

BALLINASLOELIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 7 Issue 3: Aug '17 - Sep '17

FREE



Photo by Robert Riddell

NOEL MADDEN RETIRES



VERONICA BURKE WINS GOLD



LARRY REYNOLDS WEEKEND 8TH - 10TH SEPTEMBER





Gullane's Hotel & CONFERENCE CENTRE



Create Memorable Moments
...for all special occasions.

- Food Served all Day
- Evening a la Carte Bar Food Menu
Daily from 5-9pm
- Comfortable & Relaxing Dining Area's
- New Quality Wine List
- Free Wi Fi Access
- Spacious Car Parking
- Conference Facilities
- Gift Vouchers available

*Visit our **NEWLY DESIGNED**
Website: www.gullaneshotel.com*



**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



BALLINASLOELIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 7 Issue 3: Aug '17 - Sep '17

WHAT'S INSIDE

Local News

- 04 New Municipal Chair
- 05 Enterprise Town Review
- 06 Town Council Set to Return?

Business

- 07 Frank Kennedy, Town's Newest Psychotherapist
- 08 Good Value in Residential Property Locally
- 09 Changing of Reporters at Life
- 10 Live Register Update
- 11 Bacd Start Your Own Business Programme
- 12 Enterprise Centre Nearing Full Capacity Again
- 13 People of The Year Awards Returns
- 14 18 Years of Learning at Tiny Tots
- 15 Electrician's Start-Up Portable Testing

Community

- 16 Local Born Coach Releases Debut Book
- 18 Knitting Circle Celebrates 10 Years
- 19 Cancer Support Centre
- 20 Gerry Devlin's Faces and Places
- 21 Christian Fellowship Helping Community
- 22 Noel Madden Steps Down after 43 Years
- 27 Out and About in Ballinasloe
- 28 August Events Guide
- 29 September Events Guide
- 30 Celebrations and Events
- 32 Ballinasloe Town Clock Restoration Under Way
- 33 Ballinasloe Horse Fair Plans for 2017
- 34 Celebrating 200 Years of Priesthood
- 35 Hospital Watch
- 36 Passing of Master Hurley Maker
- 37 Bonfire Night/Summer Solstice

Schools Rule

- 24 Lawrencetown N.S. in "Eco Rangers" Project
- 25 Awards Day in Ardscoil Mhuire
- 26 Mark Newton Attends Aras Garden Party

Culture

- 38 Town Hall Theatre Autumn Preview
- 39 Busy Autumn for Blossom Harp Ensemble
- 40 Fourth Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds
- 41 Strings Festival Success

Sport

- 42 Pádraig Pearse Celebrate Success
- 43 Veronica Burke takes Gold
- 44 Soccer
- 45 Summer Camp Round Up
- 46 Athletics Club Juniors Qualify for All-Ireland Relays
- 47 Fit Town - Wraps Up for Year
- 48 Gels Annual Charity Cycle
- 49 Broncos Fly the Banner for Ballinasloe RFC
- 50 Seale Brothers Sporting on The County Line
- 51 Rosway Walking Club's 10th Anniversary
- 52 Vintage Club Fundraise For St. Teresa's Ward
- 53 Community Games Update

Tourism And Heritage

- 54 Bishop Patrick Duggan



Follow us on Twitter
@BallinasloeLife

REAMHRÁ



Hi there and welcome to our Edition 3 Vol 7 which signals the last few days of the summer, Galway Races followed by the trek back to school and of course the build up to annual Horse Fair Week.

So things seem to be picking up-all the national figures seem to be heading northward but the disparities in the regions and even within the provinces are stark.

In the job creation stakes, house prices and live register figures-one can see how a town like Ballinasloe is way off kilter with its Galway and Athlone neighbours and how the magnetic pull of the draw of the larger urban conurbation is still sucking the lifeblood out of our provincial towns.

Whilst the disparity of the figures was always there in the pre Celtic Badger years-vis a vis City and County-they are even more stark post recession-horribly so.

Newly elected Municipal Chair Aiden Donohue feels that this area and it's town have been neglected across a variety of fronts and Eugene Murphy TD feels strongly that a return to local Urban Councils would allow for towns like us to have more of strategic say in their affairs.

Regrettably it is indeed the policy makers who dictate and direct flows of investment, the strategic decisions to contain or curtail development. Indications from elected representatives are that once the IDA and Enterprise Ireland tick their boxes for their political overlords in regional terms -they are less worried about mustering interest in places like Ballinasloe.

So thence a locally owned community development company would appear to be a godsend to those in power charged with implementing Government policy. One would think that everything that could be done to support their efforts would be fully done by authorities.

I could fill pages of this space of the way BACD's time and energy has been frittered away with indifference and indolence of a variety of state players especially so in the last 20 months. It is simply not good enough. Whether we have a town council with executive functions or not it behoves the state agencies to interact fulsomely with stakeholders who can and frequently do make a difference in helping the with their missions.

Le Gach De Ghui,
COLM CROFFY, Editor.



We are well into our Summer Months and still waiting for the burst of Sunshine for a few days in a row.

Whether the weather is good or bad life goes on as normal. We all take a break of some kind from our daily routine to recharge the batteries this time of year.

I have encountered many visitors to Ireland in recent times and cannot get over how bowled over they are with our Country.

They love the things we take for granted such as the green fields, the animals in the fields and the friendliness of the Irish People.

In Ballinasloe those in the hospitality business tell us they are having a good year and the number of Boats coming up River to our Marina are up substantially on 2016.

It is important to make them feel welcome and go out of our way to look after them so that they can encourage more to follow in their footsteps.

I cannot repeat the message to support our local Business enough times as their survival is vital for the economic wellbeing of our Town. August/September is a relatively high spend time of year with the return of the school year, so shop local when getting yourself sorted for the Autumn.

We thank you for your continued support to our local magazine which is 100% funded by our subscribers so I ask you to support them in every way you can.

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.

CREDITS

Editor: Colm Croffy. Chief Reporter: Kevin Kavanagh, Reporter: Stephen Coleman. Contributors: Ken Kelly, Barry Lally, Ivan Smyth, Ceila Russell, Mattie Mathizou 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, Kaissia Skowron,

Michael S Kelly.

For submission of articles, please email ballinasloelife@hotmail.com. Deadline Sept. 12th.

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@ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie
www.ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie





NEW MUNICIPAL CHAIR

NEW CHAIRMAN OF THE BALLINASLOE DISTRICT COUNCIL

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN



Cllr. Aidan Donohue: Chairman of Bsløe Municipal District for 2017/18

Cllr. Aidan Donohue of Fine Gael has been elected as the new Chairman of the Ballinasloe Municipal District for 2017/2018. Cllr. Donohue was first elected to Galway County Council following the local elections in 2014 when he ran for the first time.

Prior to his election to Galway Co Co, Aidan Donohue was well known in GAA circles, having a successful playing career with his club, Sarsfields, where he won two All-Ireland club hurling titles and five Galway Senior Championships. He also served as Club Chairman for three years and is currently Vice-Chairman. As a father of three, Cllr. Donohue is involved in the coaching of underage teams in the club and was involved with the Sarsfields development committee which recently completed new playing facilities in New Inn.

Ballinasloe Municipal District Council is a large, predominantly rural area with the town ideally located in almost the centre. With only one year as Chairman, however, most goals must be short term. Cllr. Donohue sees the start of the Ballinasloe Town Enhancement Scheme as a significant challenge for everyone involved in the year ahead. The first phase of this in the Dunlo and Brackeneragh area was completed last year. The committee hope that the experience gained there will be passed on when the town phase starts. "The town phase is a matter of ensuring that everyone is working together to minimise the disruption to businesses and footfall in the town," he explained.

Long term, Cllr. Donohue hopes to continue to work with his colleagues in Government to try and bring employment to Ballinasloe. Last year, the town welcomed the Surmodics jobs announcement in Creagh,

although more job announcements like this are needed. He notes, however, that the town is competing against many other towns in Ireland for the same businesses. "In my capacity as Chairman of the Municipal area, whatever Galway Council can do to help in any way to increase job creation in the town, I will do my utmost to deliver it" Cllr. Donohue commented. He expressed how Ballinasloe has much to offer businesses looking to locate, such as the motorway and its central location.

"Housing is a huge problem in the area at the moment and the starting of twelve social housing units in the town later in the year is most welcome," he explained, referring to some issues present in the town.

He is also a member of the Galway Joint Policy Committee where he is a sub-committee Chairman dealing with awareness of illegal substances. "Drugs and illegal substances are a major problem in every town and village and as Chairman of this sub-committee I will be arranging an education and awareness evening in early September for parents and young children, particularly aimed at children aged between 12 and 14" he added.

Cllr. Donohue referred to Portiuncula Hospital as a huge asset to the town and that to "maintain its level three status is a must." As a GAA man, he went on to discuss the demise of Duggan Park in recent years, describing it as "sad to see," adding that he was concerned about the future of the grounds. "It's something I will be looking to in the year ahead" he noted

Cllr. Aidan Donohue holds his position as Chairman of the Ballinasloe Municipal District Council until the summer of 2018. He is hopeful to have a successful term in his service to the citizens and electorate of Ballinasloe.

Gerry Croffey
Garden Machinery

 **gardencare**
your pathway to a beautiful garden

 Killure Castle, Ballinasloe, Galway

 090 968 8840  gerrycroffey.ie



Gardencare
GC263LH Strimmer
€199

Gardencare
LM51SP Mower
€538

Mountfield
1530H Ride On
€2,626



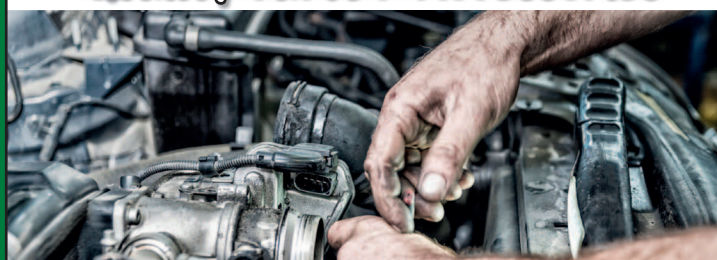
 **FREE**
5 YEAR
WARRANTY



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



FACT FINDING VISIT BY T.D. McGRATH



Ballinasloe has the assets readily available to see huge economic growth according to Fianna Fáil Spokesperson on Finance, Michael McGrath T.D., who recently visited the Town along with local representative Deputy Eugene Murphy.

Deputy McGrath met with local business people, members of the Ballinasloe Area Community Development Company and the local Fianna Fáil Cumann. He spoke about the impact of Brexit, insurance and mortgages amongst other issues. He stated "Ballinasloe has great potential as it has a low-cost base and a great quality of life and is centrally located between the larger urban centres of Athlone and Galway City."

He also paid a visit to the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre in Creagh and met with members of the Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd. including Chairman Seamus Duffy and Jacinta Divilly of the Town Team.

Deputy Murphy stated, "I was delighted that the party's front bench Spokesperson on Finance had accepted his invitation

on behalf of the Fianna Fáil Ballinasloe Cumann. Ballinasloe has in the region of €26 million worth of sports facilities, a strong schools base, fabulous new library and prime office space, so it could be an ideal commuter town based between Athlone and Galway but it needs more funding at Local Authority level and needs to continue to attract more investment."

The meeting also heard that job opportunities were being created in Ballinasloe and reference was made to the success of Surmodics Medical Ltd. at the IDA Park while it was noted that the IDA had an additional 17 acres of development land at its disposal and more work needed to be done to attract additional employment.

The derelict building and grounds of St. Brigid's Hospital was also highlighted as an eyesore in the town and there was much debate about its dilapidated state. The lack of focus on the town centre and its issues from the local authority and absence of joined up planning with the Roscommon and Galway County Councils were also highlighted to the visiting delegation.

Seamus Duffy pressed on the TDS the need for the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to redouble their efforts and awareness of key provincial towns issues when it comes to securing suitable inward investment or indeed maintaining current operations.

Deputy McGrath was also pushed on the need for reform of the self employed tax code and VAT issues for small businesses starting out.

"Ballinasloe has suffered major economic setbacks in recent years but there is a great community spirit in the town and there are real efforts being made at a local level to attract investment and enterprise," Deputy Murphy commented.

The Front Bench TD and members of the local cumman visited a number of key locations and other organisations representatives before leaving after a meal in Gullanes Hotel.





TOWN COUNCIL SET TO RETURN?

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH



Town Councils helped bring a national profile and platform to larger towns and empowered local communities in the decision-making process according to Fianna Fáil TD for Roscommon/Galway Eugene Murphy.

Deputy Murphy was recently speaking during the Dáil debate of a Fianna Fáil Bill which aims to re-establish Town Councils in every county across Ireland.

The Local Government (Establishment of Town Councils Commission) Bill 2017 aims to bring decision making power back to communities such as Ballinasloe. All 80 town councils were abolished in 2014 by the then Fine Gael/Labour Government.

Deputy Murphy stated "The Bill, which my party colleague Deputy Shane Cassells has introduced, will create a Commission under the Local Government Act to review the geographical distribution of proposed Town Councils. The fundamental purpose of the Bill is to empower local

communities by enabling towns across Ireland to have a strong voice to fight their corner."

"What the former Minister Phil Hogan did to local democracy was outrageous when he abolished the town council system leaving many urban areas without a voice. There was a lot of sneering at the time at town councils and people claimed they were only talking shops but the larger town councils did a lot of good work for their areas, the pride in their locality was second to none and they gave a focus and a national profile to their towns."

"Ballinasloe is a case in point – with a population close to 7,500, many people in Ballinasloe feel they have completely lost out since the town council was abolished- Galway County Council is based in Galway city and some people in Ballinasloe feel they are not getting a good enough service. Ballinasloe is a great community-there are great people with great ideas and fantastic plans going forward and I feel the re-establishment of the town council would be a strong vote of confidence in the area and bring a renewed focus and energy to the area".

"We need local solutions to local problems. A new town council system, with real powers and resources, will help us achieve that. The Bill is a step forward in realising one of the key commitments in the Fianna Fáil manifesto and the current Programme for Government."

"The Bill sets out a strict timeframe that will have the new structures up and running by the next local elections which are due to be held in May 2019. I am delighted with the support for this important piece of legislation as it means that local communities can be empowered in the decision-making process" concluded Deputy Murphy.

Under the old Town Council system Ballinasloe had a nine member rateable Town Council which meant it could raise its own revenues and spend an annual budget independent of Galway County Council. It had full decision making powers in relation to budget, planning, services and facilities – all now subsumed into the Galway County Council monolith with a Municipal District Council liaison group subservient to the full member council.



**MAIN STREET,
BALLINASLOE**

**Phone:
090 96 44514**

**FRIDAY MADNESS
5 BUNS FOR €6.50**

**AUGUST/SEPTEMBER SPECIAL OFFERS
Poached Egg & Bacon with Toast
& Coffee €6.00**

Apple or Rhubarb Tart €4.00

DAILY LUNCH SPECIALS: SEE IN STORE



**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



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

@ MAIN STREET, BALLINASLOE



FRANK KENNEDY, TOWN'S NEWEST PSYCHOTHERAPIST

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH



Frank Kennedy, originally from Dublin will soon open Ballinasloe Counselling and Psychotherapy, in his adopted Town on Church Hill.

Frank has pursued various occupations and projects over the past 25 years including the Ballinasloe Musical Society, Grow-it-Yourself, and the Faith and Fun club. Frank arrived to take up a position as assistant solicitor with the firm Patrick Hogan and Co. in 1991. After 14 years of service Frank decided to change careers. He stated "I found myself drawn towards wanting to help people at a more personal level than the role of legal adviser allowed".

Frank joined a group of like-minded parents in town to develop the Faith and Fun Club, which was involved with the children's Mass in Creagh and the Christmas Eve Nativity play for many years. During this time, he changed to working part-time so that he could be more available to his young family, saying "This gave me time to reflect on what mattered most in my life and to gain greater self-awareness. "I sought some counselling now to help me understand and come to terms with my experience of depression within my family during childhood and adolescence – feelings that were affecting my mood and that I needed to talk about" he explained.

His interest in Christian spirituality led him to studying Applied Theology and completing a Master's degree in School Chaplaincy and Pastoral Care. His dissertation focused on what he could do as school chaplain to foster a greater sense of community between Traveller students and Settled students in the school. A key learning was the importance of each group examining and questioning attitudes and prejudices that they absorbed from the environment in which they grew up. He stated "I worked as Chaplain and part of the Pastoral Care team in Garbally College for eight years – doing my best to focus the students' attention on spirituality as an equally important part of who they were as their physical, intellectual and emotional aspects; seeking to give them a sense of a loving God in their lives, and trying to get them to lose their inhibitions about singing." That work also brought him

into contact with students who were experiencing various difficulties in their lives which developed his interest in psychotherapy. "I found it a fascinating area, and felt that I really wanted to work with people at this personal level. I also felt that it fitted with who I am – that I was no longer a square peg in a round hole."

Frank recently completed an M.Sc. in Integrative Psychotherapy in Dublin City University. He commented "That training really helped me to grow more fully as a person. It included extensive work on my personal awareness and personal development and many hours of personal therapy over each of the four years." He has also completed training in Emotion-Focused Therapy through Strathclyde University, Glasgow, and said "The most important part of any therapy is not the particular approach used but having a relationship with your therapist where you feel listened to, valued and understood; and where you trust your therapist enough to talk about any feelings or issues that are causing difficulties in your life."

Frank attends regular supervision to monitor his work and client relationships, and to ensure safe and ethical practice. He is presently working towards accreditation with the Irish Association of Counsellors and Psychotherapists (IACP), and abides by their code of ethics. Frank stated at the start of therapy he explores with clients what they hope to gain from therapy, and any anxieties they have about it, adding "The work we are doing is reviewed with clients at regular intervals, so that our time together is as beneficial as possible."

Frank said, "I wish to acknowledge the huge moral support and endless patience of my wife Yvonne, who attracted me away from the bright lights of Dublin."

*Consultations are 50 minutes and are provided on a weekly basis.
To make an appointment please contact Frank
(from August 14th) on 087 362 3809, or by visiting his website
ballinasloecounsellingandpsychotherapy.ie*

Course Starting

Monday 18th Sept. '17

▶ **Venue:** Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre

▶ **Costs:** €75 per person

▶ **Duration:** 6 week course from 6.30 pm to 9.30pm

▶ **Courses Tutor:** John M. Power

Suitable for anyone considering starting up a business, or anyone who is currently in the early stages of their own project. The course will take you through everything you need to know to get started and will prepare you for all challenges you might face in your first year in business.

START YOUR OWN BUSINESS

To reserve a place or get more information contact Lyn Donnelly

in Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre on **0909646516** or **info@ballinasloeenterprise.ie**

GOOD VALUE IN RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY LOCALLY

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN



A house on Church Hill, currently listed for sale on daft.ie

Daft.ie have recently published their Irish House Price Report for the second quarter of 2017, compiled by Ronan Lyons, an assistant professor in Trinity College Dublin. The report detailed how house prices across the country are rising, particularly in Dublin. The figures for Galway and Connacht are also very interesting, especially when compared to figures from 2007.

