

An initiative of Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd.  
[www.ballinasloeenterprise.ie](http://www.ballinasloeenterprise.ie)

To get in touch with Ballinasloe Life online, visit us here:  
[www.facebook.com/BallinasloeLife](https://www.facebook.com/BallinasloeLife)

Find us on: **facebook**

# BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 7 Issue 4: Oct '17 - Nov '17

**FREE**

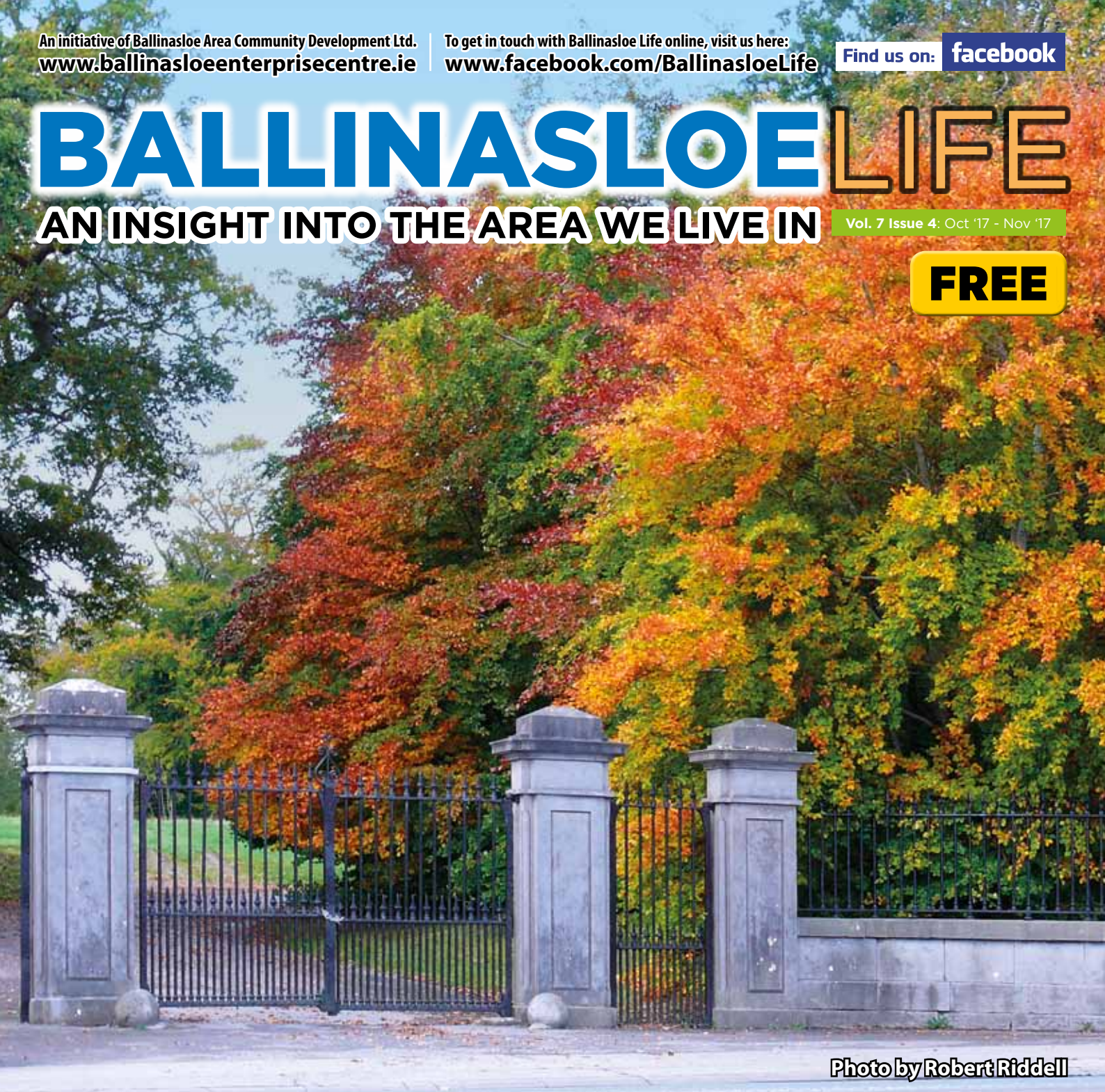


Photo by Robert Riddell

**HEATHER PAYNE**  
SOCCER INTERNATIONAL



**JOHN BOLAND - A DRAMATIST**  
FOR ALL SEASONS



**KIM CONNAUGHTON -**  
QUEEN OF THE FAIR



**Ballinasloe - Gateway To The West** [www.ballinasloe.ie](http://www.ballinasloe.ie)





# 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](http://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](mailto:info@gullaneshotel.com)



# BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 7 Issue 4: Oct '17 - Nov '17

## WHAT'S INSIDE

### Local News

4 MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BRIEFING

5 FASTEST BROADBAND SPEEDS

6 CITY AND COUNTY MERGER

### Business

7 EXCEL COURSE AT BEC

8 LICE CONTROL CLINIC

9 RETURNING A FULL TOWN COUNCIL

10 16 YEARS OF EXPANSION FOR ADGER

12 A DECADE OF MOLONEY BUILDING

13 OLD FORT RESTAURANT RE-OPENS

14 HOSPITAL WATCH

### Community

15 BALLINASLOE GRADUATE IN EUROPE

16 PORTIUNCULA'S EARLY DELIVERY

18 FRANKIE WALSH RETIRES

20 CREAGH MAN HEADS UP CLEAN TECH

21 ZOMBIE WALK RETURNS

22 BOTTLED OFF TO WISCONSIN

23 NEW SOROPTIMISTS PRESIDENT

27 OUT AND ABOUT

28 EVENTS GUIDE

30 AUGHRIM GROUP 10 YEARS OLD

32 CREAGH SAYS GOODBYE

33 GELS GOLF SCRAMBLE

34 WHERE ARE THEY NOW? PAUL O'ROURKE

35 PASSING OF OLIVIE KELLER

36 LATE BILLY FLANAGAN

37 JCI LOCAL AWARD

### Schools Rule

24 CHALKFACE CHRONICLES

### Culture

38 JOHN BOLAND

39 BIG MAGGIE RETURNS

40 SLEEPING BEAUTY PANTO

41 PAUL CARBERRY TO OPEN FAIR

42 TOWN HALL SOCIETY REVIEW

### Sport

43 NEW TRAINING HOURS FOR SWIMMING

44 A GOOD YEAR FOR FOOTBALLERS

45 HEATHER PAYNE'S SOCCER DEBUT

47 LADIES' SOCCER RECRUITING

48 COMMUNITY GAMES

49 NEW START FOR RUGBY

50 TOUR D'SHAMS CYCLING CLUB

51 SOCCER SEASON STARTS

52 EAST GALWAY HUNT PONY CLUB

53 TENNIS CLUB SCHEDULE

### Tourism and Heritage

54 IN POLLOK'S TIME

55 BALLINASLOE TOWN MAP



Follow us on Twitter  
@BallinasloeLife

ARTICLES AND PHOTOS WELCOME  
Deadline For Next Issue 8<sup>th</sup> Nov.

## CREDITS

Editor: Colm Croffy, Chief Reporter: Stephen Coleman, Reporter: Davide Tufano.  
Contributors: Ken Kelly, Barry Lally, Kevin Kavanagh, Celia Russell, Clarissa Bucher, Evelyn Donnellan 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.

## REAMHRÁ



Welcome to the Autumn Edition where, once the Fair Week is over, it appears that the witches' brooms appear only to be replaced in the shop windows in jig time by the reindeers and sled !!

Lots of commentary, some facts – plenty of opinions in this Edition and elsewhere about the local authorities merging – county and city, the return of some type of rateable Town Councils that would have budgetary powers– but no real clarity as to what may be happening next.

Can't help at wondering aloud if the old Town Council would have insisted on the hurlers' homecoming being held in the sacred space of the Square instead of unlocking the potential of the wonderful Fairgreen in our midst?

Getting at reserved functions of the Executive is really where the vacuum lies in local Government. We never had local Government – we have had (since the old Cork City Corporation was abolished and De Valera brought in a hybrid US system – where the Manager was king!) local administration . We have elections and we elect local representatives – in law they have three powers: elect the Mayor, approve the development plans and bye laws and strike the rate or approve the annual budget. EVERYTHING else is a reserved and sole function of the Manager. Whether you have nine tribal elders in a Town Council, 6 in Municipal District, 54 in Greater Galway Authority – is it really of any benefit to citizens if they can neither instruct, call to account officials, re design, implement decisions of their own making on behalf of the citizenry?

Strangely enough all the political classes are quiet on this type of reform.

The Boundary Commission it would appear will be making no changes to our Roscommon/Galway Constituency – so we are stuck with the national style canton for the next general election anyhow.

Whether it's Cromwell, Clancarty or the County Manager in charge, this community has to work with whomever is in control and progress as best we can our own fortunes.

Evidence of this progress come best from the external acclaim and as we go to print this community is in the final process of adjudication for the best Enterprising Town in Connacht – with the Bank of Ireland Enterprising Town National Awards. Fingers crossed.

Le Gach De Ghui,

COLM CROFFY, Editor.



As the leaves turn all kinds of colours, it is hard to believe the Summer is over and Ballinasloe's famous October Fair is here again.

Thankfully the Liam McCarthy cup is back in Galway after 29 years and hopefully will take up residence here for a while.

At times it feels like it is taking as many years to achieve progress through our development company but we continue with our endeavours.

As Cllr Aidan Donohue has alluded to we are working with Galway County Council in trying to make more use of the Fairgreen, which comfortably accommodated over 15,000 fanatical Galway supporters a few weeks ago. We are also working closely with the IDA in obtaining planning permission for a 10,000sq ft Advanced Technology Unit on their site in Creagh beside Surmodics and Aptar which will put us in a stronger position to attract more industry to the Town. This venture is being supported by Ballinasloe Credit Union.

Our biannual People of the Year Awards is being launched with a gala awards night scheduled for Thursday 9th November, make sure you get your nominations in by the closing date Thursday 14th October.

The Zombie walk is now in its third year and will take place on Saturday 28th and Sunday 29th October in Garbally Woods . We are having a meeting on Wednesday 4th October in Gullanes at 9pm and would welcome more help be it as a guide, actors in the Woods, makeup artists, stewards and assistance for props. This has turned out to be a fantastic Community event and we need all the help we can get.

These events and many more shorten the Winter for us all as we head into the long dark nights. You can keep informed on what's happening via Ballinasloe Life Magazine and on Ballinasloe.ie

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

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

For submission of articles, please email ballinasloelife@hotmail.com. Deadline 8th Nov.



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

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







# MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BRIEFING

BY -STEPHEN COLEMAN

The Ballinasloe Municipal District Council recently met for the first time since their summer break to discuss issues relating to the East Galway Landfill, the road along Dunlo Quay and different public works in the Ballinasloe Area.



The success of the Town's homecoming event for both Galway hurling squads on their All-Ireland titles prompted Chairman Cllr Donohue to consider the potential of the Fair Green for hosting other events such as open-air concerts and sporting events. "Ballinasloe has a great asset in the Fair Green" he remarked, "we should put some heads together and think about how we can utilise it more." The councillors had also remarked that they had received great feedback for the event.

