her class in Ardscoil Mhuire who took part in the programme. Through hard work and dedication, she was selected as the Irish 'Student of the Year' by a panel of judges for her participation in the SSLFS programme that helped her to overcome a challenging time in her life.

Throughout the programme Stephanie organised successful sporting events for children with learning disabilities both in her school and in Garbally College. She described this as a great experience, signifying the incredible journey she has made.

"I loved organising these events. It was so cool seeing people have fun doing something that we organised. I also gained confidence speaking in front of people."

Stephanie also had the opportunity to travel to the SSLFS live event in Dublin in April where she and her friend Aisling encouraged primary school children to participate in new sports.

It is easy to understand why this inspirational girl was chosen as the Irish Sky Sports Living for Sports representative. However, when Olympic Champion and Sky Academy Ambassador Katie Taylor came to surprise her in the middle of a school quiz, Stephanie was completely overwhelmed.

"I couldn't believe that an Olympic Gold medallist was in my school. I was shaking. It was so cool to get a selfie with her and she told me to just keep doing what I'm doing."

In a Sky interview following the big surprise, Katie Taylor described the local student as "a girl full of confidence" before adding, "she was born for greatness".

On being announced as Ireland's SSLFS representative, Stephanie flew to London for the Official Awards ceremony.

"London was so fun. We got a tour around the Sky Sports News Headquarters and met some of the Sky Sports athlete mentors. I also got to hold Michael McKillops Paralympic Gold Medals", she added proudly.

Stephanie's success story has been the talk of the school according to her teacher Karen Usher who initiated the programme in 2013.

"The whole Sky Sports Living for Sport experience has had a huge impact on Ardscoil Mhuire in general. All of the pupils involved in school sport had the wonderful opportunity to meet former British

heavy-weight boxer, Dermot Gascoyne and the Irish 400m Hurdles Champion Thomas Barr."

Karen added, "the highlight of our involvement in SSLFS of course, was our very own Stephanie O'Halloran being nominated for the SSLFS Student of the Year Award by Dermot Gascoyne. It was a huge honour for Stephanie and very exciting to have Sky in the PE hall for a day, filming Stephanie and her project group."

Karen has been involved in the SSLFS projects for the last two years and has seen how the programme has benefited over 40 pupils in the school.

Stephanie has been recognised as a true role model by her peers, who recently elected her to become the Student Council Representative for her class.

Karen Usher said; "It's a testament to Stephanie how she took the skills she learned and applied them to her own life. Her increase in confidence, self-esteem and happiness is not only noticeable in the club, but also in the classroom and school corridors."

The entire school community is proud of Stephanie and her great achievement.

Stephanie's class tutor, Ms Hackett describes Stephanie as "a happy go lucky child" who "always seems to be smiling and having fun with her class mates."

Her maths teacher Mr Hardiman remarked; "she is always pushing herself and her confidence has improved greatly. She is extremely well liked in her class by all."

Stephanie is "a lovely student" according to history teacher Ms Shields, while Claire Dempsey her English teacher believes she has really "come out of her shell".

Other words used by teachers and friends to describe Stephanie were; polite, helpful and always pleasant - an A+ performance all around.

Stephanie is considering pursuing a course in Photography once she finishes Secondary School - however, for now she plans to enjoy the rest of TY and continue to grow in confidence.



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BEST Winner Katie O'Sullivan

By Zara Hill



Budding entrepreneur, Katie O'Sullivan from Holy Rosary Secondary School is the lucky winner of the seventh annual BEST Competition and the top prize of €1,000. She made it all the way to the final, impressing judges with her clever innovation: "Snap & See" 3D Lenses.

With huge participation from three of the local schools - Holy Rosary Mountbellew, Scoil Mhuire and Garbally College - this year's judging panel (John Power, Gerry Kelly and Pat Ward) had the difficult task of choosing the overall winner from 80 entries.

Katie was thrilled to win the competition, saying: "it's fantastic. I genuinely didn't expect to win anything but it was definitely a pleasant surprise."

A member of the BEST judging panel for the past few years, John Power said he was impressed by the 14 final projects that excelled in terms of "quality and preparation". "Like a lot of good ideas,

Katie's is a remarkably simple idea. 3D is now very common and most of the hit movies in recent years have 3D Versions. 3D TV is at the early stage of development, but is certainly growing. Katie has developed a Prototype clip on 3D lens - similar to clip on sunglasses. We believe customers will love them", said John.

Katie came up with the idea of "Snap & See" while on a trip to the cinema to see a 3D movie in Killarney with her parents Stephen and Ann from Ballagh, Menlough.

"I wasn't wearing my contact lenses so I had to force the 3D glasses over my own pair for the entire movie. It was uncomfortable and inconvenient so I decided to try and come up with a solution," remarked Katie.

Katie's Business teacher, Ms Burke worked with her and the other participating students in the school to produce their prototypes and help them prepare their presentations.

Hazel Burke remarked: "the BEST competition is a fantastic opportunity for students to brainstorm business ideas and look for gaps in the market. Katie's idea is such a brilliant one that solves an everyday problem for people with glasses. As a teacher, I loved getting to hear all of the students' ideas and see how they developed them throughout

the course of the competition."

For Katie, the most enjoyable part of the competition was discussing her idea with teachers, students and other people. "It was nice to see people's reactions and



listen to their opinions on my product", remarked the aspiring journalist.

Having won the top prize of €1,000, Katie remarked: "no new clothes I'm afraid. Instead it's all going into my Credit Union account and will probably stay there until after I leave school."

This year's competition was sponsored by the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre (BEC) and the Credit Union. For more about the 2015 BEST Competition, including a list of the other prize winners, projects and the after story video, visit our blog at ballinasloelife.wordpress.com.

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BACD Reviews Positive Year

By Zara Hill

The Annual Meeting of Ballinasloe Area Community Development reviewed a number of current community projects including Life Magazine, the Town Benchmarking Project, BEST and the launch of Ballinasloe.ie.

The AGM took place and welcomed special guest, Minister Ann Phelan. A number of local Council and Oireachtas members were also in attendance on the night, as well as many business and community activists. Guests from the Burren Lowlands Development Company, Loughrea Chamber of Commerce and Galway Rural Development also attended.

BACD Manager, Lyn Donnelly presented the occupancy statistics of the Enterprise Centre. Figures showed that the Centre is currently 98% occupied, facilitating 17 Enterprises and employing 196 people. According to Lyn; "the only available space is for hot-desking (shared office space, available to rent on an hourly, daily or weekly basis)."

With an annual turnover of €245,446 and a total expenditure of €229,693, the BACD offers services for entrepreneurship including; advice and guidance for entrepreneurs, affordable rental rates through hot desks, meeting and training rooms, access to enterprise support agencies and networking events.

Secondly reviewed at the meeting was the successful completion of four volumes of

Life Magazine. Volume 5 was launched in February this year and to date a total of 111 subscribers - made up of different businesses and local groups have supported the project.

Volume one of Life magazine saw the distribution of 27,000 hard copies and 1,500 copies of the magazine online. This has since expanded and Volume 4 saw the distribution of 37, 500 hard copies and a much increased 21, 500 online copies of the community magazine.

On reviewing the successful completion of the Town Benchmarking project - a project undertaken to understand, measure, evaluate and improve the economic viability of the town centre - Lyn mentioned the Project funding partners; BEC, Galway County Council, Ballinasloe Credit Union and Ballinasloe Chamber of Commerce and thanked them for their support.

Works carried out by the Town Benchmarking Project to date have been the People & Places Partnership - with an ethos of "Putting the life back into our towns and cities" - and the establishment of a 13 member Town Team. The Town Team have been working to "revitalize the town and its hinterland, enabling it to achieve its true potential, by creating awareness of all the positive assets we currently have in the townland and identifying new initiatives that will enhance and expand on what we already have."

The team also hopes to continue to encourage positive suggestions and

interaction from all local groups and prioritise attainable objectives that will rejuvenate the town.

Other upcoming projects for the town team were announced as; a Boating Regatta, Christmas Festival and Beara-Breffini and Hymany Way upgrade projects.

Minister Phelan congratulated and commended all involved in the different projects and groups in the area and enthused that Ballinasloe should be showcased throughout the country, to highlight how rural towns can ensure their vibrancy and economic viability.

Galway County Council funded the upgrading of the Hot Desk Facility at the Enterprise Centre, as well as the Benchmarking Project. The Ballinasloe Chamber of Commerce were thanked for their support with the Benchmarking Project, while it was recognised that the Credit Union supported the BEST competition, the benchmarking project and the training room upgrade. Enterprise Ireland was also mentioned for the provision of a BDM Grant.

Future plans for BACD include sustaining occupancy levels, raising the profile of the centre, increasing membership and engagement within the community and finally to continue business development work.

For further details about development companies plans contact Lyn Donnelly in Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre 090 9646516.

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Check out the Paul Costelloe collection at Cahalan Jewellers, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

Paul Costelloe reveals his latest jewellery range the "Pembroke Bridal Collection". The iconic Irish designer has created an array of classical bridal jewellery that is sure to make every bride-to-be shine on their special day. The Pembroke Bridal collection reflects Paul's eye for timeless jewellery and features corresponding sets of pearl and crystal necklaces, bracelets, and earrings. Each piece has 'Forever' engraved on the back adding extra sentiment so you will have a special keepsake to cherish forever.

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Lorcan Mitchell

By Zara Hill



A carpenter by trade, Aughrim native Lorcan Mitchell has set his sights on a new business venture and hopes to get the community on board - introducing The "Mitchell Drum".

Lorcan first discovered his creative flare

while making an electric guitar for his Leaving Cert woodwork project in Garbally College. Combining his love

of music and carpentry, Lorcan now hopes to make a career making what he describes as "an abbreviation of the Cajon Drum".

Pronounced 'ca-hoon', the Cajon is a drum made out of plywood - an instrument you sit on and tap to make a drum-like sound.

Travelling to the Philippines as a volunteer following a devastating typhoon that struck the area in 2013, Lorcan began making smaller versions of the Cajon Drum and soon began a music school - giving the children drums to share and practice on.

On returning to Ireland, Lorcan continued designing the instruments and now he hopes to promote the Mitchell Drum, beginning of course with his local area.

With his new website and business now

up and running - Anam Ceol - Lorcan hopes to visit the local schools to exhibit his instruments and set up drum and music circles in town.

The former Battle of the Bands participant remarked, "my fondest memories as a young lad involved my siblings and I knocking on doors on St. Stephen's Day, singing songs".

Lorcan is now making Mitchell drums full time in his workshop in Aughrim and welcomes people to come and try one if they are interested. To promote his new business, Anam Ceoil, Lorcan is also willing to do school presentations and donate some instruments to get children started with music.

For more information, visit Lorcan's brand new website www.anamceoil.com or contact Lorcan at 085 7354030.

Feeding Problems of the Newborn Baby

By Zara Hill



Feeding difficulties in the newborn period seems to be the most common problem encountered by new mothers. Feeding problems have a wide range at

presentation. The earliest presentation can start at just two weeks of age.

Upper gut problems present as vomiting, arching of back during feeding and

taking only a small amount of milk at a time, even though these babies would still appear to be hungry. All of these are signs of reflux (gastroesophageal reflux). Babies who arch their backs while feeding and at times grimacing would also have acid reflux. These babies also tend to be constantly mouthing of objects, fingers included.

Babies with lower gut problems present with abdominal cramps by drawing up their legs. At times it is possible to hear increased abdominal gases, which is seen as excessive wind and as flatulence. Stools of these babies are quite loose and gassy. Lower gut problems are due to cow's milk protein intolerance.

Diagnosis of north upper and lower gut problems can mostly be made by careful history taking by your doctor. Thorough examination of the baby is important as there are often conditions which can mimic the above. Once a diagnosis is made, a change of formula maybe indicated in the case of lower gut symptoms. Upper gut problems are usually due to lax muscle which normally matures around eight months of age. These babies are otherwise thriving.

Dr Susan Orwa holds consultations in Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre on Saturdays and appointments can be made by contacting 087 7039590

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BUSINESS 07

Mary Cronin - Career Fit

By Zara Hill

Whether you wish to start your career, return to work following a career break or even change your career path, new local business CareerFIT offers a range of consultations and workshops specifically designed to guide you toward a more fulfilling and rewarding career.



Based at the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre as well as locations in Athlone and Roscommon, CareerFIT hopes to generate employment in the local area through the promotion of lifelong learning and career advice consultations.

Having taken a career break to travel across the United States and the UK for many years, Cork native and CareerFIT founder, Mary Cronin decided to return to Ireland and settle here in the midlands in 2008.

Realising her own situation - wishing to return to work following her career break - and acknowledging the changing world we live in, where jobs for life are now a thing of the past, Mary quickly saw a need for adult career services in the area and with the support of her family CareerFIT was born in 2015.

Graduating from the University of Derby with a first class honours degree in Psychology, as well as a Post Graduate Diploma in Adult Guidance and Counselling from the National University of Ireland Maynooth, Mary felt that while there are some career supports out there for adults, few supports are designed to meet individual needs.

"My main motivation for setting up my own careers counselling practice was that it would enable me to work with each individual to find a solution that is best for them" explained Mary.

Seeing great potential in Ballinasloe, Mary recently decided to establish CareerFIT in the Enterprise Centre.

"I felt that many people here and in the surrounding areas would benefit from the services we provide" remarked Mary.

Like many towns across Ireland, Ballinasloe has been affected by the most recent economic recession in terms of unemployment and according to career expert Mary, "the psychological impact still lingers and inhibits people from moving forward in their careers".

She added "people are still being cautious when making career choices. There is a sense that we should be grateful for any job and job security. Security is valued and change is feared".

