

An initiative of Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd.
www.ballinasloeenterprise.ie

To get in touch with Ballinasloe Life online, visit us here:
www.facebook.com/BallinasloeLife

Find us on: **facebook**

BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 6 Issue 3: Aug '16 - Sept '16

FREE



Photo by Robert Riddell

**ENDA CONCANNON RETIRING
SOCCER MANAGER**



**50 YEARS ANNIVERSARY OF
PHONE EXCHANGE**



**MARIA FINNEGAN
NATIONAL ACCOLADE**



Ballinasloe - Gateway To The West www.ballinasloe.ie



Gullane's Hotel

& CONFERENCE CENTRE



Create Memorable Moments ...for all special occasions.

- A la Carte dining, 6–9pm
- Quality Wine List
- Relaxing Dining Areas
- Accommodation
- Free Internet Access
- Friendly Atmosphere
- Conference Facilities
- Spacious Car Park



**FOR SERVICE WITH A PERSONAL TOUCH
YOU SHOULD CALL TO GULLANE'S HOTEL.**

Main Street, Ballinasloe, Co Galway
Tel: 090 96 42220 Fax: 090 96 44395
Email: info@gullaneshotel.com

BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 6 Issue 3: Aug '16 - Sept '16

WHAT'S INSIDE

LOCAL NEWS

- 04 New Municipal Chair
- 05 Town Team Focus
- 06 Hot Desking Space

BUSINESS

- 07 New Corner Café
- 08 New SVDP Retail Store
- 09 Credit Union Loans
- 10 Europe Information Centre
- 11 Men's Shed Second Anniversary
- 12 Hospital Watch
- 13 60 Years Selling Spuds
- 15 Modern Media Local Service

COMMUNITY

- 16 Ballinasloe's Congo Hero
- 17 Soroptimist National President
- 19 Eat Your Way to an "A"
- 20 Ahascragh Summer Festival
- 21 Kiltormer Hurling Festival
- 22 50 Anniversary of Phone Exchange
- 24 Ballinasloe Advocates Group
- 25 102nd Birthday
- 26 Out and About
- 28 Events Guide
- 30 Celebrations and Events
- 31 Olympic Torch Carrier
- 32 Creagh Foroige Club
- 33 Mountbellew Agricultural Show
- 34 Dubarry's Earliest Shoe Factory
- 35 Horse & Agricultural Show

CULTURE

- 36 Valerie's of Aughrim New CD
- 37 "Oliver" to Make Return
- 38 Fundraiser for Lala's Mission
- 39 Cruise in Company on Suck
- 40 Capital of Culture
- 41 Larry Reynolds Festival

SPORT

- 42 Retiring Soccer Manager
- 44 Town AFC Gear Up
- 45 Golf Society's Big Days
- 46 "Red Tiger" Nursery
- 48 National Community Games
- 49 Teenis Club Connacht Champions
- 50 Sean Cronin Memorial Soccer
- 51 Vintage Club Track Day

TOURISM AND HERITAGE

- 52 Moore History Group
- 53 Ballinsloe Horse Fair 2016
- 54 At Aughrim's Slopes

CREDITS

Editor: Colm Croffy. Reporters: Brian Ciepierski, Laura Sheehan
Contributors: Ken Kelly, Sean Tully, Barry Lally, Tomas Wall and various other contributors.

Graphic Design: KPW Ballinasloe. Print: KPW Print, Ballinasloe.

Photos: Robert Riddell - robertriddell.com,

J&S Photos - jsphotos.ie, Jordans - liamjordanphoto.com,

Stronges - stronges.ie. Evelyn Donnellan, Michael S Kelly.



Follow us on Twitter
[@BallinasloeLife](https://twitter.com/BallinasloeLife)



REAMHRÁ

So the clamour for Ballybrit is in the air as we type and that means that the School Uniforms and the great return to normal September trek can't be far away.

Since we last published – many homes would have received Ballinasloe Business LIFE with lots of details on summer activities which proves again the rich and varied diet of activity that straddles these parts.

More over the announcement by the IDA and Suromodics of 100 new jobs in the Creagh Business Park was very welcome news. The Municipal District Council are pushing for another

Advance facility to be erected on the Park - given the acute lack of heavy or light industrial space available.

Welcome too is the designation of the County and City as the European Capital of Culture which will test the rhetoric of City and County co-operation well past the Joint Film Policy initiative that left both Chambers pointing fingers of blame rather than waving banners of success. This town hopes to be able to contribute and participate as the County Town with its lively cultural calendar and appetite of audiences and artistes.

From the local to the European – and just what will our Europe of 2020 look like? – how many more countries will go for an EXIT option or will the British Establishment find a way to hold their trading position and the Union of Great Britain and Northern Ireland intact after a new Treaty of engagement with the EU fails to win a Westminster Vote? The people there don't get to vote on Treaties, we do – we even get to vote for some twice!

Hope we get some weather before the schools go back – enjoy the Read,

Le Gach De Ghui
COLM CROFFY, Editor



The fact that Galway City & County has been chosen as European Capital of Culture for 2020 is a fantastic achievement. It will jointly hold this honour with Rijeka in Croatia.

This accolade will attract visitors from all over the world as well as creating the potential to engage and enliven local communities throughout the region.

All organisations in Ballinasloe need to be alert to the opportunities this creates and start their planning process now.

A considerable amount of work has gone into the Bid Process and you can see same summarised in the 100 page booklet entitled "Making waves" online.

The awarding of this honour will be used to

- Re-energise communities that have been undermined by economic decline and migration.
- Re-instil a confidence in the power of culture to shape our lived environment
- Re-open our eyes to the immense cultural landscape of Galway and of Europe
- Re-generate the cultural life of the City and spread its influence across Europe

I suggest that "GALWAY 2020" be on the agenda of every club & organisation meeting with an action plan identified and followed through..

The recent announcement by Surmodics INC. to invest €9.5m investment in R&D & €7m in facility development with the creation of 100 new jobs in our town is fantastic, may it be the first of many such developments.

As outlined in our last edition of Ballinasloe life , we now have 5,000 sq ft of office space for new business in our Enterprise Centre in Creagh. Anyone interested please contact Lyn Donnelly on 0909646516 or by email to info@ballinasloeenterprise.ie.

SEAMUS DUFFY, Chairman,
Chairman Ballinasloe Area Community Development Limited.

Disclaimer: The opinions and views in this publication are those of the contributors. In the compilation of this publication, every care is taken to ensure accuracy. Any errors or omissions should be brought to the attention of the Editor. Ballinasloe Life does not accept any liability to any person for loss or damage arising from anything contained in this publication or for any error or omission in it. All material is copyright.

For submission of articles, please email ballinasloelife@hotmail.com. Deadline 14th Sept.

BEC

Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre
An initiative of Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd.

Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre,
Creagh, Ballinasloe. Co. Galway
T: 090 9646516 F: 090 9646517
E: info@ballinasloeenterprise.ie
www.ballinasloeenterprise.ie



CLLR DONAL BURKE NEW MUNICIPAL CHAIR



BY LAURA SHEEHAN

At their annual summer meeting the local Municipal District Council elected Cllr. Donal Burke to the post of Chair. A native of Clonfert, Donal Burke comes from a small-farming background. His father, Dan Burke, worked for many years as a supervisor in Bord na Móna and his mother, Nora, was a housewife who also served for forty years on a voluntary basis as an organist in their local church.

Donal qualified with a degree in Architecture from Bolton Street College in 1994 and thereafter worked as an architectural consultant in Dublin and Wicklow before moving home full-time fifteen years ago. He met his wife Alison seven years ago when he began tango-dancing lessons in Galway and they married three years later.

He adds that “from a young age I was interested in politics. Both my father and grandfather were active in Fianna Fail”. He ran as a candidate for the first time in the 2014 local elections. “Being in a position to assist someone in difficulty and sort out their problems is perhaps the most fulfilling aspect of the job but it’s not without its frustrations and the constant shortage of funding made available by government to the County Council is reflected in the time taken to address rural and urban roads badly in need of repair” says Donal.

He paid a warm tribute to the work of his predecessor Cllr. Michael Finnerty on the afternoon of this election.

He hopes to concentrate on the maternity and emergency services at Portiuncula Hospital, the development of Ballinasloe and the surrounding area as an attractive area for jobs investment, improved access for people with disabilities to public facilities and the development of flood relief solutions for those families who are at risk in the town and neighbouring rural areas.

When asked how he would view this year as being successful he replied by saying, “I’ll consider my term successful if we have made significant advancements in those areas over the next year”.

Donal believes that Portiuncula Hospital is of major significance to the welfare of not only the people in East Galway but to families across the Midlands Region and the entire County Galway. As Cathaoirleach, he proposed at the recent Municipal District meeting that as elected representatives they seek a written assurance that no downgrading or closure of the Portiuncula Emergency Department take place. They’re currently awaiting that response. He believes that it doesn’t make any sense to reduce services in a well-functioning hospital and increase pressure on University Hospital Galway which is already seriously

over-burdened and where there’s inadequate parking.

Donal is enthusiastic about working with the Ballinasloe Area Community Development Company and others to help provide an environment attractive to business start-ups or expansion in the town. The announcement of 100 new jobs in the Surmodics medical device facility in Creagh has been a major step in the right direction. “As a Municipal District we have to work closely with B.A.C.D. to create the right environment in which industry would want to invest” states Donal. It is also important for close by rural villages that are under the threat of depopulation as fewer families are choosing to settle there. People aren’t in a position to work from home or set up business in these locations unless they have access to adequate broadband and proper infrastructure - acknowledges Donal.



One of Mr. Burke’s main focus during his time as Municipal Chair is to see improvements made to ensure public areas are accessible to those with disabilities. Donal spoke of a “woman named Caroline who avails of the services of the Brothers of Charity in Cleaghmore and who produced a booklet called ‘Walk a day in our shoes’ to demonstrate the difficulties in accessing public facilities in Ballinasloe”. While some new disabled facilities will be included in the Town Enhancement Scheme, there is much more that needs to be done to ensure easier access of the public areas in the town.

A major priority of his over the next year will be winter-flood alleviation measures both in the town and floodplains. “I have a major concern with the fact that the CFRAMS Study, which is intended to provide comprehensive Flood Risk Management Options in the Shannon Catchment Area, is not including solutions to winter-flooding in the rural areas north and south of Ballinasloe and doesn’t appear to provide for dredging of the river”, continues Donal. This means that families affected by flooding in those areas will not receive any special funding to cover the cost of damages. The only source of funding available to the Council is the Minor Works Scheme, which are difficult to get in rural areas as the Cost Benefit Analysis favours towns and more populated areas.

This town and its hinterland has a vast amount of architectural and archaeological sites of national and international interest that Donal thinks have yet to be fully exploited for our benefit. The festivals in our town, historical walking routes such as the O’Sullivan Beare and Hymany Way, sites such as Kilconnell Abbey, Clonfert Cathedral, the battlefield and centre at Aughrim, the unspoiled scenery of the Shannon and the Suck are all areas that can be promoted as an economic asset and develop Ballinasloe further as a tourist brand. For those who wish to contact Donal, you can ring (087) 2330131 to make an appointment and his business office is located at Church Hill, Ballinasloe.



NEW HERITAGE WEBSITE

A new heritage website established by landscape archaeologist Declan Kelly gives a fascinating and detailed insight into the town’s lost heritage. At present it includes articles on how Tea Lane first got its name and the forgotten military barracks at Waterloo Place. In the coming months a whole host of information on forgotten local family names and old photographs will also be added. The website can be accessed at www.ballinasloebooks.com under the ‘news’ section.

Declan Kelly is a well respected archaeologist having graduated from NUI Galway in 2012 with a MA in Landscape Archaeology. He has gone on to publish books such as ‘Meadow of the Miracles’ and ‘A Moment’s Memory: Volume 1’.

TOWN TEAM FOCUS ON AUTUMN SCHEDULE



BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

The work of the Town Action Team continues quietly in the background with members reviewing the first six months of the year and finalising on plans for the next.

Once the websites & social media foundations of over 75 local businesses are fully functioning, development on the new app will commence in earnest in Spring which will link the world wide web traffic and offerings of our service providers and retailers to the hand held devices of the new and current generation of consumers. A training and mentoring programme is being rolled out in the Autumn for all targeted business users.

Ballinasloe has fantastic sporting facilities following a €17 million investment over the past 12 years and the Sports Hub was set up to promote the facilities as ideal training grounds for out of town clubs and teams to use also. The Sports Hub brochure, online presence and first wave ambassadors are now in the final stages of production.



Launching the Reds Seminar where Manager Lyn Donnelly and Minister Denise Naughtan

The Rural Economic Development Zone (REDZ) Conference which is being held in the town on Friday September 30 will examine best practice from the government funded REDZ towns and look at other opportunities for development of Ireland's provincial towns and rural villages with a range of sector representatives and delegates.

The group have met a lot of their short-term goals in turn making the town a livelier place to be and the focus will now shift to the medium-term goals.

The key building blocks of success from last year's calendar – the promotional Flyer, the Zombie Walk and the Christmas lights campaign are all proceeding.

The Action Group want to link up with neighbouring village and parish initiatives and is looking forward to being part of the Galway County of Culture Programme over the next five years.



CALL FOR NEW JOINT COUNTY INITIATIVE FOR JOB CREATION



Fianna Fail TD for Roscommon-Galway Eugene Murphy is currently working on a potential new jobs initiative for the region which would involve a joint approach by the LCDC enterprise wings of Roscommon and Galway County Councils. He has been in contact with officials in both Galway and Roscommon County Councils in relation to the possibility of establishing a joint initiative between the enterprise wings of both Local Authorities with a view to assisting start-ups and new businesses in the region. This is a step in the right direction for the town and its surrounding area.

"The project is at an early and delicate stage but I would be hopeful that links can be established between both Roscommon and Galway Local authorities with a view to bringing a renewed focus on Ballinasloe town and region. I

am anxious not to be entering into any false hope for people but I am very hopeful that we can get a joint initiative established between the County Councils which will bring some new investment and job opportunities for the Ballinasloe area," said Deputy Murphy. He is also planning to open his constituency office in town in the coming weeks, for his constituents.

GERRY CROFFEY

Lawnmowers and Garden Machinery

Killure, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Co Galway

Tel: 090 9688840 Fax: 090 9688554

Email: info@gerrycroffey.ie

Berg Talent
Trampolines &
Safety net from
€299

Power-washers
& Sweepers
NOW
IN STOCK



Visit our website www.gerrycroffey.ie

BRIAN LYNCH

MOTOR FACTORS

Quality Parts & Accessories



Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
(Beside Barrett's Hardware)

T: 090 9646950 M: 087 4181464

E: bplynch63@gmail.com

Opening hours 7.30am to 6.00pm

HOT DESKING SPACE & UNITS CURRENTLY AVAILABLE

BY LAURA SHEEHAN



Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre is offering Hot Desking which is a facility for business people requiring hourly/daily/weekly access to workspace in a professional environment with a high speed internet connection.

For many business people, their needs are not so much for the office space but for access to office facilities i.e. desk, internet, meeting room and the credibility of a business address.

Hot Desking services include internet access through shared DSL or Wi-Fi, two electricity sockets, chair and desk, postal address, heating and lighting, access to a range of office equipment (at a modest extra charge), fully furnished meeting/seminar rooms, canteen facilities and ample parking.

The BEC Hot Desk facility allows you to hire a desk by the hour/day/week. This allows full access to Wi-Fi and fast broadband and to additional business centre facilities should you wish to avail of them.

There is no hassle of setting up furniture or internet access, as these systems are already in place. You will have access to the meeting rooms, reception and kitchen facilities. All of your business needs are under the one roof.



Pictured examining the Hot Desk space were Seamus Duffy chair BACD and Minister Denis Naughten

This gives small or start-up fledgling business a private office space and business environment at reasonable rates i.e. €15 plus VAT for one day, €25 plus VAT for two consecutive days per week or €40 plus VAT for five days.

BACD and Enterprise Centre Manager Lyn Donnelly states "we meet a lot of people who can't cope with doing their first launch phase of a new start up from their garage or study and need to have a professional business environment and address – all this we can provide especially for registered goods and parcels. After a few months if the business takes off they can then rent on a licence agreement some other space from us and customise it".

The office spaces available for lease are flexible sized units, ranging in size from 130 sq. ft. to 4,000 sq. ft. They have flexible lease terms, free use of meeting and training rooms, self-service canteen, on-site centre management, nightly security patrol, access to local and national enterprise support agencies and its prime location.

For further details: email:

info@ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie or telephone: 090 9646516

TALKING HEADS

HAIR & BEAUTY

Opening Hours
Tuesday to Saturday
9.30am-6.00pm

Late Opening
(By Appointment)
Thursdays & Fridays

(090) 9642189
(087) 2989492
info@talkingheads.ie

Find us on:
 facebook.

- All-In-One Wedding Packages Available •
- Out Of Hours Appointments & Home Visits •
- Colours • Cuts • Up-Styles • MAC Make-up •
- Shellac Nails • Semi-Permanent Eyelashes •

NEW PREMISES @ MAIN STREET, BALLINASLOE

McKeon's Sand & Gravel Ltd.

Culliaghbeg, Ballinasloe.
Telephone: Office/Sandpit 090 9642521
Email: mckeons1@eircom.net

Now Stocking:

- Decorative Stone
- Paving Sand
- Screened Topsoil
- Bark Mulch



Cornwall born Denise Wride is the eldest of 4 and has spent her last 25 years in Turkey and Portugal running her own businesses. Due to the recession in those countries, she moved to the area and opened up The Corner Café on Society Street, in the old Hills Sweetshop/Florist Premises.

She described what led her coming here, versus the rest of the world! "For 25 years I spent my time working in Turkey and Portugal. In Portugal I met my best friend through work, Ballinasloe girl Catherine O'Donoghue. She influenced me greatly and was one of the main factors in choosing my next path in life." With the financial situation becoming very difficult to work with there, she decided to pack up and move, arriving in the area 1 year ago.

She found life tough here at first which led her to recently opening up The Corner Cafe, "I found employment very hard to find and saw an opportunity in the town to open a coffee shop!" Her aim was to create a welcoming business which produced home baked and cooked food and to have a relaxing atmosphere. "It was a slow process trying to organise everything and painting and designing the shop myself."

The type of food available ranges from breakfast snacks such as croissants, ham and cheese toasties and sandwiches, to baguettes, hot wraps and burgers to quiches and deserts! This as well as a fine selection of hot drinks and refreshments.

Though the effort has been worth it, and



Denise and Norma



Denise has been happy with the results so far. "Business has been steady and so far the feedback from the locals has been great! They have all been welcoming and very supportive." She has been helped by local suppliers Sean Sweeney of Dunlo Signs, Hogartys and UTAH and more and looks forward to returning the favour!

She pointed out that her placement in the centre of town has been an added bonus, "Being on Society Street and next to the zebra crossing has given the shop access to many pedestrians and tourists who stop in for a quick bite". Though she saved special praise for her staff Norma, who works fulltime and has been there since the start of her new venture and Aine, who is just working there for the summer.

Finally there are several plans underway to develop her shop even further. "Getting the business established is my first priority but I am looking forward to the winter with more hot meals and a greater variety for the menu!" She is also contemplating opening up the premises for an odd party or a private event.

If you are looking for more menu updates, watch out for their Facebook page 'The Cookooohs nest' which is coming soon. Also you can call them at 087 358 4572 if you have any queries.

Ballinasloe College of Further Education

Tel: 090 9643479 Email: ballinasloe.furthered@gretb.ie



QQI Level 3, 4, 5 and 6 courses in:

- Business
- Computing
- Horticulture
- Hairdressing and Beauty
- Childcare
- Healthcare
- Culinary skills
- Employment skills
- Woodwork
- BTEI
- VTOS
- Community Education
- Adult Literacy and Numeracy

OPEN DAY ON WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 24TH.

Why not drop in and see what's available.

Now enrolling for September

NEW RETAIL STORE FOR LOCAL SVDP CONFERENCE

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI



St Vincent de Paul has been doing great charitable work quietly across the country, and our Conference locally is no exception. Opening their new store recently, located to the right of St. Michael's Church—they continue to keep all proceeds local and have been helping those in the community who are in need for a number of decades.

At key points in the community's past whether it be back to school, first communions, funerals, Christmas or indeed the flooding, the Volunteers at Ozanam House have been to the fore in assisting individuals and families who need practical support.

The first retail store in town was opened back in 2004, when they purchased a building on Jubilee St. They sold clothes, furniture and toys and the proceeds all went to those who were less fortunate. President Joan Hynes states "The message is very clear in our mission statement. We aim to help and bring the love of Christ to all those who need it!"