Prices in Galway city, while rising around 13% from 2016, are still substantially lower than the prices from summer 2007. A three bedroom house in Galway city, in 2007, was priced at an average of €340,000. In 2017, this figure is at just €215,000, a drop of 37% in a decade.

Prices for county Galway, disregarding the city,

and Roscommon are naturally much lower. A three bedroom house in County Galway is currently priced at an average of €109,000 while in Roscommon it would be €81,000. Both of these figures have risen by about 16% from 2016.

The average price of a house in Connacht in 2007 was €269,000. In 2017, however, the average house is now priced at €160,000, up 6% from 2016.

In terms of price disparity for properties in Galway city and county, there is a dramatic difference.

In 2007, the average house in Galway city cost around 21% more than the average house in Galway county. These numbers may fluctuate by town. In 2017, however, the average house in Galway city costs 32% more than in the county – a difference of €86,000. Galway city's house prices have seen an increase of 13.4% for the past year, while Galway county has seen an increase of 8.5%. Roscommon is even less, with the average price standing at €129,000 after an increase of 6.7%.

There are currently 128 residential properties listed on daft.ie for the Ballinasloe area, with almost 2,000 in total listed for County Galway.

Local auctioneers and letting agents are reporting demand for rental properties and detached homes in the hinterland of the town with first time buyers and owner occupiers and cash paying customers being the most common type of purchaser.

ACCESSIBILITY YEAR IN REVIEW



Accessibility Ballinasloe Team at their recent AGM in Gullanes Hotel

At the first AGM of the Ballinasloe Accessibility team, held in Gullane's Hotel, Daragh Flynn was appointed as the new Social Inclusion Officer. Chairperson Marion Ruane stated "We were welcomed with a wide range of community groups and interested parties who all reflected on a very successful year of Accessibility".

The Team primarily focused on gathering awareness and building relations while also working on key projects which included:

- Training Initiatives for both Sporting Groups and Hospitality Businesses.
- Launch of Buddy Bench Project in Scoil an Chroi Naofa in collaboration with Ballinasloe's Men's Shed, Viewpoint Brothers of Charity, Galway Rural Development and Buddy Bench Ireland.

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 •

wizardcomp
 @wizardcomp

(087) 2333373
(090) 9645996

www.wizardcomputers.ie
kevin@wizardcomputers.ie

16 WILLOW PARK • DERRYMULLEN • BALLINASLOE • CO. GALWAY

Kilconnell, Ballinasloe. T: 090 9686890

www.ballinderrynursinghome.com

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

"Dedicated to what we do"



- Launch of Galway's Social Inclusion Week together with Galway County Council and Europe Direct Ballinasloe Library.
- Walkability Audit of the town center—recommendations have been presented to Ballinasloe Town Engineers.
- Profiling key community groups promoting inclusion and accessibility including: Library, Credit Union, Ballinasloe Eagles, Portiuncula Hospital Acute Stroke Unit, East Galway & Midlands Cancer Support Centre, Social Services, Garbally College, Scoil an Chroí Naofa.
- The Team are currently engaging with the catering and hospitality business in the town to design picture menus as part of their Region of Gastronomy programme.
- Working Closely with the Brothers of Charity, St Theresa's, Galway County Council, Coral Leisure and the Shearwater Leisure Centre to provide more accessible facilities for persons with additional needs.
- Grant Aid Galway County Council for wheelchair swing and accessible picnic bench for the playground at the rear of Coral Leisure Centre.

The Accessibility Ballinasloe Team are encouraging new members from within the community to get involved to find out more information email: accessibilitybsloe@gmail.com or through the Facebook page: [Accessibility Ballinasloe](https://www.facebook.com/AccessibilityBallinasloe).



Outgoing reporter Kevin Kavanagh hands over to Stephen Coleman

As the summer gives way to autumn - which means of course a rotation of Reporters at LIFE. Not alone are we changing people but we are also changing production address from the Town Hall Theatre to the Enterprise Centre – where we started out from, some seven years ago.

After a bruising and hectic eight month co-operative education placement the young Cavan student gives way to his successor. None of the youngsters who toil on this project are replaceable. They all bring so much of their personalities and energy to the bench and certainly the Killinkere man gave 105% of his effort and work rate in his roles as

Reporter at LIFE, Press and Communications with the Festival Associations and of course as Production Assistant with the Rose of Tralee. From Bantry, Banna, Ballinasloe and even Brugges memories have been created that will last well into his postgraduate phase.

We thank Kevin Kavanagh for his razor wit, dedication and involvement and we wish him well as he returns to his studies in U.L. He will be helping with the October Edition and even mentoring the Feb / March one but he is officially handing over to Stephen Coleman, a native of Macroom, a town of almost 4,000 people in the west of Cork, this Autumn.

Stephen is the first Corkonian LAD (we've had some lassies) to the post. He studies Economics and Sociology in the University of Limerick, holding a specific interest in anthropology. Back home, he played Gaelic Football with his parish up to minor level and has won honours in all age groups. Stephen is also keenly interested in soccer, being a founding member of UL's Social Soccer Club in September 2016 as the Secretary and Vice-President.

Stephen is looking forward to his 5 month placement with LIFE and if you get a call from a mid Atlantean accent – it's not someone from DELTA airlines it will be our Macroom Reporter trying to wrestle some copy or captions from you.

We wish him all the best in his new posting!

Editor.



Haven Pharmacy



"Holly's Haven Pharmacy is delighted to announce the appointment of Paul Hennelly as their new Supervising Pharmacist. Paul brings a wealth of experience having come straight from Holly's Haven Pharmacy in Galway City where he has worked for the last 4 years. Paul is looking forward to the opportunity in Ballinasloe,

"I am absolutely delighted to take on this new role in Ballinasloe and cannot wait to meet all our customers new and old. I am looking to continue the "customer first" approach Holly's has always had, and feel privileged to have such an experienced team around me in Ann, Bridget, Deirdre, Edel, Liz and Marie."



Haven Pharmacy Hollys, 7A Marina Point, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway | Phone: 090-9645676



SIGNIFICANT INCREASE IN LIVE REGISTER FIGURES IN THE LAST DECADE

The latest Live Register figures released by the Central Statistics Office (CSO) reveal that there has been an apparent 80% increase in local Live Register figures in the last 10 years.

It's difficult to benchmark these figures fully as the Live Register figures include all those in receipt of benefit in the catchment area of Ballinasloe Urban and Rural which has an over 18 population of in excess than 13,000. There is now 12.5% of Ballinasloe's catchment population on the register as opposed to 7% in 2007.

In comparison to Nationwide figures, the CSO revealed that there has been a 60% increase of people on the register with 166,363 people in receipt of payments in 2007 and 268,726 in 2017 with an eligible population increase of 0.94% from 3.36 million to 3.44 million. There are now 0.05% of the eligible population on the Live Register in contrast to 0.03% in 2007.

In 2007, 75% of people on the Register in the Town were over the age of 25 and over 60% of the entire register were male. Comparing these to today's figures reveal that 87% of these are over the age of 25 and 55% of the entire register are male.

Nationwide wide figures in 2007 reveal that 80% of people on the Register were over the age of 25 and over 58% of

the entire register were male. Comparing these to today's figures illustrate that 88% of these are over the age of 25 and 57% of the entire register are male.

Despite there being higher increases in the last 10 years, there are just 12,000 fewer people on the Live Register in Galway last month in comparison to this time last year.

Latest figures from the CSO detail that unemployment in Galway city and county continues to fall, with 12,844 on the Register at the end of June.

That represents a drop of 1,773, or more than 11%, on this time last year and it's the lowest figure since June 2008. It also shows a substantial reduction since the total of 25,389 in August 2010.

There was a drop of 19% in the numbers of males aged under 25 on the Live Register in Galway since this time last year revealing them to be the biggest beneficiaries. Women aged 25 and over experienced a drop of 9.7% in their numbers over the past twelve months represents an improving rate of recovery.

Latest figures for each social welfare area of Galway, with the difference since this time last year in brackets, are:

Ballinasloe 1,645 (-12.5%)

Galway County total 13,544 (-12.2%)

Galway City 6,905 (-13.4%)

Tuam 2,013 (-10.8%)

Loughrea 1,380 (-10.6%)

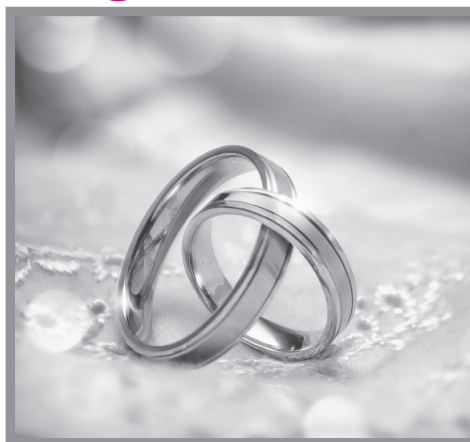
Gort 935 (-9.8%)

Clifden 725 (-9.4%)



Personalised Wedding Stationery

**15% OFF
YOUR ORDER
WITH THIS
ADVERT**



New Beginnings Make a lasting impression (Call in to discuss your needs)

- Save the Date Cards • Day Invitations • Evening Invitations • R.S.V.P. Cards • Place Cards •
- Mass Booklets • Scrolls • Thank You Cards • Table Plans •

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

BACD START YOUR OWN BUSINESS PROGRAMME

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

The objective of these are to provide participants with basic information on Starting a business. The Programme includes Basic Finance, Management skills, Interpersonal skills, Idea's generation, Sales, Marketing, IT, Legal, Tax consideration and other relevant information. The course is targeted towards people wishing to set up small companies/businesses or sole traders.

Course Facilitator, John Power, stated "The course typically appeals to people from making the transition for working for someone to working for yourself" and added "It certainly gives people the skills required and more importantly the confidence to get up and go."

The Programme runs for six evenings with each session lasting three hours. Active participation by all attendees is an essential part of the evening course.

A total of 32 people registered for the two programmes, primarily from the Ballinasloe catchment area, with 25 completing all six evenings. A selection of the Businesses which people were setting up included Retail shops, Health Care services, Online businesses, Software Development, Media, Hospitality, Niche Manufacturing, Agri. Projects, Food products, Household services, Couriers services and others.

John explained "We make sure that throughout the course that every participant finishes the course with a realistic business plan. We know some 20% of participants have actually started in business and we hope the training they received will assist others in starting."



Lyn Donnelly and John Power

Lyn Donnelly, Manager of the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre, stated "Participants also have the valuable bonus of being in an ideal location here in the BEC." She added "People can take their learnings and set up a business with office space here."

Suitable for anyone considering starting up a business or anyone who is currently in the early stages of their own project. The course will take you through everything you need to know to get started and will prepare you for all challenges you might face in your first year in business.

The next Programme will commence on September 18th, 2017 and will continue each Monday for six weeks. The course will be delivered by John Power & Associates. Places are limited to 15 so booking is essential. The cost is €75 per participant. If you wish to enrol please contact Lyn Donnelly, Manager BACD, on Phone (090) 9646516 or Email: info@ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie

A photograph of a man and a young child cheering enthusiastically at a sports event. The man is wearing a green and white striped beanie and a green jacket. The child is wearing a green and white striped scarf and has green face paint on their cheek. The background shows a large stadium filled with spectators.

PROMISED AN AWAY GAME FOR 8 YEARS
LOAN APPROVED IN
3 HOURS
FROM €1,000

BACKING DOING
FIONÁN HEALY, AIB UPPER BAGGOT ST.

TO BOOK YOUR APPOINTMENT
WITH NOELLE NILAN
CALL: 086 014 3833 OR
EMAIL: noelle.e.nilan@aib.ie
DROP INTO AIB BALLINASLOE • WWW.AIB.IE

3 hour loan decision applies to fully completed new Personal Loan applications processed within 3 hours 9am-5pm, Mon-Fri excl. bank holidays. Loans from €1,000-€30,000. Excludes applications: to restructure or clear existing AIB credit facilities; received through Branch and referred to a lender for review, from customers in financial difficulty; for Student and First Loans; applications through Business Centres; or where total borrowings exceed €100,000 (excluding Home Loan debt up to €600,000). Personal Loans available up to €30,000 Online and up to €75,000 in Branch or Phone. Terms 1-5 years. Lending criteria, terms & conditions apply. Credit facilities subject to repayment capacity and financial status. You must be 18 or over. Security may be required. Customer received gratuity. Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

ENTERPRISE CENTRE NEARING FULL CAPACITY AGAIN

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH



Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre is nearing almost 100% occupancy levels with the expansion of some of its existing clients and new enterprises moving to the centre over the past twelve months.

Of the 27,000 of square foot (sq ft) of the centre, 1,800sq ft is currently available for full time lease. This space is available across six separate offices ranging in size from 128sq ft up to 500sq ft. The centre also has 4 hot desks for hire on a daily or weekly basis and two training rooms that are also available for hire on a daily, weekly and evening rate.

Over the past 12 months the Enterprise Centre has welcomed seven new businesses to the centre which has filled the space vacated by the departure of MEIC and Glan Agua in July 2016. Some of the enterprises are existing businesses that needed to expand or were looking for office space in a new location.

The Enterprise Centre is now home to 22 businesses that employs over 150 people. The centre is also used on a regular basis by numerous local companies for training, meeting rooms and for use of the hot desk facilities.

Centre Manager, Lyn Donnelly stated "With very affordable rates on offer for fully furnished offices, starting at €30 a week, including utilities of light, heat and electricity, it's not overly surprising that the space has filled up so quickly."

"We are delighted getting the space filled up again in such a short time. Any of our potential clients that call out to the centre are all pleasantly surprised with the all-inclusive packages on offer, with the flexible lease terms a bonus especially for start-up enterprises" Lyn commented.

The current list of Enterprises based in the Centre are:

- 1 Adger Ireland Ltd.
- 2 BACD Ltd.
- 3 Ballinasloe Nutrition Club
- 4 Ballinasloe Training for Employment
- 5 Brightview Accounting
- 6 Crea Biotech Ltd.
- 7 David Flynn Health & Safety
- 8 Eugene Murphy TD
- 9 Flaming Wicked Candles
- 10 HSE National Ambulance Service College
- 11 International Festival & Events Association Europe
- 12 John Power & Associates
- 13 Lice Control Clinic
- 14 Lily Kelly's Art Studio
- 15 Matt Carey & Associates
- 16 New Ireland Assurance

- 17 Rob Murray Consultant
- 18 Spreadsheet Interaction Ltd.
- 19 St. Teresa's Special Needs School
- 20 Taylor Condition Monitoring Ltd.
- 21 Tiny Tot's Creche and Montessori
- 22 Yourwardrobe.ie / I Make Videos

The current list of the companies using training, meeting and hot desk facilities:

1. Advance Drive Ltd.
2. Areneco Ltd.
3. Beechlawn Organic Farm
4. Career Fit
5. Etgas Ltd.
6. Galway Rural Development
7. Liam Boyle Consultants
8. Midland School of Childcare
9. St Vincent De Paul

Lyn stated "If you are in business or thinking of starting a business in Ballinasloe, the Enterprise Centre is on hand offering affordable, quality enterprise space to individual enterprises, companies and community groups with viable business ideas who wish to become part of the Ballinasloe business community there really isn't a more ideal location."

For further information contact Lyn Donnelly in the centre on 0909646516 or info@ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie

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



Special Offers:

- Burts Bees Spend €15 receive FREE gift worth €19.95
- 33% off Bessie Bags

September Special Offers:

- Super 8 30's €29.99 save €5
- Super 8 Gold €54.99 save €11

Jewellery Range:

- Absolute • Night & Day
- Kilkenny Sterling Silver
- Tipperary Crystal
- Eanair

- Large Selection of Pottery, Gifts & Furniture
- Beautiful Range of Bags, Hats, Shawls, Scarves & Headgear
- Quinton Complete Mineral Supplements
- Ri Na Mara • Dr. Hauschka

plus many more...

Let your food be your medicine and medicine be your food

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

PEOPLE OF THE YEAR AWARDS RETURNS

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH



The Ballinasloe People of the Year Awards, hosted by the Town Team in conjunction with Ballinasloe Credit Union, will be held on November 9 with RTE's Darren Frehill as MC in the Shearwater Hotel following a successful event in 2015.

These local People of the Year Awards, replace the old Mayors Awards instigated by Cllr. Michael Kelly and the old Town Council and now are held Bi-annually.

Town Team member, Lyn Donnelly stated "The Awards recognise and celebrate the voluntary work that individuals, groups, organisations and schools contribute to their community."

Nomination forms for all categories will be available in September with closing dates in early October. Full details will be available on www.ballinasloe.ie, BallinasloeLife Facebook and from Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre on 090 964 6516.

The 2015 Gala night was a huge success with record number of attendees and shortlisted individuals and organisations.



Joint Winners of the Sports Team Awards 2015 - Under 12 Boys Relay Team and the Under 11 Boys Rugby Team.

LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL APPEAL NEW BARNA WASTE DEVELOPMENT

Poolboy Community Development Council recently appealed a decision by Galway County Council to grant planning permission for a new waste transfer building in Town.

An appeal letter has been sent to An Bord Pleanála by the Poolboy Council after Sean Curran of Barna Waste had been granted for the development.

A transfer station is a processing site for the temporary deposition of waste where local waste collection vehicles

deposit their waste cargo, before transferring into bigger vehicles.

The Local Development Community Council noted that an Environmental Impact Statement should have been submitted during the application process for the Poolboy waste transfer development and that the proposed tonnage at the site will exceed its limits.

An Bord Pleanála will decide on the waste transfer facility in Ballinasloe in October.

*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*

*Downey's
Bar &
Restaurant*

FOOD SERVED EVERY DAY

PARTY VENUE/LIVE MUSIC

PRIVATE FUNCTION ROOM

**OUTSIDE/HOME CATERING
AVAILABLE**



Find us on
facebook

087 2311385 / 09096 46018



The best preparation for life and national school is what awaits children at Tiny Tots Preschool & Creche in Parkmore, Creagh, Ballinasloe.

The Tiny Tots team, which is led by Jennifer Sheridan, boasts an experienced workforce who are qualified in all aspects of childcare and have a genuine commitment to working positively with children and families. One of the key things you notice when in Tiny Tots is the way that the adults respond to children in their care, it reflects the wealth of training and experience among the staff team with each group having their own preschool curriculum, with Aistear & Siolta being at the core.

For working parents, the Creche presents a rich playing and learning environment for their babies and toddlers to learn, a real home away from home, where they can be assured of the utmost care at their purpose-built premises in Creagh.

Jennifer commented "The role of the adult in supporting quality early childhood experiences for young children is

absolutely central and I am proud of my Tiny Tots team who show great passion and dedication every day."

Adv. 

For further information contact (090) 964 4480
or visit the website: www.tinytotscreche.com

BALLINASLOE COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY

CHURCH HILL, BALLINASLOE



FRANK KENNEDY
M.SC. PSYCHOTHERAPY

P: 087 362 3809 (office hours)

E: frank@bcap.ie

W: ballinasloecounsellingandpsychotherapy.ie

It helps to talk



Sky TV & Sky Fibre from **€59** a month
on a 12 month contract

NEW CUSTOMER OFFER

Sky Fibre Unlimited or Broadband Unlimited, Talk Freetime with Line Rental and Original TV for €59; €74.50 - €84.50 per month thereafter.