Mary acknowledges the challenges faced by those who wish to return to work following a career break.

"People often feel they have lost their skills or that they can no longer identify with the "working person" image. There is also a loss of confidence and self-esteem", added Mrs. Cronin who believes CareerFIT can offer adults much-needed support in these difficult situations.

Mary encourages adults in the locality to avail of the great services provided by CareerFIT, suggesting that the benefits are significant and can improve many aspects of life.

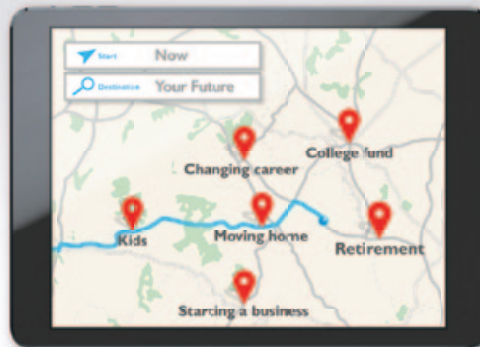
"Most people will work for about 50 years of their lives, so it is important to be happy in what you do. If not, it will impact negatively on other areas of life such as relationships and personal interests".

The core services offered by CareerFIT include: Career Consultation, CV and Interview Preparation and After Support.

Mary hopes to build up a client base in Ballinasloe over the coming year and looks forward to her workshops that are coming up in September.

To avail of the services provided by Career FIT, contact Mary on 086 3701 791 or email, mary@career-fit.ie. For more information, visit her newly launched website, www.career-fit.ie.

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Another New Outlet for Dunlo St.

Good news for the town centre with the opening of Clothes for Cash -marking the fifth new business premises on Dunlo St. in 18 months. Previously a well-known motor part shop (Kelso's), Clothes for Cash is in a prime location and business man Gary Dineen is grateful to see other shop owners are "encouraging and positive" at the opening of a new shop on Dunlo Street.



Gary established Clothes for Cash. ie four years ago. The business initially started by buying second hand clothes from door to door. After this, Gary began to attend clothes drives held by schools and clubs to raise funds and bought the second hand clothes in this way.

Seeing the business off to a successful start, Gary was always looking for ways to expand the business even further. His most recent expansion has been the opening of his first store in the town centre.

"I saw an opening in the market in the recession for people to recycle their unwanted clothes and make money at the same time", remarked Gary.

Reigning from The Kingdom of Kerry, father of two Gary Dinneen hopes to create two full time jobs for the area with the establishment of his new business, Clothes for Cash.

Clothes collected are graded and exported to Eastern Europe and Africa. According to Gary, who has become an expert in the field, "seventy percent of the world population wear second hand clothing. It feels good to know that these clothes will be worn again and re-used instead of ending up in our landfills."



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"I enjoy the local curiosity and explaining how the whole system works. Our shop is unique in that we pay the customer rather than the customer paying us. I am very thankful for all the well wishes and kind gestures and I hope that the people of Ballinasloe and surrounding area will continue to support me and help my business grow."

"The Clothes for Cash process is very easy. You bring in your unwanted clothing, we weigh it and then we pay you 50 cent per kg. For example, a 10kg bag is worth €5", explained Gary.

The store accepts; clean, dry and reusable clothes, paired shoes, trainers (tied), curtains, handbags, belts and bedding. Dirty, torn or wet clothing is not accepted as well as duvets and pillows. Opening hours are 10am - 5pm Monday to Saturday.

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Tom Costello - New Manager In the Square Hostelry

By Zara Hill

Located in the Market Square, the popular traditional music hotspot "An Táin" - recently welcomed its new manager, Tom Costello.



Tom Costello, John Malone and Mike Curtis from Northampton and Padraig Lyons.

Tom from Ardcarne in Creagh is well known in GAA circles and is also heavily involved with drama, both in Moore/Clonfad Drama Society and in Relays.

Having previously worked in the pub scene in Donegal, Tom is delighted with the opportunity to work in An Táin. "I'm really excited about my new role.

Although I'm still finding my feet, I'm relishing the challenge to build on An Táin's fantastic reputation."

The pub opened in 1998 and since then has developed a solid name for its unique character and warm, friendly atmosphere.

"People can enjoy a drink, meet a friend, host a party upstairs or enjoy one of the many regular traditional music sessions during the week." added the local stage man.

A proud supporter of local talent, Tom hopes to keep the traditional music scene alive in the pub with trad evenings and weekend sessions filling up his calendar for the summer.

Speaking of the traditional scene, Tom remarked; "it embraces people from all age groups and walks of life and attracts patrons from the town and surrounding areas".

An Táin employs twelve local people, between full and part-time staff and is well known for catering all major sporting events, boasting seven large television screens together with an exemplary surround system.

"Traditional music and good craic have long been synonymous with the pub", explained the new manager who hopes this will continue long into the future.

"We have regular slots on Wednesday, Friday and Sunday and we welcome and

encourage anybody who has a song to sing, yarn to tell or a tune to play to come in and join us".

"We are fortunate to have the internationally renowned fiddle player Gerry Harrington here to perform with our regular group every Wednesday night, while some of the local musicians will join Bobby Kilkenny and Frank Hession on the first Thursday of every month commencing on June 4 for a cracking trad session."

New band on the block - "Transessiun" - made up of five highly talented fifth year students from Garbally College will also be playing in the bar every Friday night.

There is a lot for customers to look forward to including live music on Saturday nights, the launch of the "An Táin Cocktail Menu" over the June Bank Holiday Weekend and the renaming of the upstairs bar, which is to be decided through a Facebook competition in early June with a number of great prizes up for grabs.

Tom welcomes the opportunity to work with community groups or organisations that wish to organise fund raising events. The pub in conjunction with the GAA club and Galway East Life Support is launching "An Táin's Got Talent" in June with a prize fund of €1,000.

For more information on An Táin's new party package, upcoming events and more follow "An Táin Bar" on Facebook.

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Major Upgrade on Water and Sewage Systems Underway

By Zara Hill

An investment of €5.7 million towards the improvement of water services in Ballinasloe town as part of a major Galway project by Irish Water has begun.

Works began on Contract 1 in mid May with the old N6 heading from the Health Centre towards Garbally Gates, as part of a major long awaited water services upgrade being carried out in the town by Irish Water.

"This important work will improve water services infrastructure in the area through the Ballinasloe Water Services Upgrade and Galway Water main Rehabilitation Project", according to Senior Resident Engineer with Galway County Council, Seán Whelan.

For the local area, this €5.7million project-including design costs, land acquisition and site investigation-involves two main elements including: water main rehabilitation and sewer network upgrade works.

It is hoped that completion of this project will benefit the community in a number of ways by:

1. Reducing disruptions to water supply

2. Improving water quality by removing old cast iron mains
3. Reducing leakage in the network
4. Reducing maintenance and operating costs
5. Removing old service lines
6. Increasing the ability to provide for future population growth in the area
7. Improving the water quality in the River Suck by removing some of the combined storm overflows
8. Improving road safety by installing new gullies and enhancing road drainage

A traffic management plan is in place as the works continue under the Ward & Burke Construction Company of Kilcolgan - along the N6 and a letter was issued to all homes affected by the works along Brackernagh in mid-May, including an emergency contact number for any queries about traffic management or disruption.

Since late May there has also been a road closure in place along Jubilee Street and the bottom of St. Michael's Square. The road is closed in phases to allow the works to take place.

As stated in the letter issued to occupants by Ward & Burke Construction Limited, "work will be carried out on a phased basis, followed by connections to individual properties which will improve the services to these properties."

Additionally, residents have been informed that "periodically, there will be disruption to customer water supply", and "the bulk of these works will be completed over a six to seven month duration."

Senior Engineer Seán Whelan has explained that "the section of road from the Health Centre out to Garbally Gates will be fully reinstated and upgraded early next year, once this work is completed."

Commenting on the project, Seán Corrigan, Regional Information Officer at Irish Water said; "this project will bring great benefits to the people of Ballinasloe. It will provide an improved water supply to homes and businesses in the town and will improve the town's capacity to grow in the future."

The Emergency Number of the Co -ordinator of the Phase 1 - Declan Garvey is 086 0267035.



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Marking 10 Years – Valeries of Aughrim

By Zara Hill

Located in the historic village of Aughrim – the site of the famous Battle of 1691, Valerie's bar and restaurant is steeped with tradition and this year celebrates ten years in business.

Originally from Creagh, Valerie Seale has run a very successful bar, restaurant and hostel since purchasing the pub from Freddie Hynes in 2005. The venue boasts a traditional and welcoming space with a front bar and a traditional open fire – a feature that sets the perfect scene for the many lively trad sessions that take place there.



Breakfast and lunch is served daily in the large and newly refurbished lounge area. The venue also boasts a dance floor which caters for music and functions at weekends. In addition to the busy bar and restaurant, Valerie runs

a small hostel which sleeps approximately 10 people.

Valerie describes her business as “homely, with a lovely friendly atmosphere.” Offering good wholesome food daily at reasonable prices, Valerie has built up a great local trade over the years and has become known especially for her Bacon and Cabbage and Guinness Beef Stew – sticking to its great Irish tradition.

Currently employing 12 staff, Valerie's of Aughrim were the main sponsors of the Cappatagle Hurling Team last year and Valerie is delighted to be the main sponsor again this year.

Looking forward to celebrating ten years in business as part of the Aughrim Village Festival on June 6, Valerie claims that she owes her success to her wonderful staff and family. The hard working owner remarked; “happy staff is a good business and my staff are like my family.” She also owes a huge amount of her success to Tomas Gullane who gave her “the best education ever” when she worked in the hotel for ten years.

Valerie is also grateful to her brothers Oisín and Tomás,

sister's Aisling and Sinéad and parents Paddy and Mary for all their support.

The pub is open from 10 every morning. Food is served 10 to 5 daily, with Sunday Lunch served from 10 to 4.30pm. Music and Entertainment every Saturday night, with Trad/Sing a long Sessions on Sunday nights – especially as Valerie herself is such a talented musician as well!

For more details, contact Valerie at 090 9673734/ 086 2830673. You can also email valeriesofaughrim@gmail.com or visit the website: valeries.ie.

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Celebrating 20 years of Nuts and Bolts

By Ken Kelly

After a few years travelling around in a van, selling nuts, bolts and welding equipment, John Burke Industrial Factors, in the village of Aughrim, is now one of the biggest suppliers of agri/industrial/DIY tools, equipment and farm supplies in the West of Ireland.

The Ballinasloe-born businessman will celebrate the 20th Anniversary of his Aughrim business, on 5th and 6th June with demonstrations and massive price cuts on all products. Special demonstrators from such world-class names as Hitachi, Jefferson, Milwaukee, Hawk, Elora, Britool, Sykes Pichawant, Gates and Sparex will be on hand to give advice on both days (Friday from 12 noon to 9 pm and on Saturday from 9 am to 5 pm).

John Burke left the Square D Plant in Ballinasloe to learn his trade in the PMPA Stores in Loughrea and later in Bord na Mona at their Attymon and Blackwater

centres. Then in 1987 he branched out on his own, selling nuts, bolts, tools and welding equipment from his travelling van before opening his first Tool and Fastner Centre beside the family home

community with a postal agency, daily and national newspapers, stationery items, large grocery and has a varied selection of wines on offer.

In total seven people are employed at John Burke's in Aughrim, with the help of his kin Shane, Robert, Alan and Laura. It is blessed with a double entrance - one from the village and the other off the Ballinasloe-Loughrea road, where motorists can fill up with petrol, diesel and oils. John also has a large fuel depot and offers a free delivery of gas, coal, briquettes and logs in the area.

John's first outlet in Mackney is now a Curiosity Shop, selling brick-a-brac, second-hand furniture and fuel supplies. And now

he has plans to extend it, but wouldn't reveal for what use.

"We are inviting everyone to our open days on June 5th and 6th. We will have a marquee, plenty of entertainment, refreshments and demonstrations of tools and machinery over both days" said John.



in Mackney, Ballinasloe in 1990.

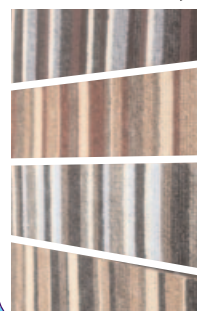
Five years later John purchased the well-established bar, grocery and hardware business of Keary's in Aughrim which is now a desirable venue for anybody looking for top quality tools and accessories by the world's leading brands in the hardware and agri business. He also serves the

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Marina to Celebrate 15 Years in Business This Autumn

By Zara Hill



Downey's Staff - Carmel Kenny, Willie Flemming, Marina, Steve Hogan, Marie Kenny, Eva Whelan, Rebecca Casey

Local publican Marina Downey bought the bar - formerly known as The Coachman - in 2000, at a time when the building was owned by Max and Peggy Wong and run by Jimmy The Hat. This September she looks forward to celebrating 15 years in business.

Marina, who formerly worked with An POST, has made many changes to the building and its purpose over the years and is really looking forward to the milestone in September saying; "who'd have believed it."

Her most recent innovation - the creation of a comfortable lounge/restaurant area has added a new look to the venue and through hard work, she has built up a thriving food business.

Downey's offers the "legendary Downey's Breakfast" as described by Marina herself - from 9am each day. The much loved restaurant also provides a daily lunch menu - with sandwiches, homemade soups, wraps, Panini's and low calorie options to choose from.

According to Marina, "Downey's is famous for hosting a good party. We cater for all Parties from Christenings to First Communion, Confirmations, 18th's, 21st's etc. Our private function room - separate to the rest of the pub - is also available to book for private parties."

Due to financial pressures of the past few years Marina has

noticed "a steady decline in people's spending power". She also recognises that nowadays families prefer to cater for some of their functions at home. Seeing this pattern, Marina has now diversified her business to include home catering packages in order to meet these preferences.