Though as time went on more space was needed to keep up with the demand and an extension to their building a few years later was not enough. There was a need for a meeting room and extra storage for sorting through the donations and collection. It was shortly after that the idea for a new home for the organisation came about. Joan went on to say that "In 2009 we began the process of planning a new premises for ourselves and all that goes with it."

Joe Sammon and Kevin Whyte, volunteer members at the time, initially purchased Delaney's old furniture store on behalf of the local St Vincent de Paul. The money used to fund the redesign and to pay back the volunteers came from the Maureen O'Connell Fund and from Town Council Wind Up Funding.

The group then used all local contractors in the refurbishment of the space. Gerry Cleary was the building designer, Paul Flynn the contractor, Gerry Markham supplied the furniture, John Lohan did the electrics, Thomas Gibbons for the plumbing and Pat Harney made the keys! Joan said that "It was important for us to keep it local and help

out the community as much as possible!"

The new facility is 2,200 square feet and has 30 volunteers at different times working there. There is a meeting room for the St Michaels Conferences and the original shop is still used as a storage depot.

Talking to the Manager of the store Deirdre McCarthy, she explained what items they take and what they do with the money acquired. "We take clothes, toys and school supplies! We do take some furniture but we ask that those wishing to donate come into the shop first so we can send a volunteer to their homes to see if it is suitable first." She went on to say that the money raised from activities and shop sales is used for the needy within a 10km radius of the town.

The current committee is: President Joan Hynes, Vice President Margaret Moran, Secretary Mary McCarthy, Treasurer Kevin McMorro, Spiritual Director Fr. Dan Donovan. Joe Sammon, Conor Carr, Mary Coughlan, Ned Price, Margaret Stock and the longest serving member Martin Healy.

If you wish to get in contact with those at the local Ozanam House call 090 964 5707.



wizard
computers

• Est. 2004 •

- PC, Laptop & Printer Sales, Repair & Service •
- Virus/Malware Removal • Software Installation •
- Data Recovery • Secure Data Destruction •
- Business IT Support • School IT Support • Fully Insured •
- Network Setup & Maintenance • VAT Registered •

f wizardcomp

@wizardcomp

(087) 2333373
(090) 9645996

www.wizardcomputers.ie
kevin@wizardcomputers.ie

16 WILLOW PARK • DERRYMULLEN • BALLINASLOE • CO. GALWAY

CREDIT UNION LOANS ASSISTING COLLEGE GOERS

BY LAURA SHEEHAN



Covering the considerable costs of third-level education has become very challenging for many families. With this in mind the Credit Union has reduced its education loan rate to approximately 6.18%.

Borrowing money to finance a child's education is an everyday part of life. Fortunately our Credit Union makes it easy. With an Interest rate of 6.18% their education loans are designed to meet all of your education needs. They provide loans that offer flexible repayments designed to suit your budget.

Credit Union manager Noel Madden wanted to wish everyone that sat their Leaving Cert in 2016 the very best of luck with their results. He also acknowledged that students want different things out of life, "so if you are heading off to college or starting a training course and need some extra finance then a loan from the Credit Union is a real option for you", states Noel.

Credit Union education loans offer great features such as a fixed rate of interest of 6.18%, there is no hidden fees or charges, you only pay interest on the reducing balance, convenient direct debit facilities, no penalties for early settlement and access to your funds twenty-

four hours a day, seven days a week through Credit Union online or the Credit Union Anywhere mobile app.

Individuals considering applying for education loans are advised to do so as early as possible so that finance won't become an issue for them in August / September when they are booking accommodation and budgeting for the academic year ahead.

If you don't have the time to call to the credit union during office hours to complete a loan application then this new service may be of interest to you. Applying for a loan with BCU just got easier; Loan application packs are available at the counter and online so you can fill in the application form in the comfort of your own home or workplace.

Applicants should give as much detail as possible and sign where indicated on the form before returning the completed form to the Credit Union with the appropriate paperwork and they will take care of the rest. To assist with your application a loan repayment calculator is available on the credit union website www.ballinasloecreditunion.ie.

PHILIP RAFFERTY'S VISIT TO JORENA'S

Philip Rafferty, an expert Kinesiologist, recently gave a presentation on the importance of Kinesiology in Jorena's Health and Gift Shop. Philip specialises in Chronic Pain, Fibromyalgia, Chronic Fatigue Syndrome (CFS), candida, trauma recovery, sports improvement and Temporomandibular Joint (TMJ) disorder. He has thirty-five years experience in Kinesiology, has taught in over twenty countries and his method of Kinesiology is recognised internationally. Jorena's Health and Gift shop opened twenty-two years ago as a shop for natural health medicines but expanded last year into selling gifts such as silverware, pottery, crystal and luxury household goods.



SENATOR Maura Hopkins



FINE GAEL

maura.hopkins@oireachtas.ie
T: 090 9645476 M: 086 8564206

Working For You

J & S Photos

Kodak Express Digital Solutions

10 Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Tel: 09096 31566 Email: jskodakexpress@gmail.com



J&S Photos

100 Digital Prints Only €20

- Digital & Film Printing
- Photo Restoration
- Picture Framing
- Video Transfer
- Studio Photography
- Passport & ID Photos
- Canvas & Poster Prints
- Photocopying
- Laminating

Photo Gifts available in-store

- Mugs
- Cushions
- Personalized Frames
- Personalized Cards
- Chopping Board
- Placemat
- Mousemat
- Teddy Bears
- Jigsaw
- Calenders
- Photobooks
- Greeting Cards
- Collages

10% Off

All Printing and Framing for the month of April when you mention Ballinasloe Life Magazine



OUR LOCAL EUROPE DIRECT INFORMATION CENTRE

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

The Europe Direct initiative was launched in 2005, with the European Commission aiming to create a network of accessible, local information centres in all member states. This provides an international database for all in the area.

In our town it is located on the ground floor of the new library at Society Street, the Europe Direct Information Centre includes an up-to-date collection of information packets available to all in the community, a dedicated Europe Direct PC for accessing this data from across the EU Institutions including the European Parliament and the Council of Europe

According to our local Europe Direct Information Centre Manager Kieran Shaughnessy, the mission of this consortium is to distribute material and advice about the European Union's policies, to actively promote local and regional debate about the EU, allow the European institutions to disseminate local and regional reports and give the public the opportunity to send feedback. Also a free Europe Direct 'Hotline' is available with direct access to Brussels for any queries that can't be answered in house by dialling 00 800 67 89 10 11.

He has further stated that he is available to deal with general queries, and



Isabelle Courtney, Canola Pictures, Director Tony Whelan, Joanne O'Brien, IWDG, Kieran Shaughnessy, Europe Direct at the recent screening of the documentary in the Church Gallery 'Humpback Whales of Cape Verde'.



Tom Quinn, performing at Ballinasloe Library Official Opening with then Cathaoirleach of County Galway, Peter Roche.

can direct those with questions he cannot answer to the proper authorities and sites. For example to EU networks operating in Ireland such as EURES (jobs), SOLVIT (commercial law), Structural Funding, and ECC (consumer rights).

For those who might be interested in EU schemes, grant aid, programmes and supports the Centre will be able to point you in the right direction.

As well as this, they also host seminars and exhibitions. The talks and events are relevant to current EU policy, are all free, with the manager saying "they are designed to be both interesting to the general public and able to further knowledge of rights as European Citizens."

They have hosted events such as '1941 - The Latvian Tragedy', detailing the invasion of the country by the Russians and the Nazis, 'The Road to Reunification' courtesy of the German Embassy and the Holocaust Education Trust exhibition 'Traces of a Memory' which was a chilling look at the loss of an entire culture from Poland during the Second World War.

Upcoming events include a careers day for students interested in studying or volunteering in Europe, the annual 'Soapbox' public speaking competition and, in the run up to Christmas, a talk from the European Consumer Centre on national and cross-border consumer disputes, both online and offline through the new Online Dispute Resolution service.

For more information you can visit <http://www.europedirect.ie/> or call (090) 964 3464.

UTAH

DEPARTMENT STORE

SUMMER SALE

FINAL REDUCTIONS

Society Street, Ballinasloe 090 9649000

Higher Standards - Lower Prices

MEN'S SHED SECOND ANNIVERSARY!

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI



The Ballinasloe Men's Shed is currently in its second year of existence and it has been going from strength to strength since its formation in the area. Currently based in a workshop in Cullen's Yard by the side of the Credit Union, the club was formed to provide a social outlet for the men in the community. The organisation currently has 16 members, is associated with the Galway East Life Support and is proving to be a success so far.

Chairman Charles Doherty explains the main aspects of the group. "We are providing a place for men in the town to spend a few hours a week to socialise, have fun and work with their hands. Many can no longer go to the pubs as they can't drive home so it can get lonely and frustrating to be at home all the time."



Dick O'Hora & Davey Rafter

The Shed offers a place to get together and interact with others, outside of the workshop they have a large room for chats as well. He went on to describe how several have suffered depression or marital difficulties, and having access to the society was a fantastic help. "I have seen the results first hand, smiles that weren't there before and just general banter!"

In the workroom members can do personal projects or group ones. Birchgrove man Liam Egan, the Club PRO also explained that they offer their services for free to any who need a piece of furniture mended "There's no charge whatsoever! We let the individual who asked for the help decide if they would like to donate, or not. We put no obligation on them at all!"

For those who are not quite as enthusiastic wood making or metal working, they have practiced art and also recently took over a garden to work on. Liam was proud to say that they have "Apart from the workshop, taken over a large garden where vegetables are grown in the raised beds, in the large polytunnel and in the garden plots!"

The Men's Shed is always looking for new members, open Monday and Friday from 10am-2pm, the cost of membership is only €20. If you are interested in joining or would like more information call 090 964 4051.



Arthur Carr



Charles Doherty Chairman



Ballinderry
Nursing Home

Kilconnell, Ballinasloe. T: 090 9686890
www.ballinderrynursinghome.com



- 24 hr Nursing Care • Access to 24 hr GP Service
- Physiotherapy • Imagination Gym
- Phlebotomy Service (Blood taking service)
- Dietician • SLT • Eye Testing • Chiropody
- Special Dietary Requirements Catered For
- Hairdressing • Dental Services • Wifi in All Rooms

"Dedicated to what we do"



Fianna Fail TD Deputy Eugene Murphy has stated that he will continue to lobby to ensure that there is no threat to maternity services or the Accident and Emergency Department at Portiuncula Hospital in Ballinasloe. "We have been assured that there is no intention to downgrade or close the maternity services at Portiuncula Hospital and I understand that any recommendations from an independent review of those services will be implemented."

Deputy Murphy has further stated that staffing levels at Portiuncula would improve with seven new posts including a paediatric consultant, an anaesthesiologist and a radiologist to be in place by autumn.

The Saolta umbrella hospital group has confirmed that it is reviewing five additional cases involving infant care at Portiuncula. The Health Care Group says that the cases are not part of the eighteen case 'review of maternity services' underway at the hospital since last year.

According to Ratemyhospital.ie Portiuncula Hospital has fallen 4 places in recent months to the 30th highest ranked hospital in the country. The

University Hospital of Galway remains the 3rd worst ranked hospital at 67th.

Leaked reports to the National Media regarding the loss of the A & E 24 hour cover – have seen the Department of Health restate that there are no plans to close emergency departments across the country or to remove services from existing facilities. A spokeswoman for Minister for Health Simon Harris said he had not seen any recommendations or output from the Trauma Steering Group which is charged with developing a policy for a national trauma network.

Recent reports from Trolley Watch, indicate that the number of those on trolleys in Portiuncula is down from 43 to just 5 compared to this time last year, this is a drop of 88%.

There's been a 56% drop in the number of patients waiting on trolleys at UHG in the past 12 months. There have been 195 stranded on trolleys in the recent reports compared to last year's 445.

Meanwhile it has been further reported with the Fine Gael minority Government relying on the support of Independents and Fianna Fáil - and its own TDs who may oppose cuts in their areas - it's unlikely the measures would pass. One of the hospitals, Portiuncula in Ballinasloe, is in Independent Alliance junior minister Seán Canney T.D.'s constituency. He said any talk of cuts to services is "premature" while the ED at University Hospital Galway is "not fit for purpose".



NOONAN & CUDDY

SOLICITORS

SPECIALISTS IN
Personal Injury Litigation & Medical/Surgical Injury

Employment Law,
Wills/Probate, Conveyancy
and All Legal Advice

CONTACT AMBROSE CUDDY

Free Phone: 1800 771 688 Phone: 090 964 2344

Fax: 090 964 2039 Email: info@noonancuddy.com

Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Ireland.



60 YEARS SELLING SPUDS, SWEDES AND SCALLIONS

BY KEN KELLY



Johnny Lyons is the smiling face that early shoppers see in St. Michael's Square, in Ballinasloe, each Saturday morning as he sells his home grown vegetables from the farm at Kylecrow in Killimor. Johnny is carrying on a family tradition which was started over sixty years ago by his late father, Michael, and now is assisted by his daughter Michelle-the third generation to be involved in the business.

Johnny is up at "cock-crow" and has his produce on display from 7.30 a.m. in the Ballinasloe Saturday market until 5 in the evening. "My father started out in 1955 growing and supplying vegetables to shops in Loughrea, Killimor and Ballinasloe as well as the Saturday market here. In the sixties I helped him out and then after his passing, I continued the business" explained Johnny.

Looking back over the years, Johnny said he has seen many changes in the market and the town. "We first were located beside the "Lazy Wall" then we were moved to the centre of the Square and now we are on the side. There were great characters around then like "Coffey" Bradley, Mattie Kenny and Charlie Ward-all of whom were entertaining and always had a quip for Willie McNamara when he came around collecting the Market Tolls. Nowadays we pay a Trading Permit fee to Galway Co. Council to allow us sell our produce, but the market has unfortunately got smaller" he added.

Recalling the "1963 Storm" Johnny said he was terrified that day when "slates were flying all over the town and when I got home the cocks of hay were blown away. It was frightening."

Johnny says the whole Lyons family are involved in the business and pays



Johnny and his 30 year old pony, Dapple, tilling in the old fashion way.

tribute to wife Anne as well Michelle, Shane, Joanne and Aine for helping to keep "the show on the road." Still supplying farm produce to shops around East Galway, Johnny also finds time to do voluntary work with the Killimor Pastoral Council, where catering for the needs of the elderly is his top priority.

The affable vegetable vendor pays tribute to many customers who have supported him and his late father down through the years. "Sure where would I be without them. Even though many of them have passed away, their families still come to buy from me" concluded Johnny.



Johnny and daughter Michelle aiming to please customers with their wide range of fruit and vegetables at the Saturday Market in Ballinasloe.

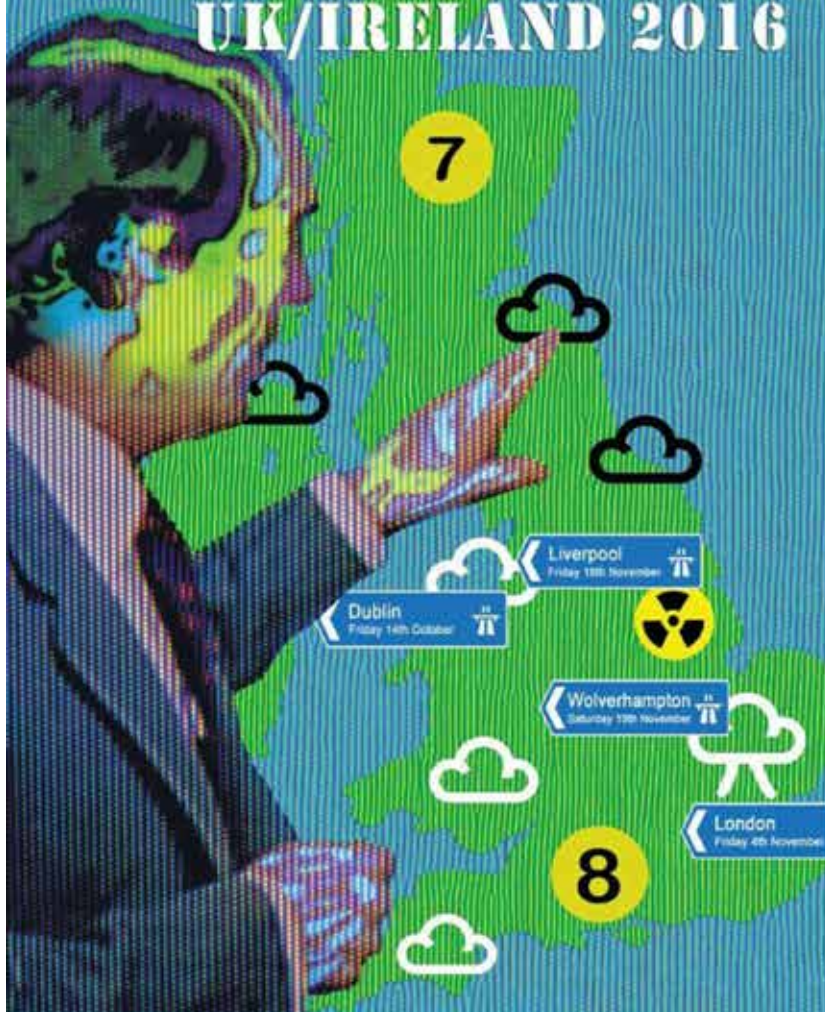
MODERNMEDIA AND MODERN DAY EVENTS PRESENTS....

THE VAPORS



+ SUPPORT + DJ JACQUI CARROLL

WAITING FOR THE WEEKEND TOUR UK/IRELAND 2016



Friday 14th October
The Opium Rooms

Dublin

Tickets - £27 + Booking Fee

Friday 4th November
Dingwalls

London +VIP Aftershow

Tickets - £25 + Booking Fee

Friday 18th November
The Loft@ The Arts Club

Liverpool

Tickets - £25 + Booking Fee

Saturday 19th November
The Slade Rooms

Wolverhampton

Tickets - £25 + Booking Fee

Tickets for Dublin show available from www.ticketmaster.ie
Tickets for all UK shows available from www.ticketweb.co.uk

FACEBOOK.COM/THEVAPORSOFFICIAL

TWITTER- @VAPORSOFFICIAL

INSTAGRAM- THEVAPORSOFFICIAL



WWW.MODERNMEDIA.IE

MODERN MEDIA LOCAL SERVICE FIRM COVERING NATIONWIDE

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI



Modern Media is a service firm owned by local man Sean Fletcher which offers a wide range of services.

It is able to provide celebrity guest appearances at events, promotes multiple bands across Ireland and the UK and is a representative of the RTE 2fm Roadcaster unit, which is a portable radio station available to rent.

He found himself as a promoter of both in a roundabout way and has worked in this field for over 25 years.

His interest in the field of radio came from a young age, when in 1983 he was involved in a pirate radio show called Candy Radio. "It was a fantastic experience, I enjoyed every minute of it!" Though it wasn't until July 1991 that he decided to rent the 2Fm Roadcaster unit, with Gareth O'Callaghan as broadcaster, to promote his business, Fletchers Electrics. From that moment he has had the unit in the town more than 60 times over a 15 year period.

Many might be wondering what the actual Roadcaster is. "It is a mobile radio station, all the equipment you would find in the RTE main station you will find in the Roadcaster. People are able to rent it to advertise their own business/ event live on the 2FM station" This allows you to reach all 32 counties, go live online and gives you the ability to reach people all over the world.

It is for this knowledge of the machine, and as he jokingly put it "for being such a great repeat customer!" he was offered a job as an advocate for the unit in 2006. "What I do is act as a middle man between the clients and the company. I am able to offer them advice and to inform them on the best way to advertise and or utilise the broadcaster to the best of their abilities!" His background in over 30 years of electrical retail – brings a keen business edge to all packages he tailors for clients.

His work with the stars began after this, though his inspiration to work in the field of promotion began when he was actually 15 years old. He was unable to secure a ticket to the Vapors after waiting in line for hours. "It stuck with me, I was always going to concerts and loved every minute of it. I decided that I would always be able to provide a ticket to those who wanted them." He began working with bands and event arenas, selling and advertising their shows.

The hard work over the years paid off, and with his vast experience he became a promoter of the Vapors in 2009, bringing the band back to Dublin! He is also bringing them to Wolverhampton and Liverpool later in the year. He has also promoted bands such as Ocean Colored Scene and Gaz Coombes across the UK!