Set-up from €20. Sky Q 1TB box is loaned at no cost.
Subject to status. Content depends on Sky Q subscription.

Sky Sports and Sky Cinema required to watch sports
and cinema content. Min contract & further terms apply.



 **FLETCHERS**

expert 

ELECTRICIAN'S START-UP PORTABLE TESTING

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

Ballinasloe electrician, Gavin McCarthy, has now embarked on a portable appliance test service. This testing, known as PAT testing, ensures that electrical leads for all portable appliances are safe for use and in no way dangerous to the user.

Gavin hails from Cahir Cross, Ballinasloe and underwent his apprenticeship as an electrician with Michael Colohan of Oliver Colohan and Sons. Having worked with General Electric in testing and repairing wind turbines, Gavin wishes to branch out into ensuring safety for portable appliances for office-use, construction-use and for home-use.

He recently underwent a PAT course in Galway with Powerpoint Engineering. This has licensed him as qualified to test portable appliances. His main motivation is to guarantee safety for contractors and businesses who may be either underqualified to test themselves or may neglect testing their appliances. Gavin has undergone notable financial expense for this service, purchasing a very costly machine to test with, along with his own insurance.

Gavin wishes to "raise awareness for workers" who use appliances that may not be certified as safe. "It's the employer who has to test the laptop charging lead, the hairdryer, the drills," he explained, "but a lot of the time, they don't and it's the worker who gets hurt with a shock, or worse." Any portable appliance used in the workplace is required under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2007 to be PAT certified.

If the service succeeds, Gavin would like to set up an office in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre to aid with call-in services. He explained

how he was optimistic about the future of the start-up, hoping that he could hire one or two people locally to work with him. For this, he explained, a background in electricity would be helpful, but not essential.

For more information, you can get in contact with Gavin McCarthy at 086 210 6299 or at gavinmccarthy79@gmail.com



Gavin McCarthy displaying a selection of portable appliances that require PAT testing in the workplace

Hosting a Gathering?

Let us look after the Food



Follow us on Facebook



corrib
deli 
ready already

Corrib Oil, Brackernagh, Ballinasloe.

Call 09096 46054

SPAR  **@ corrib**  **oil**

corrib  **bakery**
bake & takerly

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.

LOCAL BORN COACH RELEASES DEBUT BOOK

Linda Bonnar from Ballinasloe, daughter of Kevin and Esme Cuniffe, Shanboley, recently released her debut book entitled "Press Play" a coaching book designed for teenagers.

It identifies forty of the most prevalent real-life issues young people are facing today and offers them a range of skills, tools and techniques to empower them to deal confidently with these issues and move forward successfully in their lives.

"Press Play" was released locally in Salmons and in Dubai where Linda has been living and working for the past seven years. Over 650 copies have been published to date and have been selling well in all shops.

It took Linda over 6 months to complete the writing and editing process. She stated "It didn't take very long to write, but it was everything else that took more time, like doing my own editing to make sure things read properly, thinking about what issues to include and making sure I was offering a range of skills too. I was really motivated to get it done and had the goal of launching it in Spring, so that kept me going."



Linda Bonnar at her Book Launch in Dubai

Along with the book, Linda also released a stand-alone "Press Play 30-Day Journal" with the aim to enhance the reader's level of self-awareness and self-management and to develop better habits in situations. She noted "Having written the book I knew I wanted to create something more fun that anyone could use and so I created the 30-Day Journal".

Linda has been living and working in Dubai for the past seven years after receiving degrees and higher diplomas from NUIG and UCD and teaching experience in Dublin and Qatar. In 2015, she set up her own coaching business which all led into her inspiration to write her first book. She stated "I always wanted to write a non-fiction book but never really knew how to do it! Since I was in my early 20s

I knew I wanted to write something motivational, but just didn't know what and it's not something I had ever studied in University."

When Linda was travelling in America last summer she received an email from a previous student who was about to start University. "She told me that everything was falling apart and she had no idea what

If you haven't looked at **Ford** lately,
look again...



**MAIN DEALERS
FOR FORD CARS & COMMERCIAL**

Large range of quality used cars and light commercials.

Fred Kilmartin LTD
Ballinasloe

Fred Kilmartin
Ltd Ballinasloe

Call 090 96 30800

Michael 087 1335921

John 087 4165623

Michéal 086 3489164

www.fredkilmartinltd.ie

sales@fredkilmartinltd.ie

to do. I automatically went into coaching mode and we exchanged a few emails for the next few days. She added "She said that the steps I had encouraged her to take had helped enormously and her final words were, 'Ms., you should really write a coaching book on all this stuff because there are so many students out there that need this kind of thing'. Linda then got in touch with old students and young people she coached and asked them to help identify issues young people were going through nowadays.

Linda found that the biggest struggle of the process was fighting the negativity surrounding the book publishing business. She commented "It has always been a writer's thing to be rejected by 100's of publishers before getting picked up. I met a buyer recently who said, 'It's a good idea Linda, but I can't see it working, young people do everything online now and the cover is outdated.' Thankfully, I proved him wrong. You've got to keep going, persevere and have faith in your own project". She added that the funding of the process has also been difficult as she had to work part time teaching to pursue her goal. She stated, "I joked with my husband the other day and said if I didn't pursue this writing stuff we'd have a house on the Dubai Palm beside the Beckhams at this stage".

For future projects, promote both "PRESS PLAY" and her journal and that they will be published nationwide and internationally. In addition, she has already started her next book, a coaching book for adults this time called "Just Three Things" which is targeted to be released in September. She stated, "Along with these writing projects I also plan to develop my Life Coaching business in Dubai".

Linda wished to thank her husband. She noted "He puts up with a lot for a start. He is incredibly supportive of the work I do". She also commended the support of her family and friends who helped promote the book locally and distributed copies for her. She commented "My Dad was literally the proudest man in town when I released

the book. I'm incredibly grateful for all they continue to do". She added "I also really want to thank Dermot Salmon for his amazing support too, when I got in touch with him originally to see if he'd be interested in stocking my books, he didn't even question it and said he'll happily support a local author; his support has helped tremendously".

"Press Play" is available for €27 and the Journal is available for €15 and can be found in Salmons or online at www.thedreamworkcollective.store. For further information or to get in touch visit the Facebook Page: Linda Bonnar Life Coaching.



Press Play Books



Shearwater
Weddings
Creating Lasting Memories

Catering
from 50 – 500

Call our Wedding Coordinator
Noel Fahy 090 9630400

www.shearwaterhotel/weddings/

KNITTING CIRCLE CELEBRATES 10 YEARS

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN



Chernobyl Children meeting Margaret McDonnell leader of the knitting group.

The Ballinasloe Active Retirement Knitting Circle recently celebrated their tenth anniversary.

The circle was founded by Margaret McDonnell, an English lady who has lived in Ballinasloe for many years. "We started because a lot of elderly people are living on their own and it's to get them out of the house" Margaret explained at the anniversary party. The group of more than 15 decided that knitting articles of clothing for an orphanage in Belarus was the perfect cause.

The fruits of their endeavours are seen in the blankets, hats, scarves and soft toys that they have knitted over the years. All of these have been sent to a deserving and deprived orphanage. Children from the orphanage spend a month every year in Ireland, staying with host families. Pat Dillon, from Aughrim, organises the holiday for the orphans and arranges for them to stay with their hosts. He also sorts the transport of the knitted items and other materials to the orphanage in Belarus. The Knitting Circle always find it a joy and a privilege when the children in the orphanage visit the group in Gullane's Hotel.

In the Circle, the group can all talk, laugh together and enjoy short tea breaks. The orphans from Belarus recently joined them for their tenth anniversary, taking home knitwear from the group to bring to the orphanage.

"The Knitters" meet every Monday morning from 10.30 until 12 noon in Gullane's Hotel and all are welcome to join the circle. Anybody interested may contact Bridie Loughman at 085 888 7038 for more information.



Some members of the knitting group who celebrated their 10th Anniversary.



CHILD CARE TYRE CARE

Children travel with many different drivers – mum, dad, guardians, grandparents and friends to name a few. Let's all make sure they are safe on the roads by regularly checking our tyres.



Ballinasloe Tyre Centre

www.ballinasloetyres.wixsite.com • 090 9646956

J&S PHOTOS



10 Society Street, Ballinasloe
Tel. 090 9631566
email. jskodakexpress@gmail.com
follow us on facebook.

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

CANCER SUPPORT CENTRE RECEIVE FUNDS FROM MAYORAL BALL



BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Cllr. Michael Connolly, recently hosted this year's County Mayoral Charity Ball in the Oranmore Lodge Hotel, in aid of Ballinasloe Cancer Support Centre, Galway East Life Support and the Irish Kidney Association.

Michael and his Daughter, Ann Marie, presented the Cancer Support Centre with a cheque for €3,650. Centre Volunteer, Clare Finn stated, "It was such an honour for us to be involved in this event" and added "It was a wonderful gift to the centre and it will go directly to help with extra provisions to clients and their families".

The centre provides a drop-in service in a safe confidential friendly environment where services such as holistic therapies such as counselling, reflexology, reiki, beauty treatments and bereavement counselling are provided. The centre also provides ongoing workshops and lectures which provide awareness and strategies on current cancer related issues.

The centre was established in 2009 by a group of volunteers who researched the need for the service in Ballinasloe. They all underwent training and the centre was opened. Clare explained "We are affiliated to the Irish Cancer Society and operate under their guidance and support. We rely solely on our volunteers who are constantly up skilling their core skills."

Recently the Centre was forced to spend worthwhile monies to replace two broken windows due to vandalism, which is



Back row, from left: Paul Greene, Antoinette Kenny, John Kilcommins, Bridie Fogarty, Michael Manning, Jackie Brien.

Front row, from left: Maura Fahy-McLoughlin, Kitty Cahill, Maisie Manning. Missing from Photo: Bobby Finn, John Finnerty, Clare Finn, John Harney.

the second occurrence to local Cancer Centres this year. Clare commented "It is such a waste of our much-needed funds."

To raise funds, they will be holding a popup shop in the old Northern Ireland Bank on Main Street on the 10th, 11th and 12th of August. Clare stated "We would very much appreciate any donations to the centre for this cause".

All services are free of charge and the Centre is open to drop in Monday 4pm - 6.30pm, Wednesday 10am - 1pm and Friday 10am - 1pm. For more information or to get involved contact 090 964 5574 or visit the website: www.ballinasloecancersupport.ie

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



PEUGEOT



KIA MOTORS
The Power to Surprise™



GERRY DEVLIN'S FACES AND PLACES

BY KEN KELLY

Faces and places of Ballinasloe over the past one hundred and fifty years are part of a week-long Photographic Exhibition to go on display in the local Library in September. It will be an added attraction to the Larry Reynolds music festival and is organised by local historian, writer and photographer, Gerry Devlin.

Passionate about his home town, its people, their culture and our heritage, Gerry's first publication "Ballinasloe-Did Ya Know?" has now gone into its third print run. "It's the biggest selling book in Salmon's" declared Gerry who added that the demand from Ballinasloe people living abroad has been unbelievable. The 80-page publication is "a must for every Ballinasloe native" with old photographs highlighting present-day ruins and "characters" of his beloved town immortalised forever.

Dedicating the book "Did Ya Know?" to the memory of his late mother, Verdun Devlin (Browne), who was born in Iver's Lane, just off Main St. in 1917, Gerry says the reaction to the book has been amazing. "I couldn't believe the number of local people that came up to me saying they were unaware of many of the town's historic buildings of years ago, and pictures and names of famous townspeople. I have a huge collection of photos, mostly of days gone by, which I hope to exhibit in the local Library in September when many visitors coming for the Larry Reynolds music festival" he added.

Now researching for another "Faces and Places" book, Gerry said he welcomes any old photographs of people, events, places or buildings, which he will scan and return safely to their owners, so that they can be saved for posterity. "In years to come they will be cherished by future generations, reminding them of what Ballinasloe and its people were



Gerry with his wife Betty

like in 'the good old days' and possibly featuring some of their ancestors" he concluded.

Both Gerry and his wife, Betty are enthusiastic members of the Ballinasloe Country Market and each Friday they supply arts and crafts to the event which is held in the local Town Hall. "We love the town and its people and we encourage everyone to support them as well" he remarked.

BATTLE OF AUGHRIM'S WALKS & TALKS



The Battle of Aghrim Interpretative Centre will be hosting a 'Talk About and Walk About Tour' as part of Heritage Week, from August 19th to 27th. Various speakers will discuss the history of the Battle and provide background context to the Williamite Wars. This will be followed by a guided tour around some of the key areas of the Battlefield and an explanation of their significance.

Centre Co-Ordinator, Donal Spellman stated "This will be an excellent event in order to gain a full understanding of the Battle of Aghrim and its significance as part of the greater Wars of the Grand Alliance which influenced Irish, British and European events in the latter part of the 17th Century."

*The event is free of charge and will commence at 12:00 noon every day.
For more information call (090) 967 3939*

UTAH

DEPARTMENT STORE



SUMMER SALE

FINAL REDUCTIONS

All Stock Up To

75% OFF

MENS - LADIES - KIDS - HOMEWARE

Society Street, Ballinasloe 090 9649000

Higher Standards - Lower Prices

CHRISTIAN FELLOWSHIP HELPING COMMUNITY BY KEN KELLY



Ballinasloe Christian Fellowship is a non-denominational church which meets every Sunday at 11am in the Shearwater Hotel Business Centre to study God's Word together and have a time to connect. Though the church is open to everyone to come along and simply listen, or have a safe place to ask some of the deeper questions about life & spirituality, the majority of the members have encountered God at some point in their lives, and have seen firsthand how His love and grace has been transformational. Many have a story to tell, and as a church group they have been sharing the Good News of Jesus in various ways, from their annual coffee dock during the Horse Fair, to cage football events for youth,

and even their interactive Bethlehem experience which drew quite a crowd in Christmas 2014.

Each summer they also head into our local community to share the love of Jesus both in words and action. They have come alongside individuals and families needing a bit of help with gardening or other household jobs, as well as running their annual Kids Club in Esker Hills & Hymany Park. This year has seen them gardening and painting at the East Galway & Midlands Cancer Support, painting a mural for The Brothers of Charity & litter picking around town, in between running a 3 day 'Where's Wally?' Kids Club for over 60 primary school children.



From left to right: Aaron Del Prado, Etienne Del Prado, Aaron Pope, Aileen O'Sullivan, Jacob Coyne, Catherine Ó Brolcháin, Lidia De Lange, Isaac Aragon, Marie Quinlan, Brenda Del Prado, David Bailie, Phill Litzow, Des Harper, Lynne Harper & Pastor Tim Quinlan.

Although many in today's society struggle with the reality of God, as a church Ballinasloe Christian Fellowship firmly believe in God's immense love for the people of our town & that He wants them to really know Him & the freedom that He brings. If you have any questions, why not pop in to the Shearwater some Sunday or phone Pastor Tim Quinlan on 0872795982.

ROADWORKS COMPLETION WELCOMED BY HOPKINS

Fine Gael Senator Maura Hopkins has commended the completion of road works and pedestrian pavements at Glentaun, Creagh. The works included the widening and resurfacing of the existing route way. She stated "This is very positive and much safer for residents in the area."

Senator Hopkins commented "The completion of these roadworks is a positive step in improving road safety for the many residents in the area. The road conditions in the area had deteriorated

significantly over the past number of years."

"Many residents had expressed their concerns surrounding road safety and I want to thank both Roscommon County Council and Galway County Council for their cooperation in the completion of this project which involved a section of road in each county."

Senator Hopkins concluded, "I want to thank residents for being so proactive in raising this issue with me and each local authority for completing the works."



Senator Maura Hopkins in Glentaun

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.



Awarding Member Association



ipav

Institute of Professional Auctioneers & Valuers

NOEL MADDEN STEPS DOWN AFTER

This summer saw the end of an era in the Ballinasloe Credit Union with the retirement of its Manager Noel Madden. Noel has managed the Credit Union in Ballinasloe for the past 23 years, and volunteered for 20.

A native of Brackernagh, Noel spent his earliest working life in the Post Office. His first interest in credit unions was sparked by another post office clerk, Pat Boland, who 'volunteered' him into the local credit union at the ripe old age of 18 years. Since then he was active as a Director of the local credit union until his appointment as Manager on January 1st, 1995. Noel replaced the treasurer at that time, who was the managing director by law, who happened to be his wife Mary. Mary was treasurer for 19 years.

"When I took over as Manager in 1995 the credit union had assets of €20m—now as I leave it after 23 years the asset base has grown to in excess of €100m. This is an indication of the hard work undertaken by many dedicated volunteers – acting as Directors, Supervisors etc. in tandem with the staff and myself. We, all of us, in collaboration (which is a hallmark of credit union) shepherded the credit union through the economic crisis which has caused so much hardship in the past decade" Noel said.

The credit union movement itself is refined socialism in the financial sphere. It deals with its members in an enlightened way by concentrating on providing services to the members. The credit unions raison d'être is 'Service to Members' and this is a core operating principle. It does not exist to profit from its members – and indeed the word 'profit' is never mentioned in credit union circles.

The operating principles also contain other gems – open membership, democratic control, return of the surplus to the members, social responsibility etc. Noel stated that "These principles are what attracted me to the movement, and my function as the Manager of the credit union was to deliver on these principles every day for the members."

The solidarity principle of 'social responsibility' obliged the credit union to become involved with the Ballinasloe Area Community Development Company – and this is an outstanding success story of community collaboration. This company was grant aided by the 'Social Fund', which the members of the credit union established 20 years ago. Since then the fund has assisted many worthwhile projects and community initiatives – and it is still in use. Through its sponsorship and promotions efforts the credit union has supported many clubs and organisations. The credit union has probably impacted on every household within its common bond either personally or via its social intercourse (social fund and/or sponsorship) with the community.

Reflecting on the past, Noel has regard for the many Boards of Directors he has known down through the years and the individuals who volunteered to become Directors and/or Supervisors. "A very many good people-people of principle and ethically sound-gave unstintingly of their time and talents in the running of the credit union and this should not be forgotten. The credit union is not and was not a one man operation". Over the past score years the credit union employed over 20 staff – beginning with Maureen Grenham in 1993. "Each and every one of these also made their contribution to the success which the credit union is today. On many occasions their work was above and beyond the call of duty-and this outlook exists to this day".

The financial crisis of 2008 has had an impact on credit union generally- especially from the perspective of law and regulation. "Unfortunately the misdeeds of the banks have impacted significantly on credit unions with the volume of additional regulation which the Central Bank has imposed

on credit unions-such is the level of regulation that one might conclude that it was credit unions which caused the crash!!"

In assessing the impact of the credit union on the local community-one can only ask "what might it be like without the credit union" Noel stated that "Our records show that the credit union in the past 20 years has issued 70k loans with a value of 350m. One should remember that this is not credit union money – it's the members savings being borrowed over and over, again and again"

Throughout his time as Manager Noel has had to work closely with the Treasurer and the Chair of the

credit union. 'We were lucky in its choice of Treasurers and Chairs down the years -all of them were dedicated and knowledgeable volunteers and I thank them sincerely for their co-operation with me in the running of the credit union.' One particular Treasurer however stands out among the others-and that's my good wife Mary Coughlan-whom I met in the credit union.