"2015 has been particularly busy for this part of our business", remarked Marina who has proven that no job is too much.

"We provide a full service which includes banquetting tables, crockery, cutlery and bain maries."

"One of our biggest events was to cater for a wedding in Cloghan Castle just outside of Gort. We provided a Wedding Banquet for 115 people with full bar services and a Barbecue for the day after."

At present Marina employs 11 people, all from the locality. She has had many students work with her during their School and College years and they have passed on to other jobs some as far away as Abu Dhabi, while others have built up their own very successful businesses locally but all have been part of the Downey's Bar Family down through the years. Of all the members of her trusty team she acknowledges the late Tommy McDonnell who gave Downey's many years of loyal service.



Downey's Staff - Mark Naughton, Graham Hendrix, Marina, Caroline Kenny, Nicola Downey

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New Book by Arlene Naughten

Arlene Naughten from Derrymullen has recently launched her first book, "#100 Happy Days 4 Kids" which aims to provide parents with 100 easy to follow steps to ensure child wellbeing and happiness.

Cúil na Cannalach resident Arlene is the Clinical Director of Sugru - a successful counselling service in Athlone and Athenry that delivers Child Development, and Contextual Therapy Services as well as parenting consultations and family support interventions.

Recognising a social need for improved child development services, former Ardscoil Mhuire student Arlene and her business partner, health psychologist Lorraine Lynch are delighted with the success of the book so far and have recently received two prizes at the SCCUL Enterprise Awards at NUIG. The successful business women also won the "One to Watch for 2015" Award, which Arlene describes as a "very significant achievement that we are very proud of".

"We want people to recognise the importance of well-being", remarked Arlene. "People go to the GP every day if they are sick, yet it is deemed irrelevant with matters of the mind."



Arlene believes the book is an accessible form of information for parents.

"What's so great about this for people is that it provides parents with 100 things they can do and not one of those things costs a penny."

Over the next few months, Arlene is looking forward to the launch of the official website, www.sugru.ie as well as the launch of DYSPLAY - a child therapy package delivered through play. This is a new initiative for Sugru that is designed to reduce the anxiety of children with dyspraxia. Arlene also hopes to travel to promote the book and will be facilitating a number of 'Wellbeing' summer camps in July and August.

Arlene welcomes anyone who wishes to arrange a consultation to contact her at 090 649 9144 or email: info@sugru.ie. Her book is available in Salmons for just €15.

Death of Former Shoe Factory Founder

Paddy Riddell, who recently passed away at his home in Jubilee St., Ballinasloe was a founding member of West Shoes Ltd. in the town. Set up in 1964, it employed up to eighty people and had another forty involved in hand-stitching in their homes.

Growing up in St. Michael's Square with his brother Johnnie, he joined Dubarry Shoes in 1943 at the age of fourteen. His commitment and hard work earned him promotion over the years before attaining the post of Production and Quality Manager. Paddy spent two months in Italy learning the process of making Mocassin Shoes and was the man responsible for introducing Mocassins to Dubarry and Ireland.

A keen fisherman and shooting enthusiast, he was a great lover of the outdoor life and nature. His fishing trips brought him to many parts of Ireland, particularly Connemara and Mayo in search of salmon and sea trout while his second home was Achill Island where he holidayed every year since 1963. Each year he brought a party of French game shooters over to the West of Ireland and

was instrumental in setting up the May angling week, featuring so many cross channel fishermen, in the 80's and 90's.



Paddy Riddell was a champion for his elderly neighbours in Jubilee St., campaigning for the upgrading, security and maintenance of their homes as well as their personal well-being. Following the death of his wife May, he loved to sit outside his home and chat to

passers-by, as well as giving much of his free time working with the St. Vincent de Paul.

In his homily at the funeral Mass, Fr. John Garvey said Paddy and May had created a loving home, raising six children and when the grandchildren came along he was delighted to bring them on adventure trips around the area. Referring to Paddy's life-long association with footwear, Fr. Garvey said "Shoes provide support, stability, safety. Paddy did the same."

Paddy Riddell is survived by his sons Jimmy, Paul, Titch and Robert as well as his brother Johnny and many other relatives and friends.

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Joe's Bar- Home of Sports and Live Music

By Zara Hill



Joe's Bar is a family run business which has been operating on Society Street for 25 years and has been home to GAA supporters and lovers of all sports of kings and commoners !

Originally run by Joe Senior and his wife Irene with the help of their children Joanne, Grace, Llyod, Joby and Mikey - the newly refurbished premises is now under the management of the next generation Joseph (Joby) - the second youngest son.

The Bar currently employs three full time and three part time staff all from the locality - the longest serving staff member is the redoubtable Oweny Jennings of Ard Mhuire. Joby's Fiance Cait Cleary is Assistant Manager and the couple plan to marry in July 2016.

The home of sports and live music caters for all party bookings and by arrangement, live music and finger food can be provided for all special occasions. Sports enthusiast Joe enjoys screening popular live sporting events in the bar

that add to the friendly and fun atmosphere that he tries to maintain for customers.

"We have excellent facilities for visitors to watch events and games in comfort, with a range of plasma TV's and the latest surround sound and HD quality to enjoy" states Joe.

Joe's also provides a diverse range of live music every weekend - from 10pm on Saturdays and 9:30pm on Sundays. Music acts range from soloists to two and three piece bands who showcase varied music and singing styles.

A popular night at Joe's is a 'Texas Holdem poker' tournament that takes place every second Friday from 9.30pm.

For a €35 fee, new players are always welcome according to Joe. With a huge involvement in sport locally including the successful snooker and social clubs, Joe added; "we also

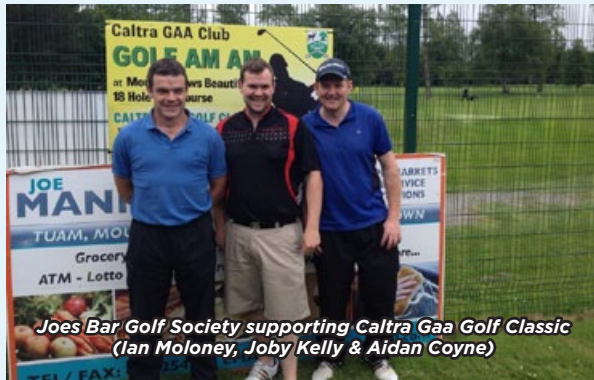
have a large golf society at Joe's with up to 40 members who play various courses throughout the summer months. Membership is €10."

Joe's Bar is the main club sponsor of Ballinasloe Town AFC, and is closely affiliated to the GAA Club and the Social Club. Between the bar and Golf Society they regularly raise money for a variety of local worthy causes !

With business going well, Joe remarked; "we see things gradually

starting to pick up again in the town and would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our customers from near and far for their continued support throughout the years as it has not been easy on the ground due to unemployment and emigration in recent years."

Find all of Joe's latest events on their Facebook page. For any enquiries, contact Joby: 0876317817 or Cait: 0863587382.



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Sudden death of Brendan Tully.

The recent unexpected death of Brendan Tully, Brackernagh, Ballinasloe marked the passing of an excellent sportsman and talented electrician. Originally from the great sporting stronghold of Derrymullen, Brendan was the second eldest in the family of the late Martin and Elizabeth Tully.

He represented his native town in both hurling and football, and was on the Galway minor football championship team in 1963.

Later that year he won an All-Ireland Bord na Mona medal with Blackwater, with whom he had secured his first employment as an apprentice fitter. When work later took him to Carnew in Co. Wicklow, Brendan won a county senior hurling medal with Carnew Emmets in 1965.

When he returned to Ballinasloe a few years later, the late Brendan worked with a number of local firms before joining Square D Factory in Poolboy as a fitter. He was subsequently promoted to Plant Engineer-a post he held until the plant closed down in 2004. As chairman of the factory's Social Club he was deeply involved in all its activities.

His stage lighting expertise was highly commended on by groups who staged productions in the Town Hall. Drama groups, operas, musicals and concerts appreciated his services while he was also an obliging neighbour who came to the needs of many friends who had minor household problems.

It was ironic that Brendan's final hours were spent in his garden, preparing the planting of vegetables-a pastime he thoroughly enjoyed. His love of nature and the great outdoors were his greatest treasures, having spent his childhood helping out in the bog and the home farm. He has been described as "a man, husband, father, grandfather and brother as outstanding, while as a colleague and confidant he was unrivalled."

The late Mr. Tully is survived by his wife Merlon, children Alan, Mary (Whitley), Ruth (Knox) and Hugh; grandchildren Mia, James and Oran; brothers Sean Willie and Martin; sister Maureen (Finneran), mother-in-law Vera McDonnell and many other relatives and friends. His burial took place in Kilclooney Cemetery following the funeral mass in St. Michael's Church.

By Ken Kelly



Passing of Popular Dentist.

For over fifty years he was one of the Ballinasloe's most respected businessmen and community activists and was well-known for his early morning walks around the area. Retired dentist, Liam Nolan, Ard Mhuire, Ballinasloe was a native of Foynes, Co. Limerick and his recent passing evoked widespread sympathy.

Liam qualified as a dentist in 1954 and practised for a short time in Tullamore before moving to Gort and arriving in Ballinasloe in 1959 where his first surgery was in Dunlo Hill. Later he transferred to Bridge Street where he enjoyed a very successful practise up to his retirement. He retained a life-long interest in his profession taking post graduate courses in the Eastman Dental Hospital in London in 1956, 1958 and 1961. Elected president of the Midland Branch of the Irish Dental Association from 1971 to 1973, Liam was also a founding Governor of the Midland-Western Post-Graduate Foundation. His services to the profession were recognised by his colleagues as being the only member to have attended the annual seminar for 25 consecutive years.

Outside his profession, the late Mr. Nolan was involved in several community activities from the Boys' Club to the Chamber of Commerce as well as the local Active Retirement Group, which he joined at its inception. He received the Gold Drop, having donated fifty pints of blood from then President Mary Robinson, was a life-long pioneer, a daily massgoer and a member of the Knights of Columbanus.

Liam was known well around Ballinasloe for his walking pursuits, often up to ten miles on a Sunday morning, long before it became the widespread hobby it is today. He loved to holiday with his family at Traught Beach, near Kinvara, cultivating in them a love of the great outdoors.

A dedicated family man, marrying local girl Emer Carney in 1966, and blessed with two daughters Geraldine (Ballinderreen) and Hilary (Oklahoma) as well as his devoted grandson, Fionn de Paor, who read, sang and played the fiddle at his funeral mass prior to his burial in Creagh Cemetery.

By Ken Kelly



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Huge Success For Dawn Run

By Zara Hill

Galway East Life Support are thrilled with the large community effort made in support of the town's first Darkness into Light Event for Pieta House.

With a turnout of over 1,000 runners and walkers who joined together for what is hoped will be an annual event, a terrific €3,500 was raised for the charity. GELS Chairperson Arthur Carr, thanked the 2015 DIL Committee for their great work.

'It was a very special night for Ballinasloe to host its first DIL and a great opportunity to remember the loved ones that we have lost to suicide.'

-GELS Founder, Arthur Carr

'An event like this is a great support for families who have been affected by suicide.'

-Antoinette Beegan Gallagher (GELS)

'It was an honour and a privilege to take part in 'Darkness into Light' to raise awareness about Pieta House and the services they provide but also to try and combat the stigma that is attached to mental health. If we can help one person in our lifetime, it would be a wonderful thing.'

-Avril Smyth

'I'm here as I attended Pieta House over the past few years in a time when I really needed them. They supported me big time and all free of charge. I always said if I could I would give something back.'

-Ber Coughlan Ballinasloe Committee

'I have seen how suicide has effected families from all backgrounds and anything that helps to prevent suicide

is to be supported'.

-Aidan Lonergan

'I have been lucky to witness the great work that Pieta House does and the help they give people through my involvement with GELS over the years. It's absolutely great to be associated with this event.'

-Gerry Roche

'I became involved with GELS because I'm passionate about Mental Health. I believe us all have an innate ability to cope with any life situation with the right support. Gels provides that support for Suicide Prevention by promoting awareness and through education. I am delighted to be part of this energetic group in helping to save lives.'

-Committee Miriam Lynch Mullery



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Hospital Watch

By Zara Hill



Good news for our hospital is that Saolta – the Health Care Group that runs Portiuncula – says that regular audits at the maternity unit so far have confirmed that there is no continuing patient safety concern arising from the issues identified in previous births.

It is satisfied – following measures taken by the HSE, such as the provision of additional training for all maternity staff at the hospital as well as extra supervision – that there is now no patient safety risk at Portiuncula’s maternity unit.

An independent 5 month review of Portiuncula Hospital is currently being carried out by a nine-member team, following a number of baby deaths in the hospital between February and November of last year.

Taking the words from Health Minister Leo Varadkar in a recent interview, he is “satisfied that pregnant women will receive the best possible treatment at Portiuncula”.

Pauline Treacy Memorial



A memorial plaque was recently unveiled in Hymany Park to commemorate the life and memory of former Residents Association Chairperson and

community volunteer - Pauline Treacy.

The Hymany/Curragh Park Residents Association unveiled the plaque in memory of a friend and colleague, while the area was blessed by Fr Bernie Costello.

Joan Walsh remarked; “Pauline worked tirelessly to improve and enhance our estates. The area of Hymany Park - known locally as the old playground - has been enhanced with planters and activities for the children, main feature is a stone planter with a plaque in place dedicated to Pauline and all deceased residents of our estates.”

The event was attended by members of the County Council, the Urban District Council and all the Treacy family who were delighted with this honour for Pauline.