Though in 2013, he strayed from the normal music representation and became an agent for Coronation Street stars Alison King, Anthony Cotton and Samia Ghadi. "It all happened very quickly to be honest with you. I wanted a celebrity guest for the revamp launch of my shop and I got in contact with her agent but I ended up doing his work for him - taking care of Samia during her stay." Offering his services as an agent for her, it was accepted within 24 hours and he is now her representative in Ireland. She passed along his details, to her co-stars and this led to this current crop of stars working with Modern Media! They and other popular light entertainment stars are on his growing books for fashion shoots, product launches, Christmas markets and other celebrity appearances.

Sean is delighted with the progress of his business so far and is looking forward to the future! For more information call +353 909 642147 or visit www.modernmedia.ie



sign up in-store today!

grab

your key to more value

Exclusive deals & so much more!

- Reduced prices on groceries
- 7th Breakfast Roll **FREE**
- 7th Sandwich **FREE**
- 6th Tea/Coffee **FREE**
- Dinner of the day €6.49

Corrib Oil, Brackernagh, Ballinasloe

090 96 46054

corrib  oil rewards
staying loyal to value

corrib  oil corrib  deli corrib  bakery

BALLINASLOE'S CONGO HERO

BY KEN KELLY

Former Ballinasloe resident, Cmdt. Pat Quinlan, who led 150 Irish soldiers in the 1961 Battle of the Congo is to be honoured by the Irish Army with a special citation next month when the 55th anniversary of the historical battle occurs. The survivors and families of the Irish group are to receive the special citations for bravery at a ceremony in Dublin.

Cmdt. Pat Quinlan lived in Brackernagh in the late fifties and early sixties where he was an extremely popular figure. He was very involved in the local boxing club and also became a well-known referee in the sport. Now two of his sons are involved in the making of a film in which "50 Shades of Grey" star James Dornan, plays the part of Cmdt. Pat Quinlan. Pat's son, Leo, also served as a Commandant in the Army while his grandson, Conor, acts in the film as one of the Irish UN soldiers in the siege.

The Irish unit were part of the UN peace-keeping force in the Belgian colony when they were attacked by up to 5,000 Luba warriors, where under Cmdt. Quinlan they held out for six days and escaped with few injuries. The late Cmdt. wrote two books on the conflict before his death.



FREE 2.5L
FLEETWOOD ONE COAT CEILING PAINT

When you buy any 5L or 2 x 2.5L Coloured Emulsion Paint

FREE
9" EXTERIOR
ROLLER & TRAY SET

when you buy any two 10Ltr. Buckets of Fleetwood Weather Clad

MADE IN IRELAND

We have everything you need to decorate your home!

Leading suppliers of Quality Carpets, Rugs & Laminate Flooring!



OLD ATHLONE ROAD, BIRCHGROVE, BALLINASLOE
www.hogartyflooringanddiy.com

T: 090 96 43109

OPEN 6 DAYS A WEEK. MONDAY TO SATURDAY 9.00am - 6.00pm

FIRST FOR VALUE
HOGARTY'S
FLOORING AND DIY

PEACE OF MIND MOTORING

All our pre-owned vehicles come with NCT, service and warranty. Check out our current stock to find your next vehicle.

Ford Passenger and Commercial Vehicle's

ONE STOP SHOP

Motorcraft Servicing

Tyres & Tracking

Brakes, Suspension, Steering etc.

Complete High Quality Care

at an Affordable Price



€20 off your

FORD MOTORCRAFT SERVICE
with the Ford Online Service Booking system

The main benefits of the Ford Motorcraft Service are:

- €20 off if you book online at www.fredkilmartinltd.ie
- FREE Ford Vehicle Health Check
- FREE Vehicle Wash & Windscreen Detergent
- Transparent and Simplified Service Prices
- FREE NCT/DOE Guarantee

If your vehicle fails the NCT (Car) or DOE (Van) within three months of your Ford Motorcraft service, we will cover the full cost of the re-test in the case of an NCT and half the cost of re-test in the case of DOE*

service@fredkilmartinltd.ie
www.fredkilmartinltd.ie



09096-30800



21 YEAR SOROPTIMIST VOLUNTEER TO ASSUME NATIONAL PRESIDENCY



BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

Local lady Maria Finnegan was recently elected as the National President of Soroptimist Ireland, having been the Vice President the year before. Set to take over from current President Sarah McCormack of Mullingar in November is the first ever woman from Ballinasloe to be elected National President.

Maria Finnegan works in the Marina Medical Centre as a Practice Manager having moved here with her husband Anraoi, a local GP in the centre, and family from Galway city over 2 decades ago.

Having studied Business in GMIT, she soon found work as Practice Manager (which she is a Director with her husband) of the Marina Medical Centre and has been involved with the local Soroptimist branch since she moved here.

Though from Galway city, her mother was from Mackney and often Maria found herself back in the town throughout her youth "As children we spent a lot of time in Ballinasloe, visiting my mother's family."

Having studied Business in GMIT she began her career as an accountant for the Department of Education. Soon after she married her husband and began a family. She moved back to Ballinasloe in the early 1990's with her family and was introduced to the Soroptimist movement.

Working to educate and empower women to reach their full potential, Soroptimist is an International organisation with over 3,000 clubs in over 100 countries and close to 80,000 members! With 19 in Ireland just celebrating their 50th year in existence. Working alongside multiple charities worldwide and locally, it has been an important aspect for many women in areas of education, violence elimination, healthcare and disaster mitigation.

The local branch was founded and set up by the late Cepta Connolly, the founder president who started the group in the town, in 1995 with the help of many women in the area, including Maria. The idea behind was to get like-minded women who are interested in giving service to the community, working for human rights and the status of women and to promote international understanding and friendship.

She was more than delighted to get involved "The main thing that attracted me to the organisation was the idea of being of service to the community and being able to help in some small way women and girls reach their goals in life! It is 21 years now since I became a Soroptimist and a founder member of the chapter here."

During her time with the club she has not been idle, holding every position the club has to offer throughout her time there, from treasurer to president, and she and all the members are very proud of their achievements to date. "We have raised €150,000 for various charities, contributed towards national

projects such as Cystic Fibrosis Association, Special Olympics and more and have a bursary of €1,000 a year for local girls in need attending college and work to make sure local funds stay local. And we have done much more!"

She has also lobbied with the chapter on many important issues affecting women, bringing them to the attention of the government and try to make the outcome the best it possibly can be. They are members of the National Women's Council of Ireland, have joined forces with the White Ribbon Campaign to end domestic abuse, running local seminars on Mental Health, Domestic Violence and drug abuse and they run a successful National Public Speaking Competition for girls to give them confidence to speak out in public!

Even now she and the club are involved in projects in Nepal, Meru in Kenya and other sun drenched countries to empower women and children to move out of human trafficking areas,

poverty, food and lead themselves to a better life!

"My aim as President will be to continue the great work being done by us all in the Republic of Ireland with my theme for the year being Respect, Rejoice and Recruit. I believe there is a lack of respect for many in our society and we need to instil more of it into our society for women, non-nationals in the community, the elderly, the Travelling community and our environment!" She also has helped the organisation put forward a Bill to the Oireachtas on repealing the 8th Amendment, and has called for clarity from the group on the details on the repeal and to become more engaged with the process.

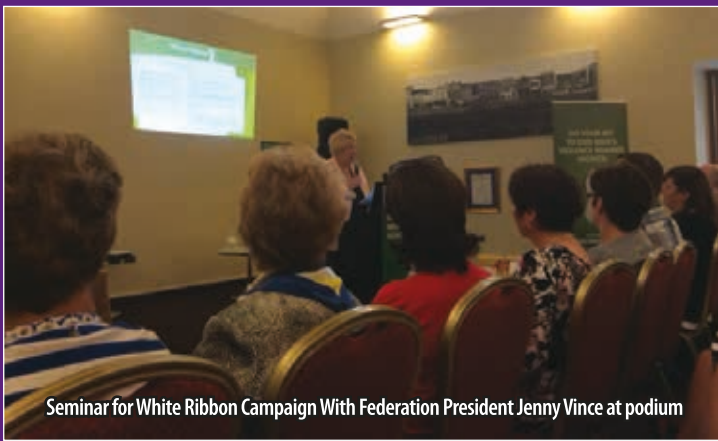
Primary challenge for the incoming President - is that the association is still relatively unknown around the country. It is difficult to get a message across to the masses even though the Organisation has been around since 1921 and in Ireland since 1966.



Raising funds with Coffee Morning at the home of Eileen and Pearse Darcy for Meru Garden Project: left to right Mary Magee, Mary Courtney, Club President; Margaret Duignan, Maria Finnegan, Eileen Darcy and Maire Hughes



Maria Finnegan



Seminar for White Ribbon Campaign With Federation President Jenny Vince at podium



Club Members

"Many think we are an elitist group, and this has made many shy away from us. I can assure you though we are just ordinary women using our social conscience to make a difference!" And another issue is membership, there is a lack of involvement from the younger generation which is affecting the growth of organisation, mentions Maria.

She further explained the benefits "The Cub is an amazing place to make the most trusting and true friends. When I moved here from Galway City I did not know too many but when I joined the club I found amazing friends who I related to and could depend upon! And on top of this it was a place to open up, have fun and make a difference!"

Finally she had a message to any young women going to college or looking for work this Autumn - no matter what, you should keep pursuing your dreams and never give up. "Take time for yourself and do not give up on your talents or hobbies and have to confidence in your abilities, especially in the work place. More and more employers are willing to be flexible with hours and to working from home part time".

She also cautioned young social media users "Social Media is fantastic. Facebook, Twitter, etc.. but be careful, if you are not

prepared to shout it from the rooftop don't put it up there, the internet is there for life!" warns Maria

If you wish to learn more about Soroptimists Ireland visit <http://www.soroptimist-int-roi.com/ballinasloe.html>.



EARLY BIRD

5pm - 7pm

For only
€50

Two course
meal for two
with glass of
prosecco each

Shearwater Hotel
Marina Point, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
f t: 090 9630400 www.shearwaterhotel.com
e: reservations@shearwaterhotel.com | w: [shearwaterhotel.com](http://www.shearwaterhotel.com)

careerFIT provides a range of services for adults including; career change consultations, CV advice and preparation, interview preparation and job searching support.

careerFIT
Putting YOUR Future First

Call or email today to make your appointment



careerFIT will support you to achieve your goals through one to one consultations or workshops in Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre. Contact Mary Cronin directly for more details.

Tel: 086 3701791
Email: mary@career-fit.ie
www.career-fit.ie

EAT YOUR WAY TO AN "A"!

BY LAURA SHEEHAN

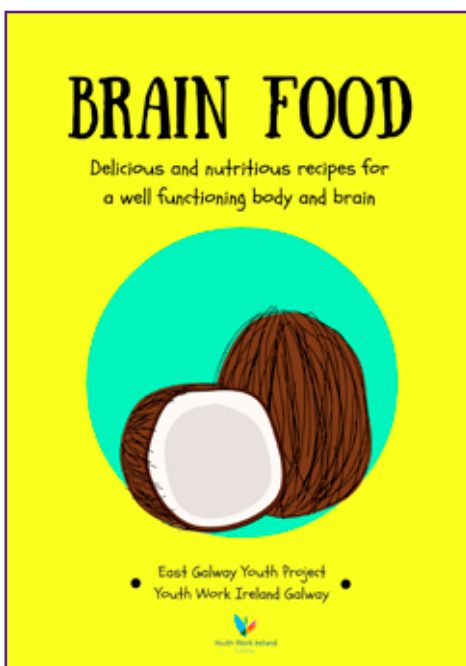


Recently, a group of young people from Youth Work Ireland Galway launched a cookery book entitled 'Brain Food' in the Town Library by Mayor of County Galway Michael Connolly.

The book written with the support of nutritionist and chef, Lynda McFarland includes five recipes for breakfast, lunch and dinner as well as healthy snacks. All foods have been cooked, tasted and adjusted to ensure that they are the perfect recipes for a well-functioning body and brain.

Lynda McFarland says that "rather than stressing over what foods to avoid, we should be concerned with the quality of our food, avoiding the salt-rich and sugar-rich processed foods and cooking from scratch where possible. Working with this group was a joy and I learned so much myself from them. Brain Food is a great idea - lots of simple recipes with plenty of health benefits!"

Each recipe is made from natural, unprocessed ingredients which gives the body the nutrients it needs to provide good energy,



enhance the immune system and to help the body function at its best.

The book has something for everyone with recipes ranging from muesli to baked potatoes, smoothies to flapjacks, soup to sweet and sour chicken. All of these recipes are to promote brain activity.

Joesph Burke, a student involved with Brain Food, thanked the RAPID Programme and Galway County Council for funding the project, Kieran Shaughnessy and the staff of Ballinasloe Library for their hospitality, Lynda McFarland for her support and Jackie O'Connor of Youth Work Ireland Galway for bringing the project together.

Brain Food is available in Salmon's shop, Main St., Jorena's on Society St., and in the Youth Information Centre in Marina Point, in Ballinasloe. The cost is €5.

Youth Work Ireland Galway is a project that works with young people to provide a safe environment where they can meet and enjoy different activities.



L-R: Joseph Burke, Jackie O'Connor, Mayor of County Galway Michael Connolly, Alan Madden, Lynda McFarland and Ellen Butler

BALLINASLOE TYRE CENTRE

**BY GETTING THE POINT,
YOU DON'T GET THE 2 PENALTY POINTS**

**Have Tom or any of our Tyre Fitters
check your tyres for the min tyre
depth of 1.6m**

There is no obligation by just calling in for a free check up, we are always glad to help

**Thank you for your loyal custom and
safe motoring always**

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL THOM FOX
@ 090 9646956



DUNLO STREET BALLINASLOE

090 9643921

Summer Student Offers

€10 OFF BALYAGE & COLOUR
with LEAH Tue & Thurs Only

Restyle Cuts and Blowdry €25

Tue - Thur with LEAH



CALL US 090 96 43921

See in store for details

AHASCRAUGH SUMMER FESTIVAL – MAYORAL ELECTIONS

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI



The Ahascragh Summer Festival is taking place shortly and is being run by the local Development Association. This year's event has a special theme to it, as it is the first time in 35 years that they are holding a Mayor Competition! There are 5 currently vying for the prize which will add a nice touch to an already entertaining schedule.

The festivities begin on Saturday the 13th of August in Clintons Bar at 8pm. Festival PRO Roisin Walsh explained that it will kick off with the selection of the new Mayor of Ahascragh being chosen "Ms. Nell Duffy in her 31 years has done an outstanding role as Mayoress of Ahascragh and now we have 5 Mayoral Candidates running for the title! To replace her".

Those 5 running are Mr. Anthony Kelly, Mr. Bertie Concannon, Mr. David Harney, Mr. Gerry Gacquin and Mr. Simon Carney. They are all representing a local organisation. Roisin stated that "Voting can be done through sponsoring €2. Get in contact with the runners to give your votes!"

She was excited also to announce the large number of events that are available at this year's festival on the Sunday of the weekend. "There will be activities for both kids and adults alike!" Planned for the children there will be a bouncy castle, Nancy the Clown, face painting and more! There are also a lot of activities for everyone to enjoy, with a BBQ, sheep racing, market stalls, and other entertainment planned for throughout the day.

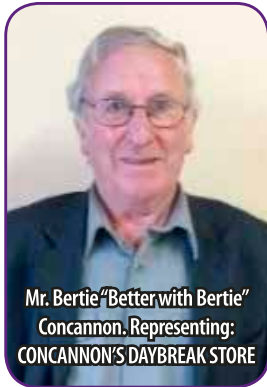
There will be several competitions and awards given out as well. Joe Finnerty, one of the festival organisers has stated that "There will be a spinning competition and a wheel changing one as well. We will be giving plaques and trophies out to the winners and having a presentation for the individual winners of the local Tidy Town!"

Roisin emphasised the wonderful music that was going to be available as well, with the Kings of Connaught, Black Shadow and several other local musicians providing entertainment for the evening. "We are going to have a fantastic time with the quality of musicians attending!"

For any more information contact Jobie at 0868396640 or Mary at 086 3690189.



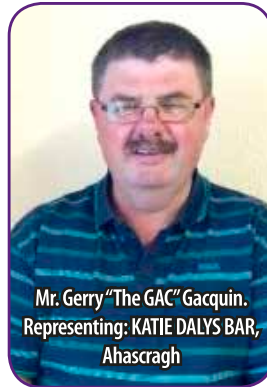
Mr. Anthony "Tonto" Kelly.
Representing: AHASCRAUGH-
FOHENAGH HURLING CLUB



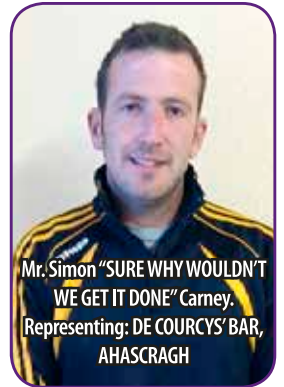
Mr. Bertie "Better with Bertie"
Concannon. Representing:
CONCANNON'S DAYBREAK STORE



Mr. David "Rise & Follow" Harney.
Representing: AHASCRAUGH
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION



Mr. Gerry "The GAC" Gacquin.
Representing: KATIE DALYS BAR,
Ahascragh



Mr. Simon "SURE WHY WOULDN'T
WE GET IT DONE" Carney.
Representing: DE COURCY'S BAR,
AHASCRAUGH

Michael Wards

Menswear

MENSWEAR - FOOTWEAR
&
FORMAL SUIT HIRE

MAIN STREET, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY
TEL: (090) 9642776



**New Suits and Casuals Arriving Weekly
Check Online for New Monthly Offers**

7TH ANNUAL KILTORMER HURLING FESTIVAL

Kiltormer GAA and Camogie Clubs are looking to build on the success of their annual Hurling Festival this month to commemorate Seán Cormican and Eamon Óg Lally. Taking place on the weekend of August 20th and 21st in Kiltormer GAA Pitch, the festival will begin with the eleventh Annual commemorative hurling tournaments.

Last year the format of the Seán Cormican tournament was changed to a 7 a-side Senior competition, and this is to continue for this year, with the 2015 winners Meelick/Eyrecourt trying to hold on to their title against 7 other East Galway hurling clubs - Mullagh, Portumna, Cappatagle, Sarsfields, Killimor, Ahascragh/Fohenagh and Kiltormer.

There will be two groups of four teams and the top two teams in each group will qualify for the semi-finals. Group games will commence at 2pm on Saturday with one group playing in Clontuskert and the other based in Kiltormer. The knockout stages will then take place in Kiltormer.

The Eamon Óg Lally Minor final is due to take place at 6.15pm in Kiltormer on Saturday 20th and will be between Kiltormer and reigning champions Killimor.

On Sunday the juvenile hurling and camogie teams from U8's up to the U16's will play against other local clubs.

The festival has expanded again this year with numerous activities



BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

taking place throughout the weekend including; a full BBQ over the two days, "Kiltormers Got Talent" on Saturday night which will feature local musical and novelty acts, a Kiddies Disco and Traditional Irish Music session on Sunday evening. There will also be face painting along with Tug-o-war and lot of other fun and games!

The organising committee would like to extend a warm welcome to everyone in the locality and surrounding area to come and enjoy the games and festivities. There is no entrance fee for any of the events and refreshments will be provided in the complex during the course of the weekend. There will be a full bar provided and all televised Intercounty games will be shown live in the Ink Bottle Bar.

Chairman Tony Kilkenny is looking forward to the eleventh anniversary of the hurling tournaments that were set up to honour two great servants of the club, Seán Cormican and Eamon Óg Lally. "Last year we decided to freshen up the format to incorporate our youngsters more in the weekend and it proved to be a huge success and we are aiming to make this year's festival even bigger and better again.."

Full details and updates are available on www.kiltormercamogie.ie or check out the Kiltormer GAA Facebook Page. Alternatively, contact Kiltormer GAA Chairman Tony Kilkenny 087 2660442 for further information.

SOLD

Michael McCullagh
AUCTIONEER & ESTATE AGENT

Commissioner for Oaths Dip. Soc. Act. Licence No. 003001
30 Society Street, Ballsbridge, Co. Dublin, Republic of Ireland.
M: 086 2550877 E: michaelmccullagh300@gmail.com



Eugene
Murphy

Roscommon - Galway



Constituency Offices Details

Elphin Street
Strokestown,
Co. Roscommon
Tel: 071-9633000

The Square
Roscommon Town,
Co. Roscommon
Tel: 090-6625722

Dáil Éireann, Leinster House,
Kildare Street, Dublin 2
Tel: 01-6183056
Email: eugene.murphy@oireachtas.ie

BALLINASLOE RURAL PHONE AUTOMATION 50TH ANNIVERSARY

BY SEAN KEELEY



Inspector Michael Greally's Retirement Dinner in Hayden's Hotel in 1969.