"I look forward to a peaceful retirement with time for my family and grandchildren-Tom, Dan, Caoimhe, Fiadh and Sarah. Whatever "spare time" I have will be dedicated to the town band, which is undergoing a renaissance.'Ni neart go cur le cheile' – the old Irish sean-fhocal tells a true story-it is only in co-operation that we will succeed-and I look forward to making my contribution to the town and surrounding area into the future"



Incoming Manager Paul Morgan and retiring Noel Madden

SOLD

Michael McCullagh
AUCTIONEER & ESTATE AGENT

Commissioner for Oaths Dip. Soc. Act. Licence No. 003001
30 Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Republic of Ireland.
M: 086 2550877 E: michaelmccullagh30@gmail.com



Congratulating Noel on his retirement, Irish League of Credit Unions' CEO Ed Farrell said "Noel was an integral member of the ILCU Board for ten years. His expertise and practical experience as manager of Ballinasloe Credit Union Limited were hugely valued on the Board. Noel proved to be an indispensable member of a number of ILCU Committees, including the Audit & Finance, Services & Development, Legislation, and Insurance Committees. His contribution to the National Technology Committee and input in formulating the ICT Strategic Plan were invaluable. He also provided tremendous support and guidance to his colleagues on the Home Loan Working Group.

"While Noel worked tirelessly on behalf of the Irish credit union movement, his commitment and dedication to Ballinasloe Credit Union was unwavering. He steadfastly championed the credit union ethos in everything he did for his credit union, and he will be no doubt be hugely missed by colleagues and members. On behalf of the ILCU I would like to extend the warmest of wishes to Noel on his retirement."

Liam Kelly, BCU founder member and current Director explained how Noel's association with BCU goes back 43 years; he joined as a volunteer teller in the early 1970's and retires as the Manager of a €100 million Credit Union. "As a Director it was always Noel's ambition to grow the credit union by continually improving the service we provided to our members. With growth came greater responsibility and the decision to appoint Noel as manager in 1994 was a turning point not just for Ballinasloe Credit union but for the wider community. One of the operating principles of a credit union is social responsibility. I cannot think of any other Credit Union advocate that was more diligent than Noel when it came to ensuring that BCU carried out its social responsibility role in the community over the past 43 years. The people of Ballinasloe and its hinterland were fortunate to have Noel Madden as manager of the local Credit Union. Noel's reputation among his Credit Union peers at regional & National level is well recognised beyond the boundaries of Ballinasloe. Noel, on a personal note, I will miss you at our monthly Directors meetings; your energy and enthusiasm for the job at hand were infectious and never waned over the 43 years that I have been attending board meetings with you. Noel I wish you and Mary good health and happiness in your well deserved retirement, the Boardroom won't be the same without you".

Adrian Ahern Chairperson of the BCU, believes that Noel is one of those people who has a very high sense of social responsibility, believing in the strength of the local community to help itself and a believer in helping his fellow man.

"Throughout his Credit Union involvement whether as a local board member, Manager, member of the Irish League of Credit Unions Board and the various working parties he has served on, he has brought this belief to his work.

Noel is also someone who accepts change is inevitable and he has embraced change throughout his credit union involvement and continued with his education culminating in being successfully awarded a Masters in Credit Union studies from UCC.

We will miss his encyclopaedic knowledge of Credit Union regulations, operation of the Central Bank, his wisdom and common sense approach to problem solving, always with the best interest of the member and the overall credit union in mind" stated Adrian.

In the late 1980's the need for the Credit Union to computerise became apparent. Mike O'Reilly was asked by Liam Kelly & Mary Madden (Noel's wife, who was treasurer at the time), to assist them in the task of defining what was needed and to survey the market." We took the approach of developing a pilot scheme. When Noel who had become manager saw that scheme he suggested that we go beyond a pilot and fully develop the system. We did just that and over several years and countless meetings and late nights, the system grew and became a tailored piece of software. It lasted well into the new century and the Credit Union was able to open its doors every day" stated Mike.

"The incredible amount of work that Noel did was unforgettable. His constant good humour and infectious energy-all at a time when the Credit Union was growing exponentially-inspired us to do many things we hadn't contemplated in advance. I will never forget those development evenings. They were as entertaining as they were productive. A potent mixture of charm, fun, hard slog and determination always characterised Noel's work. His success is demonstrated by the enormous respect he has garnered from the business community, staff and members of the Credit Union and anyone, like me, lucky enough to have crossed his path" stated Mike.

NOONAN & CUDDY

SOLICITORS

SPECIALISTS IN Personal Injury Litigation & Medical/Surgical Injury

Employment Law,
Wills/Probate, Conveyancing
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.





LAWRENCETOWN N.S. IN "ECO RANGERS" PROJECT



Cara Ryder & Lily Kilkenny participating in the 'Eco-Rangers: Guardians of the Land Project'



Caitlin Donnelly, Lily Kilkenny, Cara Ryder & Dean Murray from Senior Infants Class, in the Butterfly Garden of Lawrencetown National School

Lawrencetown NS recently took part in a school's environmental initiative to limit factors that contribute to Global warming and Climate Change. 'Eco-Rangers: Guardians of the Land Project' is a programme for schools that encourages children to become aware of the Biodiversity in their locality.

Teacher, Ann-Marie McEvoy stated "The staff and pupils of Lawrencetown National School were delighted to participate in the 'Eco-Rangers' project this year. With the looming threat of Climate Change and Global Warming, it's imperative to educate our youth on the care of and respect for the environment, so it can be conserved for the future and Eco-Rangers is a great way to start."

The students used worksheets to record and report on the types of Biodiversity found in the local area. Ann-Marie commented "The project integrates easily with the Curriculum, especially, Geography and Science. The colourful characters and fun activities really awaken the senses to the wonderful world of nature."

Eco-Rangers is also affiliated with 'Green Schools', which the school was awarded a Green Flag for Biodiversity in 2014 and have used 'Eco-Rangers' to further build on the success of the theme. "We've also broadened the scope of our involvement by linking the project to our 'Tidy Towns' activities" noted Ann-Marie.

She stated "I would encourage other educators to participate in the project too-even those involved in Early Education, such as Pre-school and Montessori. It's fun, interactive, educational and extremely relative to our world today."

For more information about Lawrencetown National School visit the website: www.lawrencetownns.net

HUTCHINSON DAVIDSON & SON

Solicitors

Principal: David C. Colbert, B.A. L.L.B.
Orla M. Barry, B.C.L.
Elaine Bannerton, B.A. LLB.

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

AWARDS DAY IN ARDSKOIL MHUIRE

More than 100 students were recently honoured on Ardscoil Mhuire's Awards Day before the students departed for the summer. The awards were presented by Dr Caitriona Cormican, a past pupil who wished exam students the best in their state exams.

The 1st Year Spike ball team and 2nd Year Volleyball team were presented with their Gold medals while the Cadet Volleyball team received their Silver medals. Sarah Lyons, 1st Year, was awarded the Volleyball Award, Rachel Whyte received the 2nd Year award, while Alice Duncan and Georgia Codyre received the Cadet and Senior Awards respectively.

Football awards were presented to Gemma Ward, Hannah Gullane and Becky Cawley. Camogie Awards were presented to Aoife Murray, Hannah Flynn and Emma Donohue. Lauren Doherty and Rachel Whyte were awarded the basketball prizes. Junior and Senior Rugby Awards were won by Beibhinn Parsons and Sarah Dent, who was also named Connacht Rugby Player of the Year. Heather Payne received the Soccer Award for her contribution to the National Ladies U-17 Soccer team who made it to the European Championships.

Grace Campbell and Michelle Winters were successful in cross-country and athletics and received awards for their qualification for the All-Ireland event.

Creativity Awards were presented to Lara Clifford and Joanne Murray. The Music award was presented to Aoife Hibbitt. The Bernie Nash Irish Traditional Music Perpetual Trophy was presented to Alison Egan.

The Realt Award, acknowledging students who have overcome particular challenges during the year, was presented to Bianca Pletosu, who has learned English and achieved high grades. CARA awards were presented to students who were recognised as kind and helpful to their peers. These awards went to Katie Malone, Clodagh Powell, Paula Brady, Aoife Dudgeon and Amie Hawkins.

The LCA award went to Rachel Ward while the FETAC award went to Melissa Brady. Academic awards were presented to Aisling Clifford, Ceanna Bolton, Athia Mohdzairi and Avril Deely for 1st year; Clodagh Powell, Aoife Castle, Rachel Whyte, Alison Markham and Abbey Downey for 2nd year; Maria Colohan, Shauna Mulry, Anna Kelly and Mei Chen Kennedy for 3rd year; Paula Generelo De Reina, Blanaid Fenton, Laura Finn, Sarah Fletcher and Laura Hession for 5th year.



Claire Butler: Winner of the Ardscoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe, Bank of Ireland Student of the Year Award 2017



Science award winners Holly Crosby and Catherine Gately



**Jennifer Kelly:
Winner of the Mary Casey
PE Perpetual Trophy**



**Mary Cuddy:
Winner of the CEIST Award**



Dr Caitriona Cormican launches the Transition Year magazine "Echoes"



Senior German debating team award winners Laura Finn, Kate Kelly, Laura Hession and Jane Corbett



MARK NEWTON ATTENDS ARAS GARDEN PARTY



Mark Newton, a fifth-class pupil at The Glebe N.S., Aughrim recently attended the President's Garden Party at Áras an Uachtaráin with his family.

Mark was a prize winner in the Third World Agency Goal: "Write the Future" competition last year. As part of his project he wrote a letter to the President regarding the Syrian Refugee Crisis which landed him an invitation to Áras and Uachtaráin.

Philip Newton, Emma Cooke, Beatrice Newton, Sabina Higgins, Mark Newton, Lydia Newton, President Michael D. Higgins, George Newton and Adam Newton.

LOBBYING THE COUNCIL ON PATHS

BY ENDA BRIEN



Enda Brien beside high pavement outside St. Teresa's Special School

My name is Enda Brien and I am a 16-year-old pupil in St. Teresa's Special school in Creagh at the Enterprise and Technology Centre.

I use a motorized wheelchair as my means of transport. Due to some high curbed pavements close to our school I was finding it difficult to go for long walks safely. I decided to write to the County Council to highlight this problem.

As I didn't know who was in charge in the County Council I asked Ken Campbell for help. Ken is involved with Accessibility Ballinasloe and his daughter Emma is a pupil in our school.

I sent Ken some photos and a letter explaining the issue and he forwarded this to Galway County Council. The Council have promised they will carry out the work to make the path wheelchair accessible!

I am very happy with this outcome and look forward to my walks in future.



Enda Brien with Letter from Galway County Council



Eimear Loughnane & Co.
SOLICITORS



Eimear Loughnane has commenced practice as

Eimear Loughnane & Co. Solicitors
St. Michael's Square, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

T: (090) 9646535 F: (090) 9646594 E: info@eimearloughnane.com

Practice areas include:

- Conveyancing
- Probate, Wills & Estate Planning

- Personal Injury Claims & Litigation*
- Family Law

- Employment Law
- Debt Collection

*In contentious business, a solicitor may not calculate fees or other charges on a percentage or proportion of any award or settlement



LAW SOCIETY
OF IRELAND
PRACTISING
SOLICITORS

OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE



Willie O'Rourke President of St. Brigid's Golfing Society (right) congratulates Bernie Larkin the overall winner of his President's Prize competition at Ballinasloe Golf Club.



Liam Curley Captain of St. Brigid's Golfing Society (left) presents his Captains Prize to Denis Minton the overall winner of his Captain's Prize competition at Ballinasloe Golf Club.



Breda Cleary and Cáit Kelly - Joe's Bar.



Winners and Runners Up of the Noel Forde Pitch & Putt Memorial Cup – Brian Haverty, Mary Forde, Noel Haverty, Marina Downey, Rosaleen Keane and Noel Haverty - Downey's.



Lloyd Kelly, Aoife Kelly, Kleber Medeiros, Carlos Cunha, Phil Lloyd-Bruce, Harriet Bruce, Breda Cleary, Pamela Keighery, Owen Jennings and Cáit Kelly - Joe's Bar.



Amy Ward, Louise Ward, Ann Casey, Kathleen Ward, Edward Ward, Laurence Ward and Marion Ward - Downey's.



Orla Dolan, Mary Kelly, Mary O'Connell and Frank Kelly - Maud Millars.



Damien Leonard from Ahascragh represented the Ballinasloe Tyre Centre in the Michellin Tyre Assembly 2017 in Stoke-on-Trent.



Too Tall Paul performing at Maud Millars.

AUGUST EVENTS GUIDE

Tuesday 1st

Ladies Open	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Sean Crehan	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm

Wednesday 2nd

Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Open Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	9pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
B. Kilkenney/F. Hession	An Tain	10pm

Thursday 3rd

Ladies G.H.S	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Summer Trad Session	Pillar House	9pm
Trad Night	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm
Joe Casey	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm

Friday 4th

Bsloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30pm
Comhaltas Trad Ses.	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Live Music	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Live Band	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm

Saturday 5th

Men's Open	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Chillbillies	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
Colin Galligan	Downey's Bar	10pm
Plearca	Pillar House	10pm
Nightowls	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Toxic Twins	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm

Sunday 6th

Men's Open	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Social Dance J.Molloy	Plaza Ballroom	5-8pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Plearca	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Macey South & DJ	Lukers of S'bridge	9pm
Country Dance M. Regan	Plaza Ballroom	9.30pm
M. Keane & C. Naughton	Pillar House	10pm
C.P.R.	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
DJ J.F. Country Ledgends	Downey's Bar	10pm
Off the Wall	Auld Sod Bar	10pm

Monday 7th

Ballinasloe Town AFC	Curragh Grounds	10am- 3pm
Cuckoo Hill Camp	Taughmaconnell	11am-3pm
Lions Club Charity Prize	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6-8pm
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
John Gaughan	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30-10pm

Tuesday 8th

Ballinasloe Town AFC	Curragh Grounds	10am- 3pm
Cuckoo Hill Camp	Taughmaconnell	11am-3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Sean Crehan	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm

Wednesday 9th

Ballinasloe Town AFC	Curragh Grounds	10am- 3pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Open Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	9pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
B Kilkenney/F Hession	An Tain	10pm

Thursday 10th

Ballinasloe Town AFC	Curragh Grounds	10am- 3pm
Ladies G.H.S	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Joe Casey	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
Summer Trad Session	Pillar House	9pm
Trad Night	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm

Friday 11th

Ballinasloe Town AFC	Curragh Grounds	10am- 3pm
Bsloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30pm
Comhaltas Trad	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Live Music	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Live Band	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm

Saturday 12th

Small Deal	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
DJ Johnny F	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Pillar House	10pm
The Crime	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Live Band	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm

Sunday 13th

Dancing J O'Flaherty	Plaza Ballroom	5-8pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Plearca	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Rise & Shine	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
Country Dance C Hagan	Plaza Ballroom	9.30pm
Liam Country Roadshow	Auld Sod Bar	9.30pm
Sum Craic	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
Black Lace	Downey's Bar	10pm

Monday 14th

Swim Camp	Coral Leisure	9am-10am
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Open Music Session	Lukers of S'bridge	8pm
Sean Crehan	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm

Tuesday 15th

Swim Camp	Coral Leisure	9am-10am
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Sean Crehan	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm

Wednesday 16th

Swim Camp	Coral Leisure	9am-10am
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Open Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	9pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
B Kilkenney/F Hession	An Tain	10pm

Thursday 17th

Swim Camp	Coral Leisure	9am-10am
Joe Casey	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
Ladies G.H.S	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Summer Trad Session	Pillar House	9pm
Trad Night	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm

Friday 18th

Swim Camp	Coral Leisure	9am-10am
Bsloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30pm
Comhaltas Trad	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Live Music	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Live Band	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm

Saturday 19th

Mick Flannery	Lukers of S'bridge	Doors 7pm
The Blaggards	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
DJ Johnny F	Downey's Bar	10pm
Too Tall Paul	Pillar House	10pm
Pacifica	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm

Sunday 20th

S.Dancing L Mannering	Plaza Ballroom	5-8pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Plearca	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
C. Dancing D Ryan	Plaza Ballroom	9.30pm
Jock & Davy	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
T.B.C.	Downey's Bar	10pm
Pub Fiction	Auld Sod Bar	10pm

Monday 21st

Activity & Swim Camp	Coral Leisure	10am-3pm
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Open Music Session	Lukers of S'bridge	8pm

Tuesday 22nd

Activity & Swim Camp	Coral Leisure	10am-3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Sean Crehan	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm

Wednesday 23rd

Senior Capt Open 18H	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Activity & Swim Camp	Coral Leisure	10am-3pm
S Dolan Heritage Wk	B'sloe Library	2.30pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Open Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	9pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
B Kilkenney/F Hession	An Tain	10pm

Thursday 24th

Ladies G.H.S	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Activity & Swim Camp	Coral Leisure	10am-3pm
Joe Casey	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
Summer Trad Session	Pillar House	9pm
Trad Night	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm

Friday 25th

Bsloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30pm
Activity & Swim Camp	Coral Leisure	10am-3pm
Comhaltas Trad Ses	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Seamus Moore	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Live Band	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm

Saturday 26th

The Legends	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
Nathan Meehan	Downey's Bar	10pm
Kings of Connacht	Pillar House	10pm
Finnegan's Fury	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Double D	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm

Sunday 27th

T.Bone Country	Plaza Ballroom	5-8pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Plearca	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Live Band	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
Jimmy Buckley	Plaza Ballroom	9.30pm
Best Foot Forward	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
Sabrina Fallon	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Auld Sod Bar	10pm

Monday 28th

Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Open Music Session	Lukers of S'bridge	8pm

Tuesday 29th

Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Sean Crehan	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm

Wednesday 30th

Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Open Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	9pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
B Kilkenney/F Hession	An Tain	10pm

Thursday 31st

Ladies G.H.S	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Corrib Oil Classic	B'sloe Golf Club	Start Day
Joe Casey	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
Summer Trad Session	Pillar House	9pm
Trad Night	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm

SEPTEMBER EVENTS GUIDE

Friday 1st		
Bsloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30pm
Comhaltas Trad Ses	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Live Music	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Saturday 2nd		
Barracuda	Killeen's S'bridge	10pm
Live Music	Downey's Bar	10pm
G2	Pillar House	10pm
Night Owls	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Hoppy Stars Bars	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Sunday 3rd		
Corrib Oil Classic	B'sloe Golf Club	Finish Day
S Dancing D McConnell	Plaza Ballroom	5-8pm
Plearca	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Mike Denver	Plaza Ballroom	9.30pm
Take Time	Killeen's S'bridge	10pm
John Finnerty Country	Downey's Bar	10pm
Pub Fiction	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Monday 4th		
Tunes & Cuppa	B'sloe Town Hall	Start Day
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Open Music Session	Lukers of S'bridge	8pm
Tuesday 5th		
L Reynolds Photo Exb	B'sloe Library	All Day
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Sean Crehan	Killeen's S'bridge	10pm
Wednesday 6th		
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Open Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	9pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's S'bridge	10pm
B Kilkenny/F Hession	An Tain	10pm
Thursday 7th		
Ladies GHS	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Joe Casey	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
Trad Night	Killeen's S'bridge	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 8th		
Bsloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30pm
K Sis, Ath Acapella, Plearaca	B'sloe Town Hall	8pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Ses	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Live Music	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Saturday 9th		
L Reynolds Lecture	Church Gallery	All Day
Junior Session	Dunlo Tavern	2pm
FCIR- Music Workshop	Scoil an Chroi Naofa	4pm
East Galway Music	Church Gallery	All Day
Photo Exb	Church Gallery	All Day
Craft Exb	Town Centre	All Day
B'sloe Historical	Walking Tour	All Day
Jock & Davy	Killeen's S'bridge	All Day
Paddy Casey	Lukers of S'bridge	Doors 7pm
Paul Casey	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Sabrina Fallon	Downey's Bar	10pm
The Crime	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm

Sunday 10th		
Special Feile Ceoil L Reynolds	St. Michael's	12.15pm
Tunes & Cuppa	B'sloe Town Hall	Finish Day
All-Ireland U18 Fiddle Comp	Scoil an Chroi Naofa	12pm
Singers Circle	Pillar House	2pm
Glenside Ceili Band	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Junior Session	Dunlo Tavern	4pm
Social Dancing	Plaza Ballroom	5-8pm
Plearca	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Colcannon in Concert	Pillar House	7pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Farewell Session	Pillar House	9pm
Country Dancing P Feeney	Plaza Ballroom	9.30pm
Abbeyfolk	Killeen's S'bridge	10pm
Live Music	Downey's Bar	10pm
Emerald Dave	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Monday 11th		
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Open Music Session	Lukers of S'bridge	8pm
Tuesday 12th		
EU Investment Plan Info	Church Gallery	2pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Sean Crehan	Killeen's S'bridge	10pm
Wednesday 13th		
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Open Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	9pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's S'bridge	10pm
B Kilkenny/F Hession	An Tain	10pm
Thursday 14th		
Ladies GHS	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
L Reynolds Photo Exb	Church Gallery	All Day
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Joe Casey	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
Trad Night	Killeen's S'bridge	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 15th		
Bsloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30pm
If Only (Theatre Show)	Town Hall Theatre	
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
UZIZI (8 piece amer. band)	Killeen's S'bridge	10pm
Live Music	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Saturday 16th		
Ladies Open 18 H	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Coding Club	Church Gallery	11am
Sum Craic	Killeen's S'bridge	10pm
Nathan Meehan	Downey's Bar	10pm
Ultan Conlon	Pillar House	10pm
No Bodder	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Toxic Twins	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Sunday 17th		
Pillar House Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Plearca	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Charity Country Night	Plaza Ballroom	8pm
Small Deal	Killeen's S'bridge	10pm
Colm Bourke	Downey's Bar	10pm
Shane Moore	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Monday 18th		
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Open Music Session	Lukers of S'bridge	8pm

Tuesday 19th		
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 20th		
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Open Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	9pm
B Kilkenny/F Hession	An Tain	10pm
Thursday 21st		
Ladies GHS	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Joe Casey	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 22nd		
Bsloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30pm
Group 8 Arts Exb	Church Gallery	6.30pm
Comhaltas Trad Ses.	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Live Music	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Saturday 23rd		
Colin Galligan	Downey's Bar	10pm
Joe Wynne	Pillar House	10pm
The Legends	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Live Band	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Sunday 24th		
Social Dancing Showband	Plaza Ballroom	5-8pm
Pillar House Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Plearca	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Country Dancing M English	Plaza Ballroom	9.30pm
Live Music	Downey's Bar	10pm
Ken	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Open Music Session	Lukers of S'bridge	8pm
Tuesday 26th		
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 27th		
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Open Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	9pm
B Kilkenny/F Hession	An Tain	10pm
Thursday 28th		
Ladies GHS	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Joe Casey	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
Friday 29th		
Bsloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Live Music	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Saturday 30th		
Argiculture Show	Show Grounds	All Day
Night Owls	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Marty Mone	Lukers of S'bridge	Doors 8pm

To advertise your events here contact: ballinasloelife@hotmail.com or Call 090 964 3779 by Sept. 12th.

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS



Pictured are recently qualified Ballinasloe natives with an honours Bachelor of Medicine, Bachelor of Surgery and Bachelor of Obstetrics (MB BCH BOA) Dr Ellen O'Beirn, Dr Maeve Brassil and Dr Alison Duffy.



All-Ireland Lightweight Boxing Champion, Pat Mongan of Ahascragh competed in the European Boxing Championships which were held in Kharkov in the Ukraine as a member of the Irish Elite Senior team. The championships were on in June and the Irish team spent two weeks in training, in the Ukraine, before the event. Pat is pictured here with his sponsors Top Oil and Daybreak of Ahascragh. Left to right are: Colin Concannon, (Daybreak); Jimmy Hannon (Top Oil), Pat Mongan (All-Ireland Champion), Padraig Concannon and Jason McEvoy (Top Oil).



Pictured is Annie Dillon who recently celebrated her 103rd birthday at Garbally View Nursing Home Ballinasloe. Pictured Left to Right: Patrick Dillon, John Dillon, Annie Dillon, Edel Dillon and Eileen Finnerty.



Caroline Gately (mother), Nicole Gately (18th birthday), Ethan Horrigan and Raymond Gately (father).



Johnny comes home for his 90th Birthday.

Ballinasloe-born JOHNNY DARCY came home to celebrate his 90th Birthday with four generations of his family, after spending over sixty years in England. Born in St. Michael's Square where his father Tom, a native of Bullaun, was a tailor in Evan's and Crichton's while his mother was Jane Riddell, Johnny worked in Top Quarries after leaving school before emigrating to the UK in 1954. Johnny's siblings were Christy, Seamus (Con), Josie (who tragically lost his life in Top Quarries in 1954, at the age of 18), Mikey, Paddy (Gummy) who drowned in the River Suck with his son Pat Jnr., in 1970; Dermot, Brian, Lily (Keaveney), Dolly (Finn), Nuala (Gavin) and Joan.

THE "NOW TO TAKE ON THE WORLD" LOAN

CALL US TODAY
ON 090 964 3179

BALLINASLOE
Credit Union
STUDENT LOANS

WE LOOK AT THINGS DIFFERENTLY

Loans are subject to approval. Terms and conditions apply.
If you do not meet the repayments on your loan, your account will go into arrears.
This may affect your credit rating which may limit your ability to access credit in the future.
Ballinasloe Credit Union Limited is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.



Ballinasloe Credit Union

BALLINASLOE TOWN CLOCK RESTORATION UNDER WAY

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN



For many years, Ballinasloe's historic town clock has been falling into a state for disrepair. This, however will change thanks to help from the Town's local Credit Union.

To mark their 50th anniversary, the Ballinasloe Credit Union recently made a significant donation towards the repair cost of St. John's Church Tower. The clock itself was in fine working order, owing to the work of Kevin Cunniffe-a local man who has been maintaining the mechanics of the clock for the past number of years.

However, damage to the surrounding material is significant. Splitting and delaminating has occurred, as well as a detachment of the moulded surround. A substantial piece has fallen away wholly, exposing the stone inside. The clock's faces are 3.6m in diameter, one mounted on each side of the church tower and all connected to the working mechanism inside which has remained intact.

Safety scaffolding was put in place to catch any falling material. In order to ensure the safety of the Church building and to protect the Town Clock, a complete replacement of the damaged material on all four clock faces had to be constructed. A new template for the moulding will be made using the original profile. In addition,

it requires the running of a new matching surround that uses a reinforced, hydraulic lime-based mortar. A specialist decorative plasterer, skilled in the repair and replication of historic plasterwork, has been hired to undergo this task.

The restoration project came to be as the Credit Union – who earlier in the year saw its assets break the €100 million mark – wanted to fund a significant, local project to celebrate its 50th anniversary.

Representatives from the Credit Union approached Rev. John Godfrey in October 2016. They sought to understand what would be required to remove the scaffolding that had been in place for a number of years

and to repair the town clock, which is housed in St. John's Church Tower, overlooking the Fairgreen. "Finance," was the response from the Reverend.

The clock was donated to the people of Ballinasloe in 1901, and the Reverend has thanked the Credit Union for their generous gift in restoring the town's historic landmark.

The overall repair is expected to take two months or so and is priced at a total of €60,000. Galway County Council has also aided with funding through the Built Heritage Investment Scheme operated by the Department of Arts, Heritage, Gaeltacht, Regional and Rural Affairs.



Left to right: Kevin Murray, Noel Madden, Martin Duffy, Adrian Ahern, Rev John Godfrey and Kevin Cunniffe outside St John's Church.

HEALY'S PHARMACY



Society St., Ballinasloe.

**ORLA KIELY GIFT PACKS NOW IN STOCK FOR €14.⁹⁵
ALL HAIR ACCESSORIES NOW HALF PRICE WHILE STOCKS LAST.
COMING SOON KIT & KABOODLE**

Call in for advice and try the products.

Open 9.15am to 6pm through lunchtime. Tel/fax 090 9642252



BALLINASLOE HORSE FAIR PLANS FOR 2017

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

The Annual Horse Fair is scheduled to take place from Sunday October 1st to Sunday October 8th. More than 80,000 visitors are expected to attend bringing contributing an estimated €8.5 million revenue to the local economy.

As part of the Fair, the Festival Committee will organise various equestrian and family fun events including the Queen of the Fair, music and entertainment, Soapbox derby, Tug of War, Fireworks, Dog Show, Craft Market, Vintage display and Equestrian events on the Fair Green.

Chairperson of the Fair Committee, Adrian Ahern, acknowledged that it was becoming increasingly difficult to organise the festival element of the Horse Fair. He stated "The difficulties facing the committee were primarily financial ones. In 2017, it will cost more than €10,000 to insure the events and with no source of income the committee is totally reliant on sponsors" and said "without our sponsors we cannot run our events."

This year's programme includes The Fair Dog Show, sponsored by the Walter's Bread Basket along with Fireworks and family themed evening at the Church car park, sponsored by Pat and Una McDonagh of Supermacs.

Adrian commented "It is with all our events we are deeply indebted to all of our sponsors, Ballinasloe Credit Union, Galway County Council, Jim Derwin, Pallas Foods, Ballinasloe Vintners, Tomas Gullane," adding "We publish a full list and acknowledgment of all our sponsors as part of our Festival programme."

"Any town in Ireland would love to have a weeklong festival and if our festival is to continue then more sponsors need to come on board. The Fair and Festival generates much needed business and

revenue for the town and so we appeal to all businesses to come on board for 2017 if the Festival is to survive. The financial burden needs to be shared across all, not just those that benefit directly from having 80,000 visitors to the town and area" said Adrian.

A festival programme is currently being planned for 2017. The committee will resume meetings in August. "I ask for cross community support for the festival before it's too late. It's a lot easier to rejuvenate an existing festival than trying to invent a new one. Ballinasloe has a history of a Festival in October; the town needs to get behind it," he concluded.

A full list of festival sponsors is available on the festival and the full programme will be published here website www.ballinasleooctoberfair.com



PICTURED AT OPENING SUNDAY OF HORSE FAIR LAST YEAR.

Front Row L-R: Ciara Croffy (Treasurer), Cllr. Donal Burke, Shauna Finnerty (Queen of the Fair), Michael Connolly (Mayor of Galway County Council), Mary Phelan (Fair Secretary) and Adrian Aherne (Fair Chairperson).

Back Row: Cllr. Michael Finnerty, Inspector Conor Madden, Sue Whyte (Judge), Bishop John Kirby, Noel Madden (Credit Union Manager), Pat McDonagh (Supermacs MD), Cllr. Aidan Donohue and Brendan Kelly (Committee Member)

Open Mon-Fri
9am-5pm
Sarsfield Rd (old
Tesco building)

Tullyvor
LED Lighting & Construction Equipment
Machinery Accessories & Vision Equipment

Shop online at
www.tullyvor.ie



Machine mirrors starting from only 15 euro!



Kajo grease, box of 20 only 75 euro!



Pair of LED tail lights only 25 euro!

Sarsfield Rd, Ballinasloe, Co Galway Ph: 09096 44353 (shop) or 09096 31836 (accounts)
Visit our online store www.tullyvor.ie *All prices are inclusive of VAT

CELEBRATING 200 YEARS OF PRIESTHOOD BY KEN KELLY

Four priests from the Ballinasloe area recently celebrated jubilees of their ordination, where they were joined by families, friends and former classmates. Between the four, they have given a total of 200 years to religious life. They were also recipients of congratulatory messages, gifts and good wishes on their special occasion.

MONSIGNOR JOHN KILLEEN, a native of Toher, Taughmaconnell, celebrated his Diamond Jubilee, having being ordained sixty years for the American Missions. Following his secondary education in St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, Mons. John studied for the priesthood in the Dublin seminary of All Hallow's College and spent forty-four years ministering in the diocese of Corpus Christi in Texas. He retired in 2001 and now lives in Ballinasloe where he assists with the clerical duties there.

FR. MICHAEL FINNERAN, who has been Parish Priest in Clontuskert since 1993, celebrated his Golden Jubilee, having being ordained fifty years ago in Maynooth for the Diocese of Clonfert. A native of Onagh, Taughmaconnell, Fr. Finneran was educated in Garbally College during which time he excelled as a scrum-half on the College senior rugby team and subsequently played with Ballinasloe RFC. After serving two years as Curate in Kilconnell he was appointed Dean in Garbally College, where he spent two years. From 1971 to 1982 he ministered in Loughrea before spending the following eleven years in Portumna and then moving to Clontuskert as Parish Priest.

FR. CIARAN KITCHING who has been Parish Priest of Killimor and Tiernascragh for the past 23 years also celebrated his priestly Golden Jubilee. A native of Claremorris, Co. Mayo, he was a classmate of Fr. Finneran's in both Garbally and Maynooth and ordained on the same day for the Clonfert Diocese. As a student in Garbally, Fr. Ciaran was an accomplished pole-vaulter and was a member of the College's athletic team that was All-Ireland runners-up in the College of Science



Left to right: Fr. Anthony Kelly, Clontuskert, SMA; Monsignor John Killeen, Toher, Taughmaconnell; Fr. Michael Finneran, PP Clontuskert; and Fr. Ciaran Kitching, PP, Killimor and Tiernascragh.

Cup in 1960. Following his ordination in 1967 he returned to Garbally where he was teacher of Irish for thirteen years. After spending some years ministering overseas, Fr. Ciaran was appointed P.P. in Killimor in 1994.

FR. ANTHONY KELLY from Clontuskert, was ordained by his late uncle, the former Bishop of Benin City, Nigeria, Bishop P.J. Kelly in 1977 for the African Missions. For the past forty years Fr. Anthony has been ministering in different parts of Africa including Ghana and Zambia and is presently Spiritual Director of the SMA House in Nairobi, Kenya. A former Kiltormer hurler, with whom he won county Senior and Intermediate medals, Fr. Anthony was educated in Clontuskert NS and Colaiste Mhuire, Ballygar before entering Maynooth Seminary in 1969. When he returns home on holidays Fr. Anthony helps out with the ministry duties in his native parish.

MOLONEY

BUILDING CONTRACTORS

EXTENSIONS • RENOVATIONS • NEW BUILDS

REGISTERED INSTALLERS OF

KALIKO & FATRAFOL FLAT ROOFING SYSTEMS

Fully Registered & Insured - Qualibuild Certified

Tel: 086 8345584 - 090 9631682

www.MOLONEYBUILDERS.ie

FAIRY GARDEN FOR THE CHILDREN'S WARD

An award-winning fairy-themed garden was recently donated to St Therese's Children's Ward at Portiuncula Hospital. Grainne Brady and Jasmine Elkhershi, both of Longford, received a certificate of distinction for the fairy garden in the postcard garden section at Bloom 2017. The garden, which is called "The Magic of Kindness" features fairy houses, a wishing well and a fairy trail. The plants of the garden are sponsored by Ardcarne Garden Centre. "We decided to donate the garden to St Therese's ward to remind the children, who have already dealt with so much, that there is still magic in the world. Really, we just wanted to put a smile on their faces" explained Jasmine. Together, the two craft-bloggers raised €1,132 for Funds for St Therese's from donations at Bloom. The money is intended to be used to redecorate the isolation unit in the ward.



Grainne Brady from Shannonorchard.com and Jasmine Elkhershi from Procrastimate.com designed a magical fairy garden and fairy trail in the postcard garden section at Bloom 2017. Pictured here donating it to Friends of Portiuncula Hospital.

DRAFT REPORT ON MATERNITY CARE COMPLETED

A draft report examining maternity care at Portiuncula Hospital has been completed and is now being considered by legal experts. The review was ordered in January 2015 after issues were identified in relation to care provided to women during their pregnancy and labour. This report reviews a total of 18 cases. Professor James Walker, of the Department of Obstetrics at Leeds University, is at the head of the review. The Saolta hospital group expects to receive excerpts from the report over the coming weeks to review it for fairness and accuracy. When the report is finalised and published, recommendations for the hospital will be implemented over the coming months.

HOSPITAL FIGURES

Portiuncula retains its position of 30th best hospital in Ireland, according to RateMyHospital.ie's rankings that consists of 69 public and private hospitals in the country. In comparison to the surrounding areas, University Hospital Galway (UHG) maintains its position of 66th on the list while Roscommon County Hospital remains 38th. Portiuncula hospital is ranked 2nd in Ireland for maternity while UHG

is ranked 20th. The Hospital saw a substantial rise of patients awaiting treatment for June, according to the INMO: 89 patients were on trolleys in June 2017, compared to just 12 in June 2016. UHG was the second most crowded hospital in the country in June with 566 people admitted for care waiting on the wards.

MURRAY'S OF RIVER STREET

John Murray (Ballinasloe) Ltd.

Tel: (090) 9642138 Email: johnmurrayltd@gmail.com

Try The Rest
**DEAL WITH
THE BEST**

Hardware

Garden Fertilisers

All Your Gardening Needs

Huge Range Of Pet-Food & Bedding

Gas - Coal - Briquettes

Work-Wear

Wide Range Of Veterinary
(Sheep, Cattle, Equine & Pets)

Bulk Feeds

Cement Now In Stock



Constituency Offices Details

Ballinasloe Office
Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre
Creagh Road, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
Tel: 087-4353834

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

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

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

Please ring Constituency Office in advance to make appointment

PASSING OF MASTER HURLEY MAKER

BY KEN KELLY

97-year-old BERTIE WALSHE of Liscappul, Aughrim, who passed away recently was a master Hurley maker in the 1940's and 50's. His was passionate in his love for native timber and hand-carved many of his products with pain-stalking skill, being a perfectionist in all his work.

Bertie spend endless hours in search of the best young ash trees to produce top-class camans. His products were greatly admired by several inter-county hurlers including



the late greats, Tony Reddin of Tipperary and Sean Duggan of Galway. He was recognised as a master craftsman in hurley making and worked long hours to fulfil orders from local clubs and individuals.