It is not clear at the time of print what the implications of the HSE ‘s response and determination to the delivery of Maternity Services nationwide along the centres of excellence model (similar to the Cancer Care) in the wake of the Portlaoise Maternity Services HIQUA report – will have for the local maternity unit.

Recent Stroke Response rate results are very positive with Portiuncula - along with Tallaght and Sligo General – being recently named as one of the hospitals with the lowest death rates from ischaemic stroke in the country.

Meanwhile the most recent trolley watch figures from the Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation also show that at the end of May, Portiuncula had only 6 people waiting on trolleys – a significant improvement on recent months.

Valerie's of Aughrim Ballinasloe **10th ANNIVERSARY** **Live in the Marquee**

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GALWAY BAY JAZZ BAND
9PM.
CHRIS DALLAT
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MON 1st June
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PLUS
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Swiss Choir 'Song Train' To Perform In Ballinasloe

A 50 member choir from Switzerland, complete with musical accompaniment will be performing a special charity concert at the Shearwater hotel in July to raise funds for the local Sunflowers Chernobyl Appeal.

Sunflowers chairperson Pat Dillon said the charity is "very honoured to be the beneficiaries of what promises to be a wonderful evening of music and song."

The charity have on-going projects in Belarus including renovation works at Bogushevsk orphanage, home to over 280 special needs children and young adults. The Sunflowers plan

to install a sensory room to give the children some respite from their cots and improve overall living conditions.

This work will be carried out by volunteers from Ballinasloe and surrounding areas who will travel to Belarus at their own expense.

Tickets for the upcoming concert on July 8 cost €10 for adults, €5 for under 18's, children under 7 go free, and family tickets cost €20. You can purchase tickets at Shearwater hotel reception, from Pat Dillon on 087 4172307, or at the door on the night. For more information visit www.chernobylchildren.ie.

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My Business is Everybody's Business!

By Maureen Cahalan



When Maureen Cahalan opened her door to her first Customer of Cahalan Jewellers in Ballinasloe she always had it in mind to serve her community. The secrets of her success rested in her ability to change with the times and offer customers a memorable and unique shopping experience.

The smallest effort is appreciated by her customers and this is where Maureen has flourished. Ensuring up to-date products

are readily available on the shelf and customer's repairs are taken care of to the highest degree of quality is the detail that has been the backbone of her business.

Where many businesses have closed their door because of the recession Maureen's steely determination ensured that she remained a head of the curve ball which took us all by surprise. Keeping costs low and offering a wide variety of products at competitive prices has always been close to Maureen's heart. Investing in having an onsite engraving machine and sourcing diamonds from Antwerp were key challenges but have proved extremely successful. There is always a huge welcome for her customers celebrating life's special moments in Christenings, Communion, Confirmations, Weddings, Engagements and Friendship Gifts.

Reflecting on her business over the past four decades Maureen remains spirited because her jewellery entrepreneurship has created a lovely and enjoyable atmosphere

where her business remains everybody's business...! "Customers motivate us to do our best which is a testament to my staff who give their upmost because they want to".

Cahalan Jewellers are continuous suppliers of medals and trophies to national sporting organisations as well as being acknowledged and honoured to have designed a beautiful piece for the Eurovision Song Contest in the year that Celine Dion won. Maureen is known for her quick wittedness and good humour but above all else she is proud of the support from her customers, family, friends, staff and suppliers.

Maureen is keen to share that life is all about being in the here and now. Being happy and healthy connects us all by looking out for each other through kindness, empathy and generosity of time. Customers are the life blood of every business and Maureen intends to keep her customers happy!

Miles for Emma Raises Nearly €19,000

An advocacy for the equality of children with Special Needs, Organiser Ken Campbell is thrilled with the response locally and was delighted to present the cheque of €18,720 to the Metabolic Unit Staff of Temple Street Children's Hospital in Gibbons Pillar House recently.

"I'd like to thank everyone who made this possible, especially those who walked a Mile with me on the day and especially those who completed the full journey. I'd also like



to thank Benji Reynolds who organised the Miles for Emma Sports Auction, my Family and friends for all their help and support and finally I'd like to thank the Civil Defence for going above and beyond the call of duty, said Ken.

Miles for Emma will continue promoting Equality and awareness for Children with Special needs. The next event is a four peak Croagh Patrick Challenge taking place on August 20.

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JUNE Events Guide

June 1st		
3 Ball Charity Scramble (Care&Repair)	Golf Club	All Day
June 2nd		
Annual Regional Novena Mass	St. Michael's Church	7.30am/ 10am/ 8p.m
June 3rd		
Trad Night with Gerry Harrington	An Táin	10pm
June 4th		
Live Music: Kevin Rohan	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Open Music Session	Maud Millars	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Trad Night with Bobby Kilkenny	An Táin	10pm
June 5th		
Live Music: Ken & Steve	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Annual Novena: Rite of Reconciliation	St. Michael's Church	All Day
Strung Out	Maud Millars	10pm
Transessiún	An Táin	10pm
Dj Johnny F Live	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Micheal English	Valeries Bar	10pm
June 6th		
Backstage	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Open Week (6th - 14th)	Golf Club	All Day
Men's & Ladies 18 Hole Singles	Golf Club	All Day
Live Music: Top Note	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Beggars Velvet	Maud Millars	10pm
Sway Live	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Shave or Die Fundraiser	Joes Bar	9pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Shane Moore	Valeries Bar	10pm
June 7th		
Mens & Ladies 18 Hole Singles	Golf Club	All Day
Country Music Mike Denver	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Annual Novena: Blessing of Children	St. Michael's Church	12.15 p.m
Barra Singers	Town Hall Theatre	3pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Anchormen Live	Maud Millars	8pm
Outback	Downeys Bar	8.30pm
Shane Moore Live	Joes Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Táin	7pm
Sara O'Kane	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Session with Davy and the Boys	Valeries Bar	9pm
June 8th		
Men's & Ladies Scotch Foursomes	Golf Club	All Day
June 9th		
Annual Novena: Sacrament of the Sick	St. Michael's Church	4pm
Men's & Ladies 18 Hole Singles	Golf Club	All Day
June 10th		
Annual Regional Novena Mass	St. Michael's Church	7.30am/ 10am/ 8pm
French Club Conversation	Gullanes Hotel	12 - 1 pm
Senior's Open	Golf Club	All Day
Trad Night with Gerry Harrington	An Táin	10pm
June 11th		
Live Music: Kevin Rohan	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Open Music Session	Maud Millars	10pm
Singers Circle	Dunlo Tavern	9.30pm
Mixed Foursomes	Golf Club	All Day
June 12th		
Tunnel Tigers	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Loose Rooster	Maud Millars	10pm
DJ Frank	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Táin's Got Talent	An Táin (Upstairs)	9pm
Men's & Ladies 18 Hole Four Ball	Golf Club	All Day
Buzz The Agent	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Transessiún	An Táin (Downstairs)	9pm
June 13th		
Danny Hunt & Band	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Live Music: Last Man Standing	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Chris Nash	Pillar House	10pm
Live Music: Red Tape	Maud Millars	10pm
Go Trabi	An Táin	9.30pm
Legacy	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Party	Valeries Bar	Late
Sing Along with Dave	Joes Bar	10pm
Too Tall Paul	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Men's & Ladies 3 Psn Texan Scramble	Golf Club	All Day
June 14th		
Country Music Jim Devine	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	9pm
GELS 6Km Walk/Run	Barretts Hardware Store	Registration 9.30 am/11am
Toxic Twins Live	Maud Millars	8pm

Live Music	Downeys	8.30pm
Live Music	An Táin	7pm
Liam's Country Road Show	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Session with Davy and the Boys	Valeries Bar	9pm
Street Wise	Joes Bar	9pm
		12.15pm
Clontuskert N.S 7k Walk/Run	Clontuskert Church	(Reg 11.15 - 12 noon)
		9pm
Men's & Ladies 18 Hole Singles	Golf Club	
June 17th		
French Club Conversation	Gullanes Hotel	12-1 pm
Blossom Harp Student Presentation	Shearwater Hotel	6pm
Trad Session with Gerry Harrington	An Táin	10pm
June 18th		
Live Music: Kevin Rohan	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Open Music Session	Maud Millars	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
President's Mixed Foursomes	Golf Club	All Day
June 19th		
The High Reels	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Folk Club Mary Coughlan	Pillar House	9pm
Hoppy Bar Stars	Maud Millars	10pm
Táin's Got Talent	An Táin (Upstairs)	9pm
Transessiún	An Táin (Downstairs)	9pm
DJ Johnny F	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Eamonn O'Neill	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Dermot Hegarty in the lounge	Valeries Bar	10pm
June 20th		
Marley Road	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Live Music: Christy & Mike	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Ultan Conlon	Pillar House	10pm
Wheeler Johnsons	Maud Millars	10pm
Live Music: Nightowls	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Wedding Afters	Valeries Bar	9pm
Sara O'Kane	Joes Bar	10pm
Kensy 3	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Celine Grennan's President's Prize	Golf Club	All Day
June 21st		
Country Music Jimmy Buckley	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Imposter Live	Maud Millars	8pm
Anything Goes	Downeys	8.30pm
Live Music	An Táin	7pm
Evan Blake	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Session with Davy & Boys	Valeries Bar	9pm
Ollie Rocks	Joes Bar	10pm
Celine Grennan's President's Prize	Golf Club	All Day
June 22nd		
Fiddle Camp with Gerry Harrington	Moore Hall Ballydangan	12pm
Kayak Assessment Week (I.C.U Cert)	River Suck	4 - 7pm
June 24th		
Trad Session with Gerry Harrington	An Táin	10pm
June 25th		
Live Music: Kevin Rohan	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Open Music Session	Maud Millars	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
June 26th		
The Pink Panther Jazz Band	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Live Music: Strung Out	Maud Millars	10pm
Album Launch Gerry Harrington	Ballydangan Community Centre	7.30pm
John Molloy	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
DJ Frank	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Táin's Got Talent	An Táin (Upstairs)	9pm
Transessiún	An Táin (Downstairs)	9pm
June 27th		
Danny Hunt & Band	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Live Music Shane Moore	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Live Music in the Front Bar	Pillar House	10pm
The Fanzines	Maud Millars	10pm
DJ Upstairs	An Táin	10pm
Tradstone	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Gary Lawlor	Joes Bar	10pm
Paul Burns	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
June 28th		
Country Music Gerry Guthrie	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
The Nudie Suits	Maud Millars	8pm
Live Music	Downeys	8.30pm
Too Tall Paul	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Táin	7pm
Neil Diamond Tribute Act	Joes Bar	10pm
Session with Davy & the Boys	Valeries Bar	10pm
June 29th		
Tiny Tots Summer Camp	Tiny Tots Crèche	9am - 1pm

JULY Events Guide

July 1st		
Trad Session with Gerry Harrington	An Táin	10pm
July 2nd		
Live Music: Kevin Rohan	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Open Music Session	Maud Millars	10pm
Trad Night with Bobby Kilkenny	An Táin	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
N.B.C.R.I Ladies & Gents Open 18 Hole	Golf Club	All Day
July 3rd		
Ken & Steve	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Beggars Velvet	Maud Millars	10pm
Táin's Got Talent	An Táin (Upstairs)	9pm
Transsessiún	An Táin (Downstairs)	9pm
DJ Johnny F	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
July 4th		
Tunnel Tigers	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Live Music : Top Note	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Dún Aengus	Pillar House	10pm
Live Music	Maud Millars	10pm
DJ Upstairs	An Táin	10pm
Sway	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
An Other	Joes Bar	10pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Session with Davy & the Boys	Valeries Bar	10pm
July 5th		
Country Music Robert Mizzell	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Anchormen	Maud Millars	8pm
Black Shadow	Downneys	8.30pm
Live Music	An Táin	7pm
Live Music	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
The Suspects	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Street Wise	Joes Bar	10pm
July 6th		
Horse Riding Camp	Creagh Equestrian Centre	10.30am - 4 pm
Tennis Summer Camp	Rugby Grounds, Moher	10-12 noon
July 8th		
Trad Night with Gerry Harrington	An Táin	10pm
Song Train' Choir, Chernoble Appeal	Shearwater Hotel	8pm
July 9th		
Live Music: Kevin Rohan	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Open Music Session	Maud Millars	10pm
Lady Captain's Mixed	Golf Club	All Day
July 10th		
September Dawn	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Toxic Twins Live	Maud Millars	10pm
Táin's Got Talent	An Táin (Upstairs)	9pm
Transsessiún	An Táin (Downstairs)	9pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
DJ Frank	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
July 11th		
The Hoppy Bar Stars Live	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Live Music: Sharon Turley	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Too Tall Paul	Pillar House	10pm
Red Tape	Maud Millars	10pm
"Go Trabi" Upstairs	An Táin	10pm
The Crime	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Byrne Brothers Live	Joes Bar	10pm
The Livewires	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Lady Captain's Prize	Golf Club	All Day
July 12th		
Country Music Michael English	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
The Nudie Suits	Maud Millars	8pm
Live Music	Downneys	8.30pm
Live Music	An Táin	7pm
Sara O'Kane Live	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Sway	Joes Bar	10pm
July 13th		
GAA Football Cúl Camp (13-17th July)	Ballinasloe GAA pitch	11am
Horse Riding Camp	Creagh Equestrian Centre	10.30am - 4pm
Tennis Club Summer Camp	Rugby Grounds, Moher	10 - 12 noon
July 15th		
Trad Night with Gerry Harrington	An Táin	10pm
July 16th		
Live Music: Kevin Rohan	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Open Music Session	Maud Millars	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
July 17th		
Backstage	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Folk Club Andy Irvine	Pillar House	9pm
Strung Out Live	Maud Millars	10pm
'Thy Will Be Done' Comedy	Town Hall Theatre	8.30pm
Táin's Got Talent	An Táin (Upstairs)	9pm