Discussions of re-opening East Galway Landfill in Kilconnell have begun in the Council. It has been determined that while traffic on the haulage route is as feared, it does not have a substantial impact on the local national school due to the success of bus transport for students. The issue of the odour from the site, however, was also discussed. Over the last two and a half months, odour has been caused by two types of activity: normal operation, where waste is stripped and covered and the other is due to the cover being removed. The Landfill workers are actively minimising the odour caused and trying to control it. "It's impossible to remove the odour completely if we want to maintain the finished product of the landfill, but we're dealing with every issue as they arise" said



Gibson Bros Ltd are contracted with the re-opening of the East Galway Landfill

**Colin Ryder, Manager of the Landfill.**

There may be the introduction to a pedestrian crossing near Dunlo Quay Estate, along the L-4602. Although many were in favour, some councillors discussed the complications that may arise due to the proximity of the Dunlo Roundabout. A decision will be issued in the upcoming weeks.


The council also reflected on the current state of public works in the municipal district. With some works in progress, the Office of Public Works is still planning with engineers and design to confirm certain projects. Work on the East Bridge, in town, is still seeking funds and consults to proceed with design. It is hoped that plans for the district will be approved and funded over the coming weeks and months.

Ballinasloe's Culture Night received credit with the Council committing to supporting the local arts. There is currently an exhibition on in the Church Gallery in Ballinasloe Library, which is free.

The Municipal Council will meet again in mid-October to discuss issues flowing over from this meeting and any new issues that arise.

**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**



# FASTEST BROADBAND SPEEDS COMING TO TOWN

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

**Minister for Communications, Denis Naughten, recently announced that the town will be getting the fastest broadband speeds available anywhere in the world.**

In an announcement at the Ballinasloe Church Gallery, the Minister unveiled plans to bring a new state of the art broadband network to rural Galway, Roscommon, Leitrim and Donegal. He added that Ballinasloe's fibre network should be online within 12 months. The network speed, which will be up to 1,000 megabytes per second, is greater than Dublin, Limerick and Cork

**"Within the next 68 weeks we will see 77% of premises with access to high-speed broadband. We expect that to increase to nine out of 10 premises by 2020" the Minister explained.**

The network is a new commercial joint venture between Ireland's largest open-access fibre network provider – enet – and the energy utility SSE. Minister Naughten comments that the open access fibre network will be a powerful draw to attract international tech companies to Ireland. SSE Ireland's Manager Director, Stephen Wheeler, and the Chairperson of enet, David McCourt, joined Minister Naughten for the announcement.

**"For Ballinasloe to be included in this expansion is a welcome and huge boost for the area. It is something that we have campaigned strongly for over the last couple of years and will help grow our strong business community, allowing us to maximise our potential for job creation and inward investment" commented Lyn Donnelly, Manager of Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd, "it will also provide a much-needed broadband network and we are all looking forward to working together with enet-SSE on this exciting project."**

"With an investment in excess of €100m, which equates to a multi-



Eugene Murphy, TD.



David McCourt of enet, Minister Denis Naughten and SSE Ireland Managing Director Stephen Wheeler.

million euro investment each month during the network roll-out, the enet-SSE project delivery is expected to support 700 contractor jobs and local supply chain involvement in the West and North-West" commented Minister Naughten, "operated as a wholesale, open-access fibre network, it will be available to Ireland's retail broadband providers, giving consumers choice and keeping prices competitive."

**"About 300 farms a week are getting access to pure fibre broadband. That allows people potentially to look at 200 HD Netflix channels at the one time without any drop off in service" Minister Naughten added.**

Fianna Fáil TD for Roscommon-Galway, Eugene Murphy, has welcomed the announcement but notes that many rural parts of Roscommon and Galway will miss out on the broadband investment.

**"The creation of high speed fibre broadband hotspots in these towns is obviously most welcome. However, this service will not be available to the 542,000 homes and businesses in rural areas earmarked for the state's delayed National Broadband Plan rollout. Rural towns in many parts of East Galway will continue to wilt away in broadband limbo land" said Deputy Murphy.**

"Rural Ireland is suffering, and is unable to compete with the major cities and large towns. Broadband can be a lifeline for these communities" concluded Deputy Murphy.



## 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](mailto:info@eimearloughnane.com)**

*Practice areas include:*

- |                                    |  |                   |
|------------------------------------|--|-------------------|
| ■ Conveyancing                     | ■ Personal Injury Claims & Litigation* | ■ Employment Law  |
| ■ Probate, Wills & Estate Planning | ■ Family 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







# CITY AND COUNTY MERGER NOT OFF TABLE YET!

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

**Galway could be following the leads of Limerick, Tipperary and Waterford as the city and county councils consider amalgamating into one local authority.**

A recent report has recommended the merging of Galway City Council and Galway County Council, thus forming a "Greater Galway Authority". The Interim Report of the Expert Advisory Group on Local Government Arranges in Galway stated that the creation of this Galway-wide authority is "technically and administratively feasible".

**The expert group behind the report met on 10 occasions over five months, looking at issues such as cost and finance, customer service, organisational efficiency, staffing implications and a general overview of the issues associated with the creation of a Greater Galway Authority.**

The idea of the council-merger was first considered in January 2015, when the former Minister for Local Government, Alan Kelly, appointed a statutory committee to review local authority arrangements in Galway, with the potential goal of merging the councils, extending the boundary for Galway City or deciding to make no change.

**According to Ballinasloe's town councillor Aidan Donohue, the report is "very broad in terms of potential costs and savings" implying that some areas may find limited cost savings while others may find potential additional costs. The report group are focusing on the county-wide authority's potential for "significant opportunities" in economic and social development for the Galway region, concluding that a there is a need to "maximise the potential of the region to main, secure and grow its sustainable economic base into the future".**

Ballinasloe Councillor Dermot Connolly is against the merger, fearing that Galway's overall budget could further diminish if everything is "lumped together." He questions the level of change and upheaval necessary for a commitment that might lead to rural areas like Ballinasloe being left out. He also pointed out that, while the city is growing "peripheral areas have

separate needs." He also brought up the necessity of local services, which he believes "need to be delivered through local government."