Ballinasloe town was converted from the old manual magneto system to automatic dialing fifty years ago this year. It was known as The Crossbar 531 system. L.M. Ericson's of Sweden who supplied and installed the system in conjunction with technicians of the Post Office engineering branch. L.M. Ericson's of Sweden first came to Ireland in 1962 and the first three automatic exchanges installed were Kildare, Newbridge and The Curragh. This was followed up by Roscommon in 1963, Tuam in 1964 and Tullamore and Clara in 1965.

At that time, it would appear that the town was not on the priority list for conversion to automatic dialing. With the construction of a new Public Office, a building was also built at the rear for the installation of the automatic exchange which it was envisaged would be a good number of years away. In 1965 the new Public Office was officially opened by the then Minister of Post and Telegraphs Mr Michael Hilliard. The chairman of the Urban Council Mr Martin Lynch in welcoming the Minister pleaded with him to make the town a priority for the provision of automatic dialing. In his speech the Minister promised that the town would have automatic dialing within a year. The problem with the Minister's promise was that to plan an automatic exchange and place the order with the contractors for the supply of the equipment for the town and the surrounding rural towns would take a lot longer than a year at that time.

To meet the target of a year for the town, the automatic equipment which was already delivered to Ennis, Co Clare was transferred here. Installation and testing commenced in January

1966 and was ready to go into service in June that year. The problem that then arose with the town's installation being expedited was that no provision was made for the fifteen rural exchanges which worked to the town as its parent exchange. Those were Mountbellew, Menlough, Castleblakney, Ahascragh, Woodlawn, Gurteen, New Inn, Kilconnell, Aughrim, Kiltormer, Killimor, Eyrecourt, Laurecetown, Shannonbridge, Taughmaconnell.

Buildings for those had to be planned, then construction carried out. Equipment had to be ordered from Sweden. Also new cables had to be erected between the town and most of the rural exchanges as phone cables

Paddy Keane I.P.A.V.

AUCTIONEERS • VALUERS • ESTATE AGENTS

www.ballinasloeproperties.com P.S.R.A Licence No 2056

Specialists in:-

- ▶ Property Sales & Valuations
- ▶ Property Transfer Valuations
- ▶ Probate and Tax Valuations
- ▶ Farm Retirement and Land Leases
- ▶ Property Rental and Management

Contemplating Selling?

Our Location Could Sell Your Location

Main Street, Ballinasloe
Tel: 090 96 42339 / 087 260 9310
Email: paddykeane@eircom.net
www.paddykeane.com

Houses & Lands
urgently Required
for Genuine Clients.



ipav | Institute of Professional Auctioneers & Valuers

needed to be of a higher specification for automatic working. This took over six years to complete. The first rural exchange to be converted was Laurencetown and the last remaining one was Gurteen. During those years the manual exchange at the red brick building which was the old Post Office on the Main Street had to be kept and staffed by Telephonists until the last exchange was converted.

The maintenance of the automatic exchanges were carried out by Seán Keeley from 1966 until 1971. After that for the next thirty-five years it was done by Cathal Oliver.

STAFF DETAILS

The staff were divided into two sections: Clerical and engineering

The Postmaster Jim McDavitt, a Donegal native, had control of the clerical, postal and telephonist staff.

The Engineering Inspector, a Ballinasloe native, Michael Greally had control of all the engineering work, external and internal, around the town and Athlone.

BALLINASLOE STAFF WHO WERE THERE IN 1965/66

Clerical:

Gerry Carney, Michael Fallon, Kevin Higgins, Michael and Pat Boland, Christy and Des Madden, Paddy Corban, Larry O'Brien, Nancy Hanley.

Postal:

Peter Hurley, Jimmy Greally, John Madden, Dan Spain, Tom



Inspector Michael Greally's Retirement Dinner in Hayden's Hotel in 1969. He is in the front with his wife, Mary.

Madden, Johnny Furey, Bertie Daly, Christy and Michael Regan.

Telephonists:

Supervisor Kitty Kilduff, Bernie Ahern, Eileen O'Donnell, Beatrice Keating, Mary Carroll.

Night telephonists:

Martin McHugh, Pat Joe Gavin, Tony Bradley.

Engineering:

Peadar Burns, Area Linesman; William Tully, Peter Mulryan, Pat Joe Guinnessy, Eamon Devlin.

**Colohan's
Topline**



- Timber • Slates
- Cement • Insulation
- Heating • Plumbing
- Bathrooms • Tiles
- Doors • Floors • Lighting
- Paint • Gardening • Paving
- Walling • Pumps
- Marble Fireplaces

TOWN PARKS, BALLINASLOE
 (At the back of Gullane's Hotel)
 Tel: 090 9643667 Fax: 090 9644440
 Email: ollie@colohanhardware.ie

**ATHLONE
CHIMNEY REPAIRS**

- Chimney Repairs
- Soot & Smoke Problems
- Demolish, Re Build & Re Flue Line
- Chimney Fires
- CCTV Camera Inspection
- Insurance Claims processed



For Professional Advice
 Contact John Hibbitt



Tel: 090 9673336

Mob: 086 2678350

Email: info@athlonechimneyrepairs.ie

BALLINASLOE ADVOCATES GROUP CONTINUE TO DELIVER

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

Ballinasloe Advocates have very generously donated to various Brothers of Charity Day Services in the past 12 months: including two new iPads for the CARO Day Service, a new trike for the Fia Nua Service, funding to the other services for a sensory garden for the Ashtree Respite House, a drama group for the VIP Disco and other necessary activities. They have been very kind to the service throughout the years and have been a wonderful support to all.

The Brothers of Charity Services came to Galway for the first time in 1952, and currently provide a service to 570 adults and 463 children. They provide a wide range of services to people with an intellectual disability and their families in Galway City and County. These services range from Early Intervention Services (Springtime) for young Children through to School Age Services and a variety of programmes for Adults, devised according to the level of support that individuals require and priorities that they identify.

In the hinterland area there are six day services and six residential houses and one respite house which provides services for individuals within the locality!

The Ballinasloe Advocates are a support group comprising of parents, guardians and siblings of intellectually disabled children and adults within the South Roscommon & East

Galway area. Mary Dooley, an Advocate member has stated "the objectives of the group are to hold and support informal meetings where all new ideas are welcomed. The group promote community awareness and hold fundraising ventures. Donations from fundraising are then distributed to allow services to go that little step further."

They are a locally based group in town who got together a number of years ago to offer support to each other in what sometimes can seem like a difficult and isolating time for families. They are a 'shoulder to cry on' for many young parents going through difficult times. The present committee are in place for a number of years and would welcome any new and younger parents to join them so as to promote and sustain the group's efforts made to date.

They have worked closely with one another over the years, both recognising the important work done by each other and support shared and given.

If you wish to find out more about the Brothers of Charity visit www.brothersofcharity.ie and if you have any enquiries and for further information please do not hesitate to contact Mary Dooley on 086-3911326.



Mary Dooley (Ballinasloe Advocates), Kealen Dooley (CARO Service user), Gerard Lyons (CARO service user), Peggy Lyons (Ballinasloe Advocates), Joyce Walsh (staff), Emma Kelly (CARO Team Leader), Suzanne Mitchell (CARO Service User), Noreen Tormey (caro staff) and Mary Briscoe of Ballinasloe Advocates.



HUTCHINSON DAVIDSON & SON Solicitors

Principal: David C. Colbert, B.A. L.L.B

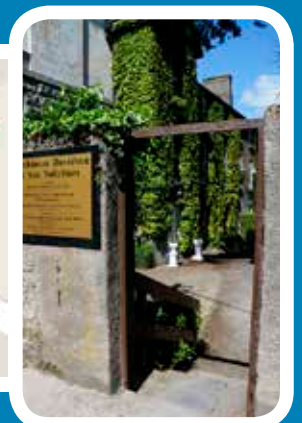
Bridge Street, Ballinasloe,
Co. Galway, Ireland.

Tel.: + 353 (0) 90 96 42143

Fax: + 353 (0) 90 96 44077

Email: info@hutchinsondavidson.ie

www.hutchinsondavidson.ie



102ND BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

Annie Dillon a native of Ballydangan, Athlone recently celebrated her 102nd Birthday. Annie was born in Clonulty where she lived all of her life. For the past number of years Annie has been a resident of Garbally View Nursing Home, Brackernagh, Ballinasloe. Celebrating her Birthday with her were her Nephews John Dillon (Clonulty), Patrick Dillon (Rathpeak) her Nieces Eileen Finnerty (Moate) and Edel Dillon (Kilgarve). Annie received a Congratulatory letter and medal from President Michael D Higgins on the day.



Ballinasloe Credit Union

Borrowing From BCU Benefits Include:

- **No Fees** • **No Gimmicks**
- **No Hidden Charges**
- **Pay Less** Interest with each repayment
- **Life Savings & Loan Protection** insurance provided at **No Extra Cost**

Main Street, Ballinasloe. Tel: 090 9643 179 Fax: 090 9643 511
Email: info@ballinasloecreditunion.ie Web: www.ballinasloecreditunion.ie

OPENING HOURS

Monday - Friday: 9.30am - 5.30pm Saturday: 9.30am - 4.30pm

LOCAL • LOYAL • LENDING



Approved Stockists of Calor fittings and accessories

Peter Madden Fuels



OPEN MON - SAT
9.30 - 6PM



T: 090 96 43638 M: 086 8629387 HOBSONS LANE, BALLINASLOE



Official **Homefire** Stockist

OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE



Rachel Woollett challenged herself on her 76th birthday to swim 1 mile, cycle 4 miles, walk 1 mile and horse ride 1.6 miles (total of 7.6 miles) in under 7.6 hours to raise funds through sponsorship for Ballinasloe Social Services Day Care Centre. She achieved the challenge and through the generosity of individuals, she raised €1,000.



Ballinasloe U12 Team who were the Winners of the Walsh Cup A Final held at the Ballinasloe GAA Club



Ballinasloe and Moate U12 Teams following their match for the Walsh Cup at Ballinasloe GAA Club.



Event Organiser John Killeen and Sponsor Barry Taylor of Barry's Cycles, Ballinasloe at the Walsh Cup event held at Ballinasloe GAA Club.



Mike Denver with members of the TOPE Centre.



Mike Denver cutting the ribbon on the new TOPE centre.



Mike Denver joins members of the TOPE centre in a music session at their official opening.

OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE



Pictured at the presentation of prizes to the winners of the Ballinasloe RFC Michael Fitzpatrick Fundraising Golf Classic were L-R Liam Courtney (president), Mary Fitzpatrick, Darren Egan (captain winning team), Frank Donohue & Gerry Kenny (runners up) and John Flynn (treasurer).



Presidents both: Mary & Liam Courtney have a busy year ahead as presidents of the Ballinasloe Soroptomists and Rugby Club respectively.



Ballinasloe Connacht Senior Cup Golf Champions

Photo: L-R (Back Row) Margaret Killeen, Catherine Owens, Aine Lyons, Rita Spellman, Regina Power, Claire Staunton. L-R (Front Row) Fiona Moclair, Kate O'Meara, District Secretary I.L.G.U. Connacht Branch, Bernie Lally, Lady Captain.

Carol Hogan, Society Street completed a half Ironman triathlon recently. Supported by her friends Niamh and Sarah.



Brian Geraghty receiving his prize from Ballinasloe Golf Club Captain Tom Horkan.



L-R: Shane McNeill, assistant manager BCU, Evelyn Rafter, car draw winner and Tom Rafferty, Rafferty Car Sales.



Pupils and Staff of St. Teresa's Special School being presented with a cheque for €2,500.00 from Carol Chamberlain who participated in "Hell and Back" and fundraised for the school. Present in the picture are: (Front Row) Zack McDonagh, Ilya Manning, Eoin Chamberlain, Kayne Tetley, John Burke, Elaine Sheridan, Joshua Egan. (Back Row) Orla Burke, Dinah Keane, Joe McKeown, Anita O'Reilly and Carol Chamberlain, Maeve Garvey, Mary Conoly, Thelma Coen.

AUGUST EVENTS GUIDE

August 1st Monday			August 12th Friday			August 21st Sunday		
'What They Said' Exhibition	Church Gallery	All Day	Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9-1.30pm	Michael Collins	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Ahascragh Village	Ahascragh	All Day	Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm	Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Junior Golf	Golf Club	9.30-10am	Dj Johnny F	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	Live Music	An Táin	7pm
Activity Camps	Coral Leisure	10-3pm	Hoppy Bar Stars	Maud Millars	10pm	Imposter	Maud Millars	8pm
August 2nd Tuesday			Gaegan Pagans	The Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	The Stone Throwers	Downey's	9pm
Ahascragh Village	Ahascragh	All Day	August 13th Saturday			Michael English	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Unislim	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm	Red Tape	Maud Millars	10pm	Lyn em up	Killeen's	10pm
August 4th Thursday			Tradstone	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	Session in the front bar	Valerie's	10pm
Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9pm	Live DJ	Downey's	10pm	August 22nd Monday		
Junior Golf	Golf Club	9.30-10am	Dancing by G.Long	Valerie's		Junior Golf	Golf Club	9.30-10am
Open Jam	Maud Millars	10pm	Legacy	Killeen's	10pm	Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm
Dunlo Trad Session	The Dunlo Tavern	10pm	John Molloy	Hayden's Hotel	10pm	Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8.30pm
Kevin Rohan	Hayden's Hotel	10pm	Eoin Maher	An Táin	10pm	August 23rd Tuesday		
Trad	An Táin	10.00pm	Too Tall Paul	The Pillar House	10pm	Unislim	Gullane's Hotel	5:30pm
August 5th Friday			Chris & Tara	The Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	August 25th Thursday		
Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm	August 14th Sunday			Junior Golf	Golf Club	9.30-10am
Bojangle	Killeen's	10pm	Muriel O' Connor	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm	Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Toxic Twins	Maud Millars	10pm	Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm	Open Jam	Maud Millars	10pm
The Treblemakers	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	Live Music	An Táin	7pm	Kevin Rohan	Hayden's Hotel	10pm
Paul Watchorn	The Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	Patrick Feeney	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm	Dunlo Trad Session	The Dunlo Tavern	10pm
August 6th Saturday			Liam's Country Rd Show	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	August 26th Friday		
Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm	Beggars Velvet	Maud Millars	10pm	Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9-1.30pm
Bojangle	Killeen's	10pm	NightOwls	Downey's	10pm	Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm
Toxic Twins	Maud Millars	10pm	Small Deal	Killeen's	10pm	Loose Rooster	Maud Millars	10pm
The Treblemakers	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	Session in the bar	Valerie's	10pm	Dj Johnny F	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Paul Watchorn	The Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	August 15th Monday			Paul Burns	The Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Strung Out	Maud Millars	10.00pm	Junior Golf	Golf Club	9.30-10am	August 27th Saturday		
Live Music	An Táin	10.00pm	Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm	Martin Cunningham	Downey's	9.30pm
August 7th Sunday			Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8.30pm	No Bodder	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Show Bud	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm	August 16th Tuesday			Live Music	Maud Millars	10pm
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm	Unislim	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm	Wexford Lagigo	Hayden's Hotel	10pm
Live Music	An Táin	7pm	August 18th Thursday			Barracuda	Killeen's	10pm
Anchormen	Maud Millars	8pm	S.Spence Training Camp	Rugby Club	All Day	C & C	An Táin	10pm
Gronin-Music in the Marquee	Valerie's	9.30pm	Junior Golf	Golf Club	9.30-10am	Private Party	Valerie's	
Dominic Kirwan	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm	Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9pm	Hickory Wind	The Pillar House	
Pacifica	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	Open Jam	Maud Millars	10pm	The Suspects	The Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Abbeyfolk	Killeen's	10pm	Kevin Rohan	Hayden's Hotel	10pm	August 28th Sunday		
August 8th Monday			Dunlo Trad Session	The Dunlo Tavern	10pm	Brenden McGee	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Starcamp	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-2.30pm	August 19th Friday			Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Junior Golf	Golf Club	9.30-10am	Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9-1.30pm	Live Music	An Táin	7pm
Swim Camp	Coral Leisure	10-11am	Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm	Beggars Velvet	Maud Millars	8pm
Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm	Macey South	Maud Millars	10pm	Shane Moore	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
August 9th Tuesday			Evan Blake	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	Colin Galligan	Downey's	9pm
Unislim	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm	Split	The Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	Gerry Guthrie	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Fashion Show Fundraiser	Gullane's Hotel	8pm	August 20th Saturday			The Blaggards	Killeen's	10pm
August 11th Thursday			Live DJ	Downey's	9.30pm	August 29th Monday		
Junior Golf	Golf Club	9.30-10am	NightOwls	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	Junior Golf	Golf Club	9.30-10am
Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9pm	The Fanzines	Maud Millars	10pm	Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm
Dunlo Trad Session	The Dunlo Tavern	9.30pm	Toxic Twins	Killeen's	10pm	Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8.30pm
Open Jam	Maud Millars	10pm	Shane Moore	Valerie's		August 30th Tuesday		
Kevin Rohan	Hayden's Hotel	10pm	Enda Cassidy	Hayden's Hotel	10pm	Unislim	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm
			Live Music	An Táin	10pm			
			G2	The Pillar House	10pm			
			Buckeye	The Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm			

SEPTEMBER EVENTS GUIDE

September 1st Thursday			September 10th Saturday			September 18th Sunday		
Suas' Photography Exhib.	Ballinasloe Library	2pm	Arts&Crafts disp. L.Reynoilds	The Dunlo Tavern	12-4pm	Checkers	Killeen's	10pm
Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9pm	Larry Reynolds Lecture	Church Gallery	2-4pm	Session in the front bar	Valerie's	
Open Jam	Maud Millars	10pm	L.Reynoilds Trad Session	The Dunlo Tavern	5-7pm	September 19th Monday		
Kevin Rohan	Hayden's Hotel	10pm	NightOwls	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm
Dunlo Trad Session	The Dunlo Tavern	10pm	Live Music	Maud Millars	10pm	Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8.30pm
September 2nd Friday			Jock and Davy	Killeen's	10pm	September 20th Tuesday		
Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9-1.30pm	Private Party	Valerie's		LibraryCrochetGroupExhib.	Ballinasloe Library	All Day
Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm	Live Music	An Táin	10pm	Unislím	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm
Toxic Twins	Maud Millars	10pm	Shane Moore	Hayden's Hotel	10pm	September 22nd Thursday		
Evan Blake	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	The Livewires	The Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	Open Jam	Maud Millars	10pm
Real Deal	An Táin	10pm	September 11th Sunday			Kevin Rohan	Hayden's Hotel	10pm
Dollar Daly	The Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	JrTradSession - L.Reynoilds	The Dunlo Tavern	4-6pm	September 23rd Friday		
September 3rd Saturday			Live Music	An Táin	7pm	Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9-1.30pm
Live DJ	Downey's	9.30pm	Imposter	Maud Millars	8pm	Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm
Private Party	Valerie's	9.30pm	Liam's Country Rd Show	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	John Feeley Concert	St. John's Church	8pm
Finnegan's Fury	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	Pulp Fiction	Downey's		Loose Rooster	Maud Millars	10pm
Decade of Youth	Maud Millars	10pm	Bumble Bee Honey	Killeen's	10pm	Dj Johnny F	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Kiwi Paddy	Killeen's	10pm	Session in the front bar	Valerie's		Dunlo Trad Session	The Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Gentleman John	Hayden's Hotel	10pm	September 12th Monday			Real Deal	An Táin	10pm
Eoin Maher	An Táin	10pm	Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm	September 24th Saturday		
Live Music	The Pillar House	10pm	Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8.30pm	Dancing to Rodney's Glory	Valerie's	9pm
Buzz The Agent	The Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	September 13th Tuesday			Treblemakers	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
September 4th Sunday			Unislím	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm	The Fanzines	Maud Millars	10pm
J. Hynes & Crusaders	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm	September 15th Thursday			The Blaggards	Killeen's	10pm
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm	Open Jam	Maud Millars	10pm	Acoustic Jukebox	The Pillar House	
Live Music	An Táin	7pm	Kevin Rohan	Hayden's Hotel	10pm	Eoin Maher	An Táin	10pm
Anchormen	Maud Millars	8pm	September 16th Friday			Country and Western DJ	Hayden's Hotel	10pm
Stephen O' Reilly	Downey's	9pm	Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9-1.30pm	Chris & Tara	The Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Mike Denver	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm	Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm	September 25th Sunday		
Live Music	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	Evan Blake	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
The Chillbillies	Killeen's	10pm	Hoppy Bar Stars	Maud Millars	10pm	Live Music	An Táin	7pm
Session in the front bar	Valerie's	10pm	Myra's Story (Play)	Town Hall Theatre	TBC	The KNOTS	Maud Millars	8pm
September 5th Monday			Dunlo Trad Session	The Dunlo Tavern	10pm	Shane Moore	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm	Real Deal	An Táin	10pm	Sharon Turley	Downey's	9pm
Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8.30pm	September 17th Saturday			David McGuire	Killeen's	10pm
September 6th Tuesday			Red Tape	Maud Millars	10pm	Session in the front bar	Valerie's	10pm
Unislím	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm	Tradstone	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	September 26th Monday		
September 8th Thursday			Lyn em up	Killeen's	10pm	Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm
Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9pm	Aughrim MacraBamDance	Valerie's		Line Dancing	Gullane's Hotel	8.30pm
Open Jam	Maud Millars	10pm	NightOwls	Hayden's Hotel	10pm	September 27th Tuesday		
Kevin Rohan	Hayden's Hotel	10pm	Live Music	The Pillar House	10pm	Unislím	Gullane's Hotel	5.30pm
Special - Larry Reynolds	The Dunlo Tavern	10pm	Live Music	An Táin	10pm	September 29th Tuesday		
September 9th Friday			Too Tall Paul	The Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	Kevin Rohan	Hayden's Hotel	10pm
Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9-1,30pm	September 18th Sunday			September 30th Tuesday		
Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm	Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm	Yoga	Gullane's Hotel	6.30pm
Dj Johnny F	Auld Sod Bar	10pm	Live Music	An Táin	7pm	Real Deal	An Táin	10pm
Beggars Velvet	Maud Millars	10pm	Nudie Suits	Maud Millars	8pm	Paul Burns	The Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
FéileCheoil L.Reynolds's Trad	The Pillar House		Black Shadow	Downey's	9pm			
Real Deal	An Táin	10pm	Live Music	Auld Sod Bar	10pm			
Dunlo Trad Session	The Dunlo Tavern	10pm						

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS



Galway County Council and Sports Partnership with the Ballinasloe Accessibility team



Patsy and Hannie Hanlon from Kiltormer East, Ballinasloe who celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary with their children, grand children, family and friends. Photo by Theo Hanley.