Transsessiún	An Táin (Downstairs)	9pm
DJ Johnny F	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Eamonn O'Neill	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
July 18th		
Newgrange	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Live Music: Shane Moore	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Chris Nash	Pillar House	10pm
The Wheeler Johnsons	Maud Millars	10pm
GELS 3 Town Charity Cycle	Registration, Birchgrove 10am	Cycle Begins At 11am
In Harmony Live	An Táin (Downstairs)	9.30pm
DJ	An Táin (Upstairs)	10pm
Finnegan's Fury	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Too Tall Paul	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sara O'Kane	Joes Bar	10pm
July 19th		
Country Music Mike Denver	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	9pm
6 Km Fun Run in Aid of Chernoble	Aughrim Village	11am
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Imposter	Maud Millars	8pm
Buzz The Agent	Downneys	8.30pm
Live Music	An Táin	7pm
Liam's Country Road Show	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Shane Moore Live	Joes Bar	10pm
Aughrim Horse Fair	Valeries Bar	Noon
July 20th		
Horse Riding Camp	Creagh Equestrian Centre	10.30am - 4 pm (All Week)
Tennis Club Summer Camp	Rugby Grounds, Moher	10 - 12 noon
Upriver Summer Camp	River Suck	10am - 2pm
July 21st		
Ladies Open 18 Hole Stroke	Golf Club	All Day
July 22nd		
Trad Night with Gerry Harrington	An Táin	10pm
July 23rd		
Live Music: Kevin Rohan	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Open Music Session	Maud Millars	10pm
Men's Captain's Mixed Foursomes	Golf Club	All Day
July 24th		
Marley Road	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
The Hoppy Bar Stars Live	Maud Millars	10pm
Táin's Got Talent	An Táin (Upstairs)	9pm
Transsessiún	An Táin (Downstairs)	9pm
John Molloy	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
DJ Frank	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
July 25th		
New Grange	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Live Music: Last Man Standing	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Ultan Conlon	Pillar House	10pm
The Hush	Maud Millars	10pm
DJ	An Táin (Upstairs)	10pm
Tradstone	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Dave Byrnes Live	Joes Bar	10pm
Kensey 3	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Session in Front Bar	Valeries Bar	10pm
Men's Captain's Prize: Willie Dolan	Golf Club	All Day
July 26th		
Country Music John McNicholl	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
The Knots	Maud Millars	8pm
Live Music	An Táin	7pm
The Sauce Mechanics	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Blue Tax Band Live	Joes Bar	10pm
Men's Captain's Prize: Willie Dolan	Golf Club	All Day
July 27th		
Horse Riding Camp	Creagh Equestrian Centre	10.30am - 4pm
Tennis Club Summer Camp	Rugby Grounds, Moher	10 - 12 noon
Upriver Summer Camp	River Suck	10am - 2pm
July 29th		
Outback Live	Downneys	8.30pm
Trad Night with Gerry Harrington	An Táin	10pm
July 30th		
Live Music: Kevin Rohan	Haydens Hotel	10pm
Open Music Session	Maud Millars	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
July 31st		
The High Reels	Canal Bar, Shearwater Hotel	10pm
Strange Brew	Maud Millars	10pm
Transsessiún	An Táin	10pm
Paul Watchorn	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

To advertise your events here, Contact: ballinasloelife@hotmail.com or Call 090 964 3779 or 085 148 1911

Town Hall Summer Preview

By Zara Hill

Once again the Hall is providing theatre and Performance Art Companies with a venue on the Regional and National circuit and the first slot goes to BeezneeZ, one of Ireland's most popular touring companies.

Delivering their cracking production of Michael Carey's hit, Thy Will Be Done. It's the story of two brothers, Jack and Peteen who live side by side but haven't spoken in 40 years with home help, Bridie, acting as a go-between. When Peteen's estranged wife dies in America, her son returns to Ireland and is torn between his love for



his uncle and his respect for his father. Equally hilarious and moving, Thy Will Be Done has become an international favourite and with the usual BeezneeZ production standards, patrons are guaranteed an evening of laughter and tears, in equal measure and early booking is advised. The Play takes place on Friday 17th July with curtain up at 8.30. Tickets €15 and €12.

The Directors are advising all local groups who would like to use the Venue in Autumn 2015 and Spring of 2016 that they need to

contact the Secretary to guarantee their slots prior to the 22nd of June.

The Directors are also running a Venue Management Master Class for the many volunteers who wish to help out in the running of the Theatre, with lights, staging, cinema, sound, box office etc - so application forms for Juniors 15 to 18 and Seniors 18 + can be obtained from the Theatre Office or online. While the course, running from 13th to the 16th of July is FREE, places are limited and the closing date is the 26th of June.

Cinema Screenings during the summer are available for Groups and Birthday parties by prior arrangement. The Star Camp are back August 10th to 14th and prospective students should leave their contact details with the office on Society St. Further enquiries contact 085 8079676 or ballinasloetownhalltheatre@gmail.com

Local Author Shortlisted for €15,000 Novel Prize



Local author Nuala Ní Chonchúir has been shortlisted for the prestigious Kerry Group 'Irish Novel of the Year' Award for her latest novel 'The Closet of Savage Mementos'.

The adjudicators Eileen Battersby and Gerald Dawe

will select the winner, who will be presented with a cheque for €15,000 at the Opening Night of Listowel Writers' Week on May 27.

According to Loughrea native Nuala, The Closet of Savage Mementos is a novel about "grief, betrayal, motherhood, adoption, depression and the grip of past events."

Partially based on Nuala's own experiences it was described in the Sunday Times as

"her finest novel yet" and in The Sunday Independent as "raw, beautiful and compelling."

In other good news for Nuala, this summer, Penguin USA, Penguin Canada and Sandstone Press (UK) will publish her third novel, Miss Emily, about the poet Emily Dickinson and her Irish maid. Miss Emily has already garnered rapturous advance praise and has been optioned for film.

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Massive Reductions

New Moore Trad Music Academy Underway

By Zara Hill

The future of music tradition in Ballinasloe is in safe hands as Moore Traditional Music Academy opens its doors.



Recently established in Moore Community Centre by music teacher Carrol Behan and renowned fiddle player Gerry Harrington, the new music school offers a range of fiddle, mandolin, banjo, whistle and traditional flute lessons.

Students can avail of tuition either privately or in small groups, according to Taughmaconnel native Carrol Behan who initiated the start-up of a local music school. A multi-talented musician, Carrol believes that music is the secret to her energy and to have a successful music school up and running is certainly music to her ears.

Michael Kelly, the Principal of Mountbellew National School, where Carrol works remarked; "she gives her heart to music and teaching. Her love of playing the traditional whistle,

flute and piano enhances her passion as a musician and she always finds the strength, patience and passion to reach for the stars and make changes."

With the motto; "If you want to be good at something, you have to do it with passion", Carrol believes, that even if students have never played a tune before, they will play their first one by the end of one of her classes.

She hopes that at the Academy, students will get the opportunity to learn new tunes, improve their playing technique, and learn how to play by ear and also how to sight read - a number of useful skills for aspiring musicians.

"Students will learn to perform in various settings and also play music in a fun, relaxed and welcoming environment. We endeavour to provide a unique learning experience that is both effective, enjoyable, affordable and fun" added the music enthusiast.

The new music school has been extremely fortunate to have the talented fiddle player and teacher, Gerry Harrington on board, who will be taking a number of the classes with Carrol.

Originally from Kenmare, Gerry is a professional Irish fiddle player, performer and teacher who has recorded seven albums in his career and has performed and taught music all over the world including the US, Alaska, France, Finland, Holland and has even had students come from Japan for his tuition.

Gerry and Carrol's combined experience through years of teaching and playing Irish Music ensures students will avail of the expertise and experience needed to help them on their musical journey.

"Gerry and I hope to combine our skills and be a conduit for the other existing organisations teaching music in the area - like MusicMatters and Comhaltas." concludes Carol.

Moore Traditional Music Academy will be providing group master lessons during the summer months and will also arrange accommodation for foreign students. Classes will include local tours of historical interest and traditional sessions in Ballinasloe.

There is an instrument loan scheme in operation at the new school and donations of instruments for this scheme is welcomed.

Gerry Harrington and Charlie Piggott - a founding member of traditional music group, Dé Danann - are launching their new album, The New Road, at Moore Hall, Ballydangan, Athlone on Friday June 26 at 7.30pm.

Admission on the evening is €10.

For more information on Moore Tradition Music Academy or to book a private or group lesson, contact Carrol Behan 087 6454206. Email. woollygoslings@gmail.com. OR Gerry Harrington at 087 9253115. Check out Gerry's official website: gerrymharrington.com or contact Gerry at gerrymharrington@gmail.com.



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NEW CD Launch Of Hymns Celebrating Lady of Clonfert

By Zara Hill

Hundreds of people gathered in Clonfert Church with Parish Priest Fr. Declan McInerney, recently for the highly anticipated launch of the new CD, "Ten Hail Mary's".



Chief celebrant Fr. Declan was joined by Bishop John Kirby and Fr. Sean Neylon for the special launch which proved to be a fabulous display of music and song. The ceremony featured many tracks from the new CD, including the opening hymn, "I'll sing a hymn to Mary", sung by Rachel Goode, "Flowers of the Rarest" and "Gentle Mother", sung by 15 year-old David Kennedy.

Fr. Declan thanked everyone involved in this fantastic event, especially Mr. Michael McCullagh and Mrs. Marie Power for their

hard work in producing the CD. He added, "when Michael gets an idea there is no stopping him".

The newly composed Hymn "Our Lady of Clonfert" was performed by Rachel Goode and accompanied by Michael McCullagh on organ. Fr. Declan explained that the song is based on the prayer to Our Lady of Clonfert, written by Fr. Seán Neylon in 1988 and he thanked Fr. Sean for his generosity for allowing the singers to use the prayer for this purpose. The Clonfert Madonna or more commonly known, 'Our Lady of Clonfert', is to be found in the little Catholic church of Clonfert. It is likely to have originated from one of the religious houses attached to the monastic township of Clonfert, either the Cathedral, Abbey or Nunnery.

The fact that this Madonna has survived through so many centuries of Religious unrest must surely be evidence of the importance and devotion bestowed upon it from an early age. Of where it was preserved or how it was discovered is not known, but local folk tradition suggests that the Clonfert Madonna was discovered some years ago in the trunk of a tree, by workmen felling timber. We are told that they accidentally severed one of the arms of the Madonna, causing it to bleed. The statue was carefully removed and placed in nearby Meelick Church, on the banks of

the river Shannon, however, a local tale has it, that the statue kept turning back in the direction of Clonfert and for that reason, she was returned to where she wished to be. . . Clonfert.

Bishop Kirby thanked all concerned with the special day. He said; "I am delighted to be associated with the CD. The new hymn is something the Parish and Diocese can be very proud of."

Speaking of the church in current times Fr. McInerney remarked; "the church is very much alive." He added, "the numbers attending mass have increased and thousands of Petitions and over 2,000 candles are lit on a daily basis, clearly saying that people have a great faith in Our Lady of Clonfert."

The "Ten Hail Mary's" CD is available at the Parish Office in Eyrecourt, St. Michaels Presbytery in Ballinasloe, Salmons on Main St. Ballinasloe, St. Brendan's Presbytery in Loughrea, Duffys's Shop in Eyrecourt, Society Travel in Ballinasloe and Gerry Stronges on Main Street Ballinasloe.

The CD features 10 Hymns to our Lady including the beautiful newly composed Hymn "Our Lady of Clonfert". The CD is €10 and all proceeds will go to the upkeep of the parish.

For further details please contact the Parish Office on 090 9675113 or email stbrenseyrecourt@eircom.net or through the Facebook page: Parish of Eyrecourt Meelick and Clonfert.

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The Power to Surprise



Ballinasloe Tidy Towns – Appeal For New Volunteers

By Zara Hill

Working to encourage community effort and to create a better environment to live in, the local Tidy Towns Committee is appealing for new volunteers and hopes to put an end to fly-tipping locally.



Established in the late 1980's, the Tidy Towns Committee have been pivotal to the progress of the town in terms of its upkeep as well as dealing with environmental issues such as littering.

As a result of their hard work and commitment, the committee have achieved steady progress in the annual

scores for the National Tidy Towns Competition, administered by the Dept. of the Environment, community and Local Government over the past 20 years and have made improvements in the local environment - made possible by many supporters, funders and Tidy Towns volunteers.

A new committee has been elected for 2015 and according to Chairperson William Duthie, they are "anxious to recruit new helpers to assist with the general clean-up required each year in advance of the judging which takes place in June and July."

William is keen to acknowledge the ongoing help from the staff at Ballinasloe Training for Employment and the Town Council, the Probation Service, individual Residents Associations, the Chamber of Commerce and other committed volunteers.

He remarked; "we are aware that the local Rosway Walking Group carried out a spontaneous Spring-clean on the new road from Beagh to Ardcarne and we thank them and congratulate them on their initiative and encourage other groups to do something in their areas."

The Councils, together with Galway Rural Development have funded the committee's activities for the upcoming year and according to Mr Duthie, there is a lot of work in store.

"Our first project this year has been the removal of boat from the Tesco roundabout - it was in a poor state of repair and has been returned to its owners in Canal House. In the interim it will be replaced by floral displays and because of the focal importance of this roundabout, we plan to run a competition and invite suggestions for a suitable replacement."

Ideas will be taken on board and subject to funding and/or sponsorship, this will be another project for the committee next year. In addition, work is also to be carried out to improve other roundabouts in the area.