**Earlier this year, Cork City and County Councils axed any plans to merge their two councils, instead considering a boundary extension for the City Council. The City Council had been fighting for a city boundary extension for decades, and hoped to see a significant boost to the city's population as the extension brings in Ballincollig, Blarney, Carrigtwohill, Little Island and the Airport into the city boundary.**

If the Greater Galway Authority is scrapped in favour of a city boundary extension, as considered in Cork and promoted by Galway's Mayor Flannery, the County Council will find a loss of revenue from local property tax and commercial rates. If considered, it is sure to be a much debated issue, especially in the Ballinasloe Municipal Area which is likely to suffer a loss of yearly revenue. Councillor Aidan Donohue is opposed to a boundary extension, fearing that "the city would just get stronger, while the county loses substantial rates."

**Mayor Flannery has been backed up by a number of officials on his stance towards a city boundary extension, although Cllr Michael Connolly pointed out that "all the money goes on capital projects in the centre and rural areas are neglected" and the city council is also opposed to it because it is afraid that "the county will tap into their revenue stream." It appears likely that both sides are cautious to concede any possible rates or compensation.**

Cllr Donohue, however, believes that the Greater Galway Authority, or a boundary extension, could be closer than we think. "The Local Elections next year, I feel, will feature a lot of this talk. It could be a key point for the candidates."

**For it to go ahead it would mark the third change to the Local Governance of the town in a little under eight years!**



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe  
Galway County Council



**MAIN STREET,  
BALLINASLOE**

**Phone:  
090 96 44514**

**FRIDAY MADNESS  
5 BUNS FOR €6.50**

**OCTOBER/ NOVEMBER SPECIAL OFFERS**

**Brown Seeded Tandoori  
Ciabatta €7.00**

**Large Porter Cake €6.00**

**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**



# EXCEL COURSE AT THE ENTERPRISE CENTRE



BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

**Martin Loughman of Spreadsheet Interaction will be hosting a course in Microsoft Excel in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre this Autumn.**

Martin is the son of two former teachers in Ballinasloe, Martin Sr. and Bridie. He grew up in town and attended Garbally College, later attending UCD to study Commerce. He worked for Pfizer for ten years. Martin has been working with Microsoft Excel since the early 90s, aiding him in his work with Pfizer due to his responsibilities with spreadsheet management. In 2015, Martin founded Spreadsheet Interaction Limited and one year later he was awarded a "Certified Excel Expert" certificate.

**"The Best of Excel" will be an evening class in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre, where Martin's company is based. It will run for ten weeks, starting on October 10. It takes place on Tuesday evenings from 7pm to 9pm.**

The programme is designed for Excel users who are looking for greater knowledge and skill in its features and functions. The course has a core approach of three aspects: formulism and functions, graphs and pivot tables. Martin believes these are very valuable skills for anybody working in an office. "Everybody who uses Excel for work can benefit from these lessons. Business owners, people looking to build their CV, anybody who does spreadsheets" he explained. "There are lots of little tricks to better use Excel and save time."

**Each class will focus on a topic, with the three core aspects being central to different evening's work. Martin described the class structure as "introduction, demonstration and exercise".**

There will also be a homework aspect to the course, where videos will be used and accessible to aid with problem-sets to solve in between classes. "There will be a load of handouts, of course" Martin added.

"People only really use a low percentage of what is available in Microsoft Excel" he explained, detailing how the course could aid people in their proficiency with the spreadsheet programme, "if they knew about more of the features, the work could be done far more easily and more quickly."

**Martin explains that he is still learning about different features in Excel, believing that nobody really knows 100% of the programme. He keeps up to date with different video tutorials and books to keep learning. In his office in the Enterprise Centre, he also takes commission for customised spreadsheets for different companies.**

"It's a superb facility for the town of Ballinasloe and for emerging businesses" he commented, now having been located in the centre for two years, "it's very healthy for the development of enterprise in the town." He credited much of the work to Lyn Donnelly, the manager for the centre.

**Martin's "The Best of Excel" class will start on October 10 and will continue every Tuesday for 10 weeks in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre training room. The programme will cost €90 and participants will receive an attendance certificate at completion. Attendees should bring a laptop with Microsoft Excel on it.**



Martin Loughman,  
the certified Excel Expert.

	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	H	I	J	K
1	S	P	R	E	A	D	S	H	E	E	T
2	I	N	T	E	R	A	C	T	I	O	N

For more information, you can contact Martin at (090) 962 1006 or visit [www.spreadsheeti.com](http://www.spreadsheeti.com).

**To book a place in the course, visit [www.bit.ly/XBsloe](http://www.bit.ly/XBsloe)**

## Ballinasloe People of the Year Awards 2017

**Nominations now open for 8 categories:**

1. Arts, Culture and Heritage Award
2. Sports and Recreation Volunteer Award
3. Sports and Recreation Team Award
4. Sports and Recreation Individual Award
5. Young Person's Award
6. Social, Community & Civic Special Recognition Award
7. Business Community Spirit Award
8. Hall of Fame Award (Lifetime Achievement Accolade)

**Closing date Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Nomination Forms & Full details available on [ballinasloe.ie](http://ballinasloe.ie) or BEC 090 964 6516**

**Awards ceremony 9<sup>th</sup> November with MC Darren Frehill**







Elaine Daly demonstrating her methods at the Ballinasloe Lice Control Clinic

Elaine Daly has opened The Lice Control Clinic at Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre. The Clinic will operate by appointment and offers services to remove head lice and nits, a problem which continues to cause stress to parents and those affected by the tiny parasites.