SOROPTIMISTS CELEBRATING 20 YEARS



L-R Joe Jordan, Mary Jordan, Marie Curran, Patricia Dunne



L-r Lena Keller and Bernadette Rothwell enjoying the jazz night in An Tain in aid of EPIC



L-R Marierose Cullinane & Mary Magee



L-R Maria Finnegan & Kathleen Croffy



L-R Eileen Darcy & Michele O'Beirne



Club Members Fundraising



SOROPTIMISTS WITH MICHAEL HARDING AT FRIENDS OF PORTIUNCULA HOSPITAL FUNDRAISING NIGHT IN THE SHEARWATER HOTEL.

Back row L-R: Mary Rothwell, Bernadette Rothwell, Margaret Mullane, Marie Staunton, Jane Enright-Mooney, Kathleen Croffy. Front row L-R: Margaret Duignan, Michael Harding, Mary Courtney, Maria Finnegan.

OLYMPIC TORCH CARRIER

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

It is not a common thing for one to become a part of Olympic history but local man Father Joe Flanagan has done so. He was one of the few who carried the lit Olympic Torch to the Opening of the Seoul Olympics. What was more amazing was that he sent back the torch to the town where it has been ever since!

Having finished his studies and joining the priesthood, he was sent to South Korea where he has now spent some 30 years. When he arrived to his new posting, one of the very things he was asked to do was to be a torch carrier for the 1988 Olympics. He explained that "I was approached by the village and they told me that I was their parish priest and I was to

carry it and ok I said! I was the only foreigner to carry a torch."

He sent the torch back home "They gave me the torch because of who I was. I posted it home and shortly after a fella came in and said I wasn't supposed to do that and that it shouldn't have left the country!"

Talking to Bill Keller of Kellers Furniture and Hardware he was bemused when saying "He doesn't realise the significance of it at all! It's a fantastic and iconic piece to have in the town!" The Torch will be on display in the Library during the Rio Olympics 5th – 21st August



Father Flanagan with the 1988 Olympic Torch

NEW LOOK EDUCATIONAL AND TRAINING PROGRAMMES FOR OLD VOCATIONAL SCHOOL

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

GRETB or Galway Roscommon Education & Training Board is the umbrella organisation over the Ballinasloe College of Further Education. Started up in 2012 and located on Sarsfield Road in the town, the school was opened to meet the community's requirement for further education.

Since the college began offering further education courses four years ago, it has expanded and developed a broad range of programmes to meet the growing demands of an ever changing community. It prides itself on its student centred learning approach, combining excellent support and tuition. The courses are extremely successful with 80% of graduates obtaining employment according to recent reviews.

Having strived to provide a learning centre of excellence, it has also been committed to providing the highest quality of education and training. The College of Further Education is registered with QQI to offer programmes leading to QQI awards in the Nation Framework of Qualifications!

Their ethos is to encourage adults to return to learning at their own pace in their own community. To engage in lifelong learning in an environment of mutual respect and as well as that, to give the participants the opportunity to reach their full potential.

Speaking to Bridie Dolan, whose role is Manager and Coordinator looking after the running of the College itself, she was enthusiastic while discussing plans for the future of the centre "We want the College to be buzzing five days a week and at full capacity. We have looked at trends in employment and the gaps in the market and organised courses to accommodate this to help ensure that we provide what is needed to our students" said Bridie.

An example of their approach is when in 2015 they set up a new hairdressing and beauty course to meet the local needs in the community. They also adjusted courses according to a recent article in the Irish Times, it stated that more courses in hospitality are required as they face a skills shortage and more places are required in training to meet these needs, with the industry is projected to grow by 14% over the next year. They are presently upgrading their cookery kitchen to have it up and running for September!

The world of education and skills is a rich and rewarding one and the GRETB and Ballinasloe College of Further Education will help you accomplish your goals!

For more information call 090 9643479 or visit www.galwayroscommon.etb.ie.



KPW Memorial

15% OFF your order total with this advert

SPECIALISTS IN CUSTOM DESIGNED MEMORIAL CARDS

- friendly staff
- custom designs
- fast turnaround
- memorial cards
- bookmarks
- wallet memorials
- acknowledgement cards
- thank you cards
- brochure available



www.babycards.ie

share with a friend

€10 voucher

take €10 off your order
enter promotion code

friend10

at the checkout



share the moment

VISIT babycards.ie

Poolboy Industrial Estate, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
T: 09096 42297 E: memorial@kpw.ie W: www.kpw.ie

CREAGH FOROIGE CLUB TO BE FORMED

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI



Tom Madden

Tom Madden from Moore, after volunteering at a Foróige Club his children attended, rose through the ranks and is now the Roscommon representative for their National council and is on a mission to establish a Club in Creagh.

He believes that it is essential to build on their work in Galway/Roscommon in order to support the young people in their development. With an increasing number throughout the counties embracing this ideology, providing outlets for the youth to socialise and develop in a non-formal educational environment, - Foróige has become the right fit for many.

A plan is now in motion to establish more clubs in the counties and Tom is urging local people in the hinterland and Creagh to come together to form such a group in the areas for the young people. These are a unique structure as it is a democratically run club by the young people for the youth with the assistance and guidance of professionally trained adult volunteers.

Outside of the political training, there are many events and outings that the clubs will attend. From going to activity centres, to taking a tour of Dublin and just having a relaxing place to interact with one another. It could be argued that outside of the sport grounds, this has been missing in the locality for quite some time.

Jim Maher a Regional Youth Officer for the organisation said, "It has been noted by parents locally in Ballinasloe that many young people are travelling to neighbouring Foróige clubs in recent years. I believe it is time to establish a club locally to cater for these young people and indeed the parents. However without the support of local people who will give up some of their time to volunteer we cannot go forward. It is of vital importance for communities to embrace their young people and provide outlets like that of a Foróige club to aid them in their development and the development of their local society".

A special information meeting is being held on Wednesday 7th of September in Gullane's Hotel and members of the public are asked to attend from the town, Creagh and surrounding areas that are hoping to establish a youth club for the coming year. Volunteers and Jim Maher will be present to talk to people interested in getting involved or even parents that hope to send their children to such a group!

If you are interested in taking part or volunteering contact: Mr Jim Maher Regional Youth Officer on 086 9672920 or james.maher@foroige.ie



James Maher

HEALY'S PHARMACY



Society St., Ballinasloe. Tel/Fax: 090 9642252

Open Monday to Saturday 9.15am to 6pm through lunch.

Prescriptions, first aid supplies, veterinary medicines, Isa Dora and Rimmel cosmetics and wide selection of fragrances at competitive prices.

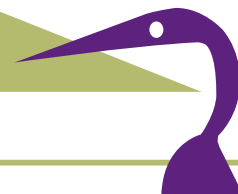
Exclusive stockists of Nuxe skincare range.

FREE HAND CREAM WITH ANY PURCHASE FROM OUR NEW LUXURY DECLARÉ SKINCARE RANGE FOR SENSITIVE SKIN.



THE 112TH MOUNTBELLEW AGRICULTURAL SHOW

BY LAURA SHEEHAN



The 112th Mountbellew Agricultural Show takes place on Saturday September 17.

There is plenty of things to see and do including cattle, sheep and poultry, new miniature horse classes, a free kids area with face painting, arts and crafts, a photo booth, a side saddle display, new miniature horse classes, a dog show, photography exhibits and much more. The closing date for applicants is Wednesday September 7.

Trade stands will be present around the venue where home and farm produce and flowers and plants can be purchased. If you are a trader who wishes to bring your produce to the Agricultural Show to sell then application forms can be downloaded from the website. The closing date for these applications is Friday August 19.

There are several activities planned for children also to ensure that it's a day out for the whole family. Activities include a colouring competition for children and fun classes include best decorated hurley, best decorated egg, most unusual potato and the best scarecrow.

Mountbellew will host the final of the Warmblood Foal Championship which will see foals from Mountbellew, Claregalway, Ballinrobe, Boyle, Mohill, Moate, Enniscrone, Tullow, Strokestown and Elphin all taking part to claim the title.

On the day, the 'Traditional Sport Horse All-Ireland Final' will be taking place with a prize fund of €2,000. Also, in addition to the existing pedigree cattle classes there will be a new class for Irish Holstein Friesian which includes a Young Handler class. The Show has a range of pedigree sheep classes including the Galway Ewe Lamb All Ireland Championship.

Although it has been 112 years since the first Mountbellew Agricultural Show, the ethos of the show remains the same as the first day - the development of the community and its people. The event is great for farmers and business owners alike as it is an outlet to sell their fine livestock, produce and products.



L-R: Seán O'Neill, Vincent Flynn, Paul Gavin, Jimmy Noone, Matt Lohan, Maura Hannon (Assistant Secretary Mountbellew Agri Show)

Recently, Mountbellew Agricultural Show Society together with the Mountbellew Heritage and Tourism Network started the new 50/50 Lotto. The aim of the Lotto is to raise much needed funds for both organisations. It was launched by the chairman of the Agricultural Show Society Seán O'Neill along with Jimmy Noone and Paul Gavin from the Heritage and Tourism Network.

Envelopes for the draw are available from local businesses at a cost of €2. A winner is guaranteed every Tuesday. Your support would be greatly appreciated as the money will go back into local projects.

For further details, contact Show Secretary, Dymphna Naughton, on (085) 760 6000 or email: mountbellew.agrishow@gmail.com.



Are you still looking for the best choice?

The **FRESHEST** fish & the **BEST PRICE?**

We are in BALLINASLOE, every Friday (from 9am to 2pm) in CROFFY'S YARD, Beside "Bank of Ireland."

FREE PARKING

Gannet Fishmongers

5/6 Royal Rock, Ballybane, Galway.

Tel: 091 44 0167

Follow us on Facebook @ **Gannet fishmongers**

DUBARRY'S EARLIEST SHOE FAMILY

BY KEN KELLY



Matthew (Mattie) McNally, Garbally Demesne, who passed away in his 94th year, after a short illness was one of Ballinasloe's oldest residents. When Dubarry Shoemakers launched their factory in 1937, Mattie was one of their first employees, starting in the Lasting and Making department after leaving school at the age of fourteen, before eventually becoming a machine maintenance supervisor and electrician.

It was while working there he met his future wife, Eithne Coyne, they were married in 1947 and had five children, all of whom worked with them in Dubarry. A great lover of the outdoors, Mattie's main interests were the bog and his garden. With the help of his family, he enjoyed the cutting and saving the turf, having the cup of tea under the open sky and inhaling the best of fresh air. Then it was the garden that was his next love, growing his own vegetables and priding himself in jam making-most of which was distributed generously to his family and friends. A finalist in the Tidy Towns' garden competition, he was a good cook but above all a generous and helpful neighbour, willing to donate his DIY and electrical skills to anybody in need.

Caring for his late wife for twenty-five years before her passing in 1989, with much love and devotion, Mattie loved his family and their heirs and at the time of his passing was a proud great-great-grandfather. His jovial manner endeared him to all and he liked to reminisce on his experiences over his nine decades of life. A former member of the local Choral Society, he loved to socialise with family members and was always willing to display his vocal talents when called on.

For the 1938 All-Ireland football final in Croke Park, the late Mattie with his friend, the recently deceased Rory Kilduff, were flag-bearers that headed the Ballinasloe Brass and Reed Band as they led the Galway and Kerry teams prior to the throw-in.

Pre-deceased by his wife Eithne and daughter Prim, the late Mr. McNally is survived by his sons Brendan, Martin and Matthew; daughter Martha, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, great-great-grandson, brother Noel, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law as well as many other relatives, neighbours and friends.

Many of Mattie's former workmates in Dubarry attended his funeral and obsequies, recalling with pride of having worked with a very jovial and helpful colleague over many, many years.

PASSING OF HUBERT DOLAN

BY KEN KELLY

For over sixty years Hubert Dolan carried on a very successful electrical business in Dunlo St., Ballinasloe. The sudden death of the Aughrim-born man came as a shock to entire town and surrounding locality where his name had been synonymous for so long.

The introduction of the Rural Electrification Scheme to East Galway in the early fifties prompted Hubert to embark on a career as an electrician. He was engaged in the wiring of houses and other buildings before deciding to move to Ballinasloe town, taking over the business of the Hall Brothers in Dunlo St. From there he catered for electrical contractors before deciding to move to a new premises, across the street, and got involved in the retail trade

of selling various home appliances. He won the Philips Salesman of the Year Award on a number of occasions and was their agent in the West of Ireland for many years. His expertise in the erection of TV aerials in the early sixties was eagerly sought, over a wide area, while his business acumen earned him widespread respect down through the years.



Eventually deciding to retire after more than sixty years at the helm, Hubert handed over the reins to his son Hugh to continue the business. Survived by his wife Treasa, son Hugh, daughter Fiona and many other relatives and friends, Hubert Dolan will be sadly missed in his adopted town where his advice and friendship was so much appreciated.

BALLINASLOE ACCESSIBILITY

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

Following a very successful launch event, the local Accessibility Team are actively progressing the accessibility/inclusion agenda on behalf of our community. Over the last number of months the group has been working closely with key organisations and individuals who represent various sectors of the community to assist in identifying areas for improvement. This has culminated in the development of an Accessibility Action Plan that focuses on priority projects which can hopefully be achieved over the coming months.

Speaking to the PRO of the organisation Marian Ruane "The Team are liaising directly with Galway County Council and various groups throughout the county and country to explore all options around developing Ballinasloe as a more inclusive and accessible place to live!"

Recently they completed a Walkability Audit where members of the public participated in a walkabout of the town to identify shortcomings in terms of accessibility. This was facilitated by Age Friendly Ireland and Galway County Council and included a cross section of the community with various ranges of mobility. Marian stated that "parents with buggies and persons with wheelchair and other mobility aids too part as well." Results of the Audit will be collaborated and presented to the Town Engineer for consideration as part of the upcoming Town Enhancement Plan and/or other relevant projects.

She and the team are also delighted to announce that the town will be the host for the launch of Social Inclusion Week. Taking place on Monday 17th October in the Library. Entertainment will be provided by local musicians and dancers both young and old, there will be light refreshments served and all members of the community are invited to join in what will be a

momentous and enjoyable occasion with more details being released soon.

To coincide with Social Inclusion Week, the team have collaborated with a number of organisations to schedule events throughout the week. Marian has stated that "We organised communication awareness training for all the food businesses within the town to assist them in providing a positive experience for all diners regardless of age or disability. The Team are also offering disability inclusion training to members of all sporting groups and clubs including officers, coaches and parents. All training will be provided free of charge and we are encouraging as many people as possible to get involved and make the most of this valuable opportunity.

In addition to the above the team are currently working on their 'Accessibility Profiles' project as part of their accessibility awareness campaign. They have identified 8 projects which they hope to profile over the coming weeks.

There are efforts to engage with organisations, businesses and schools within the Town and wider hinterland to work together to develop the town as an accessible and inclusive environment.

All ideas are welcome and if you would like to share with the Team contact them by emailing accessibilitybsloe@gmail.com or messaging them through their facebook page Accessibility Ballinasloe.



BALLINASLOE HORSE & AGRICULTURAL SHOW SET FOR OCTOBER

BY LAURA Sheehan



Photo courtesy of Gerry Stronge Photography

The annual Ballinasloe Agricultural Horse Show is due to take place on Saturday October 1 in the Showgrounds hosted by the Horse and Agricultural Society. As one of the oldest shows of its kind in Ireland, if not Europe, as it dates back to 1839 making it 177 years-old this year, which is older than the Dublin Horse Show run in the RDS.

John Harney, who was the long serving Show Secretary until recently, says that they "are expecting about six thousand people at this year's event between competitors, traders and visitors".

They are expecting a very large entry in the poultry section as there is a new purpose built area for the competition. The regular categories such as the cattle and sheep, the horses and ponies, as well as the children's art competition and the vegetable competition will be on also.

Gerry Stronge, who is the Public Relations Officer adds, "the cattle and sheep section will be much bigger than before as the committee have been working hard to modernise it for this year's show".

On the Sunday and Monday, there will be a small pets show. There will also be trade stands for all of your equine and agricultural needs.


The main hopes for this event for both John and Gerry is that it will attract more people than ever before which they believe is possible as the show boasts six All-Ireland Championship Classes in horses and it has the only donkey and mare show in Ireland.

"The Agricultural Horse Show is the only show left in Ireland run by a

voluntary committee", adds Gerry.

The event is taking place in the Showgrounds which has custom built fences made by James Tarrant, a course builder from Kerry. The grounds have been upgraded over the years and now can hold show jumping at any grade. The grounds are available seven days a week for schooling horses. Clubs are able to hire out the grounds for training purposes. It is run voluntarily by Padraic Ryan, who is the new Show Secretary.

For further information, contact Padraic on (085) 8005577.



Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds

Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
www.larryreynoldsweekend.com

Fri 9th - Sun 11th Sept 2016

Irish Music, Heritage & Culture Festival

Friday 9th September Concert in Ballinasloe Town Hall at 8.00pm
Alan Kelly Gang & Eddi Reader
 Tickets €15 - Available online - www.larryreynoldsweekend.com or Tel: 090 9643939
 Tunes at the Country Market, Town Hall 9.00am - 1.00pm
 Photography Exhibition "Ballinasloe Then & Now" - Ballinasloe Library

Saturday 10th September
MUSIC & SEAN NÓS DANCE WORKSHOPS
 • Accordion – Colm Gannon • Flute – John Wynne • Concertina – Kelly Gannon
 • Fiddle – Jesse Smith • Bodhrán – Johnny "Ringo" McDonagh • Tin Whistle – Mick Crehan
 • Sean Nós Dance – Sean Seoighe • Banjo – Colm Naughton





ON-STREET CRAFT EXHIBITIONS
 • Blacksmith • Basket Weaving • Tapestry Weaving • Patchworking • Wood Turning and More

PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION "Ballinasloe Then & Now" - Ballinasloe Library
LECTURE OF EAST GALWAY STYLE MUSIC
 by Vera Craughwell - Ballinasloe Library, 2.00pm
HISTORICAL WALKING TOUR OF BALLINASLOE
 from 3.00pm (pre-book 087 9046140)
IRISH MUSIC PUB TRAIL from 5.00pm

Sunday 11th September
LARRY REYNOLDS ALL-IRELAND OPEN U-18 FIDDLE COMPETITION
 Prize Fund €250 and Perpetual Cup for 1st Place
 Scoil an Chroí Naofa, Society Street at 12.00pm - Registration from 10.30am

CÉILÍ MÓR
 With the Glenside Céilí Band in Hayden's Hotel | 3:00pm – 6:00pm | Admin: €10

Irish Music Pub Trail Junior Session in The Dunlo Tavern at 4pm "Gatehouse" CD Launch in The Pillar House 4pm



www.larryreynoldsweekend.com
info@larryreynoldsweekend.com
 Tel: 087 9046140
 



VALERIE'S OF AUGHRIM NEW CD

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

Aughrim resident Valerie Seale runs and owns the well-established Valerie's of Aughrim. Coming from a very musical family she is the eldest of five and along with her father Paddy, sisters Aisling and Sinead, brothers Oisin and Tomas, she travelled the country to Fleadhs, Scor and musical festivals from an early age. With this musical talent never leaving her, it has been a busy time for her as she recently launched her long awaited album titled 'A Long Long Way to Go' and hosted a marquee night, with several world famous musicians taking the stage at her summer festival.