William explained; "we seek helpers to join us in keeping our town and surrounding area tidy and presentable - we also appeal to those who use the areas around the bottle banks for dumping to stop this anti-social activity."

Every summer, the committee runs a popular Gardens competition which seeks to encourage, and reward the individuals and groups who take pride in their gardens. Details of this will be available soon on the Ballinasloe Life Facebook page.

On a final note, William remarked; "we would just like to stress the relevance of the Tidy Towns Committee in promoting civic pride in our community and the encouraging of a clean and healthy environment."

Creagh Equestrian Camp Returns



Damien Carey has been running horse riding camps for the past 20 years, which offer participants horse riding lessons, grooming lessons and more.

The camps are running every week in July and August from 10.30 - 4pm. The first camp will commence on Monday July 6, the

final camp August 24. All students need to do is bring a packed lunch.

Damien advises that children must be over seven to take part in the camp, however no previous horse riding experience is needed, so beginners are more than welcome.

Damien also teaches lessons 6-9pm daily and Saturdays, 10-3pm.

For more information on summer camps and lessons, call Damien Carey at 087 225 4227.

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Out and About in Ballinasloe



John Doolin, President Ballinasloe R.F.C. presents the Club Person of the Year Award to Declan Murphy at the Ballinasloe R.F.C. Presentation Night



After a very successful girls under age rugby season Aisling Murphy, Georgina Codyre (captain) and Ellen McLoughlin show off the Connacht League, Connacht Cup, Schools Cup and Sevens Cups at the Ballinasloe R.F.C. Presentation Night in the clubhouse.



KPW Print employees Siobhain Kiernan and Darran Finnerty pictured after their recent marriage. Formally from Rochfordbridge & Shannonbridge they now reside in Ballinasloe.



Kealan Clarke (P. Clarke & Sons Motorcycles, Dunlo Street) & Fiona Hoban were married recently at Meelick Church, reception was held in Shearwater Hotel.



Frank Dolan, representing Ballinasloe Bowls overall winner the Club Western Bowls Singles Championship Cup after winning the Connacht Title at Claremorris.



Michael O'Neill being presented with the 'Man of the Match' Award by Pádraig Kelly, Secretary of the North Board at the Minor B Final.



Tiny Tots Creche presenting the staff of Meals on Wheels with a Cheque for €215 towards their new van. The children raised the money by having a Pyjama Day.



*Pupils of Newtown & Attirory National Schools on their First Holy Communion at Creagh Church, Ballinasloe
Back Row L-R : Mairead Duffy (Attirory), Fr Dan O Donovan, Fr John Killeen, Leona Burke (Newtown)*

Out and About in Ballinasloe



Participants at the Swimming Community Games held at the Kingfisher in May.



Bridge Club President's Prize: Tom McLoughlin, President Jeanne Naughton and Martin Loughnane.



President Jeanne Naughton, Malcolm McDermott and Angela Connolly.



The cast of Killalaghton Drama Group who performed a 3 act play called "It's The Real McCoy." Back Row: Left to Right, Sean Dolan, Eoin Golderick, Sean Dillon, Gerard Nash, Michael Kearns. Front row: Rhona Black, Margaret Shepherd, Emma Donohue, Hannah Campbell.



President Jeanne Naughton with the winner of the Ballinasloe Bridge Club President's Prize, Ann Gilchreest.



Celebrating 50 years of marriage: John Bendall & wife Ena Geraghty, Kathleen O'Connor and husband Tony Regan, Valerie McKann and husband Joe Halpin - The Bracknagh Girls!



William Duthie, Nora Mc Dermott & Sean Lawlor



William Duthie with Paddy Naughton Hughim Development Company

Pillar House Folk Club



Galway's Queen of Blues and Soul, Mary Coughlan is set to perform at The Pillar House Folk Club, following the roaring success of the Eleanor McEvoy and Freddie White gigs that took place recently.

The monthly event has a superb line-up this summer beginning with this month's guest, Mary Coughlan. Mary has sold out venues across Ireland and the UK with hits such as "Ancient

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Other dates for The Pillar House Folk Club include:

Andy Irvine: Friday July 17

Kieran Goss: Friday August 14

Tickets for all performances are €20 and are now on sale from The Pillar House. To book a ticket, Tel: 090 96 43939 / 087 9046140 or see www.pillarhouse.ie.

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Songfest Returns to Town Hall

By Zara Hill

BARA Singers, together with the STSA choir will present an afternoon of song at Ballinasloe's Town Hall this month. The programme incorporates choruses from the world of Musicals, Opera, Ballad, Folk and Swing. The singers will be accompanied by the Songfest ensemble, directed by Noel Madden for a great afternoon of entertainment.

Songfest is a BARA Singers initiative for healthy living through shared music across communities. Now in its third year, initially devised as an interactive opportunity for the western region of The Active Retirement Movement, Songfest has graduated more towards a local cross community activity.

According to Musical Director Marie Power, a programme devised in the Autumn for presentation in Spring/summer as a Bealtaine event will provide an opportunity for cross community interaction, sharing

skills and fun while promoting healthy living and also raising much needed funds for the local community.

60 singers from Mayo, Roscommon, Galway, Athlone came together in The Town Hall in May 2013, for Songfest 1. Songfest 2 was a collaboration between Galway, and Ballinasloe ARAs accompanied by the newly reformed Ballinasloe Town Band and marked Bealtaine 2014.

This year - two choirs will come together; the STSA (Something To Sing About) Choir, which was established as a Cancer support initiative in various centres in the West and who meet weekly at the East Galway Cancer Support Centre in Brackernagh and the BARA Singers.

BARA Singers was first established in 2007 as another option for those who like to sing for the busy local Active Retirement Association. The singers meet weekly, preparing new programmes for concerts, while also making regular visits to nursing homes and units, bringing instruments

and voices to promote interaction. Last year the group staged a tribute to Percy French to packed houses for a 3 night run, directed by John Boland, devised by Marie Power. BARA Singers welcome



anyone who likes to sing regularly from September to May or participate in a one day 'scratch choir event'.

The much anticipated BARA and STSA performance is taking place on June 7 at the Town Hall Theatre. For more details, follow the Ballinasloe Life Facebook page.

New Musical Society Committee



This year's headline production "The

Addams Family" proved very popular with six sell out shows in March. The society are now looking forward to the annual AIMS ceremony taking place in Killarney in July, where they hope to claim the prestigious 'Best Overall Show' Award for their production.

At their AGM Assist. Treasurer Frances Leahy took the opportunity to thank everybody involved. A special thanks was given to

main sponsors Ballinasloe Credit Union and Gullanes Hotel who helped throughout the year with meeting rooms and rehearsal rooms.

2015 Committee: President: Maureen Donohoe, Chairman: Gerard Sweeney, Vice Chair: Lisa Whyte, Secretary: Greg Blackwell, Treasurer: Ellen Egan, Assistant Treasurer: Frances Leahy, P.R.O. Magdalena Garcarek, Assistant P.R.O. Catherine Mc Cormack, Committee: Eithne Blackwell, Pat McGovern, Robyn Newton.

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Where are they now? Ray McLoughlin

By Ken Kelly

Born in Derrymullen, Ballinasloe in 1939, RAY McLOUGHLIN played forty times for the Ireland Rugby Team, captained his country on seven occasions, played three Test Matches with the British and Irish Lions tour of Australia and New Zealand in 1966 as well as in 1971, before scoring "that famous try" with the Barbarians against the All Blacks at the Arms Park in Cardiff in 1973. Not bad for a fellow that only took up rugby in his final year at Garbally College!



Following his early education at St. Grellan's NS and Garbally College in Ballinasloe, Raymond John McLoughlin played club rugby with Gosforth and London Irish in the UK as well as with Blackrock and UCD in Dublin, playing as a prop forward with each. During a highly successful rugby career, spanning fourteen years, Ray played for Connacht, Irish Universities, British Universities, Ireland, The Lions and a World XV and was acknowledged as a fearless prop between 1962 and 1975. He was described as a "thinking prop who set immense standards as a player, captain and tactician for his beloved Ireland" as well as "one of the best technicians the game has ever known" and "Ireland's best open side prop of the past forty years."

Ray went on to become a highly successful businessman, joining the Industrial Development Authority in 1970. Three years later he took control of a small public company, James Crean, and developed it into a €400 million empire before going on to purchase the core of the operation, following an offer to shareholders in 2001. He was also a Non-Executive

director of Allied Irish Banks plc., the Custom House Docks Authority, the National Board of Science and Technology and a number of other companies and organisations.

Highly respected throughout the rugby world, the Ballinasloe man went on to become a colourful and eagerly sought after-dinner speaker, both at home and abroad. In 2012, Ray, who now lives in Dublin, was, together with his brothers Phelim and Colm among the 55 past students of Garbally College who were presented with the first-ever Alumni Awards from the College. Brother Phelim was also capped for the Ireland rugby team and now lives in Newcastle, England while younger brother Colm has recently retired from leading the Dubai Duty Free Airport retail operation since its inception in December 1983.



Photo shows Ray McLoughlin, on left with brothers Phelim and Colm after they had received their Alumni Awards.

Senator MICHAEL MULLINS

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Karen Dolphin in the Inaugural European Games

Laurencetown native Karen Dolphin, was recently announced as the first and only Karate competitor from Ireland who will compete at the Inaugural European Games this June.



The European Games will be held in Baku Azerbaijan and are being hailed as the European Olympics. Up to 6,000 athletes from 50 National Olympic Committees of Europe will compete in 20 sports over 17 consecutive days. A total of 63 Irish athletes qualified to compete in 13 of these sports.

Karen, who will compete in the Individual Female Kata category will be joined by her mother Marie Dolphin who is the accredited National Karate Coach for these European Games and is working with Karen with her preparation in the lead up to the games. This is a momentous occasion for Itosu Kai Karatedo Ireland (IKKI) and ONAKAI to have an Irish Athlete competing in Baku.

Karen has been a member of the National Team for the past eight years and is one of the most experienced athletes on the National Squad, according to IKKI Chief Instructor Leo Mulvany.

"She has competed in five Senior European Karate Federation Championships and in two World Karate Federation Championships along with numerous International competitions annually throughout Europe and Asia."

Karen is a native of Laurencetown but is currently living and working in London. She started her Karate training at the Itosu Kai Headquarters in Ballinasloe almost 26 years ago as

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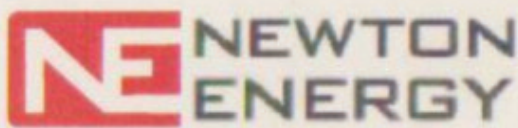
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a very eager karate student under the tutelage of Itosu Kai's Chief Instructor Leo Mulvany.

Later she continued her training in Kiltormer where her mother Marie opened an Itosu Kai Club. Karen travels back to Ireland almost on a monthly basis to train with the rest of the Irish Squad as well as training with members of the English National Team whilst in London.

As well as competing for ONAKAI she has represented her own Style Itosu Kai at four Itosu Kai World Championships winning a total of 3 Bronze medals for her efforts. Karen recently retained her title as ONAKAI National Kata Champion for the 3rd successive year.



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New Manager for Pearse's Shane 'Cake' Curran

By Zara Hill

Retiring from football at the age of 43, former Roscommon and St. Brigid's goalkeeper Shane "Cake" Curran has taken what seems like the inevitable step into management and now hopes to lead local club Pearses to their first Senior County Championship Title.



Dwelling from Castlerea Co. Roscommon, GAA fanatic Shane is no stranger to the public eye and has been the man behind a number of controversial and heroic antics on the field over the years - after all, they say you have to be a mad goalkeeper.

Sport has always been an integral part of life for Shane, who enjoyed getting up to the "usual tricks" as a teenager. "We were good lads, despite a small bit of devilment along the way", laughed the 2003 All-star nominee.

Playing football with Castlerea as a youngster, Shane's talent was recognised from a very young age - his earliest memory is winning an U12's County Title.

"It was fantastic at that age - doing laps of the town, hanging out of car windows, going mad beeping horns. Those are the memories that stay with you".

A great talent on the football pitch, Shane acknowledges that this talent "didn't translate" to his school work. It was only with daughter Abby's diagnosis with dyslexia that Shane realised the extent of his issues with learning.


"From my experience with Abby's diagnosis, I can now really relate back to the way I was in school. The reason I had no interest in school was that I wasn't able to learn. It's for this reason I owe so much to sport- it was my education."

He added: "everyone at school played Gaelic football so you either sank or swam", joked Shane who swam all the way to a Senior All-Ireland title in 2013 at the age of 42. This, you could say was the cherry on top of - the Cake!

Shane admits, "school was a party time for me looking back now. We had great craic every day and I can't remember one day when I didn't look forward to school, even though on the academic side I struggled".

A believer of innovation both in sport and in life, Shane applied his intelligence to his performances on the pitch. Coming up the field to take last minute frees long before Stephen Cluxton did, Cake explains: "I came out of goal quite a bit, which a lot of people saw as being too flamboyant".

Although his innovative playing style and on-field antics often sparked controversy, Shane took it all in good humour - "it takes different people to change the game, and I did things differently. I'm not an angel and maybe there are some things I've said and done on pitches I wish I hadn't, but to be a winner and get to the top, you have to do what you have to do".

A believer that "60 is the new 40", Shane has had some great successes in his life - from claiming a Senior All-Ireland Championship title with Brigid's in 2013 at an age when most players would have long given up (something he thinks he might pay for in a few years) - to the recent release of his autobiography. 



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As well as this, Shane's successful flood defence business, Global Flood Solutions (GFS) has made it international. Most recently on his agenda, however is driving Pearses to success.