Elaine lives in Ballydangan, though she originates from Borrisokane.

She worked in financial services for a number of years before choosing to stay at home to raise her children. With her children at school-going age, she has experienced first-hand the severity of the problems associated with head lice. She decided to tackle the problem head-on.

Following a period of research, Elaine travelled to the US to be trained and certified in the "Shepherd Method" – a world recognised method of head lice removal using safe, non-toxic means of treatment. This method utilises a strand by strand technique, ensuring all hair has been examined and all evidence of lice removed. The Lice Control Clinic offer the following services: Individual Head Checks and Treatment, Pre-School and Primary School Head Checks and Home Visits.

Head lice are minute, six-legged, blood-sucking parasites. They do not jump or fly, but rather they move at amazing speed – as fast as nine inches a minute. They are a regular nuisance in schools and elsewhere.

"Getting lice happens, and there should be no stigma surrounding it" Elaine explained, "it affects people of all ages and walks of life." Lice are spread mainly by head to head contact. "Unless you have had the misfortune of dealing with head lice, it is very hard to appreciate the stress and strain involved in treating those affected" she added.

## TO AVOID HEAD LICE, CONSIDER THESE TIPS:

- Keep your hair tied up in a pony tail, braid or bun.
- Spray head daily with non-toxic mint based spritz.
- Make head checks part of your weekly routine.
- Be aware of signs of head lice and be extra vigilant when your child has contact with active cases of head lice.
- Be a friend, tell a friend – talking about head lice can help break the stigma associated with head lice as well as minimise its spread.
- Stay calm – As part of the Lice Control Clinic, you will be provided with a simple checklist of home cleaning procedures.
- Be prepared – don't let your guard down. No one is immune to head lice. If you have been in contact with an active case, you could be at risk.
- Seek professional help – if you are not sure about what you're looking for or how to deal with head lice, seek a professional's assistance.

Elaine plans on introducing The Lice Control Clinic to schools, pre-schools and medical practitioners by distribution of information packs and followed up by personal contact where possible.

The Clinic will take place at Unit 138, Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre, Creagh, Ballinasloe. Appointments can be arranged by calling Elaine on 087 655 8528 or by emailing her at [elaine@thelicecontrolclinic.com](mailto:elaine@thelicecontrolclinic.com)

For more information, visit [www.thelicecontrolclinic.com](http://www.thelicecontrolclinic.com)



Elaine Daly of the Lice Control Clinic

**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](http://www.wizardcomputers.ie)  
[kevin@wizardcomputers.ie](mailto:kevin@wizardcomputers.ie)

16 WILLOW PARK • DERRYMULLEN • BALLINASLOE • CO. GALWAY

**Ballinderry**  
Nursing Home

Kilconnell, Ballinasloe. T: 090 9686890  
[www.ballinderrynursinghome.com](http://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"*

# RETURNING A FULLY RESOURCED BALLINASLOE TOWN COUNCIL ?

BY EX TOWN MAYOR JOHNNY WALSH



**The campaign to re-establish Town Councils throughout the country certainly appears to be gathering momentum. However, the ultimate destination must be taken by members of the Oireachtas, which now includes the Oireachtas members in our constituency.**

Legislation to restore Town Councils in time for the 2019 local elections can be successfully steered through the Oireachtas. The Dáil and Seanad will be considering both the recently introduced Fianna Fáil and Labour Party Bills which will be introduced after the Dáil summer break. Both bills seek the re-establishment of the Town Councils with increased powers and responsibilities. There appears to be widespread acceptance at a national level that the decision to abolish was a disaster. Nobody in the political arena can take the high moral ground on this issue, as politicians, either independent or of a party, allowed it to happen.

**I wrote an article for Ballinasloe Life in February 2013, which outlined the negative implications which the loss of our Town Council would bring. Unfortunately, my predictions have proved true. The business rates increased and it is the intention of the County Council executive to merge the Town Rate with the higher County Rate. We should not forget that at the time of the collapse, the Town Rate stood at €52 (the third lowest rate in the country) and the County Rate stood at €67. The discretionary community fund, which the Town Council distributed to deserving local organisations and causes is no more.**

About Council Services, the personal contact with Town Council staff and officials is no more. The public must now deal with staff and officials unfamiliar to them over the phone, by email or by travelling to the County Hall in Galway City. Maintenance to green areas in our estates has been greatly reduced by the Council. Our local authority residents have faced unprecedented increases to their weekly rents because of the transferring people from the Town Council Differential Rent Scheme to the more expensive County Council Scheme. In addition, local authority residents are not receiving the necessary and comprehensive maintenance service from the County Council. The County Council simply does not have the time nor personnel to concentrate and provide a direct focus to us.

**In the absence of our Town Council, there is certainly a democratic deficit in our town. There appears to be a sense of political apathy and a local disconnect from the political process. The townspeople do not identify with or see any tangible relevance in the Ballinasloe Municipal District Committee, the body which effectively replaced our Town Council. It is**

**simply a subcommittee of the County Council with no real powers or functions. For important civic occasions in the town there is nobody to represent Ballinasloe at official functions that the townspeople can identify with.**


In December of 2014, I wrote an article for Ballinasloe Life outlining the projects which the former Town Council had approved prior to abolition. I outlined how these projects were financed by the Town Council Landfill Capital Accounts. Even recently, there has been much public discussion and speculation on this capital account. The facts are that on 1 January 2013, the Landfill Capital Account amounted at €20,054,040.12. Adding interest, the figure would increase to €22,657,897.23. The projected aftercare and remediation costs for the Landfill until the year 2035 amount to €15,313,662.32 which left a surplus balance of €7,345,234. The balance of €7.345 million has all been allocated by the former Town Councilors for many town centre projects. These include the development of the Old Sisters of Mercy Convent as a state of the art library and art exhibition, Towns Park Relief Road and Riverside Walk, Town Centre Enhancement Scheme and the Capital Grand Scheme which benefitted some 29 local projects throughout the town. The total cost of these projects is €9.93 million. Monies accrued from the towns paid parking were always intended to be re-invested in the town. Therefore, the cost of the Town Centre Enhancement Scheme was ring fenced and is due to be paid from the Landfill Capital Account initially and is due to be repaid to that account on an annual basis from the paid parking income. This cost comes to €2,584,766.