She recently had a night in Gullanes Hotel to celebrate the launch of her CD. In attendance were The Wonderful Conquerors Band with Lorraine McDonald and a host of other special guests. Speaking to her she said that "I am so happy and will always be grateful for my musical talent!" The album itself is mainly Folk and Irish and has fourteen tracks including two originals 'On the Wings of the Angels' written by Mary O'Brien Sweeney and the Title Track 'A Long Long Way To Go' written by Denis Mockler"

One of the many reasons for launching her own Album is that music has always been there for her "it has featured at many a happy and sad occasion and has brought me through life. It has allowed me to travel the world, to Egypt, the US and Europe!" Though the main inspiration for her was the passing of her husband, Aidan McGann, who left this world early due to a heart condition.

Though the future is not bleak for her at all, with the album being well received in both Ireland and the USA, she also has had planned two launches in the USA, on the cruise ship Norwegian Gem and Katies Cottage Yonkers. And she has plans for a launch in Co Clare and England.

A donation from this Album is being made to Croi Heart Foundation in Aidan's memory and the album is available in Salmons, Zhivago Records Galway and soon to be on iTunes.

It was great that alongside this, Valerie and her business hosted a night of world class Trad and Folk music during the Aughrim Festival! A plethora of famous musicians graced the stage. Valerie herself stated that "It was hard to describe the emotion in the marquee, it was an amazing night!"

On the stage was Joanie Madden and Cheirsh the Ladies, who have sold over 500,000 albums worldwide, renowned fiddlers Nollaig Casey and Liz Keane, champion accordion player Mirella Murray, guitarist Mary Coogan and champion pianist Kathleen Boyle.

This was all combined with the vocals of Don Stiffe, Uncle Bobby, Valerie and Natham Carter himself. "There was not a dry eye in the house after some of the songs! The range of emotions being felt was magical!"

Valeries Of Aughrim is fast becoming a trad and folk followers mecca for music fans far and wide - further details on whats happening or about her album visit www.valeries.ie.



Dolans Service Station

Dublin Road, Ballinasloe

CENTRA

TOPAZ

Supermac's
100% IRISH

**Full Off-Licence
Hot & Cold Deli**

**2 Car Washes
Mini Valets**

**Call & Collect:
090 964 3177**

Tel: 090 9642178 Email: dolanscentra@eircom.net

OPEN 24 HOURS, 7 DAYS

Serving the People of Ballinasloe for over 50 years

JOHN FEELEY CONCERT FOR ST. JOHN'S



On Friday September 23, Ireland's leading classical guitarist John Feeley returns home to play in St John's Church at 8pm, where he will render a beautiful arrangement of traditional melodies.

John has brought his talented guitar skills across the world having appeared in concerts in Sydney Opera House, Old Opera House, Frankfurt and the L'Arena in

Verona. He also performed alongside the American Symphony at Carnegie Hall, the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, the Irish Chamber Orchestra.

According to the Washington Post, John Feeley's collection of melodies 'The Immigrant Song' was one of the two best CDs for guitar released in 2013.

Tickets for the event are €10 which you can buy before the event at Town Hall Theatre or on the door on the night.

"OLIVER" TO MAKE RETURN TO TOWN HALL STAGE

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

Ballinasloe Musical Society has announced that their 2017 production will be the much-loved musical Oliver! It is 20 years since BMS last performed the show on the Town Hall stage and those involved are incredibly excited about the show.

Many still remember the performance all those years ago of Keith Stephens and Timmy O'Carroll who played the role of Oliver on alternative nights, Bernie Dudgeon as Nancy, Jason O'Leary as Fagan, Declan Finn as the Artful Dodger and former Mayor Mike Kelly as Bill Sykes. Greg Blackwell the societies PRO has said that "Those looking to match those excellent performances can soon audition for roles, just look out for the dates on our Facebook page!"

Francis Leahy, Committee Member, stated "We are very much looking forward to the upcoming production! Having secured the rights to this musical has given us a fantastic opportunity!". The production will run from 21st - 25th March. And the B.M.S. are delighted to welcome back the same production team of Paul Norton as Director, Shane Farrell as Musical Director and Aoife McClafferty as Choreographer.

Committee Member Lisa Whyte gave a brief synopsis of the play itself, for those who are not familiar with the work. "The musical stage show of a Charles Dickens classic tale of poor young orphan, Oliver, who runs away from the orphanage and hooks up with a group of boys trained to be pickpockets by an elderly mentor, will no doubt have the audiences



Pictured at the AIMS (Association of Irish Musical Societies) event in Killarney are Ballinasloe Musical Society Girls Avril Nic Gabhainn, Lisa Whyte, Rachel Walker, Nessa Nic Lochlainn, Annette Hurley, Magdalena Garcarek, Frances Leahy, Miriam Hurley and Aileen Barrett.

in tears as well as peals of laughter."

There will be familiar songs such as 'Food, Glorious Food', 'Consider Yourself', 'I'd Do Anything', 'Where is Love?' and the upbeat 'Oom-Pah-Pah', which promises to be a very entertaining show.

Open auditions for adults and children aged 9+ will take place in the autumn. Go to the Ballinasloe Musical Society Facebook page for further news and updates.

Jorena Health & Gift Shop

SOCIETY STREET, BALLINASLOE 090-9646585

New extended floor space for your convenience

Health Shop:

- Natural Health Food Products
- Wheat Sugar Yeast Gluten Free
- Supplements/Vitamins
- Herbal Remedies for Every Ailment
- Free Advice Service

Gift Shop:

- Jewellery & Bags
- Pottery, Porcelain & Crystal
- Candles
- Children's Wear
- Baskets to Order



TIPPERARY CRYSTAL OPENING OFFER



- 24 piece cutlery set was €100 now €50
- Set of 6 wine glasses was €30 now €15

- Jewellery Absolute, Night & Day
 - Kilkenny Sterling Silver
 - Beautiful Range of Bags, Hats, Shawls, Scarves & Headgear
 - Large Selection of Pottery, Gifts & Furniture
 - IQ Slim (Intelligence Slimming product)
 - Coconut Oil €9.99 (Save €5.50)
 - Moo Goo Skin Cream
- plus many more...

Let your food be your medicine and medicine be your food

EMAIL: JORENA@OUTLOOK.IE WWW.JORENAS.COM



Ursula & Francis Fitzsimons

Sometimes it is difficult to find those that are dedicated to a cause, and even more so to find one who will work for 15 years on one. Local woman Muriel Duthie is one such lady, who has for the past decade and a half, has raised

thousands of euros for her sister and the sister's husband's missionary work in Mozambique.

This work involves giving education, support and care to those who need it. This year there is a special fundraiser planned, a one woman show called 'Myra's Story' by Brian Foster, in hopes of raising even more for the mission.

Muriel describes how her sister Ursula and husband Francis ended up working in the African country. "They married in 1987 and were both teachers by trade and were involved in a lot of youth work in Dublin. After her husband spent 5 weeks in Mozambique in 1991 he was inspired to help and with my sister and their 2 kids they moved there in September of 1992." They began work there at the Maforga primary school, and soon after the civil war ended. After 22 years they formed their own organisation 'Passo a Passo', designed to help kids reach secondary level, and those in need and there they have built Nhambia Christian Secondary School.

Wanting to help to the best of her abilities, Muriel decided 15 years ago that she would raise money for her family, the kids and the mission there. "I have organised a coffee morning among my friends and with their support have raised thousands of euro, the average is some €2,000, which is used for a specific project. The last two years' projects were the connection of electricity to the school and the purchase of roofing materials."

For her though this was not enough and just recently, with the idea from a friend, they have organised a one-woman show at the Town Hall Theatre on September 16th. "We are planning on donating the proceeds to the Passo a Passo school project, though it is more than

just that. They run adult literacy programmes and provide palliative care there to." Having visited the mission in the past, Muriel can attest to the good work that is being done there.

She has urged the community to welcome Coolera Dramatic Society to Ballinasloe and hopes that "the many people who have supported Lala's Mission in the past will turn up again."

For more information on the mission visit www.passoapasso.ie and to book tickets for the play call 090 964 3779.



Inspire, Motivate and Influence

Business Speaking Services for people in business

- 1:1 Coaching on speech writing & delivery
- Rehearsals in business speaking venue
- Speaking medium; narrative design & structure
- Controlling your nerves
- Pleasing and managing the audience
- Speak with authority, enthusiasm & passion
- Be the envy of others!



"Enjoy preparing your speech and look forward to delivering it"

FREE CONSULTATION IN CONFIDENCE

Deerpark Business Centre, Oranmore, Galway, Ireland.
 Telephone: +353 91 388 000 E-mail: gercolleran@competentpublicspeaking.com
www.competentpublicspeaking.com

TIME TO CHANGE BOOKS

CALL 090 964 2131 For Late Offers



KellerTravel 55
 VALUE • SERVICE • EXPERIENCE YEARS

Keller Travel Main Street, Ballinasloe
 E: info@kellertravel.ie | www.kellertravel.ie | www.campotel.com

worldchoice

Government Licence & Bonded: TA0148

CRUISE IN COMPANY ALONG THE RIVER SUCK

BY LAURA SHEEHAN

The new Marina – which is the starting point on the Suck to the Great Shannon – Erne Waterway system has seen many cruiser flotillas from the upper and middle reaches of the Shannon had a very large group in berth recently with a special fundraising Three Day cruise.

Organised by boating enthusiasts Peter and Rosemary Lee in great weather – from lower Lough Ree, through the lock at Ballyboy and onto Ballinasloe to raise funds for St. Hilda's Special School, one which provides a range of services for those with intellectual disabilities.

24 Cruise In Company boats docked to allow passengers to board in Coosan. According to Cruise In Company, the Ballinasloe business community had prepared well for the arrival of such a number of boats into its harbour.

On the second day the fleet continued to Athlone and then on to Shannonbridge. Some people made a stop for some snacks while others continued on their journey towards Ballinasloe.

On their arrival, Peter and Rosemary had organised a historical walking tour around the town before the real fun began at 7pm by the marina. Couples were paired up for a game of the egg and spoon relay race.

The games were a great warm up for the night ahead at An Táin pub where there was plenty of food and music for everyone to enjoy. The

party continued into the early hours of the morning.

On the third day of the event, many came together for a treasure hunt organised around the town. The treasure hunt was planned as a way of engaging people through fun activities as well as a learning experience.

Athlone Cruise In Company praised the people of the town saying that "there was not even a suggestion of interference, as Ballinasloe once again welcomed us. We will be back!"

When the fleet of boats arrived back at Shannonbridge there was a donkey derby underway followed by music.

All of the participants were very happy with the facilities, the waterway, the welcome and the opportunities laid on in town – which will hopefully bode well for the remainder of the season !



BLOSSOM HARPS FIFTH SEASON

Blossom Harps is in its fifth year teaching the harp in the town and the surrounding area. Classes will re-commence on Wednesday August 31, with classes on every Wednesday during school time.

The school provides Irish harp lessons for individuals or groups. The school's Ensemble is made up of both adults and children.

Currently some of the Blossom Harp students are competing for the Connacht Fleadh, as they got through the County Fleadh round of the competition.

Last year, the students travelled to France where they took part in a music festival and shared their talents with French music students. The students have also enjoyed great success in the local Credit Union competitions.

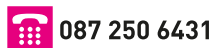
For more information, contact Lizzie on (086) 375 1869 or email: blossomharpsschool@gmail.com



The loss of a parent can turn a child's world **upside down...**

Protect your family financially for as little as €1 a day!*

Talk to **Seamus Duffy** today.



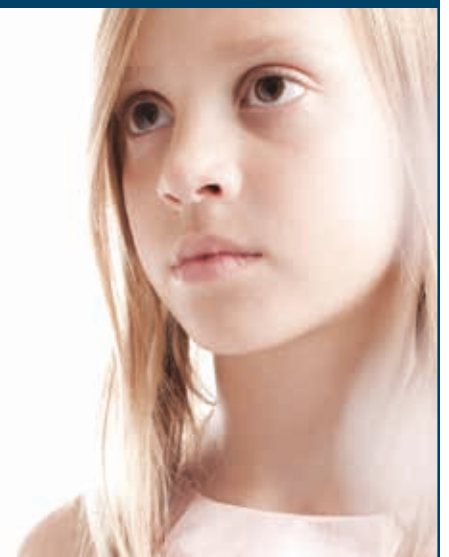
087 250 6431



seamus.duffy@newireland.ie



www.newireland.ie



*Source: New Ireland Assurance Company plc. €1 a day is based on a non-smoking male or female, aged 34 next birthday, insured for Life Cover of €250,000 with Accelerated Specified Illness Cover of €55,000 accepted at standard rates, for a term of 20 years. The premium quoted includes the Government levy (currently 1% of the premium amount). Terms and conditions apply. Benefits are subject to underwriting and acceptance by New Ireland Assurance Company plc. It is important to note that certain restrictions, conditions and exclusions apply.

taking care of you...



CAPITAL OF CULTURE

BY LAURA SHEEHAN



Following Galway's successful bid for the European Capital of Culture 2020, Galway County Council are forming focused local committees in each Municipal District to ensure the entire county can benefit from the success of Galway 2020.

Municipal District Chair, Cllr Donal Burke welcomed the announcement of Galway's European Capital of Culture success. "We have an excellent opportunity now with designation. A large part of the success of the bid involves events centred not only in the city but across the county and we have an excellent opportunity in Ballinasloe and in our local villages to make the most of this by organising local events that will attract people to our region and make this truly a county-wide event".

The plan is for each town to have their own sub-committee they could focus on local events to celebrate the European Capital of Culture 2020. Cllr Michael Mogie Maher added that "the economic benefits are significant and the county's towns need to be proactive, The bid committee has promised to split the projects and events fifty-fifty between the city and county It is important that the entire county gains from this success".

As part of the application they included an initiative entitled 'Small Towns, Big Ideas' which aim is to re-introduce the spirit of collective action back into rural towns in a contemporary way.

An Artist in Every Place' is part of the programme that aims to bring local artists from throughout Galway County from towns similar to our own, to work with the public to collaborate on creating art together.

Galway 2020 also hopes to transform Galway's towns into 'edible landscapes' as they have done so with Athenry earlier on this summer. The idea is that local people will work together to grow their own fruit and vegetables as a way to reconnect the people with the land. This would make the towns of Galway more self-sustainable.

In the Bid Book, Galway 2020 included the Fair Green as an area that has a large capacity which would be ideal for outdoor events. The committee are hoping to optimise locations like the Fair Green so they will be in the right condition to hold such cultural events by 2020.

The town is also ideally placed with over 9 performing Arts Venue – the largest being the Town Hall Theatre to assist with programming of live audience indoor events in the lead up and during the Cultural year.



Moycarn

lodge & marina



BALLINASLOE, Co GALWAY

Tel: 090 96 45050

En Suite Accommodation, Balcony River View
Open for Lunch and Evening Meals
Catering for Weddings, Birthdays, Communion
Confirmations, Christenings & Children's Parties.

Garbally View Nursing Home

22 Years in Business

Family run business providing convalescent, respite and long term care for over 22 years in Ballinasloe.

Current Resident Services Provided:

- Hairdresser
- Music Therapy
- Chiropody
- Full time Activities Coordinator
- Mass (Weekly)
- Movie night
- Community Visitors
- Sonas Program
- Bingo
- Dietician
- Physiotherapy



If you require any further information please contact the Nurse in Charge on **Phone: 090 9642622 Fax: 090 9644278** or **Email: garballyview@gmail.com**

THIRD SEASON FOR LARRY REYNOLDS FESTIVAL

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI



For those who may not know, Larry Reynolds was a native of the area who, like so many of his time was forced to emigrate to Boston in 1953. During his time there he became a highly influential

fiddle player, not only for his East Galway style but also because of the contribution he made to Irish culture in Boston and all over North America. With his talent and character as inspiration, a group of people came together in 2014 to commemorate the man and thus the annual Larry Reynolds Irish Music Festival was established.

A man admired by many, the festival has received many kind accolades such as from Frieda Gray "I stayed with the Reynolds for many years on Comhaltas trips. It was always the highlight of the tour. Such a lovely family and it's great to see Larry being honoured with the festival." His daughter Debbie Bendall also spoke similarly after last year's event, saying "The festival was so wonderful! Thanks to all for honouring my father with such a fantastic weekend."

Chairperson Claire Gibbons stated that "it is now in its third year and the festival has grown immensely and is fast becoming an important event on the Trad calendar". Their aims are to promote Irish Music in the East Galway area while also promoting Ballinasloe as a destination for visitors from all over Ireland and overseas and with visitors coming from as far as Boston and Australia.

With funding in place from Comhaltas, Failte Ireland, Galway County Council, IPD and Foras na Gaeilge – the programme features over 13 FREE events, with only modest admission prices or tutor fees for the remaining elements.

This year the festivities will begin on the 9th of September with a concert in the Town Hall Theatre with The Alan Kelly Gang & Eddi Reader. A blend of Scottish & Traditional Irish Vocalists & Musicians. According to

Co-ordinator Kathryn Gibbons "they have left audiences spellbound in the past and this opening night event promises to deliver a superb night of music and song."

The weekend has a packed itinerary including Trad Music, Song & Sean Nós Dance workshops followed by a Tutors Recital, an Irish Music Pub Trail involving six different venues, a Lecture on The East Galway Style of Music by Vera Craughwell in the Public Library, On-Street Craft Exhibitions, Schools Art and Poetry Competitions and an Historic Walking Tour of the town and that's just on the Saturday

Sunday will see the 1st Larry Reynolds Open All-Ireland U-18 Fiddle Competition with a prize fund of €250 and a Perpetual Cup for the winner.

Other events on that day include Mass with local trad musicians, a Céilí in Hayden's Hotel with the Glenside, a Junior Seisiún in The Dunlo Tavern, a CD launch for the newly formed Gatehouse. Claire added "there will no doubt, be many open seisiúin during the day and indeed, throughout the weekend, all over the town and we guarantee there will be a warm welcome provided to all musicians, dancers and visitors who would like to be part of this celebration weekend".

All details are set out on www.larryreynoldswweekend.com and tickets for Friday night's concert can also be purchased through the website.

e-mail: info@larryreynoldswweekend.com Tel: 087 9046140



JOHN BURKE

Aughrim, Ballinasloe

090 9673725

Industrial Factors & Hardware

Engineering Supplies • Agri Spares
Hydraulic Hoses • Power Tools
Hand Tools • Bolts & Nuts

Petrol • Diesel • Oils & Greases
Grocery Shop • Newsagent • Postal Service

Fuel Supplier - Free Delivery to Homes

RECORD 43 TROPHY WINS WITH TOWN AFC FOR RETIRING MANAGER



BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

Ahascragh man Enda Concanon moved to the town 20 years ago with his wife and family and from there was quickly snapped up into the world of Ballinasloe Town AFC. After 19 years with the club, managing from U-12s to the Senior squad. His time there saw him, being involved in 43 trophy wins and cementing his place as one of the most successful managers in their history!

Moving to Garbally Drive two decades ago, Enda brought his kids and wife to the community. He first became involved with the group when his sons took up soccer. With his youngest son playing with the U-10s, he became the manager of the U-14 squad and from there his career and love of managing kicked off. He said that "It was a fantastic experience for me back then! I got to work closely with brilliant people and this kept me on to keep doing it!"

He managed numerous teams and age groups over the years, even taking one of these squads from U-12 to U-18s with multiple titles and trophies along the way! And with his resume improving as it was, he was then given the task of managing the seniors, and for 9 years he took on that challenge valiantly. He was reminiscent, saying "They were great years for me, being with some fantastic people. Though the last year or two was tough, managing the high levels of expectations had become stressful and difficult."



2013 Connaught Junior Cup Champions 2013



2014 Connaught Cup, with captain



Holding League and Cup Double 2014

Asking him to speak some of his highlights, he was caught trying to pick a few from his many. The first he reckons was from his time with an U-13 squad. They were unable to even field a team most games and then the next year, alongside Paul Wood and Declan Tierney, they proceeded to win the league! The next brought forward was the memory

of his 3 Connacht Cup wins alongside Adrian Blaine and Noel Lyons. They were victorious with an U-18 squad in 2008, and then won it twice in a row with the senior squad in 2013 and 2014!