Over the years Bertie produced many fine artistic wooden features including stools, tables etc. but probably his proudest

display was a complete chess set, hand-carved from local wood - many of which were displayed at his reposal.

The late Mr. Walshe is survived by his 90-year-old wife Phoebe, son Francis, daughter-in-law Tina, grand-daughter Erin, his grandsons Joshua and Jacob, great-grandson Isaac as well as many other relatives and friends.



There's
always
time for
cake!



www.karibas.ie

Open
Monday - Saturday
9am - 5.30pm
Last Orders 5pm
Closed Sundays

Tel: 090 964 4830
www.karibas.ie • 7 Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Outside catering a speciality for all occasions



HIRE • SALES • SERVICE

www.domachire.com

Est. 1990

Poolboy Ind. Est. Ballinasloe – 0909642888 – sales@domachire.com

Full range of tools and equipment for hire or sale

GARDEN EQUIPMENT SERVICE

Hire • Sales • Service

Lawnmowers / Chainsaws / Strimmers / Hedgtrimmers etc...

POWERWASHERS

Sales • Service • Repair/rebuilds

Petrol / Electric / Hotwashers



Free local Delivery / collection of equipment.



BONFIRE NIGHT/SUMMER SOLSTICE

BY MAUREEN CAHALAN



Greetings and welcome to the second half of 2017, which brings me to times gone by. Don't we all reflect and hold on to memories?

Back in the day, there were a few highlights around the countryside, especially Bonfire night; which was a huge event on the summer calendar.

This event was celebrated with a huge bonfire at every village. When the bonfire was lit, we would all jump and shout around it while the seniors made sure we didn't go too close. This was almost a treble celebration: it was Bonfire night, the eve of St. John's Feast Day and the celebration of the Summer Solstice. It is an old pagan midsummer celebration which has been "Christified" by attaching it to St. John. In other European countries, the celebration is much larger and lasts for three days.

Prior to the event people create celebrities that they would either like or dislike in paper-mache and parade them through their towns before taking them to the bonfires to burn them. Bonfires are never lit until the clock strikes midnight. As the fires burn, people throw in pieces of papers with their negative thoughts. Once the fires have died down, young people jump and dive over the fires. It is then customary to walk into the water fully clothed to wash away the bad luck that may be attached to oneself. Afterwards, there are fireworks, live music and dancing into the early hours.

The celebration attracts a lovely mix of artists and creators, such as painters, potters, jewellery makers, card makers, food artisans and many more. There are also workshops where people can paint or craft and bring their creations home with them.

Now here is the challenge: let's bring such a celebration and cultural event to the Ballinasloe Marina, the Banks of the Shannon and Suck in the years ahead.

Send some of your memories and thoughts on your own experiences of St. John's night to Maureen Cahalan at loughrita@hotmail.com.

Adv.



CH Computers & Office Supplies

OFFICE SUPPLIES & COMMERCIAL PRINTING

Main Street, Ballinasloe, Co Galway

Tel/Fax: 090 9645040

email: computerandoffice@eircom.net

Great prices & Great Quality

OFFSET PRINTING & MEMORIAL CARD SERVICE

(Discuss your needs in privacy)

**ALSO: Printer Inks : Paper : Binding : Photo-copying
Laminating Faxes : Internet : Typing**



CH Computers

Printers • Shredders • Diaries • Web Cams • Universal Chargers
• Inks • Paper Trimmers • Loudspeakers • Headphones etc.

Small shop with Best prices and Services

OPEN 6 days a week – from 8.30am to 6pm



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

The Theatre is hosting concerts and events associated with the third Annual Larry Reynolds Folk Festival on the second weekend of September.

The Town Hall Drama Group presents the Conor McPherson play "The Seafarer." This production will take place in October 2017 in the Town Hall Theatre after the Horse Fair week on Thursday, Friday and Saturday. It is set in the home of Richard Harkin, who has recently gone blind and is being cared for by his brother, James "Sharky" Harkin. Set on Christmas Eve, friends Ivan and Nicky call to exchange seasonal greetings with the brothers and, of course, to share many drinks.

Drink is the devil of a character in the play, and the real demon features in human flesh as he calls together with Nicky in Act I. He has come for the soul of Sharky, having met him years before. The soul of Sharky is to be played for in a game of poker, though the other characters are unaware of this.

"The Seafarer" opened at the National Theatre in London where it won the Olivier Award for Best New Play. In New York, the play won a Tony Award. It promises to be an excellent night of entertainment with a play full of wit and pathos, featuring characters we can easily identify with.

Cast: James "Sharky" Harkin – David Hardiman, Richard Harkin – Barry Healey, Nicky Giblin – Brendan Boland, Mr. Lockhart – Declan Kelly

The play is directed by John Boland. He and the cast are certain that everyone attending will enjoy their evening in the Town Hall Theatre. All proceeds go to the Town Hall Development Fund.

Tickets are priced at €12 and €10 concession. These may be purchased at the Town Hall. Curtains Up will be at 8:30 in the evening. More information may be found www.ballinasloetownhall.com/ or visit their Facebook page for updates.

Wild Swan Theatre First Visit

Shake Theatre Productions, together with The Wild Swan Theatre, presents the play 'If Only' by Kevin Glynn and Shane Counihan. They make their first ever visit to the Town Hall Theatre on the 15th of September at 8.00 p.m. It has been described as a nostalgic comedy that looks back at the showband era in Ireland. In the production, the audience sees an unplanned reunion after 25 years that renews old friendships but unearths old differences. The performers sold out 11 shows in 2016 and it promises to be a great hilariously funny show.

Tickets are €15 and €12 for concession. They may be purchased at the Town Hall. More information and a full set of dates can be found on the Wild Swan Theatre Company Facebook page or on www.ballinasloetownhall.ie



Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
Gaillimh · Galway

Identifying & Supporting Gaps in your Business

MENTORING

TRAINING

BUSINESS
EVENTS

NETWORKING

FINANCIAL
SUPPORT

Call (091) 509090 to arrange a 1:1 meeting with a business advisor

www.localenterprise.ie/galway



@LEOGalway



@CALenterprise



(091) 509090



European Union
European Regional
Development Fund



BUSY AUTUMN FOR BLOSSOM HARP ENSEMBLE

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

Blossom Harp Ensemble, who recently performed at the Ballinasloe Strings Festival and Tuamgraney Harp Festival will record a CD in the Autumn with benefits going to local Social Services. The group will also go to the "Rencontres Internationales de Harpe Celtique" next year in Brittany, France, for its 35th Annual Festival.

The Ensemble recently held its classes in Moore Community Centre, welcoming students and parents to celebrate all the children passing their Comhaltas and Royal Irish Academy exams. Director of the Blossom Harp Ensemble, Elisabeth Affolter stated "This year was great for the Ensemble as students from Blossom Harp really committed themselves to the classes. They practise every week, which really showed throughout their performances this year."

Harp camps were recently held in the Moore Community Centre with children of all ages attending to improve their skills and learn more about the instrument and its role in history. Due to its success, Elisabeth has added two more dates on August 7th and 8th which are available for booking.

Classes will resume on September 20th which will take place on Wednesdays and Thursdays, open to all ages from 8-years-old.

Classes costs €22 for private 30-minute lessons which are payable by term, €18 each for duo classes and 45 minutes for trio classes. Once or twice a term there are 3 hour group sessions for all students which are the same price as a normal class.

For more information or for Booking,
contact Elisabeth on 086 375 18 69 or email:
blossomharpsschool@gmail.com



From left front row: Holly Cafferky, Katy Cuddy, Olivia Bliss, Leah Naughten, Maria Dolan. Back: Mara Van Aelst, Eimear Costello, Mary Cuddy, Lizzie Affolter, Alannah Downey, Eva Ryan.




Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe. Tel.: 090 9643921

August Special Offer

FREE Shimmer Highlights
with every color booked
(Tues, Weds & Thurs Only)

September Special Offer
€20 off Lisse Hair Smoothing Treatment
(Tues & Thurs only with Karin & Leah)

Find us on  **facebook**

CALL US 090 96 43921
*See in store for details




ANN BRUEN
ACUPUNCTURE

Knee Clinic
Fridays - Society Street, Ballinasloe



Infertility
Vertigo
Insomnia
Sports Injuries
Stress
Migraines

Our knee clinics reduce swelling and inflammation through acupuncture. The treatment will benefit all athletes - especially runners, cyclists, GAA and soccer players. Acupuncture is ideal either before a match or even after a hard training session, and will have you feeling instant relief.

From €30

Ann Bruen Acupuncture, Society Street Ballinasloe
Email ann.bruen@gmail.com

Phone 0868236750
Facebook @ AnnBruenAcupuncture



FOURTH FÉILE CHEOIL LARRY REYNOLDS

Féile Cheoil Larry Reynold's Weekend will hold its fourth annual festival in Ballinasloe from Friday 8th to Sunday 10th September, with an array of music, heritage events and entertainment on every street and in many venues around the town.

Féile Cheoil commemorates the late Larry Reynolds, a native of Shanboly, Ahascragh who emigrated to Boston in the early 1950's and became an influential musician and member of the Irish-American community in the New England area of USA. The festival also aims to promote Irish Music and Culture in the East Galway area, while also promoting the area as a visitor destination for the weekend, providing a boost to the local economy. To date the festival has attracted visitors for all over Ireland, England, Continental Europe, Australia and the USA.

To kick off the weekend The Ballinasloe Singers Circle will perform in The Dunlo Tavern on the THURSDAY night followed by the Country Market in the Town Hall Theatre the next morning.

On FRIDAY afternoon, a Gala concert will take place in The Town Hall Theatre, with headline acts of renowned fiddle players, Liz and Yvonne Kane from Letterfrack, who are aficionados of the East Galway style of music and particularly the tunes of Kilconnell fiddle player Paddy Fahy. The Kane Sisters will be accompanied by London born musician John Blake who has previously recorded with Liz and Yvonne.

Also performing will be the Award winning all-female Athlone Acapella Choir and local young musicians Plearáca, some of the members whom are relations of the late Larry Reynolds.

On SATURDAY workshops will be held in Scoil an Chroí Naofa in Flute, Guitar, Banjo, Fiddle and Accordion, interactive craft exhibitions on Dunlo Street, Main Street and Society Street; a talk on the East Galway Style of Music in the



Church Gallery by local music scholar, Vera Craughwell; a historical walking tour of Ballinasloe, the continuation of a week-long photo exhibition in Ballinasloe Library of Ballinasloe's "Faces and Places". In the afternoon, a Junior Music Session and a stomping Irish Music Pub Trail in several the town's hostels.

SUNDAY'S activities will begin with Mass in St. Michael's Church with music and song by local musicians.

Festival Secretary, Kathryn Gibbons stated, "One of the highlight events of the weekend will be the All-Ireland U-18 Fiddle Competition with an attractive cash prize and a perpetual cup for the winner."

The appeal of the festival at home and abroad has become apparent by the number of artists who have applied to perform during the weekend. One of those was Colcannon from Colorado in USA, a traditional Irish Music five-piece group who are travelling to Ireland with a group of 30 avid followers who performed in the Pillar House to packed crowd.

Billy Reynolds, FCLR committee member stated "Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds has become an important weekend on the Traditional Irish Music Calendar, with many well-known musicians requesting to return every year is testament to that" he added. "We are very lucky that we have had such fantastic support from local musicians, businesses, photographers, volunteers and organisations, all who have done all possible to assist the committee in the staging of the festival. The sponsors and public bodies including Comhaltas Ceoltoirí Éireann, The Department of Arts & Heritage, Ballinasloe Credit Union, Galway County

Council, Supermacs, local publicans, Salmons Department Store, all who have provided sponsorship and funding ensure that we can stage this weekend with most events free of charge."

To get in touch or for more information e-mail: info@larryreynoldswweekend.com phone: 087 9046140 or visit the website www.larryreynoldswweekend.com

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**



Europe Direct Ballinasloe Library recently held the Strings Festival in the Church Gallery, showcasing a blend of world-renowned established artistes and highly talented local artistes in a celebration of the music of strings. Large crowds came to support the 12 acts that played over the two days.

The attendance for both days has been widely praised. "It's great to see the crowds around town turned up to see local talented," commented Gabriel Rohan, Chairman of the Ballinasloe Active Retirement Association. His thoughts were echoed by Helen Butler from the Youth Centre in town. "It brought a life to the town that I haven't seen for a long time" Helen explained, volunteering as an usher for the two days. She continued to explain how there was a "fantastic sense of community" over the course of the event. Aoife Dudgeon and Stephanie O'Halloran were volunteers in the Church Gallery and showed people the way to the event from the door. "I was delighted with the success of the event" Stephanie commented, "it was great to see a good turnout for a small town".

The organisers now are looking towards improvements for another potential festival next summer. When asked on how it could improve,

event volunteer Aoife suggested a broader range of music, including "less classical music, more things that would appeal to young people, more pop." Helen suggested similar, hoping the event could host "different types of acts" and that "it should definitely run next year." With many calls to make the event an annual one, festival director Kieran Shaughnessy was firmly in agreement. "We should definitely do it again next year" he remarked, already with adjustments on his mind. "We had a really good live rock band on the Friday night" he explained, "I'd say I'd probably have that in the pub next year, guarantee a better crowd."

Rachel Goode, an opera singer from Ballinasloe, performed and was impressed with the event. "It seems to be a great success so far, loads of people have attended" Rachel commented after her performance. "Hopefully I'll be back again" she added, although the next year for her could be busy as she completes her Master's Degree in Opera at the Royal Welsh College of Music in Cardiff.

The Town Band and Classical guitarist John Feehily also performed at the inaugural edition to critical acclaim.

For more information or to get in touch, contact stringsfestival@galwaylibrary.ie or visit www.stringsfestival.ie



The Athlone A Cappella choir perform in front of a packed crowd.



The Blossom Harp group.



The Contempo Quartet from Bucharest playing with John Feeley.



The crowd assembles for the start of the Strings Festival.



Two of Ballinasloe's own performers: Rachel Goode and John Feeley.

EVERYTHING IS BETTER IN THE SUN



FANCY A LAST MINUTE GETAWAY?

WWW.KELLERTRAVEL.IE CALL US 090 964 2131

PÁDRAIG PEARSES CELEBRATE SUCCESS

BY IVAN SMYTH



Pádraig Pearses GAA club recently celebrated Roscommon's Connacht senior title success over Galway. Pearses held a homecoming celebration for the victorious Roscommon team. The club welcomed home players David Murray and Hubert Darcy Jr who returned with the Nestor Cup.

The team was greeted by a large crowd at the club despite club Secretary Hubert Darcy Snr. admitting they only had "half an hours notice to gather a crowd together." Darcy explained that Roscommon's winning of the Connacht Championship and the fact that two of their club members are on the panel had lead to "huge excitement within the club."

Murray expressed his delight at the success of the team, stating "It was a goal the team worked towards all year." After the victory,

Pádraig Pearses' club grounds was the first place that the players visited. Corner back Murray admitted he was "surprised to see so many supporters" welcome the team home.

He commented that he "didn't realise how much the victory meant to people" until the team were greeted by the supporters. Murray acknowledges the fact that due to his and his team-mates focus on capturing the title, they didn't consider the effect their success would have for the people of Roscommon.

The corner back highlighted the "massive role" that Pearses have played in helping him to play for and win with Roscommon. He was quick to thank the people who have coached him while playing for Pearses and also acknowledged that "I was playing with my club long before I was playing county."

Darcy Jnr (19) stated that "it has been a dream" to capture a Connacht title during his first year on the panel. He confessed himself that the club is currently "riding on the crest of a wave." He acknowledged that he is lucky to be involved with this Roscommon team and mentioned that "there were lads there a long time who only won their first Connacht title after years of trying."

The talented forward shared Murray's sentiments that the squad "wasn't expecting the reception they received" when they arrived at Pearses. He thought that the reception he and the squad received was "humbling" and he was delighted to meet the young footballers of the club, as well as those who have helped

him to progress over his time playing for Pearses.

He acknowledged that Pearses have played a "huge role" in his development. Darcy Jr reflected that he has played for his club since the age of seven and fondly remembers the Minor title he won with the club before reiterating his desire to help Pearses win the senior football county title. Darcy Jnr stated that he is focused on "trying to keep improving with Pearses" and to surpass the "serious competition" for places within the Roscommon ranks.

Pearses GAA club also celebrated Roscommon's victory of the first hosting of the Connacht U17 Championship. Roscommon defeated Galway on a score line of 2-08 to 1-08. Pearses' Paul Carey was a member of the Roscommon team, scoring their first goal.

According to Hubert Darcy Snr, the club is on a high after the success of the senior and U17 team, with representatives on both sides helping to inspire the next generation to try and emulate their success.



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

VERONICA BURKE TAKES GOLD

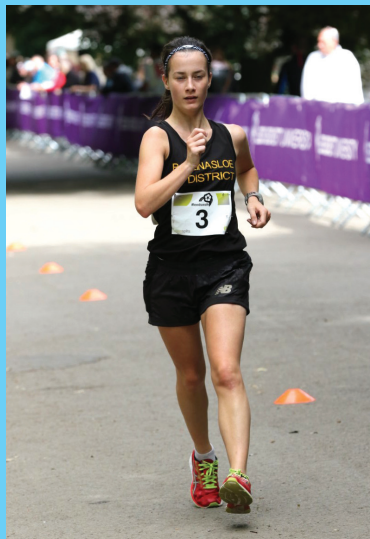
BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

Veronica Burke, daughter of Michael and Anne Burke of Ballinasloe, recently snatched gold in the U23 women's 3k walk in Tullamore, a week after placing sixth in the British Race Walk 20k in a personal best time of 1hr 46 mins.

Veronica, who currently studies Optometry in Dublin Institute of Technology stated "When I won the National U23 championships I felt great but tired. I had competed in a 20km walk in Leeds the previous weekend so the 3km race was tougher as I had not fully recovered."

Leading up to a big competition, Veronica tapers down her training the week before the race. She said "during this week I plan what my tactics will be during the various stages of the race." This year she aimed to achieve the qualification time for the European U23 Athletics Championship. "My training and focus this year was on improving my time for the 20km distance and so my training was more directed towards long distance", she commented.

Veronica currently trains six days a week which involves one long walk of around two and quarter hours a week, then interval sessions of 3kms, miles and 1kms, a run and then another walk or cool down walk which could take up to an hour. She said "This schedule is directed at 20km race training. I also do strength training a few times a week for core



Veronica Burke at U23 20km Fast Walk race in Leeds, England.

strength. Race walking drills are a most important part of my week. The drills are focused on technique work which is very important in race walking. I don't have a specific diet that I follow religiously. I just try and eat as healthily as I can."

Veronica began Athletics when she was aged 10, following her parent's footsteps who are involved in the District Athletics Club. She stated "I got involved after I had competed in the Community Games and enjoyed it and then joined the local athletics club. I ran with the club for many years before I became involved in race walking when I was around fifteen."

Veronica believes that competitions are the main reasons to keep her motivated to train harder, "I always want to perform to my best. Trying to improve on my personal best times always helps me push myself further," she noted.