Shane has always identified a particular correlation between Ballinasloe and his home of Castlerea - primarily because



Pádraig Kelly Selector, Aidan Colleran Selector, Manager Shane Curran, joint Cpt Paul Kelly, John Corbett Selector. (Missing from picture Seán Fahy).

both areas had mental hospitals.

With both parents working in the Psychiatric Hospital in Castlerea, and his wife Sharon working as a nurse in Portiuncula, Shane has a good connection with the area and enjoys the comradery between the management and players at Pearses.

"I've known Pádraig Kelly for years and I've played against a lot of players on the team so I'm really enjoying my time here. I see great potential in this team, but at the moment we are like a sleeping giant", remarked Cake.

"We have a fantastic underage structure, 5 players on the Roscommon county team - the three Daly's, David Murray and Captain Niall Carty - and that is a huge foundation for any team to work from."

Shane has joined John Corbett, Pádraig Kelly and Aidan Colleran on the Pearses management team for his first "serious" managerial role and they hope to focus on creating energy and enthusiasm about the game locally. 🍀

Shane remarked, "Pearses have lacked enthusiasm in the past but the more people we get involved now the better and I am a fundamental believer that the more females involved the better". This comment was soon followed by "I went from being surrounded by boys growing up to being surrounded by a wife, two daughters and a female dog and to be fair, it's no bad thing", he laughed.

"The bit of craic in the kitchen after the games over the sandwiches and the cup of tea - that's what it's all about. It's all part of it and if you're doing something as a club or a community, it is important that everybody feels a part of it."

"I think you're always remembered if you're the first to do something and that's my goal - we're aiming to be in at least a quarter final by next September."

Explaining that GAA is "non-stop conversation" in the house with his wife and daughters, Shane joked, "sometimes I'm like an Einstein in the bed at night coming up with ideas and formulating strategies - and she looks at me like I'm mad".

In acknowledgment of his new role as manager, Shane added: "I'm lucky in the sense that I don't get hung up on criticism - it's like water off a duck's back for me - however I do feel a huge responsibility to the club and the players to do the right things and I believe if we plan well and leave no stone unturned, we will get the reward".

On a final note Shane added, "we have one good year to try and win the championship and we will work very hard to make sure it happens with the community behind us".



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Halewood Soccer Trip For Town FC Underage

By Zara Hill

The U 11's and U 12's from the Town FC recently travelled to Liverpool to participate in the annual Bob Paisley Friendship Cup.

A group of 60 people including parents, kids and management made the trip to Halewood where the local team competed in three games of football against the Liverpool side - winning one, drawing one and losing one.

The Ballinasloe Town AFC PRO Jason Fallon remarked; "everything was evenly shared out between the two clubs which was probably best, seeing as it was a friendship tournament."

Kitted out in brand new training gear, the players enjoyed a great time while in Liverpool. A tour of Anfield and Old Trafford, a visit to the world museum, a day of football, swimming and BMX racing all made it a trip to remember.

The trip has been taking place for the past 19 years and according to PRO Jason, "it all began in Joe's bar as a slagging match and ended up as a friendship between two clubs and groups of friends."

He added, "a special thanks to all of our club committee - Wayne Braithwaite, Joey Walsh, Joby Kelly, Katie O'Connor, John Paul Dowd, Shane Fallon, Pádraig Maloney and Ciaran Keighery - along with all the sponsors who gave so generously

especially club sponsors Joby and Cait Kelly of Joe's bar and Kevin and Anne Broderick."

In club news, they won four trophies in five days over the May Bank Holiday Weekend - a great display of sportsmanship. The first victory by the under 14's, who beat Hudson Bay in the last game of the season. The under 14 side were also victorious in the A.D.S.L U14 Cup Final, where they battled it out against last year's winners, St Joseph's. The Senior A Squad continued the club's haul of victory, defeating Ballaghaderreen to lift the League Trophy for the eighth time in history and the under 12's who beat Kiltormer in the A.D.S.L U12 South Cup.



U12's after winning the ADSL South Cup 2015



The U14 Squad that claimed the ADSL League & Cup Double on the May Bank Holiday Weekend



Some of the Players in the Liverpool FC Home Dressing Room



The Ballinasloe Town AFC Senior A Squad that beat Ballaghaderreen on Sunday in the Curragh to Claim the R & D League Premier League Title

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Soccer Grounds Renovations Nearing Completion

By Zara Hill



A new state of the art clubhouse has been built on the Curragh, which is due to open in August this year. The new facilities are impressive – with much larger dressing rooms, soon to be fully equipped with modern equipment and changing facilities.

Including the stand and some minor pitchside ground works the total investment in the Club will amount to €250,000 – with significant grant aid from the Lotto, and indeed a sizeable grant from the former Town Council, as well as their own fundraising.

Each dressing room will be suitably equipped with physio beds and pull out boxes underneath the seats which will allow players to store their gear and belongings safely – “just like the Aviva”, joked sports enthusiast Font.

Also downstairs, a new dressing room will provide enough space for three referees – an improvement on the old facilities that had room for just one. Groundskeeper Font Egan stressed how they have gone the extra mile to make the home dressing rooms better than the away, giving the home dressing room



- one extra shower head !

Upstairs reveals a brand new function suite with a fantastic view of the playing arena. Referring to the concrete space as a viewing room, Font remarked; “once open to the public, this space will eventually have kitchen facilities that can cater for functions and recreation for families.”

The grounds have been known as “The Curragh” for a long time. “as far back as I can remember – and I can remember a long way back – it was always called the Curragh. If we wanted to kick a ball we’d come here. It belonged to Alec Rockwell at the time and he had the best cattle grazing here. It was just a great bit of land, and still is”, stated Font.

The Curragh has two flood light astro turf pitches that are used by the underage teams (up to 10) mainly for the reason that training here is easier for ball work and has a nice surface. They are available to rent at a cost of €50 per hour.

Hosting many big challenge games such as Dundee Utd and Man City in recent years, the Curragh has a spectator capacity of 1,500 people and Font hopes to see great crowds there again, remembering particularly, the crowds that attended the Kilbarrick game last year.

To raise their matching funds for this significant investment, the club have asked local businesses to sponsor a seat in the spectator stand for €100 and have their company or organisation name engraved onto the seat. In return for their investment, sponsors are rewarded with a weekly lotto ticket for the year, amounting to €104. “We have a great committee and great workers and have always received great support from the town.” Said Font.

Font praised Billy Ward and the Ballinasloe Training for Employment team workers who have done great work over the years. “The club couldn’t function without Billy – I think I’d have to move my bed up here if Billy and the boys weren’t around”, laughed Font. He also thanked the former Town Council members, main sponsor of Town AFC Joe’s Bar and also the lotto supporters.

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Ballinasloe Social Club (Home of Professional Shender Snooker Tables)

By Zara Hill



Paul Keighery and Colvin O'Brien

Established in 1924, the social club is regarded as one the longest serving clubs in the area, and now one of the most successful – representing the town at a county and national level.

The club has a rich tradition and boasts some very talented Snooker, Billiards and Pool players who hope to bring the club to even further success in the coming months.

Since a successful grant application in 2014, the club has

been completely refurbished. According to club Secretary Joseph Kelly, "€40,000 has been spent to modernise and revamp the club and make it a state of the art facility for the people of the town and surrounding areas."

He added, "we are very grateful to the former Ballinasloe Urban District Council and we owe a massive thank you to all involved with the successful application and the refurbishments. Especially our sponsors - The Divilly Family, Davey Keighery Painting Contractor, Cormac Lyons Electrician, Joes Bar, Fergal Burke and FÁS. "

2014 was a historic year for the club and 2015 is shaping up to be the same according to Joseph. The most significant achievement of 2014 saw the Men's Senior Team qualifying for the Connacht Championships for the first time and not only qualifying but beating the rivals Tuam S.C. to book their place at the All-Ireland Snooker Championships.

The final took place in Killarney in January putting the club firmly back on the map and has them competing with some of the best clubs from all around Southern and Northern Ireland.

Both Paul Keighery and Colvin O'Brien have been flying the flag for the snooker club at a National and County level in recent times. 29 year old Colvin - a former Junior Irish International Champion - recently won an All-Ireland singles Intermediate Title representing the club to compliment his Martin Divilly Galway singles title.

Colvin also reached the Top 16 of the Senior Elite Championships, where he faced former snooker pro Michael Judge in May. Current head coach, Paul Keighery had some great success on the green baize at county level this year winning the players Championships in November and the Galway City singles in April.

According to Joseph: "Paul will go to the County Championships as one of the favourites, but also knowing that if he wins, he will create club history as the only clubman to win city and County titles in the same year." Following in the footsteps of great players such as Johnny Riddell, Mickey Murray and

Alf Walsh to name a few, Paul and Colvin hope to keep this great tradition alive locally and continue winning.

The club began junior coaching with Paul Keighery this year and has been a huge success with "great numbers attending", according to the club Secretary.

"As we are affiliated to R.I.B.S.A, our new current junior members are lucky enough to have a coaching session with Professional snooker coach, PJ Nolan when the club re-opens in September 2015 after its short summer break".

Adult membership is €20, juniors €10. The club is open to Monday - Friday (5pm - 9pm) and Saturday - Sunday (5pm - 8pm). For more information, contact Secretary Joseph Kelly: 0876317817.

An advertisement for Fred Kilmartin Ltd, a Ford dealership in Ballinasloe. The ad features the company logo at the top, which includes the name "Fred Kilmartin LTD" in a stylized font, "Ballinasloe" below it, and the Ford logo to the right. Below the logo is the tagline "Over 50 Years Serving Motorists". The main body of the ad lists various services and offers in a clean, sans-serif font. At the bottom, there is a photograph of the dealership building at dusk, with a sign that says "Where you'll do a good deal BETTER". The background of the ad is a light blue gradient.

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Aisling O'Brien, Sarah Lyons, Lauren Doherty, Aisling Cass

Tennis Club - Serving Up Fun For Summer

The summer season is off to a successful start and number of junior and adult interclub challenges have been arranged for the coming months.

Most recently, the boys and girls tennis teams met Loughrea in a Junior Challenge, where Kim Doherty, Roisin Finn, Áine O'Brien, Matthew Lyons, James Reynolds and Matthew Broderick all came out as

Under 8 winners. The U10 winners of the day were; Alan Jennings and Jack Finn, while Lauren Doherty and Aisling O'Brien won in the Under 12 category.

The recent intraclub Men's Singles challenge was won by Mike Johnson. Meanwhile, Garry Zancanaro, Brendan Payne and Oisín Leyden came out on top in the intraclub Men's Doubles Challenge.

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U10 Girls Swimming National Success

By Zara Hill



Participants at the Trojan Gala in April

Congratulations to 12 local swimmers from the Ballinasloe & District Swimming club who recently participated in the Trojan Gala.

The highly anticipated gala was held at the National Aquatic Centre in Dublin in April and proved to be a great test of endurance and skill for the young athletes. Competition was exceptionally strong according to management, with over 600 swimmers competing on the day including participants from swimming clubs in Belfast, Enniskillen, Dublin, Waterford, Kilkenny, Cavan, Dundalk, Mullingar, Longford and New Ross.

Ruth Dolan, Ava McKeon, Caoimhe Kennedy and Ailbhe Hanrahan won first place for the club in the 10 & U Girls Relay.

Club PRO Monica McKeon remarked; "the girls relay team did the club proud, considering they were up against strong competition."

Ruth Dolan won Gold in the U10 Breast and Butterfly Competition, Silver in the Backstroke Competition and finished 4th in the Freestyle Competition - an impressive triad of success for the young athlete.

Ruth broke the Gala record for the Girls U10 Butterfly this year with a time of 36.78, a "marvellous achievement", according to Monica.

This was the 2nd year in a row that Ballinasloe broke the Gala record for the Butterfly - Ava McKeon claimed this great accolade last year. Ava was also very successful this year, winning two silver medals.

Tara McKeon represented the 11 & 12 categories, while Caoimhe Kennedy placed in the top 10 in both the U10 Freestyle and Backstroke competitions.

Meanwhile, Ailbhe Hanrahan, Tani McCormack, James Mooney, Conor Hogan, Leon McKeon, Rowan Harley and Conor Harley all represented the club in their respective age categories.

Monica congratulated Erin Gallagher who competed in her very first gala and remarked on the great success of the

young competitors who put in a great effort on the day:

"Well done to all of you, we are very proud of your performances. For the relay team to bring home the gold competing against the top Dublin clubs is a fantastic accomplishment for both the swimmers and their dedicated coaches Kayo and Rochelle."

Monica was also thrilled with the recent success of the club at the local Swimming Community Games.

For the full list of winners, visit the Ballinasloe Life blog.



10&U Winning Relay Team at the Trojan Gala in Dublin on April 12: Ruth Dolan, Ava McKeon, Caoimhe Kennedy & Ailbhe Hanrahan.

On behalf of the club, Monica would like to wish the athletes who will now go on to compete in the Galway Swimming Community Games County Finals in Tuam on June 20 the very best of luck.

In this highly anticipated stage of the competition, only one swimmer gets through to the Nationals to represent their county.

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Participants at last year's Summer Camp, pictured with Coaches Robert Johnson (Top Right) and Shane Quinn (Top Left).

Professional Tennis Ireland Coach Robert Johnson will be running Summer Camps from 6 - 31 July, for ages 5-17 years, at a price of €30 per child for 4 weeks.

"All equipment is included and numbers are limited, so booking in advance is essential", explained club spokesperson Garry. Anyone

interested playing is encouraged to come along for a trial before joining. Membership is €25 for Adults, €15 for juniors and students, and €40 for families. For more information, call Garry Zancanaro on 085 112 4197, Joe Staunton on 087 252 1424 or Declan McKeon on 087 915 9771 or see www.facebook.com/bsloetennisclub.