Though with the good comes the bad, and there were some lows in his time too. The committee for him lost a lot of good people

over the years, and they struggled to replace those that left with others that had the same enthusiasm. "The committee was a working man's committee, full of fantastic dedicated people and in recent times as they left, it has become harder and harder to keep up the good work. Johnny Walsh for example was always a great support, especially with the senior team. It is much easier to manage a team with a strong committee."

Though with that aside, his time at the club was great a wonderful one. "Being involved with teams and managing them, they were a 19 very good years. Being involved with some fantastic people and with the group success, it was unforgettable!"

Johnny Walsh, former Chairperson and current Assistant Treasurer with Ballinasloe Town AFC has high praise for Enda saying "He is a



Hayden's Hotel, Dunlo Street,
Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Tel: 090 9642347
Fax: 090 9642733
Web: www.haydens.ie
Email: bookings@haydens.ie



- Food Served All Day - Early Bird Specials
- Live Music in Front Bar every Thurs & Sat Nights
- Bed & Breakfast Available at Good Rates
- Nevaerc Restaurant Open Thurs-Sun
- Thee Place Niteclub Every Weekend
- Beer Garden Now Open : taking bookings for all types of Parties or BBQ's.
- All sports events shown on big screen at our new sports bar "CrossBar"





Connaught Junior Cup Champions 2014

credit to the club. He is our most successful manager ever, has had huge victories with us and was a professional who showed total dedication!" Kevin Broderick, who is also with the committee has echoed this praise as well.

Looking to the future of the club Enda has some worrying observations. "The younger lads appear not to have the commitment level and they

don't see the importance of it. The last couple years the committee has struggled due to a lack of man power and it's hard to keep the younger guys around after they finish their playing days." Though he was quick to point to the positives of the club as well, praising the strength of the current chairman and believing all he needs is support to bring the organisation in the right direction!

Finally to those looking to get involved in community based activities there was some advice passed along. "It can be very rewarding, especially if you achieve your goals and win but you should be giving 100% to get the rewards, be patient and don't go in half hearted. Not always going to get it your own way. And you must accept others, criticisms and ideas."

In the end he paid tribute to all the players, staff and committee members who all helped make this experience for him and shouldered the challenges alongside him. "There were ups and downs, falling outs and ins but I don't regret a moment of it!" says Enda!



The GAA Cul camps were recently held in the local GAA grounds. It was a great success with a large turnout from the community! The kids had a fantastic time with some celebrities showing. Members of the Galway County Football team coming out to greet and teach some skills to the children. They also brought the Nestor Cup along with them and the event was enjoyed by all.

Seamus Duffy, the local Chairman gave his thanks to the players, trainers and parents who took part in the camp and was proud of the quality coming through the ranks!



Adrian Varley (Galway Footballer), Daragh Madden & Paul Conroy (Galway Footballer) with the Nestor Cup

Sisters Niamh & Eilish Kerr with Adrian & Paul



Brothers Donald, Justin & McGeorge Nkazi with Adrian & Paul

PIZZA
PAPA JOHN'S

€19.95

MEAL DEAL

14" Pizza (3 Toppings),
+ 3 Reg Fries + 3 Reg Drinks
+ 1 Dip



supermacs.ie

DELIVERING TO BALLINASLOE from MAIN ST. 090 9643151

Dublin Road: 090 9642178

Shannonbridge: 090 9674929

Sarsfield Road: 090 9643814

Mac's Diner: 090 9643444



SUPERMACS.IE

Supermac's



**2x ICE CREAM
SWIRLYS
ONLY €3.00**

Terms & Conditions: Please present this coupon before you place your order. One coupon is valid per order. Not to be used in conjunction with any other promotional coupon or offer. Not exchangeable for cash. Valid at participating restaurants only. Coupon valid until 11.00pm daily. Issued in Ballinasloe Life Magazine.

TOWN AFC GEAR UP FOR NEW SEASON

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI



It is interesting times for Ballinasloe Town AFC as they prepare for the new season. There is a change of leadership at the club as a new committee has been elected, with new ideas and the promise of successes ahead.

As well as this their children's Street League event has finished, and has been described as a success with a large turnout from the community! And finally the final preparations are underway for their Soccer Camp taking place soon.

Recently over 60 children had been taking part in several competitions, including U-6 games, a penalty shootout and multiple U-10 league matches as part of the Ballinasloe Town AFC U10 Street League.

The U-6 matches were 15 minutes long each and produced great entertainment with goals, saves and unperturbed energy from the kids as they sprinted up and down the pitch! According to the Assistant PRO Jason Fallon "Everyone was cheering the loudest I heard throughout the day for an U-6 game!"

After a series of games between several teams, St Josephs, Creagh, Hymany & Poolboy all came through to face each other in the A & B finals. The opening game was the "B" Final game the St Josephs and Creagh. Reports from the current PRO Neil Eveson stated that "it was a cracker of a game", with Creagh taking the win 3-1.

This was followed by the Penalty Shootout Finals, a long standing tradition in the history of the street league. All who played the Street League got a chance to qualify for the finals and it was filtered down to just eight players (2 from each squad) to contest the Final, those Players were Joseph Lennon, Junior Harte, James Kenny, Jamie Coyne, Ryan Dowd, Oisín Fallon, Josh Bradley & the eventual winner Kyron Blair.

The A final was the last match and it was a close affair between Pollboy and Hymany Pk. Pollboy took a 3 - 0 lead going into the half but



The Poolboy Squad that beat Hymany Park in a Thrilling final by a 3-2 scoreline.



The U6's that took part in the Finals day with their chance to show their skills.

after two goals by Hymany the match finished close with a last minute goal line clearance ensuring the win for them.

To wrap it all up all the squads received a medal with some Fizzy Pop and Crisps and the awards were handed out to the stand out individuals of the tournament. Player of the Tournament - Cameron Keighery, Young Player of the Tournament - Tanbir Patwary and Penalty Comp Winner - Kyron Blair

Chairperson Joe Kelly thanked "Kevin and Ann Broderick of Broderick's Pharmacy who are the Club's Main Schoolboy/Girl Sponsors, The Ballinasloe Credit Union who give so generously for this tournament every year, the coaches of the clubs who took part, the parents, Padraig Maloney & Font Egan for the excellent pitch and Wayne Braithwaite for refereeing the games so well & to the members of AFC town committee".

On the back of this they will run their annual Soccer Camp from August 8th to the 12th (10am to 3pm each Day) in the Curragh Grounds. Open to boys and girls from the ages of 5-15 and each child will receive special coaching along with a medal and a match pack, as well as an end of camp party.

Registration will start at 9.30am on Monday in the club house and the cost of each child will be €55 / 2nd Child €45 / 3rd Child €20.

For More Info please don't hesitate to Contact: Joby 087 631 7817 / Ciaran 087 625 4100 / Jason 087 176 1749.

At the AGM new Chairman Joseph Kelly is replacing the outgoing Noel Lyons, and the current Vice Chairman Wayne Braithwaite is taking over for Joseph Kelly. Also coming into new positions are Neil Eveson who is taking the place of Jason Fallon as PRO, who has moved to Assistant PRO, instead of outgoing John Keane. Remaining in their posts are Youth Secretary Jason Fallon, Assistant Youth Secretary Sonya Coyne Dowd, Treasurer Brendan Fahy, Assistant Treasurer Johnny Walsh and Child Protection Officer Katie O'Connor.

2 YEARS WITH NO ACCOUNT TRANSACTION FEES

FOR NEW BUSINESS START-UP CURRENT ACCOUNTS



TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT WITH MAEVE CARTY, BUSINESS CUSTOMER ADVISOR, CALL: 086 0143833 OR EMAIL: MAEVE.A.CARTY@AIB.IE DROP INTO AIB BALLINASLOE • WWW.AIB.IE

WE'RE BACKING BRAVE #backedbyAIB



BRANCH. PHONE. ONLINE.

Our customer has received a gratuity. Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

GOLF SOCIETY'S BIG DAYS BY KEN KELLY

Now boasting over eighty members from ten counties, the Ballinasloe Millennium Golf Society last month held their President's (Val Martin) outing in his home course of Portumna. Once again there was a huge turnout for the occasion, similar to the Captain's (Tony Dolphin's) day in Glasson GC earlier in the year.

The winner of Val Martin's President's prize was Eamon Kealy with a score of 36 pts while Johnny Farrell captured Tony Dolphin's Captain's prize with 39 pts. For Mick O'Neill of Ballinasloe it was a memorable outing in Portumna where he recorded a Hole-in-one on the 18th.

The Society have monthly outings to some of the top courses in the country where there are category prizes as well as for the overall winner, all of which are sponsored by local businesses and individuals. New members are always welcome and can contact Hon. Sec. Mike Barrett at 0878224211 for more information.

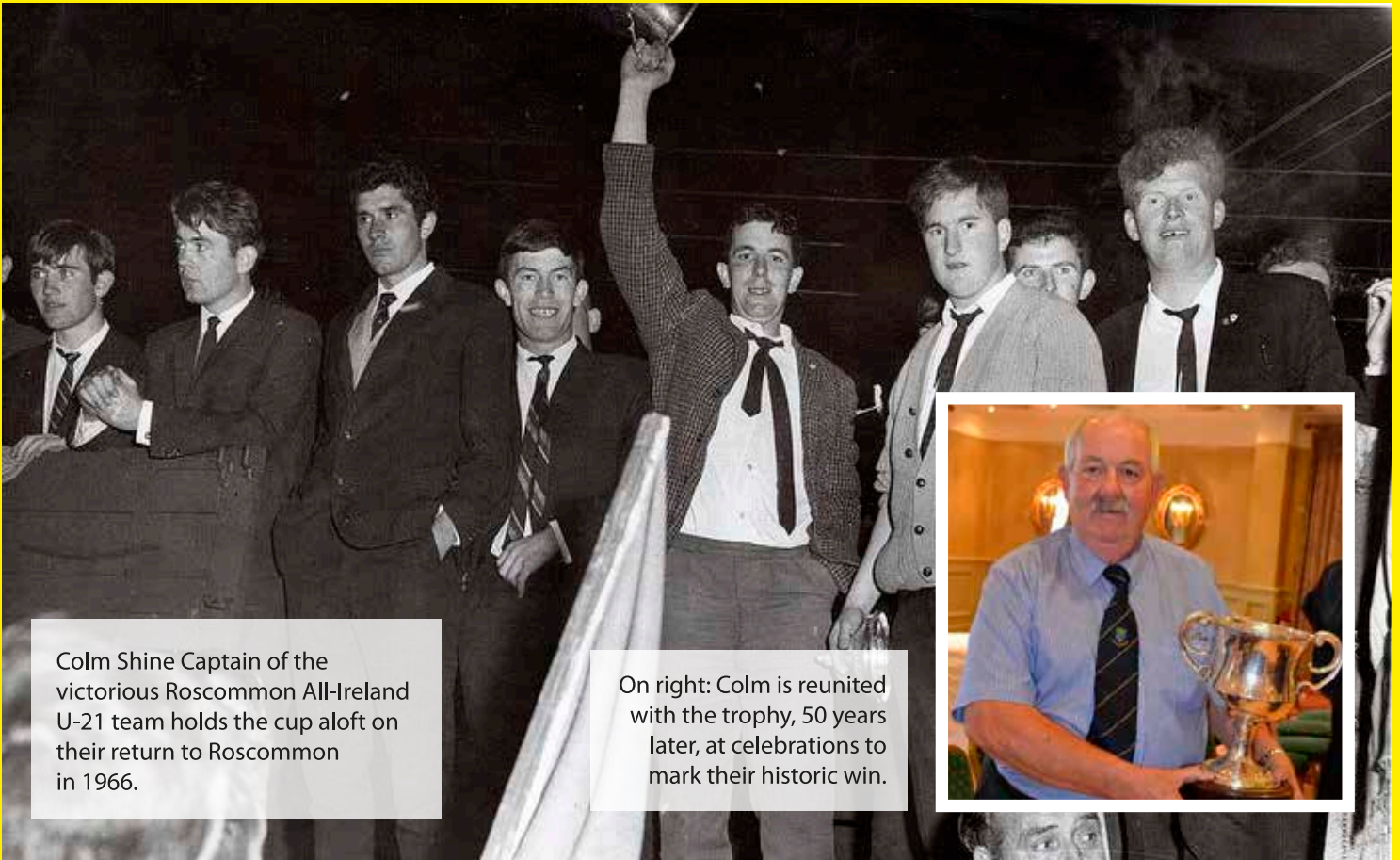


On left: 94-year-old Val Martin presents his President's prize to Eamonn Kealy.



On right: Captain Tony Dolphin presents his prize to Johnny Farrell.

FIFTY YEARS AFTER ALL-IRELAND SUCCESS



Colm Shine Captain of the victorious Roscommon All-Ireland U-21 team holds the cup aloft on their return to Roscommon in 1966.

On right: Colm is reunited with the trophy, 50 years later, at celebrations to mark their historic win.

"RED TIGER" NURSERY FOR PEARSES GAA

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

Padraig Pearse GAA Club successfully launched its "Red Tigers" ABC Football Nursery for all Boys & Girls aged 4-6 years, which is on each Saturday from 10-11 a.m. up until December. With their initial pool of 23 members growing to 54 in the first few weeks, it gave the camp the best start possible.

The programme focuses on the values of the GAA, Respect, Inclusiveness, Teamwork, Community, and introduces the kids, in a safe structured way, to teamwork, exercise and fair play.

The camp is a series of fun-based exercises to develop the fundamental movement skills of your children. ABC Stands for Acquiring Bilateral Coordination. Which means each of the skills, agility, balance, coordination, running, jumping and kicking are developed on the left and right sides of the body by involving the children in games that use their left and right, hands and feet.

Everything is designed to be fun but has an underlying structure. Children are free to go and come as they please on a week by week basis and sessions will be either indoors or outdoors depending on weather conditions.

The Nursery also introduces the parents to the coaching structure of the GAA and gives everyone the opportunity to get involved. There are lots of ways to get involved, setting up equipment, organising

numbers per station, mentoring. They aim to have one coach and a maximum of 6-8 kids per station so they are always looking for new volunteers.

As the year moves on, they have plans to host many events for the kids in the club house, such as Summer/Halloween/Christmas parties so make sure to keep an ear open for that.

Committee Member Ger Kelly thanked "The Village Crèche" Glentaun, and "Eileen's Pre-School Play Group" Falty, who have given generously to help them fund the programme this year. If you wish to sign up or get more information call 089 495 6056 or email them at padraigpearseursery@gmail.com.



Members of Ballinasloe & District Athletic Club who represented Ballinasloe in County Community Games in Ballindereen

GALWAY ATHLETICS COMMUNITY GAMES SUCCESS



Tom, Aoibheann & Shane Fitzpatrick all Gold Medal Winners and through to the National Finals (all the one family)



Gold Medal Boys U12 Relay.



Gold Medal Boys U12 Relay.



Gold Medal Winner Ailbhe McKeown



Girls U12 Relay - Aslinn Aru, Emma McGreal, Mya Kelly & Caoimhe Ni Thuarisg

GRAND OPENING

Neurofeedback

Self-Empowerment

Relationship Support

Treatments of:

Anxiety
Depression
Attachment Disorders
Suicide Idealization
Childhood Abuse
Bereavement



Rosewood
Psychological Services

Get Inside Your Own Head

Win a €50 Shopping Spree at Tesco!

Change How You Think And You Will Change Your Life!

Saturday

6th August, 2016

10:00 AM to 6:00 PM

Cullens Yard,

Main Street

Ballinasloe

091 423 798

TOM RAFTERY CAR SALES

Clonfad, Ballinasloe, Tel: 090 9642686

**SERVING THE WEST AND MIDLANDS
FOR OVER 20 YEARS**

For your next KIA, Peugeot or Isuzu give us a call for a quotation.

Join our Service Club and get €120 off your fourth service on all models. Your car can be collected and returned to your place of work or home.

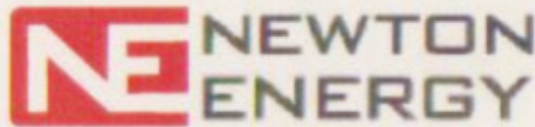
View our extensive range of quality used vehicles on our website

www.tomrafterycarsales.ie

Member of the Society of the Irish motor industry



ISUZU



Newton Fuel Oil Ballinasloe

Your local fuel & oil supplier

**Call George
087 906 3431**



Supplying: Kerosene, Home Heating Oil and Auto & Agri Diesel



YOUNGSTERS HEAD TO NATIONAL COMMUNITY GAMES FINALS

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI



Ballinasloe town has been involved in the community games for the last 43 years and this year is no different.

The area is being represented in multiple age brackets in athletics, swimming and the long puck. The youngsters are travelling to Athlone to represent themselves and the hinterland in the Finals of the Community Games.

Talking to the local organisation's Secretary Carmel Grealy she was proud of all the children who took part in the events over the course of the year and gave her thanks to all who helped out as well. "All the kids were fantastic and did the community proud, no matter what the result none of this could have been possible without the support of the parents and coaches, who drove them and trained them for all the competitions."

She further wished everyone who was competing in the finals the best of luck.

The Finals event is taking place over the course of 2 weekends, the first being from the 12th to the 14th of August and the second being 19th to the 21st of August. The first few days will have the swimming

taking place while the second weekend will play host to the athletics and the long puck.

The swimming team representing the town are, for the girls: U-8 Front Stroke – Matilda Kelly, U-10 Backstroke – Vivian Naughton, U-12 Front Stroke – Sheenagh Hanrahan, U-14 Front Stroke – Ailbhe Hanrahan, U-14 Backstroke – Caoimhe Kennedy. There will be a girl's U-13 squad with Ruth Dolan, Ailbhe Hanrahan, Caoimhe Kennedy, Eabha McKeown and Tara McKeown. For the boys there is Daniel Mooney competing in the U-10 Front Stroke.

In the athletics section for the girls there is: U-10 200m – Aoibhean Fitzpatrick and U-12 600m – Eabha McKeown. The boys are consisted of: U-12 600m – Shane Fitzpatrick and U-14 100m - Tom Fitzpatrick. There is also a boys U-12 Relay team with Conor Dowd, Shane Fitzpatrick, Niall Jennings,

Charlie Naughten, Alex O'Leary and Joseph Tierney.

The long puck will be done by U-12 Shane Power.



Photo of all the swimmers who represented Ballinasloe at the recent Community Games county final.

you bring the
Strawberries
we'll bring the
Cream



WWW.ARRABAWNDAIRIES.IE - 0909686400
ARRABAWN DAIRIES, KILCONNELL, BALLINASLOE

TENNIS CLUB CONNACHT CHAMPIONS

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI



Ballinasloe Tennis Club has been crowned Connacht champions for 2016 in the inaugural province wide ROGY Junior Competition run by Tennis Ireland! ROGY stands for red, orange, green and yellow, the different grades of tennis ball that junior players use.

With the league starting back at the start of the year in Castlebar and just finishing recently, our local squad were victorious against 12 other clubs who all participated in the event. This was set up to develop a framework for junior players to develop their tennis in a fun and friendly environment while introducing them to competitive tennis and was a resounding success.

The team put forward, numbering up to 15 players, participated in all events, and two events were hosted on their grounds. In conjunction with the ROGY competition, blitz events were held in the Galway region by Tennis Ireland as well"

As a result of these events members from all clubs were selected for the Connacht squad, and club members Aine O'Brien, Adam Newton and Aliyah Hough have now been selected for the Connacht squad, joining club and longstanding Connacht squad member, Tom Cafferky!

The summer tennis camps which ran for four weeks in July, were a great success with up to 40 players participating each day. With coaching sessions available for all levels.

The Club is continuing to work on developing their new home in the Sports Hub in Brackernagh, and are in ongoing consultation with Galway council, project engineers and other specialists. As plans to build a multipurpose facility that can be used for numerous sports and activities develop, talks are also ongoing with other interested societies and groups.



Garry Zancanaro, club PRO has stated that "we would welcome input from any individuals or organisations that would like to help in any way this this major project, which will benefit the whole town and community!" New members of all standards are most welcome and membership fees are €20 for juniors and students, €30 for adults and €50 for families.