With eyes on the future she wishes to represent Ireland on an international level in competitions and from there to ultimately represent Ireland in the Olympic Games. "My advice to anyone wishing to succeed in any sport is to work hard, never give up on your dreams and enjoy what you do" she said.

"I would like to thank my parents who are very supportive and have always encouraged my enjoyment in sport from a young age. I also get great support from members of the Ballinasloe and District Athletic Club. Galway Athletics County Board and DIT have also been of great support in many ways. I would also like to thank Ballinasloe Life for giving racewalking a higher profile in the area," she concluded.



Veronica Burke and Aisling Heneghan at the Tullamore Track and Field Day

Ballinasloe Under 14 A1 Shield WINNERS 2017

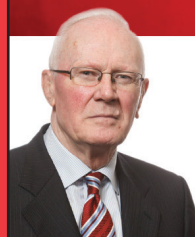


Back Left: Godfrey Gibbons, Ciaran Reilly, Andrew Gibbons, Eoin Coleman, Adam Potter, Daithi Ward, Adam Coyne, Joseph Tierney, Sean Power.

Front Left: Evan Hayes, Evan Stynes, Conor Madden, Jason Cunningham, Cathal O Hannluain (Capt), Conor Dowd, Dara Carty, Michael Coyne, Shane Fitzpatrick. Missing from Photo: Cormac Gillespie, Shahid Abir.

Putting off making a will?

Let us make things a little easier.
Draft your will online at
www.phogan.ie



PATRICK HOGAN & CO.
SOLICITORS



Our Address
Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe,
County Galway, H53 YR91
Open 9.30 a.m - 5.30 p.m

+353 (0)90 9642110
+353 (0)90 9642107
info@phogan.ie



McCormack's Galway Goal: Eoin McCormack celebrating his first goal for Galway, alongside teammates Gavan Holohan, Kevin Devaney and David Cawley.

Town Striker Joins Galway United

Ballinasloe native, Eoin McCormack, has joined Galway United until the end of the year. Eoin will wear the number 22 jersey for the Airtricity Premier Division side. The 22-year-old player is son of Peter and Ann McCormack and hails from Ruane, Ballinasloe.

Eoin was a key player for the Ballinasloe Town team that won the Connacht Cup Final, scoring a hat-trick in a "man of the match" performance against West United in May.

Galway manager Shane Keegan is hopeful that Eoin can prove important for the struggling side. "Eoin is a player who first and foremost offers you goals" the manager told the club's official website, noting that the team has struggled for goals.

"I always intended to come back and give the League of Ireland a real try and show people what I can do" Eoin added, feeling determined to make good on his opportunity. "My aim now is to nail down a spot in the team."

Eoin scored on just his third appearance for Galway United in a 3-2 win against Limerick.



Heather Payne: The 17-year-old from Ballinasloe made her international debut for the Irish Women's Team against Scotland in July

Teenager Makes National Team Debut

Heather Payne, in a native of Ballinasloe, has recently made her debut for the Republic of Ireland Women's National Team as a late substitute. The 17-year-old entered the game in the dying moments as the Irish side conceded a late goal to lose 1-0.

Heather is the daughter of Brendan and Grainne Payne and has attended Creagh National School and Ard Scoil

Mhuire. She formerly played with the Ballinasloe Town team before moving to Salthill Devon in Galway. Currently, Heather, who can play on the left or right wing, plays for Peamount United in Dublin. The team plays in the Women's National League.

Heather has a promising future ahead of her, with a career in England or a soccer scholarship in the US on the horizon.

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



www.larryreynoldswkend.com

Féile Cheoil
Larry Reynolds
Ballinasloe
Fri 8th - Sun 10th Sept '17

Irish Music, Heritage & Culture Festival

Friday
8th September **Concert in Ballinasloe Town Hall at 8.00pm**
The Kane Sisters with John Blake
Athlone Acapala Choir • Plearáca

Tickets €15 - Available online - www.larryreynoldswkend.com or Tel: 090 9643939

Tunes at the Country Market Town Hall 9.00am - 1.00pm
Photography Exhibition Ballinasloe Business & Families - Then & Now

Saturday
9th September **Music Workshops**
Fiddle - Liz Kane, Accordion - Daithí Gormley,
Flute - Padraig Keane, Guitar - John Blake, Banjo - Colm Naughton

On-Street Craft Exhibitions Blacksmith, Basket Weaving,
Tapestry Weaving, Patchworking, Wood Turning and More...

Photography Exhibition: Ballinasloe Business & Families - Then & Now

Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds Lecture Series
in Convent Gallery, Ballinasloe Library 2pm

Historical Walking Tour of Ballinasloe from 3pm (pre-book 087 9046140)

Junior Session in The Dunlo Tavern 4pm
Irish Music Pub Trail from 5.00pm

Sunday
10th September **LARRY REYNOLDS ALL-IRELAND
OPEN U-18 FIDDLE COMPETITION**
Prize Fund €200 and Perpetual Cup for 1st Place
Scoil an Chroí Naofa, Society Street at 12.00pm - Registration from 10.30am

Céilí with The Glenside Céilí Band Gullane's Hotel 3 - 6pm €10

Junior Session in The Dunlo Tavern at 4pm
Irish Music Pub Trail from 5pm

Farewell Concert by "Colcannon"
visiting Irish group from Colorado in The Pillar House at 7pm

COMHALTAS Ballinasloe Credit Union An tAonán Náisiúnta, Cluicheirí agus Gairneoirí
Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht **Supermac's**

info@larryreynoldswkend.com
Tel: 087 9046140



All the children and everybody involved with the Kellogg's Cúl Camp.



Galway senior hurler Joseph Cooney and the Bob O'Keeffe Cup.



Camp-goers enjoying the Carey's Horse Riding Summer Camp at the Creagh Equestrian Centre.



Children at the Cuckoo Hill Boot Camp.



The Leinster Senior Hurling Cup being shown to the children of the camp.



Children in the GAA Cúl Camp celebrating with the Leinster Cup, along with Joseph Cooney, Galway hurler from Sarsfields.



Front, right to left: Ciaran O'Reilly, Lorraine Fahey, Cormac Frehill, Jack McGannell, Tom Colleran, Patrick Byrne, Olivia Walsh (Girls' Junior Convener).
Back, right to left: Philip Murphy (Golfer), Ailish Kerr, Niamh Kerr, Oisín Kindregan, Ann-Marie Moran (Committee), Aidan Dooley (Boys' Junior Convener).



Kayaks on the River Suck during the Kayactivity Summer Camp.



July's Tennis Camp getting into full swing.



Ballinasloe children celebrating their first day at the Coral Leisure Center Summer Camp in the playground.



Saoirse, Michelle and Keala after being visited by the Tooth Fairy at Cuckoo Hill Bootcamp.

NOW TAKING APPOINTMENTS FOR HD BROW TREATMENTS

Call 090 9646893

or find us on:



@ The Front Room



@ thefrontroomsal



@ thefrontroom_ballinasloe



The Front Room

Waxing & Beauty Rooms



28,000 Cows

335 Galway Farmers

1 Arrabawn

Made in Galway!



Arrabawn
**MADE IN
GALWAY**

WWW.ARRABAWNDAIRIES.IE

ATHLETICS CLUB JUNIORS QUALIFY FOR ALL-IRELAND RELAYS

The All-Ireland Juvenile Inter Club Relays recently took place in Athlone Institute of Technology Sports Arena where Ballinasloe and District Athletics Club had three relay teams competing.

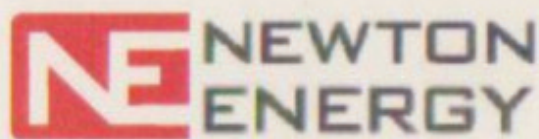
The U12 Girls team of Ashling Arru, Leah Clarke, Aoibheann Fitzpatrick, Caoimhe Kilkenny and Clodagh Killeen competed in the 4x 100m relay. Club coach, Anne Burke stated "The girls all ran great but did not make the final of the competition on this occasion."

The U14 girl's squad of Ciara Daly, Hannah Farrell, Hannah Kelly, Mya Kelly, Roisin Grealy and Caoimhe Conway made their debut All-

Ireland performance and just missed out on podium place.

The third team competing for the Club was the U14 Boys team of Shane Fitzpatrick, Conor Harley, Mark Kilkenny, Cailum Lionel and Derrick Wohla. The boys took first place in their heat, running a time of 53.74 to qualify for the final. Anne stated "This was a brilliant performance by the boys as it was the first time for Cailum and Derrick, new members of the Club, to compete at this high level."

For more information contact Anne on 087 638 5575 or visit the Facebook page: Ballinasloe Athletic Club for updates.



**Newton Fuel Oil
Ballinasloe**

Your local fuel & oil supplier

**Call George
087 906 3431**



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

FIT TOWN – WRAPS UP FOR YEAR

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

After another successful six weeks, the Fit Town project concluded with the Fit Town Celebration Day which took place recently at the Ballinasloe GAA Club Grounds.

The events included Ballinasloe Cycling Club's Couch to 50k Cycle, Ballinasloe Road Runners Couch to 5k Run and a 5k Community Walk.

Refreshments were sponsored by SuperValu, Europe Direct, Ballinasloe Public Library, Beechlaw Organics and other local food business outlets, which were served in the clubhouse after the events.

Afterwards, local sports clubs had the opportunity to showcase their clubs and boost membership through the Sports Exposition held in the hall of the club. Plenty of outdoor activities was also provided for the youngsters facilitated by Tommie Costello at Cuckoo Hill, Lily Kelly with Art

Action and Face painting catered by members of the Ballinasloe Musical Society.

Fit Town's Chairperson, Marion Ruane, stated "It was a fantastic day out for all that attended. It is hoped that with the effort put in this year by all that we will be winning the competition this year for a second year running" and added "It's a credit to all those who both sponsored their time and services to help support a good initiative."

The Team have recently made a joint submission with Galway Sports Partnership for Sports Capital funding to install outdoor training equipment at Dunlo Recreational Track. Also, they are working with Galway County Council in relation to progressing an audit and feasibility study which will further progress the development of the Ballinasloe trails initiative. Marion commented "If successful, this will provide us with an opportunity to re-invest our winnings from last year's project to benefit the entire community."

The Fit Town competition is an initiative of Galway Sports Partnership to encourage more participation in physical activity within local communities. Ballinasloe won the competition under the Category of Urban Areas with a population of over 6,000 and aims to retain their title for a second year running. The programme, led by Marion and the Fit Town Team, include former international Rugby player Noel Mannion, Lyn Donnelly Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre Manager and four students representing the post primary schools, namely Eoin Costello, Kevin Mulry, Heather Bruen and Aoife Dudgeon. Marion noted "The overriding goal of the project is to get more people in our community active those that may need to be supported in taking that first step."

For further information or to get in touch, visit www.ballinasloe.ie/exploringballinasloe or contact Marion on 087 2215 406.



Caption Anita Kileen (and husband Cormac) after completing her 5k run as part of the Fit Town Couch to 5k programme.



John Jordan promoting water safety programmes as part of the Fit Town 2017.



Tommie Costello with some of the Team @ Cuckoo Hill at this years Fit Town celebration day.

**OPEN 6 DAYS
A WEEK**
MON. - SAT.
9.00 am - 6.00 pm

FIRST FOR VALUE

HOGARTY'S

FLOORING AND DIY

CARPETS

LAMINATES

TIMBER

VINYLS

RUGS

WALLPAPER

PAINTS

LIGHTING

FREE

9" EXTERIOR ROLLER & TRAY SET

When you buy any two 10Ltrs. Fleetwood Weather Clad

White & Magnolia 11ltr. **€40.00** each

Colours **€50.00** each

6ltr. Fleetwood Timber Guard Fence Paint

20% EXTRA FREE

€7.99 each

10ltr. Fleetwood Supercover Brilliant White

€18.00 each

FREE HOME SURVEY/QUOTATION - COMMERCIAL AND DOMESTIC FLOORING CONTRACTORS - PROFESSIONAL FITTING SERVICE ON ALL FLOORING

OLD ATHLONE ROAD, BIRCHGROVE, BALLINASLOE.

W: www.hogartyflooringanddiy.com T: 090 96 43109

GELS ANNUAL CHARITY CYCLE

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH



The Fifth Annual Galway East Life Support (GELS) Charity Cycle recently took place from the Birchgrove Bar with a route of 116km taking the cyclists to Pieta House West in Tuam and back.

Seamus McCarthy, GELS Secretary, stated, "This year's cycle was the best yet. Seeing two cyclists from Clare who have never missed a GELS cycle and have already pencilled in next year to their diary is the greatest compliment the GELS Annual Cycle could get" he added. "With support from both the Ballinasloe and Tuam Gardaí and the Civil Defence along with the Marshals the trip was enjoyed by all and bar a brief shower the weather worked in our favour. Thanks must also go to PJ O'Connor and all at the Birchgrove for their continued support as well as Tesco, Dolans Creagh, SuperValu and Euro2 for donations and discounts."

Water stops in Menlough were sponsored by Tony Jordan of Spar and in Mountbellew by Fidelma Carty of The Hawthorn. In Tuam, the staff and volunteers of Pieta House welcomed the 50 cyclists and entourage with refreshments. Seamus said "This was a wonderful opportunity for the cyclists and support team to see first-hand the building where so much life-saving work continues to be done and to discuss the work of both Pieta and GELS."

The shorter 21km family cycle to Connaughton's Bar and back saw all participants presented with gingerbread bunnies sponsored by Walter and Martina Reynolds of the Bread Basket as well as medals to commemorate their achievement

On return to the Birchgrove Bar, there were more refreshments as they watched the Galway - Roscommon match on TV. Seamus commented "The vibe was phenomenal, everyone seemed delighted with how the day went."



Arthur Carr and Eimear Daly



Portumna Cycling Club



Michael and Noel Whelan of Whelan Car Sales Mountbellew and Portlaoise and Arthur Carr Galway East Life Support - GELS

HUGE PRIZE FOR GELS CHARITY GOLF SCRAMBLE

GELS will soon host a Three Ball Golf Scramble on Saturday and Sunday 9th and 10th September in the Ballinasloe Golf Club. There will be a Golf Simulator running two competitions as well as a featured prize of a SsangYong Tivoli Jeep for a Hole-In-One on the eight green.

The Tivoli SUV is valued at €26,995 and is sponsored by Whelan Car Sales Portlaoise, Mountbellew and SsangYong Ireland. The car will be on display at the Mountbellew Vintage Show on Sunday 30th July, the Tullamore Show on Sunday 13th August and again at the Ballinasloe Golf Club on the weekend of the Scramble.

GELS Chairperson Arthur Carr stated "We are delighted with the support received from Whelan Car Sales and SsangYong Ireland. This is the first time a car has been up for a hole in one prize at the Ballinasloe Club during their 123-year history." He added "Pat McDonagh of SuperMacs

has kindly sponsored the Galway Bay FM Bay Roadcaster on Saturday 9th and the golf simulator for Saturday has been sponsored by Val Collieran of Utah and Sean Hogarty Flooring & DIY so local support has been huge too. We are looking forward to a great weekend, where everyone has not only some great golf but also an opportunity to learn more about Galway East Life Support and suicide prevention."

Entry costs €60 per team, for further information G.E.L.S. can be contacted on 085 123 7878, on Facebook - Galway East Life Support or in the office in Cullen's Yard which is open Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday 10:00 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.

always
fresh
never frozen

100% PRIME IRISH BEEF & IRISH CHICKEN BREAST

Supermac's

FRESH RANGE



CHICKEN BREAST SANDWICH

5oz BEEF BURGER

WHOLEMEAL GRILLED CHICKEN SANDWICH - 350 Kcal* -

*Calorie count based on sauce of your choice.

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

2x ICE CREAM SWIRLYS ONLY €3.00



Supermac's

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.

BRONCOS FLY THE BANNER FOR BALLINASLOE RFC

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH



The Connacht Rugby Summer Camps recently took place in Ballinasloe Rugby Club with many special guest appearances from the Connacht Rugby squad.

Connacht senior players Bundee Aki, Niyi Adeolokun, Tom Farrell and James Cannon all made an appearance in the Ballinasloe Camp to greet their young fans and sign rugby jerseys. Young Ballinasloe Broncos player, Fionn Hickey, son of Wendy and Mike Hickey, created a school project based on his sporting hero Bundee Aki, New Zealand international, which he presented to during the camp. Bundee stated "To see a young fella come over here to do a booklet and looking at you as one of his heroes is something special. You know, I'm not from Ireland, so, for him to make me out as a hero is pretty cool and I certainly like the stuff he put in there. When he grows up, I hope he plays rugby and sees great success."

Connacht Rugby recently released a video of Fionn and Bundee at the camp which, since being posted, has received over 10,000 views on Facebook which has created significant coverage of the club.

Over 58 boys and girls attended the week-long camp who experienced the introduction to Rugby and learned skills alongside some of Connacht's top players. Head coach for the Mini Broncos, David McKeigue stated "The kids really enjoyed it as all the activities

were non-competitive and everyone got a touch of the ball" and said "All the Connacht players got a great reception at our camp also."

Club PRO, Declan Murphy noted "They all become more aware of the importance of physical fitness and will learn to develop the basic rugby skills of passing, tackling, evasion and kicking and, most important of all, have a lot of fun to boot" pointing out "they also learned more about rugby values such as team work, commitment and integrity."

Every child that attends will receive a Connacht Rugby Summer Camp Pack that includes an official Summer Camp jersey, a Connacht Rugby rucksack, a rugby ball, and one free junior ticket to a selected Connacht Rugby match next season.

"A huge thanks to Wendy from Connacht Rugby and her team of coaches, Der, Will, Mark, Owen and Josh and our own Co-ordinator, Dave McKeigue, for their enthusiasm and commitment during the week to ensure the kids were kept entertained with a huge variety of fun games to help develop their skills," concluded Declan...

The Broncos Rugby season will resume in early September and will run until September. For more information follow the Facebook page www.facebook.com/BALLINASLOERUGBYCLUB for up-coming events, training start dates and match schedules.



Connacht players Bundee Aki, Tom Farrell, Niyi Adeolokun and James Cannon signing jerseys

The Ballinasloe Mini Broncos

GEAROID GERAGHTY & COMPANY SOLICITORS



www.gearoidgeraghty.ie

PERSONAL INJURY, CONVEYANCING,
CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LITIGATION, WILLS, PROBATE,
COMPANY, FAMILY LAW, LEGAL AID

Gearoid C. Geraghty, BA, 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

SEALE BROTHERS SPORTING ON THE COUNTY LINE



Gerry Seale, Secretary of Ballinasloe GAA and Paddy Seale, Chairperson of Padraig Pearses GAA.

Brothers, Paddy and Gerry Seale, reflected a lifetime of GAA in rival neighbouring clubs, Padraig Pearses GAA (Pearses) and Ballinasloe GAA and how they got involved in both organisations, despite having being born and reared in Brackernagh.

Paddy, who is the Chairperson for Pearses, has been involved in GAA from a young age and has been active as an officer in the club since 1984 after moving to South Roscommon with his wife in 1977.

Gerry, Secretary for Ballinasloe, has also involved in GAA all his life and began his coaching career as a player at the age of 15 and has held many officer positions within the Club.