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GAA 3 Titles in a Month!



U21 Hurling Team.

Back Row: Emmet Croffy, Eoin Stack, Conor Gibbons, Alan Reynolds, Mark Headd, Anthony Curley, Shaz/ Shane Reynolds, Declan Dillon, Liam Donagh, Jack Dillion, Dylan Curley, Mike Fogarty

Middle Row: Shane Gibbons, Aodhán Connaughton, Steven Hill, Sean Connaughton, Pdraig McHugh, Cathal Goode

Front Row: Tomás Fenton, Liam Cunningham, Peter Kelly, Jason Cunningham, Danny Byrne(captain), Micheál O'Neill, Donal Tully, Seamus McHugh.

Management Team: Tom Fenton, Liam Cunningham, Donal Tully and Seamus



U14 Ladies Féile

Back Left: Chloe Madden, Alannah Higgins, Mia Loughnane, Elisha Manning, Shannon Hill, Anna Killeen, Alison Kenny Coyne, Hannah Gullane, Beibhinn Parsons, Emily Gavin, Shauna Geraghty, Zara Campbell, Layla Ward, Aisling Cooley and Alisha Williams.

Front Left: Cassie Carr, Eve McCarthy, Ciara Lacey, Hannah Burke, Hannah Russell, Leah Dolan, Róisín Fahy, Ruth Manning, Meadh Fahy and Niamh Kelly.

This U14 Panel has qualified to represent Co. Galway in the National Féile Finals taking place in Wexford on June 26-28.

Their host team is Bunclody and a big number of supporters are travelling to support the girls in the final.

Management Team: Pádraig Fahy, Una Ní Bhroinn and Laura Geraghty.



Minor B Team celebrating after their win.

Bottom Left: Aodán Connaughton, Jarla Mulcloon, Conor Kelly, Lonan Broderick, Oisín Reilly, Eoin Gavin, Jordan O'Leary, Colin Cotton.

Fintan Parsons, Jack Dillon, Mikey Lyons, Peter Kelly, Shane Kelly (Cpt), Aidan Grenham, Stephen Hill, Michael Fogarty, Nathan Cooley, Cathal Riddell, Oisín Kenny, Michael O'Neill, Stephen Grenham, Jonathan Maloney, Rónan Broderick, Alan Barrett.



Ballinasloe GAA club will run its annual fundraising cycle at the end of August/early September, with a 50k and a 100k route on the day.

The club are always looking for volunteers to help out both on and off the pitch.

Membership for students is €40, Adults €60 and family membership for the year is €120.

You can also help the fundraising efforts of the Club by participating in the weekly lotto and/or Bingo in Hayden's on a Tuesday night.



Captain Shane Kelly being presented with the North Minor B Cup by J.P. Kelly, Chairman of the North Board. It is 12 years since the club last won at Minor Grade.

Garbally View Nursing Home

Garbally View Nursing Home is a family run business providing convalescent, respite and long term care for the past 20 years in Ballinasloe. The Nursing home is registered with HIQA and provides a variety of services for its Residents.



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Continued Athletic Success

By Zara Hill

Up and coming star athlete, Veronica Burke recently travelled to the Pennsylvania State University to compete in America's oldest and largest Track and Field Competition - the Penn State Relays.



U10 Girls Gold medal winning duo in both the Galway Track & Field 60m & 500m L-R Kayla McKeon & Aoibheann Fitzpatrick.

The competition attracts 15,000 participants from schools, colleges, and track clubs throughout North America and further afar - all who compete in more than 300 events over five days.

Proudly representing her town overseas, Veronica competed in the Junior Women's 5K Race-walk and finished in a fantastic

time of 24:49.93, an amazing 25 seconds faster than her previous personal best time".

She finished in an impressive 6th position overall, which earned her 3rd place in the overall high school category.

This thriving Athletics Club is showing huge determination and the results are certainly evident of the hard work and commitment the athletes and trainers are putting in all year round.

In addition, the club brought home a fantastic 20 medals haul - 14 gold and 6 Silver - recently at the Galway U9-U12 Track & Field Championships held in Dangan.

The results were as follows:

1st place: U12 boys relay team - Conor Harley, Adam McGreal, Shane Fitzpatrick and Charlie Naughton. 2nd place: Mya Kelly, Emma McGreal, Roisin Grealy and Ava McKeon. 4th: Kayla McKeon, Aiveen Curley, Caoimhe Ní Thuairisg and Aoibheann Fitzpatrick. 4th place: Boys U11 relay team - Mark Kilkenny, Eoin Connell, Niall Jennings and Fionn. 1st place: U10 girls 60m - Kayla McKeon and Aoibheann Fitzpatrick. 5th place: Ashlinn Arru and Clodagh Killeen. 1st place: U11 Girls 60m - Ava McKeon and Emma McGreal. 2nd place: U 11 Boys 60m - Mark Kilkenny and Eoin Connell. 1st place: U12 boys 60m - Shane (time of 8.65). 2nd place: U12 boys

60m - Charlie Naughton (time of 8.85). 1st place: U10 girls 500m mid distance race - Aoibheann Fitzpatrick and Kayla McKeon. 1st place: U11 Girls 600m - Ava McKeon and Mya Kelly 1st and 2nd: U12 boys 600m - 2014 National Gold medal



Photo 2 U11 Silver medal winning Girls Relay Team. Back row L-R Ava McKeon, Roisin Grealy. Front row Mya Kelly & Emma McGreal.

duo, Shane Fitzpatrick and Conor Harley ran individually, finishing in 1st and 2nd position respectively. The following athletes are

Conor Harley, Adam McGreal, Shane Fitzpatrick, Charlie Naughton, Mya Kelly, Emma McGreal, Roisin Grealy, Aoibheann Fitzpatrick, Kayla McKeon, Ava McKeon, Mya Kelly are all competing in the Connacht Track and Field Championship, in Claremorris. 🐣

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How Trench Became Clancarty

By Barry Lally

Tracing their origins to the village of



La Tranche on the west coast of France north of La Rochelle, the Trenches of Garbally dominated so many aspects of life in Ballinasloe for over 200 years that a proper understanding of the history of the town is

impossible without a knowledge of the family who helped to make it what it is today.

Frederick de la Tranche, a Huguenot (French Protestant) who fled to England to escape religious persecution, settled in Northumberland in 1574. His son James became an Anglican minister and was appointed to a rectory in Co. Meath where he arrived in 1605 and managed to find time from his parochial duties to carry on a lucrative business financing mortgages on land in Co. Cavan. After the Cromwellian Settlement in 1656, Frederick Trench, who was married to his first cousin, a daughter of James, bought Garbally from a Colonel Carey Dillon who had been granted the lands of a dispossessed family called Tully. At some unspecified date the Trench family went to live in Tully's Castle, a 16's century tower house whose site is marked by an

obelisk. Subsequently a more commodious residence was built nearby which was to remain their home for over a hundred years.

During of the remainder of the 17th century the family made further purchases of land both in the neighbourhood of Garbally Demesne and elsewhere, so that by the early 1700s they had become owners of practically all the land on which the future town of Ballinasloe would be built.

Ballinasloe in the 17th century was a hamlet located in what is now Bridge Street with 36 people recorded as living there in 1656. However, in the course of the following century it gradually assumed the form we are familiar with today, acquiring a population of over 1800 by 1791. The Trenches controlled building from the start, and the result was the wide, straight streets which now exist. It's a very much what geographers call an estate town, radically different in its layout from settlements of medieval origin such as Athenry and Loughrea.

While the October Fair had existed long before the Trenches arrived on the scene, it was during the 18th century that it developed into a commercial event of international importance. Since they owned the land on which the fair was held, and had secured charters enabling them to collect tolls on all sales of livestock, the family saw it as being in their interest to encourage and regulate its growth. Moreover, they promoted the establishment of local industries and offered

renewable leases to those who undertook to build houses of good quality in the town.

In 1732, Richard Trench married the only daughter of David Power of Coorheen House, Loughrea. Power, who was a descendant of the old Norman family of Le Poer, is remembered in folklore as the sheriff who arrested Dr. Ambrose Madden, Catholic

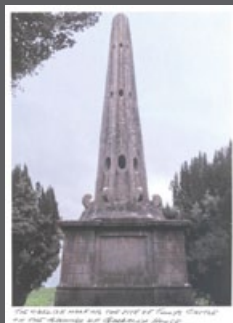
Bishop of Clonfert. Ironically, Coorheen-though not the original house- is today the residence of the Most Rev. John Kirby, a successor of Dr. Madden. The charms of Power's daughter Frances had been celebrated in music and Gaelic verse by the eminent harpist and composer Turlough O'Carolan, no doubt after he had been appropriately winned and dined at Coorheen. I

make bold to translate the lyrics as follows:

*I'd like to speak of a joyous lass
Of her lovely features and noble fame.
In Loughrea town by the placid lake
I bless the day that we chanced to meet.*

*She's a spirited lass who's wild yet
gifted,
She's Ireland's darling, the jewel in its
crown.
So raise up your tankards- A toast to the
lady!
To Fanny, the daughter of David!*

*See her now like a swan by the take
Where many a lad has drowned for her love;*



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*See how she tosses her silken tresses-
The prize for beauty she means to take.*

*I pray to God that I may be able
The day of her wedding to dance a step.
Here's a health to the man who'll claim her dowry!
Young Fanny Power of the snow-white hands!*

Marrying Fanny Power was arguably the shrewdest move a Trench had ever made. Not only did the family acquire all the Power estates in Co. Galway but, in addition, the Keating estates in Kilkenny, Carlow and Dublin which Fanny inherited from her mother. David Power's

wife was descended from a sister of Donough MacCarthy, First Earl of Clancarty and of noble Munster stock, who was outlawed and deprived of his titles in the aftermath of the Williamite Wars. Following the Act of Union in 1800, the Earldown of Clancarty was regranted to the Trench family who had already added Le Poer to their surname. In claiming for themselves the name of Le Poer and the title of Clancarty the Trenches can be seen as attempting to identify with the Norman and Gaelic traditions of the land of their adoption. The Earldown has never become extinct and its currently represented by the present Lord Clancarty, Nicholas Power Le Poer Trench, who resides in London. 

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Ballinasloe History Walk

1 – Start at the statue known as *The Man with the Horse*, where Main Street joins St. Michael's Square. From the crossing near the statue, continue by turning right onto Main Street. The prosperity of Ballinasloe in Georgian times can be seen in the scale and classical style of the buildings here. A fine group of four frontages stand across from the statue of The Man with the Horse. With shops and pubs on the ground floor for the most part, these Main Street premises have several floors above.

2 – Walking along Main Street, lift your eyes above the shop frontages for one of the town's characteristic sights. There are the Diocletian windows that grace several facades. They are from the years after 1805 when the 2nd Earl was in charge. A window of this sort is formed under a semi-circular arch with two upright divisions so that the whole opening is divided into three parts.

3 – As you stand at the meeting point of Bridge Street and Main Street, you will see the Victorian frontage of a commercial premises, originally the Masonic Hall. Next to it stands a classical looking, beautifully-crafted, early 19th century stone house, currently a guest house. Beside these is a tall, fine stone-fronted classical mansion, which is now the Bank of Ireland. It was originally the town mansion of the Lord of all of Ballinasloe, the Earl of Clancarty. A friend of king George IV, the Earl was one of the architects of the resistance to the emperor Napoleon. It could be said that he was the person to whom most credit is due for the layout, growth and architectural character of Ballinasloe as we see it today.

4 – At the end of Main Street, head along Bridge Street, then turn to the right to the pathway which runs to the riverscape where you can see channels flowing through the several arches of the long stone bridge over the river Suck, one of the town's most precious monuments. The Bridge has been in continuous use since the 16th century and its extension in 1754 prepared it structurally to carry even the heaviest juggernauts of today.

5 – Walk through to the far end of the park; you will approach St Michael's Church (1852-58) that stands in a commanding position over the Square. Its architect was J.J. McCarthy, a follower of Augustus Pugin (famed for other Neo-Gothic churches in Ireland) – and the design is said to have been revised by Pugin himself. Inside are many fine stained glass window. Of particular quality are those of St. Patrick and St. Rose of Lima, of 1925, by the renowned Dublin Stained glass artist, Harry Clarke and The Raising of the daughter of Jairus by Patrick Pollen, inserted in 1958.

6 – From St. Michael's Church now walk up St. Michael's Square back towards the Man with the Horse Statue. Take a left into Dunlo Street, an important street in the history of the town, which contains, together with other buildings of about the same date, the late-Georgian Garda Station. The Station is towards the far end of the street, on the right hand side. Also on this street, over Dolan's Electrical Shop, you can see another fine example of Diocletian windows.

7 – Halfway up Dunlo Street, turn right up Duggan Street, which will take you to St. John's Church (Church of Ireland, 1843). It dominates the vast Fair Green which becomes a hive of activity during one week every year when up to 100,000 people throng to the October fair. Look out over the Fair Green and admire one of the grandest freestanding classical monuments in the region. Dedicated to Charles Le Poer Trench, it was designed in the Neo-Greek style by the English architect George Papworth (1781-1855). A mile past this monument on the Main Galway road, South West of the town, the Earl of Clancarty's former country house is situated, where imposing gates mark the entrance to Garbally Court. It has been a school since 1923.

Walk down Church Hill onto Society Street and turn left, arriving at the Courthouse on the right. Society Street, like Main Street, was the 19th century location for the professional classes. As well as The Courthouse, it contains the former Bridewell (or gaol) from the 1840s. Further along this street, Ballinasloe Railway Station is a must. Constructed in 1851, it is a Neo-Gothic limestone tour-de-force and a fine example of the quality of rural Irish railway architecture in the mid-19th century.

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