**It is incumbent on the Municipal District Councilors to ensure that on an annual basis, they scrutinise if the full projected costs for aftercare/ remediation and any associated capital works at the landfill site are spent. In any given year, any underspend should be redirected and spent on other deserving projects in the town.**

The case for the re-establishment of the Town Councils has been well made. For my own part, I have campaigned vigorously for the re-establishment through addressing the past three Labour Party annual conferences on this matter, including the most recent conference where I addressed at some length the 800 delegates. I have also raised this matter at every Labour Party Central Council Meeting for the past two years and ensured that the matter is now official party policy.

**Ultimately this is a matter to be decided in Dáil Éireann by our elected national politicians. I implore all townspeople to contact our local Oireachtas members on this vital issue for our town.**

## 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**



# 16 YEARS OF CONTINUAL EXPANSION FOR ADGER



A few of the ADGER staff attending recent meetings at ADGER's Ballinasloe Office

## ADGER Ireland provide an array of services to retailers and clients across Ireland and Europe.

The business is divided across foodservice equipment, refrigeration and air-conditioning, engineering products and spare parts for catering and bar equipment. The Managing Director, Adrian Donellan, is keen to ensure the company has a positive impact on the town.

**ADGER decided on the location of Ballinasloe during the 1990s, as the founder of the company Adrian Donellan, was a native of Creagh Road. "I wanted to set up my own company in order to provide quality and reliable sales, service and spare parts for various business sectors" Adrian explained, deciding to start with specialising in the food industry in the hospitality sector. He saw Ballinasloe as a central location in which they could serve the 32 counties of Ireland, as well as being able to find workers with the required skills.**

The business was originally started in 1998, but was only formally set up in 2001, when it was expanded. The venture became a great success, and ADGER grew twice as much as originally projected. The company continued to expand over the years, and began to include different sectors into their plan in order to satisfy the customers' needs, particularly in Ballinasloe, even better.

**One of Adrian's key focuses with ADGER is to provide a "one stop shop" for the various industries that their clients operate in. In this, they do not rely on outsourcing for some of the required skills and components, but rather provide these skills themselves. From their location in Ballinasloe, ADGER currently provides full**

**project design and management, installation and spare parts, maintenance, technical support and after sales services, as well as bespoke solutions for many infrastructure and facilities. "Our offices deal with customers from all across Ireland, and even Europe" Adrian added.**

What started as a small business with two to three employees has now turned into a leading supplier of gas and electric catering and related equipment, refrigerated units and temperature controlled storage for hospitality and retail sectors. At present, they employ 60 people, with approximately 20 hailing from Ballinasloe and the surrounding townlands. "Incredibly, 10 of our employees, including some of our longest serving members, are related or come from within the one family" Adrian added, "it really is fantastic to provide this level of employment to a family within the local area."

**The company is segmented in different teams that specialise in different areas in order to meet the demands of their clients perfectly, as their requirements vary. By operating in these teams, ADGER have been pursued by many more clients and ensured a future for the business. Because the business has been growing steadily for the last two decades, new positions, like Services and Installations Technicians are required. These positions span across a very broad range of disciplines in different sectors. The job of a Services and Installations Technician is a very difficult one, as they face a range of problems that they have to solve. "So many of the malfunctions that can occur aren't even considered by the product manufacturer, so our technicians have to get creative sometimes. There isn't any manual for some of these problems" Adrian commented.**

## The Click Credit Card.

Our lowest rate credit card.  
Now available on Kiosk in branch.

Minimum salary requirement €16,000.



Talk to Ruth Connelly for more information.  
Call 086 0143833 or email [ruth.t.connelly@aib.ie](mailto:ruth.t.connelly@aib.ie)

Lending criteria, terms and conditions apply. Credit facilities are subject to repayment capacity and financial status and are not available to persons under 18 years of age. Government stamp duty of €30 is charged annually per credit card account.  
Allied Irish Banks, p.l.c. is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.



Olivia Murphy, a native of Ballinasloe, is responsible for the day-to-day running of all of ADGER's Irish operations. She also assesses sales opportunities and deals with suppliers across the world, ensuring that they are providing the company with the best products to be presented to the clients. Sheila Monaghan, from Tipperary, is the Financial Controller. She ensures all accounting allocations are appropriately made and documented.

The central office for ADGER is the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre, although that wasn't always the case. As the company grew, bigger offices were required. Although they had thought about moving the offices from Ballinasloe completely, the company decided to stay in town here due to its advantageous location in Ireland and the amount of local employees. "Other locations, such as Dublin, have some obvious advantages, such as the better infrastructure and the larger client base in the area, the

disadvantages of the move outweighed the advantages. Really, looking back, the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre was a no-brainer in the end" Adrian commented.

The move to the Enterprise Centre went very smoothly, Adrian feels, thanks for the help of the manager, Lyn Donnelly. "Lyn helped us through a smooth transition of some of our staff from other locations, as well as being joined by new members. In less than a month, we had a comfortable space that was fully operational for an additional 15 members with even more room if needed" Adrian explained. He also praised the facilities such as the meeting rooms, training rooms and boardrooms.