Paddy admitted that his biggest achievement within the Club was the development it has experienced over the years. He stated "It was only founded in 1962 and got their first pitch in 1977. Now we have two full size pitches, a Clubhouse and a bar. Along with this privilege, winning the centenary Roscommon Senior Hurling Final in 1984 was fantastic, I'll never forget it."

For Gerry, who was involved with U16 football team winning the county final stated "The enjoyment you get and friends

you make are much greater than winning titles. It's all concentrated on winning and not enjoying the game anymore."

Paddy began the transition from player to club officer in 1979 when he was asked to help with the pitch redevelopment, the club housebuild and a volunteer for the bar group where he began as a fundraiser co-ordinator and began taking positions from then on. He noted "Our success has paid off as we now have 35 teams from under-age to adult, including girls' sides that are out training every week. Every Wednesday night for training, there is no space for parking which shows how many people are involved" and added "Everyone feels like they have a place with the club."

Gerry began his transition at 15 for the U16 Hurling team in 1972 when he started coaching. "I have a passion for coaching. I feel the club has such a positive impact on the youths of the Town. If they're with us, they're keeping healthy and more importantly staying out of trouble."

On the rivalry between the clubs, Paddy mentioned "The only clash between the two clubs is in friendly challenges. There is a good relationship between the two clubs and we often swap jerseys. Gerry noted "The craic and slugging between Galway and Roscommon, has made it all very fun. Creates a big buzz in the town" and said "I always make the joke that we had to send my brother across the border to sort that Roscommon crowd out."

BALLINASLOE GARDEN CENTRE

DEERPARK, BALLINASLOE. PH: 090 9643787. MOB: 0860673167. PROP: BARRY WARD

YOUR LOCAL BOARD BIA AWARD WINNING GARDEN CENTRE & SUPPLIERS OF QUALITY IRISH PRODUCTS

Great Value in Summer Bedding Plants

Locally Grown Vegetables:

2 packs for €5 or €2.99 each

Non Stop Begonias / Geranium

€2.99 each or 4 for €10

Chicken Pellets 5 kg €12.99

Selection of Hardy Shrubs €3 for €10

Herbaceous Plants 5 pots for €25
(excellent value & long lasting)

Alpine Plants 5 pots for €10

3 large Ornamental Trees €100
(were €39.99 each)

Trays of Irish Grown summer bedding

3 for €10 or €3.99 each

Large selection of Patio plants

5 for €10 or €2.50 each

Tippland Compost 75L 2 for €10

Bord na Mona Compost 75L 2 for €12

Mini Bark 3 for €20 or €7.99 each

LARGE SELECTION OF
HEDGING, ORNAMENTAL
TREES, PLANTS AND
GARDENING SUNDRIES

OPEN
7 DAYS

MON-SAT 9-6
SUN 12-6



We would like to thank our customers & friends for your continued support



Paddy discussed the pressure the game has on players and that after the leaving cert and college, it's harder to get players to return to the club. He stated that finding volunteers is also a big issue. And Gerry says there has also been a decrease in volunteers and also a drop from squad numbers. "Ballinasloe lacks numbers as we do not have a rural area and the population of the town centre itself is dropping. Pearses would have a larger catchment area to work with," said Gerry.

He said the biggest challenge is retaining players aged between 13-18. "The whole country is having this problem in GAA" he added.

Paddy is optimistic that Pearses will continue to thrive if they have more help from volunteers. He said, "We also did a five-year plan recently and achieved most of it, bar on the field so the only way is up from here," he added, "The goal is to win senior football title. We've competed in a senior football final and hurling twice in last five years."

Both Paddy and Gerry emphasised that anyone wishing to join the clubs or offer their services would be most welcome.

For more information about Padraig Pearse's GAA, Contact PRO, Tara Flynn on 087 7746349. To get in touch with Ballinasloe GAA contact PRO, Donal Fenton on 087 7633754.

ROSWAY WALKING CLUB'S 10TH ANNIVERSARY



BY KEN KELLY

In the space of ten years members of the Rosway Walking Club have trekked and climbed in parts of Russia, South America, Spain, Austria and South Africa as well as different mountain ranges around Ireland.

The group was founded in October 2006 by Cathal Cregg whose aspiration was to create a walking club to cater for the East Galway and South Roscommon area. About thirty-five enthusiasts attended the initial meeting in Padraig Pearses' Clubhouse and now there are nearly one hundred members. The name Rosway was chosen-taking the first three letters from Roscommon and the final three letters from Galway. This ensured that members from both counties were happy.

Recently celebrating their 10th anniversary in Cuckoo Hill - a day filled with fun and games-the club reviewed

the last decade where the sheer energy, eagerness and commitment of its members had made Rosway one of the most successful and progressive organisations in the area. And in keeping with their policy of catering for all its members, irrespective of age and level of fitness, they offer local and modified walks as well as more challenging adventures.

As well as touring many mountain ranges throughout Ireland, the club usually have two weekends away during the year. As well as visiting Austria and Lanzarote, a number of members have conquered the highest peaks in the British Isles while the more energetic have also trekked and climbed far-flung places such as Kilimanjaro, Camino Santiago de Compostela, The Inca Trail, Dolomites and Mount Elbus to name but a few.

Anybody wishing to join the club can do so when membership is open during the month of October. Further details by contacting 086 2250793.

Some of those attending the celebrations at Cuckoo Hill



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

SENATOR MAURA HOPKINS



CONTACT MAURA:

☎ 086 856 4206

@maura.hopkins@oir.ie

f @maurahopkinsfg

📞 @hopkins_maura

FINE GAEL

VINTAGE CLUB FUNDRAISE FOR ST. TERESA'S WARD



BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

The Ballinasloe Vintage and District Club recently embarked on a charitable Vintage Tractor Run with over 30 vehicles, setting off from Gullane's Hotel with the aim of raising funds for St. Teresa's Children's Ward in Portiuncula Hospital.

The Vintage enthusiasts covered over 30 miles and visited the villages of Aughrim, Kilconnell, Fohenagh and Ahascragh along the scenic route on the outskirts of Ballinasloe.

The fundraising event gathered a total amount of €2,386.07 which was presented to the staff of St. Teresa's Ward. The money was primarily raised through sponsorship cards, contributions by the drivers and a raffle which local businesses sponsoring prizes.

The Club's youngest members, Alan McDevitt and Conor Donnellan, coined the idea for the fundraising event. Club PRO, Shane Burns, stated "The two young men and other members put in a huge effort along with local enthusiasts to make the event such a success. Along with the fun on the day we also managed to raise a substantial amount for a good cause."

Shane noted "We as a club would like to sincerely thank all those who helped in any small way to make the day happen, especially the vintage enthusiasts who travelled from near and far to support our event, our sponsors, the local Gardaí and our marshals on the day. A special word of thanks to Thomas & Caroline Gullane and their staff for providing their

premises as our base for the event and also to the volunteers at Fohenagh, Killure, Kilgerril and the Community group who at short notice provided a welcome pitstop along the way at their fabulous facilities in Fohenagh."

Membership for the club is €25 and there is a discounted rate of €15 for minors "Our club holds regular meetings in Gullane's Hotel and people who have an interest in all things vintage should come along," said Shane.

Regular updates are posted on the Ballinasloe Vintage and District club Facebook page and potential members can contact Michael Glynn on 087 628 3954.



Pictured left to right are: Mike Glynn (Ballinasloe Vintage Club), Alan McDevitt (Ballinasloe Vintage Club), Mary Brooks (Staff Nurse), Geraldine Cosgrove (Staff Nurse), Aisling O'Shaughnessy (CMN 1) and Conor Donelan (Ballinasloe Vintage Club)



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**





The transition to Autumn sees the beginning of the second term for the Community Games programme. Ballinasloe is being represented on several fronts for the Aldi Community Games National Finals in Dublin.

Everybody involved with Ballinasloe Community Games hopes to build on the success of the Spring National Community Games' Finals, where local competitors performed extremely well. Ruth Dolan won a gold medal in the under-14 backstroke competition while the Boys' Spikeball team won silver and the Girls' Spikeball team won bronze. Excellent performances were also put in by Ava McKeon, Sarah Dolan, Sheenagh Hanrahan, Evan McKeon and Cian McKeon.

The Aldi Community Games National Finals in August are celebrating the 50th anniversary of Community Games and will be held at the National Sports Centre in Abbotstown from the 18th to the 20th of August. Three relay teams from Ballinasloe have qualified for these finals.

James Burke, Tom Fitzpatrick, Joe Gibbons, Rowan Harley and McGearld Woha will be competing in the under-16 boys' relay. Tom Fitzpatrick also qualified from Galway to compete in the under-16 100 metre spring. Shane Fitzpatrick, Conor Harley, Cailum Lionel, Adam McGreal, Charlie Naughton and Derick Woha will represent the town in the under-14 boys' relay.



Left to right U16 Boys
Rowan Harley, James Burke, Tom Fitzpatrick and Joe Gibbons winning gold in the County Galways qualifying for the All Ireland's in August.



Emma McGreal, Siobhan Fitzpatrick, Kayla McKeon, Clodagh Killeen and Lucia Lionel; the under-12 girls' relay team to compete in the All-Ireland.



Adam McGreal, Shane Fitzpatrick, Conor Harley, Charlie Naughton and Cailum Lionel; the under-14 boys' relay team to compete in the All-Ireland.

Leah Clarke, Aoibheann Fitzpatrick, Clodagh Killeen, Lucia Lionel, Emma McGreal and Kayla McKeon will be competing in the under-12 girls' relay. Clodagh Killeen has also qualified for the national ball-throw event, having won gold for the event in Galway.

Many of the competitors are no strangers to representing the town at a national level and have been greatly successful over the last few years.

Ballinasloe's Community Games has produced many successful sportspeople. There is a strong foundation in healthy sporting activity in the town and everybody involved hopes to keep it that way. Community Games is made up of 48 events and can cater to all sporting interests, including gymnastics, singing, debating, swimming and athletics. If you are looking to get involved, contact Carmel Grealey at carmelgrealeycg@gmail.com.

There is also an appeal for people who may be interested in volunteering with the games, such as helping train a youth team. If you are interested, please contact Carmel on the above email. More information on the Community Games Finals can be found on <http://www.communitygames.ie/>

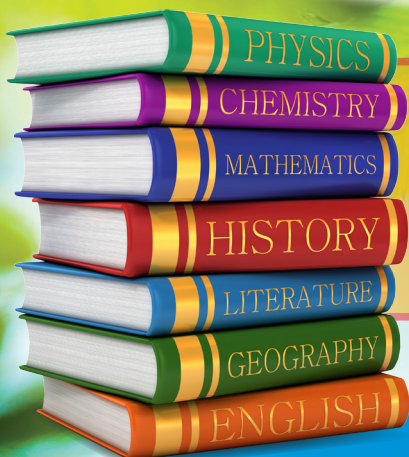
STATIONERY

SCHOOL BOOKS

SALMONS

DEPARTMENT STORE

GIFTS



*See our newly revamped website
with all details on what goods
and services we provide.*

MAIN STREET, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY.

Tel: 090 9642120 Email: info@salmonstore.ie

www.salmonstore.ie



Find us on:
facebook®

BISHOP PATRICK DUGGAN

BY BARRY LALLY

*Duggan, the sainted, whose keen eyes alert
Kept watch o'er his flock in historic Clonfert.*

Ballinasloe has a Duggan Avenue and a Duggan Park. What do we know of the man who was Bishop of Clonfert from 1872 to 1896 and gave his name to those places?

Patrick Duggan was born on 10th November 1813 in Cummer near Tuam. The eldest of four children, his father farmed 125 acres in the parish of Milltown. Brought up in the house of his maternal uncle Patrick Canavan, parish priest of Cummer, he entered St. Jarlath's College, Tuam, in 1829 before moving on to Maynooth in 1833 where he was ordained in 1841.

He served as curate to his uncle before the latter became mentally incapacitated in 1847, thereafter as administrator and eventually as parish priest following Canavan's death in 1856. Duggan as a young cleric bore daily witness to the horrors of the Great Famine, an event that was to have a profound affect on his political thinking and steered him towards the radical wing of Irish nationalism.

Despite having no pastoral experience outside of the parish of Cummer, Duggan was nominated bishop to the adjacent Diocese of Clonfert in September 1871, and consecrated the following January in the convent chapel of the Sisters of Mercy, Loughrea. Undoubtedly, he owed his appointment to the recommendations of two former Maynooth classmates of his, John MacEvilly, Bishop of Galway, and Edward McCabe, Vicar General to the Archdiocese of Dublin.

Almost immediately on assuming office he became embroiled in the controversy surrounding a parliamentary by-election, which resulted in a court appearance on a criminal charge and his subsequent acquittal, an episode to be covered in detail in a later article.

One of the first acts of his episcopate was to establish a secondary day school for boys in Ballinasloe. Known as St. Michael's Seminary, it occupied two adjoining, three-storey houses (latterly identified as Earls's Flats) in Bridge Street. It continued to operate until St. Joseph's Diocesan College opened at The Pines in Creagh in 1901. The second year of his episcopate saw Duggan set up the Confraternity of the Holy Family in Ballinasloe, an association dedicated to promoting monthly reception of the Eucharist, it continued to flourish up to the 1960s. He was also instrumental in founding the Ballinasloe Total Abstinence Association in 1877. It had a chequered existence and was superseded by the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association early in the last century.

An innovation Duggan introduced to the diocese was the construction of curates' houses. His attempts, however, to build

a cathedral at Loughrea were frustrated by the Marquess of Clanricarde, a major landowner in the area.

His sympathies were entirely with the aims (and perhaps even the methods!) of the Land League. During the period of the infamous Woodford evictions, William O'Brien MP was on trial at Loughrea for attendance at a banned meeting. Duggan had O'Brien and his defence counsel Tim Healy stay with him at his residence in Bride Street. While they were at dinner one evening, Duggan received his copy of the papal rescript condemning the Plan of Campaign. His reaction to the document could be described as disdainful. Turning to his general factotum, he remarked: "Mike, kill another pig!"

Over several decades, Duggan was a regular contributor to a variety of journals and newspapers. An avid reader, his tastes in literature were unsophisticated, his favourite work of fiction being "The Count of Monte Cristo", a novel he re-read every year after its publication in 1846. Notwithstanding his fluency in Irish, he disapproved of efforts to revive the language which he somehow regarded as a cause of the misfortunes of the Irish people.



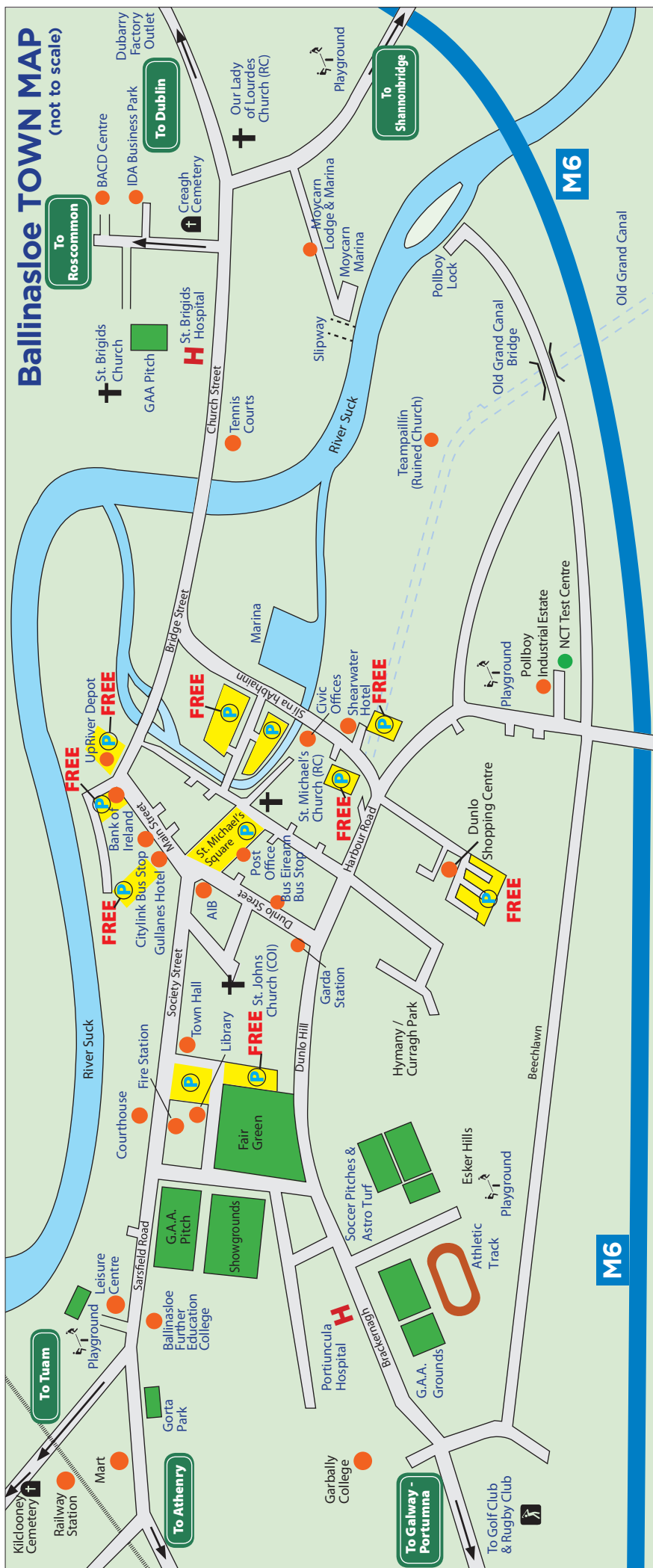
Though a teetotaler, he liked to entertain, while in private his lifestyle was frugal, a herring being usually the daintiest item on his lunch menu. He was fond of saying things that shocked people, a habit that could lead him to make such fatuous statements as: "Never fall out with the extreme men. They are extreme because they are extremely right!" Once, at a meeting of the Hierarchy, he denounced the danger to the faith of Ireland caused by the growing contributions of the great grazing interests to the ranks of the priesthood in the west: "St. Bernard once

observed that when the chalices were of wood, the priests were of gold. Now that our chalices are of gold, God forbid our priests should be of wood." "But, my dear lord," remarked one of his colleagues, "what would you do?" "I would put the priests – and perhaps ourselves – for twelve months on a diet of Indian meal stirabout!"

Invited by Michael Cusack and others to become patron of the planned Gaelic Athletic Association in 1884, Duggan declined due to illness, and suggested Thomas Croke, Archbishop of Cashel and Emly, in his place. The same year he requested the appointment of a coadjutor. Dr. John Healy, a Maynooth professor, was not his candidate of choice, and indeed was his polar opposite both in politics and in temperament. As a result, relations between the two ecclesiastics soon became strained.

In later life Duggan presented a rather dishevelled appearance with his straggling white hair and a cassock bedaubed with snuff. He lived in primitive if not squalid conditions attended by a bare-foot servant girl.

Bishop Duggan suffered a stroke while visiting a solicitor's office in Dublin on 13th August 1896, and died two days later at Jervis Street Hospital. In deference to his wishes, he was buried in Glasnevin Cemetery beside his lifelong friend Cardinal Edward McCabe.



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**