For further information on all activities see <https://www.facebook.com/bsloetennisclub> or call:

Garry 085 112 4197, Joe 087 252 1424, Kevin 087 621 9905, Declan 087 915 9771 or Louise 087 135 3751 (Ladies and all coaching queries)

GEAROID GERAGHTY & COMPANY

SOLICITORS

www.gearoidgeraghty.ie

PERSONAL INJURY, LITIGATION, PROPERTY SALES & PURCHASES,
CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LITIGATION, WILLS, PROBATE,
COMPANY, FAMILY LAW

Gearoid C. Geraghty, BA, LL.B • Ciara Macklin, LL.B • Mary Jennings, BA, LL.B
Joseph W. Fahey, B.C.L. • Martina Moran, B.C.L. • Aoife O'Brien, LL.B

BALLINASLOE OFFICE

Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Tel. 090 96 50000 Fax: 090 96 50050
DX 62 002 Ballinasloe
info@gearoidgeraghty.ie

DUBLIN OFFICE

24 Upr Ormond Quay, Dublin 7
Agency No. G050

MOUNTBELLEW OFFICE

Co. Galway.
Tel. 090 96 79680
Fax: 090 96 79681
mountbellew@gearoidgeraghty.ie

RUGBY GEARS UP FOR NEXT SEASON

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

Ballinasloe RFC has had a very busy schedule and was host to the Connacht Rugby Summer Camp recently! This year's camp saw an increase in attendance through all age groups from 6 years to 12 years old, where 56 boys and girls attended and it is the clubs aim to keep increasing on these numbers for next year!

The kids were put to skill based activities and games which were organized for them by the enthusiastic Connacht coaches, according to one of the officials at the club David McKeigue, "they must be commended for their professionalism and in the way they ensured the kids had fun while learning the skills of the game! So special thanks to Connacht coordinators Lyndon Jones and Wendy Hickey, also Ballinasloe RFC's own Der Tierney who was a member of the coaching team."

They were visited by Connacht players Eoghan Masterson and John Cooney, who took part in games with all the kids. According to club PRO Liam "Eoghan and John also took a questions and answer session with the kids, posed for photos and signed countless autographs for the kids on bags, books, boots, socks and jerseys, even an odd arm". He also noted that Eoghan and John were thanked for the enthusiastic and patient manner they demonstrated, being fine role models for all kids to look up to, they are a credit to the community ethos of Connacht Rugby for Minis and Youths, 'from grassroots to green shirts'.

They are hosting a one day training camp organised by Irish Rugby's Sophie Spence on Thursday the 18th August, which is an exclusive days training for the West of Ireland and is open for girls aged 13 to 18 years from all clubs who are interested. Cost is €65 and you can register online at www.spencerugbyacademy.com.

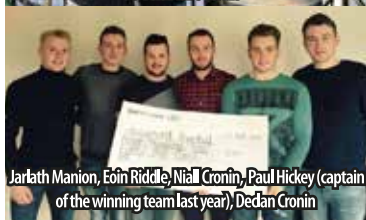


Finally it is the time of the year again to look ahead to the coming season of Broncos Mini rugby for boys and girls, with an invitation being extended to any and all new players and to parents who would like to become involved with them! Liam added that "The kids are trained in a fun and safe environment and is a great way to get out and interact" The season will resume in September and this year they are also inviting National Schools to partake in an open day in Ballinasloe RFC, which will be attended by Connacht Development officers.

Follow their Facebook page for upcoming news and view photos of the Mini Rugby. And if you would like to learn more call 086 821 7197.

SEAN CRONIN MEMORIAL SOCCER TOURNAMENT

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI



The annual Sean Cronin Memorial Tournament is entering its third year and is due to take place soon. The event consists of a 5 aside soccer tournament in Cappataggle and live music and a BBQ after. All the proceeds raised will be given to Beaumont Hospital, with over €13,000 raised and donated to date!

The idea of a memorial tournament began back in 2014, to just gather together friends and family. But it grew to much larger proportions according to family friend Eoin Riddle "Sean's Day was

originally set up with the idea of having all of Sean's friends and family together but then it doubled in size last night and this year is looking to be the biggest yet!"

He stated that the event would be taking place on the Sunday of August the 7th and that "it promises to be a fun-filled day that will consist of a 5-aside soccer tournament in Cappataggle AstroTurf with 32 teams taking part in total." It will run from 9am to 6pm and holds a €500 prize for the victorious team!

Following the tournament, there will be live music in Valeries pub in Aughrim where Amazing Apples, Strung Out, Transessiun and Tír na nÓg will all perform and provide an evening's entertainment for all to attend. Tickets are €8 with music and a BBQ starting at 7pm followed by a bus to Three Place nightclub at 11pm.

Eoin mentioned that all the money raised is for Beaumont Hospital and that "Over €13,000 has been raised for it over the last two years

and the money raised this year will be put towards the refurbishment of the Richmond Ward for the families of seriously injured people." The building works will allow families to be at their loved one's side 24/7.

George M. Coyle & Company

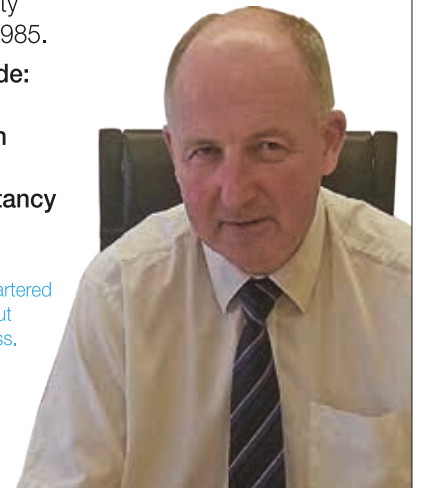
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS - REGISTERED AUDITORS

George M. Coyle & Co. has been established in Society Street, Ballinasloe since 1985.

Our main services include:

- Company Audit
- Accounts Preparation
- Taxation
- Management Consultancy
- Company Secretarial

Authorised by the Institute of Chartered Accountants in Ireland to carry out Audit Work & Investment Business.



Chartered Accountants
& Registered Auditors,
Society Street, Ballinasloe

T 090 964 2995
F 090 96 42956
E coylegm@eircom.net

SUCCESSFUL TRACK DAY FOR VINTAGE CLUB

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

It was the 10th successful running of Ballinasloe and District Vintage Clubs Vintage Track Day at Pallas Karting, Tynagh recently and the most was made out of the day.

Chairman Shane Burns described the track day 'with an emphasis on fun and enjoyment. The drivers all would get a go on the track, with safety being paramount, there would be a break with refreshments and a special presentation.'

The drivers all got three runs on the 1500m track and Corrib Oil once again supplied the refreshments for the lunch break which was greatly appreciated by all after a busy mornings motoring. "All marshals and safety crew again showed their expertise and professionalism to ensure the safe and smooth running of our events!"

At the break there was a special presentation made to active club member Michael Hyland whose idea it was originally to host such an event. Shane was truthful when saying "Such is the popularity of our track days, we are now turning entries away. This is due in no small part to the



Special presentation made to active club member Michael Hyland

encouragement of Michael in the early days and to the continuing efforts of our active club members to run safe and professional events!"

Their next club outings are trips to The Irish Agricultural Museum in Johnstown Castle Co. Wexford on the 7th of August, a Vintage Road Run to The Mountbellew Vintage Club show on the 4th Sept and a Vintage Display in Ballinasloe on Sunday the 9th October with a special emphasis on the Ferguson 20 tractor. They hope to have 70 Ferguson 20 tractors or their derivatives on display to commemorate the 70th anniversary of the Ferguson system. "We are looking forward to these trips! They promise to be fantastic fun!", said Shane.

Ballinasloe and District Vintage Club meet on a regular basis in Gullanes Hotel and welcome any new members who may have an interest in the vintage scene. They have a club text service to keep members up to date on upcoming events and an active Facebook page showcasing not only their own events but other clubs also. The club can be contacted on 089 4440418 or visit their Facebook page for updates.



BALLINASLOE FISH 'N' CHIPS EVENING

The annual Fish 'n' Chips evening will take place on Thursday August 11th. The event, which is organised by Community Hearts, will begin at 5pm in Kariba's Restaurant and Coffee House on Society Street. All the proceeds of this year's event will be divided among local charities. Last year €1,000 was raised as a result of the event. Local charities which have benefited in the past from this annual event include Cancer Care West, Cancer Care Ballinasloe, the Lions Club and SUAS. It promises to be a great night. All support is greatly appreciated.

For further information on the event and bookings contact Kariba's Restaurant and Coffee House on (090) 964 4830. Booking is advisable as places are limited.

BEC

Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre
An initiative of Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd.

FULLY FURNISHED OFFICES AVAILABLE

from 130sq ft to 4000sq ft.
Flexible lease terms starting from as little as €30 per week!

Hot Desking also Available

Contact BACD Ltd Manager, Lyn Donnelly for more details.

BALLINASLOE ENTERPRISE CENTRE
CREAGH, BALLINASLOE, CO GALWAY

T: 090 9646516

E: info@ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie

www.ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie

Find us on:
facebook

Moore History Group Re-Enact 1916 Cattle Drive

BY BRIAN CIEPIERSKI

As part of Roscommon Ireland 2016 Centenary Programme, The Moore History Group recently re-enacted the famous 1916 cattle drives against the local Scottish born landlord James Daniel Arres-Mather.

During this infamous year, the landlord had his leases in Lisbeg in Galway broken by one Major Pollock and with martial law declared after the rebellion in Dublin it made the sale of his cattle impossible. This forced him to take back the meadows of Clonburren from the locals for his own animals, at the expense of theirs.

Cattle, sheep, and horses were driven out of the land and a pitched battle lasting four hours between a force of over sixty members of the R.I.C armed with batons and rifles ensued when the local residents protested, with severe injuries sustained on both sides. The bravery of those women at the fight was legendary as they formed a cordon between the men and the R.I.C.

Many of the men received substantial fines and some served prison sentences, but by 1920 the Mather's estate was sold to a committee of local people.

At the re-enactment the group went out in full costume, some descendants of the original families, and mirrored the battle fought all that time ago at the crossroad of the old Mount Welcome School in brilliant sunshine to a huge and very appreciative audience.

The cattle drive was organised by Peter Naughton and Padraic Kilduff, with costumes by Bernie Greene and catering by Maureen Duffy. A free Centenary booklet by Xandra Kilduff was distributed and afterwards Father Michael Molloy P.P., on behalf of the group, blessed



a commemorative plaque which was specially designed by Padraic Kilduff and Martin Curley.

Afterwards a wreath was laid in memory of those brave people who in 1916 in Moore fought for their land with as much courage as those on the streets of Dublin. This was followed in Moore Hall with a showing of a DVD on sections relevant to the cattle drive of the memorable historic play "Mather's of Falty" written and produced by Xandra Kilduff and videoed by Padraic Costello.

DENIS NAUGHTEN T.D.

MINISTER FOR
COMMUNICATIONS, CLIMATE CHANGE
AND NATURAL RESOURCES



Local Clinics in Ballinasloe Area
available by appointment

Please Contact: 090 6627557

Email: dnaughten@oir.ie

www.puttingpeoplefirst.ie



Cooper

The **No. 1**
Helmet in Hurling

**Hurleys, Sliotars, Grips, Footballs
Leisurewear and much more.**

1 Poolboy Industrial Estate, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Tel. 087 2369665 sales@cooper.ie www.cooper.ie

Ballinasloe Horse Fair 2016 Under Threat

BY LAURA SHEEHAN



The Annual Horse Fair is due to take place from Sunday October 2 to Saturday October 8. Over 80,000 visitors are expected to attend bringing an estimated €8 million in revenue to the local economy.

The Horse Fair and Festival Committee are busy organising various equestrian and family fun events including; the Queen of the Fair, Soapbox Derby, fireworks, a dog show, a craft market, a vintage display and equestrian events on the Fair Green.

However, preparations have been halted due to a decision made at last year's event to remove the sulky lanes at Fair Green. The saga of what followed made Regional and National headlines with individual fairgoers mounting a demonstration on the Green effectively stopping the Horse of the Fair and Pony of the Fair Competitions.

This year's Horse Competitions are due to take place on Sunday October 3 and Monday October 4 but whether or not they will go ahead still remains unclear. Due to this uncertainty - with Galway County Council adamant that sulky flashing will not be permitted on the green and the Gardai worried about public order if it occurs elsewhere in the precincts of the town centre - the committee are unable to seriously commit to any plans for it's equestrian events.

Fair and Festival Chairman Adrian Ahern explains that "these lunging events – including the Horse of the Fair and the Pony of the Fair have been organised for over thirty years and has attracted high quality horses and has impressed the very many international

buyers that visit . Many of the horses shown at this event have gone on to have international show jumping careers and to win or indeed to be selected to compete at Ballinasloe adds considerably to the value of the animal"

"The Ballinasloe Horse Fair is reputedly the oldest in Europe and a great celebration of the horse and equine culture in Ireland. It will be a huge loss to the future of the Fair if we are not in a position to host any equestrian events on the Fair Green" continued Adrian.

In the wake of the debacle last year; negotiations were to be held with all stakeholders but at a recent meeting of the Municipal District Council it was outlined that the Regulatory Authorities were not changing their views on outlawing the flashing of sulkies. Several local Councillors have called for dialogue and clarity to given to how the fair is to proceed.

One of the other difficulties facing the Horse Fair are financial ones. The insurance of the event costs in excess of €10,000 and with no source of income the Committee relies on sponsors. "Without our sponsors we cannot run our events. So I am asking all businesses to step up to the plate and make a contribution towards the 2016 festival", urged Adrian.

"Our dog show, (one of the biggest in Ireland) could not have taken place last year without the support of local bakery and restaurant the Bread Basket. Without Walter's support we could not have hosted the dog show" remarks Adrian.

The Fireworks and family themed evening at the Church car park and Marina couldn't take place without the very generous support of Supermacs and personal commitment of Pat & Una Mcdonagh .

And so it is with all their events and they are deeply indebted to all of the sponsors, Ballinasloe Credit Union, Galway County Council, Jim Derwin, Pallas Foods, Ballinasloe Vintners, Gullanes Hotel. . .

The committee members will resume meetings in August with hopes that a solution can be found for the equestrian activities at the Fair Green.

A full list of those who sponsor the event & upcoming programme details including the Queen of the Fair can be found at: www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com.

SALMONS

DEPARTMENT STORE

STATIONERY

GIFTS

ALL YOUR GIFT IDEAS UNDER ONE ROOF



**See our wide selection of
wedding gifts & stationery**



See Our Full Range of Stock and Special Offers on our new website
www.salmonstore.ie Free customer parking at rear of store

MAIN STREET, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY

Tel: 090 9642120 Email: info@salmonstore.ie Web: www.salmonstore.ie



AT AUGHHRIM'S SLOPES

BY BARRY LALLY



*"Sing oh they died their lands to save
At Aughrim's slopes and Shannon's wave."*

Entrusted with the supreme command of the Jacobite army in Ireland, General Charles Chalmont arrived in Limerick from France on 9th May 1691 accompanied by 51 vessels loaded with arms, ammunition, uniforms and provisions. At this stage in the War of the Two Kings the Irish supporters of King James had retreated to west of the Shannon, and were determined to hold the line of the river against an expected Williamite advance.

Chalmont, officially known as the Marquis de Saint Ruhe (commonly though incorrectly rendered as Saint Ruth), was tall, well-built, and very ugly. In contrast to his title, his character seems to have been anything but saintly; contemporaries described him as vain, strutting and insufferable rude. According to one source, he behaved so brutally towards his wife that she was obliged to appeal to King Louis XIV, who dispatched Chalmont to Ireland so that the poor woman might enjoy a respite from his reprehensible conduct. Relations between himself and Richard Talbot, James's Lord Deputy, were said to be toxic.

In the conflict between the Catholic King James II and his Protestant son-in-law William of Orange, the Gaelic Irish aristocracy and their followers had allied themselves with James in the hope that the effects of the Cromwellian confiscations would be reversed and that they would be protected against religious persecution. Ironically, the Pope was backing William and had advanced him a considerable sum of money as a war loan.

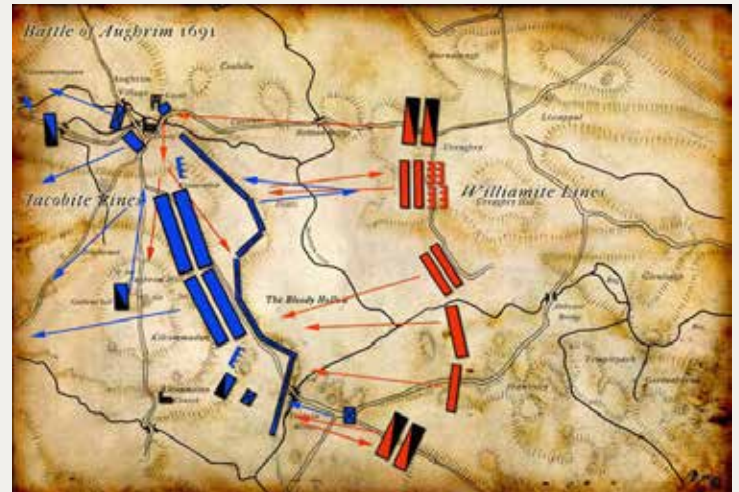
Notwithstanding the support of France, the army of King James had suffered serious reverses in Ireland, particularly at the Battle of the Boyne the previous year. The Jacobites, however, did not regard their cause as beyond redemption, and they still looked forward to seeing the fortunes of war turn in their favour. It was in this mood that Chalmont set out for Athlone, where it was anticipated that the Williamites would attempt to effect a crossing of the Shannon.

After the town had been pulverised by an intense and prolonged bombardment by Williamite artillery, the Jacobites concentrated their defensive positions on the west bank of the river. Seizing the opportunity presented by the low level of the Shannon following a lengthy dry spell, on 30th June the Williamites launched a surprise attack by fording the river under cover of darkness. In the absence of Chalmont, who allegedly had taken time off to go hunting, the attackers under the Dutch General Godaard van Reede (later known as Count van Ginkel) quickly overran their opponents' defences. Having suffered a humiliating defeat, a demoralised Jacobite army was forced to withdraw to Ballinasloe, losing nearly half its infantry to desertions on the way.

Chalmont was blamed for the loss of Athlone and he knew it. Desperate to salvage his reputation, he disregarded the Lord Deputy's orders to retreat to Limerick to await reinforcements from France, and decided to offer battle to the advancing Williamites at Aughrim. He may have been influenced in his choice of ground by hearing that

O'Sullivan Beare had defeated a numerically superior English force at the site in 1602.

Sunday 12th July had begun with fog which had dispersed by midday as the armies stood facing each other on the opposite slopes of Kilcommedan and Urrachree, about three and a half miles south-west of Ballinasloe. Ginkel commanded a mixed force of English, Irish Protestant, Dutch, Danish and French Huguenot soldiers, approximately 20,000 strong, roughly the same in number as the army of his adversary, though the Williamites had the edge in artillery. The Jacobite position was a good defensive one since a bog separated them from their opponents, but could prove difficult in the event of their attempting a counterattack.



The conflict raged from noon to sunset, during which time the Williamite assaults had been successfully repulsed until the tide of battle unexpectedly turned against the Jacobites. As he was about to lead a charge he hoped would clinch his victory, Chalmont was decapitated by a cannon ball. Confusion ensued in the Jacobite ranks, for he had failed to communicate his battle plan to his subordinates.

In another part of the field an equally disastrous event occurred. A narrow causeway led across the bog – approximating to the present-day Aughrim-Ballinasloe road – from the Williamite right to the Jacobite left flank. The Williamite General Mackay perceived this as a vulnerable point in his opponents' defences, and resolved to lead a cavalry charge along the route. It used to be thought that a detachment of cavalry detailed to defend the causeway was treacherously withdrawn by their commander, Henry Luttrell, without engaging the enemy. Recent research suggests that this was not so, and that, on the contrary, a vigorous defence had been conducted until an order to retreat had come from further up the chain of command. Eventually the Williamites broke through, taking the main body of the Jacobites completely by surprise. Finding the enemy suddenly in their midst, they proved easy meat for their opponents.

The result was a crushing defeat for the Jacobite cause on a field strewn with an estimated 4,000 corpses. Amongst the consequences of the battle were the Jacobite surrender on 28th August, the Flight of the Wild Geese, the expropriation of the landed property of those on the losing side, and the enactment of the Penal Laws. More than a century would pass before Ireland would again rise in arms.



*"Aughrim is now no more, St. Ruth is dead,
And all his guards are from the battle fled;
As he rode down the hill he took a fall,
And died the victim of a cannon ball."*



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.



dubarry 
of Ireland

35 College Green, Dublin D02 N271

Factory Shop, Junction 14 off the M6 Motorway,
Ballinasloe, County Galway H53 H6F3

Visit our website for retail partners in your area or to buy online

dubarry  **com**