"The BEC is perfect for any kind of business, small start-ups and bigger companies like ADGER alike. It provides all the services and facilities needed to run a business. It is not just the office space itself, but BEC is an ideal location also for Start-ups or young businesses that may also want to avail of some of the other services than Lyn and her team provide at BEC. With the assistance available from Lyn and all the other facilities at the BEC, this can become manageable quite easily for a young business in Ballinasloe" Adrian reflected.

Emigration in Ballinasloe has, however, impacted the town rather negatively. "The most critical part of expanding the business, the single most challenging part, is having the right people" Adrian explained, citing a lack of motivated and skilled people in Ballinasloe. He feels that the educated and the skilled tend to leave Ballinasloe in hopes of greater employment. Due to this fact, ADGER wants to show the people of Ballinasloe, that there are still opportunities that make it a place to live and work happily. "We're thinking of everybody benefitting in the long term" Adrian remarked.

ADGER also supports local organisations, such as sports clubs, events and shows, such as the Ballinasloe Horse Fair. "We try to get as many young people involved as possible. It gives employees a great sense of comradery and fun" Adrian explained. He commented positively on the sporting facilities in the town, which he feels contribute to the "great community spirit and general wellbeing of the people here".

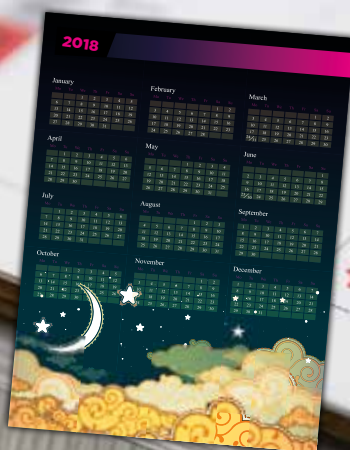
For more information on what ADGER Ireland provides or engages with, you can visit [www.adger.ie](http://www.adger.ie) or contact them at (090) 964 6674.



## Order your Christmas Cards & Calendars

We design and print a large range of personalised Christmas Cards as well as varied sizes of Annual Calendars upto A1 size

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



Poolboy Industrial Estate, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. T: 09096 42297 E: [diane@kpw.ie](mailto:diane@kpw.ie) W: [www.kpw.ie](http://www.kpw.ie)



# A DECADE OF MOLONEY BUILDING



BY STEPHEN  
COLEMAN

**With the recent trends of house-renovation in the Galway area, the people of Ballinasloe can look to the local firm, Moloney Builders. Run by three brothers, Derek, Ian and Eamonn, the business operates largely in the Galway and Ballinasloe area, offering a number of services.**

The brothers are all Ballinasloe born and bred, coming from a family of eight. "My father worked with AT Cross, and my mother worked in Portiuncula" Derek explained, having attended Garbally College himself.

**After leaving Garbally, Derek worked as a carpenter for Creaven & Downey. He has been self-employed since 1999, working as a carpentry contractor until 2006. He has spent the last 10 years operating under Moloney Builders, alongside Ian and Eamonn.**

The business sees a 50-50 split for jobs between Galway and Ballinasloe. "Over the bad years, we spent more time in Galway" Derek commented, "but lately we've been

doing a lot of work around Ballinasloe." He has commented on an increase in business over the last two years, with a definite lean towards home extensions and renovations. "People are realising the potential within their own homes with extensions and renovations. It probably also helps that they get to avoid the hassle of a complete move" he added.

**A number of years ago, Derek began putting emphasis on undergoing coursework related to insulation techniques and upgrading older houses to modern specs, such as retro-fitting. He underwent courses in the University of Limerick and in Germany. As of 2015, Derek is Quali-build certified, which is a government certificate related to his qualifications. The firm is also a member of the Home Improvement Renovation Scheme, focusing on improving older homes.**

"There has definitely been a recovery in recent years" Derek mentioned, referring to the housing crash after the recession. "In Ballinasloe, especially, we do a lot of renovating jobs. It was slow going in town for a couple of years, but to see the recovery is encouraging,

and it does keep us busy."

**There is no shortage to what Moloney Builders offer, of course. Carrying a wide-range of skills, the team are flexible in the services they offer. While recently focusing on retro-fitting, upgrading and modernising older building, they can also run a complete foundations to finished house building service. They use a range of specialist contractors for plumbing and electricity. Their renovation services in particular focus on upgrading insulation to make homes more comfortable, as well as more efficient and cheaper to run.**

The brothers can offer a non-obligatory quote upon request, and local references are available if desired. "We've never had any dissatisfied clients" Derek added, a matter of pride of his.

**If you're looking to contact Moloney Builders about a job, or to enquire for a quote, you can email [info@moloneybuilders.ie](mailto:info@moloneybuilders.ie) or contact 086 834 5584. The brothers promise to provide the best of their services to the town of Ballinasloe and hope that the current trends in home renovation continue.**



Eamonn, Ian and Derek Moloney



Eamonn and Derek cementing a garage floor.



Eamonn and Derek at a job on Sarsfield Road.

SEARCH  
ENGINE  
OPTIMISATION  
1 DAY / €50

FACEBOOK  
FOR  
BEGINNERS  
1 DAY / €50

MARKETING  
FOR YOUR  
BUSINESS  
1 DAY / €50

SIMPLE  
ACCOUNTS  
2 DAYS / €100

ONLINE  
REVENUE  
RETURNS  
1 DAY / €50

SET UP  
YOUR OWN  
WEBSITE  
2 DAYS / €100

INSTAGRAM  
& TWITTER  
1 DAY / €50

FACEBOOK  
FOR BUSINESS  
1 DAY / €50

CANVA FOR  
BUSINESS  
HALF DAY / €30

Óifig Fiontair Áitiúil  
Local Enterprise Office  
Gaillimh · Galway

## Autumn 2017 TRAINING COURSES

BOOK ONLINE

TODAY!

[www.localenterprise.ie/Galway](http://www.localenterprise.ie/Galway)  
or call 091 509090

Training takes place  
in the training room of  
**CITY COUNCIL,  
COLLEGE ROAD,  
GALWAY.**  
9:30-16:30

European Union  
European Regional  
Development Fund

# OLD FORT RESTAURANT RE-OPENS

BY STEPHEN  
COLEMAN



The historic Old Fort restaurant in Shannonbridge has recently reopened under new management, after being closed for a number of months.

Keith Tunnah and his partner Kash have leased the restaurant. Keith comes from Dublin, while Kash originates from Mauritius, having come to Ireland in 2007. Kash worked as the front of house in a fine dining restaurant in Longford for nine years, while Keith has worked in Social Care. The two are self-proclaimed 'foodies', holding a wide knowledge of food, wine and different cooking techniques. Kash, the head-cook at the restaurant, used to review wine for the "Longford Leader." They met four years ago, and recently decided to start their own business: running a restaurant.



Keith and Kash, the new owners of the Old Fort Restaurant, Shannonbridge



The interior of one of the dining rooms in the Old Fort Restaurant

The two originally looked for a restaurant or café in the Longford area, but found a number of problems. There were issues with being unhappy with buildings and dealing with unhelpful owners. They continued to search for properties, and found the Old Fort in Shannonbridge. Initially concerned about the size of the restaurant, fearing it was too big for them, they focused on other areas. One day, the two were in Shannonbridge to meet somebody and decided to look at the closed restaurant, seeing huge amounts of people asking questions about the building. They contacted the owner and got to look around inside. "We immediately felt at home, we felt comfortable," described Kash. "We decided that

it was for us, so we got the lease sorted and we had just three weeks to open" Kash added. It was built in 1810, and many of the original bricks and beams remain. One of the fireplaces is also in its original condition.

The couple was initially sceptical of how far away Shannonbridge was from Longford. "We would have to drive an hour to work every day, but we decided that it was better to drive that for our own business than it is to drive it for somebody else's" Kash commented. They added that the history of the village and especially the bridge, was also a pull. "It's a perfect location. There's a sense of history and the scenic view of the Shannon is beautiful," they mentioned. Customers often come to visit the building for the history before staying for a meal.

Keith works at the front-desk, while Kash is the head-chef. Since opening, the restaurant has had a lot

of business from the boating community, especially from Portumna and even Carrick-on-Shannon. Business is especially booming when there are local festivals or shows happening, such as in Clonmacnoise. The two enjoyed the bounce from traffic to and from the Ploughing Championships in Tullamore and hope that people passing through might consider dining at the Old Fort in the Autumn months.

"We expected it to be a slow build at first, but it took off very well and we were always busy. We felt that we were improving every week" Kash mentioned, "of course there are ups and downs, but we're managing well."

The pair are planning different events for the restaurant, such as offering wine-tasting nights and different themed nights with a focus on dishes from different countries. They also hope to offer food sampling stalls at different events around the surrounding area.

The restaurant offers traditional Irish dishes with a touch of French cuisine. Kash's Mauritius roots are shown through the subtle additions to each dish. While they focus on fine dishes, they would not describe themselves as fine dining just yet – but also not quite casual, but rather somewhere in between. The restaurant brings in fresh salmon every day, as well as regular fresh vegetables. "We put everything together very carefully" Kash explained, treating each dish with care. While offering quality three-course meals, they do their best to keep prices as competitive as possible.

Reception to the reopening of the restaurant has been very positive. "We've never had food come back to us" Kash commented, "and customers aren't afraid to come up to us and say just how much they enjoyed their meal." The restaurant attracts many tourists, as well as locals too. Customers have especially appreciated the restaurant's location, as finding high-quality, competitively priced food along a river can be a challenge. The pair are keeping an eye on their TripAdvisor site, which has been receiving some great praise. They also regularly use their Facebook page, initially using it for networking.

The restaurant is open from 12:30pm - 9pm from Wednesday to Saturday. On Sundays, it is open from 12:30pm - 6pm. It can be found on Facebook at **The Old Fort Restaurant** and you can book a table by calling (090) 967 4973.

## Downey's Bar & Restaurant

FOOD SERVED EVERY DAY

PARTY VENUE/LIVE MUSIC

PRIVATE FUNCTION ROOM

OUTSIDE/HOME CATERING AVAILABLE

COUNTY MUSIC & DANCING  
EVERY THURSDAY NIGHT



Find us on:  
**facebook**

087 2311385 / 09096 46018  
[info@downeysbar.ie](mailto:info@downeysbar.ie)



# HOSPITAL WATCH

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

## 597 Bed Days Lost in Portiuncula For First Half of 2017

Fianna Fáil TD for Roscommon/Galway, Eugene Murphy, has highlighted that over 90,000 bed days were lost in the hospital system over the first half of 2017 due to delayed discharges. Patients are classified as delayed discharges when they no longer need to be cared for in a hospital setting but have no access to step-down care.

Portiuncula Hospital lost 597 beds over this period, while University Hospital Galway (UHG) lost a total of 3,859. Sligo University Hospital lost 1,249 bed days, Mayo University Hospital lost over 1,800 bed days and Roscommon University hospital lost 977 bed days over the same period.

"If a fraction of these lost days were put back into use every day through better supports for older people upon discharge, we could radically reduce the number of people lying on trolleys" Deputy Murphy concluded.

## 40% Increase Waiting Times for Kid's Appointment

Eugene Murphy has brought to attention the fact that the number of children waiting longer than 18 months for their first hospital appointment after being referred by their GP has sky-rocketed by nearly 540% in one year.

At Portiuncula, in July 2017, there were 467 children waiting for a first hospital appointment. This figure is a 7.4% increase on July 2016. In UHG, 1,628 children are currently waiting for an initial hospital appointment, with 326 waiting for 12 months or more. Since July 2016, there has been a 50% increase in children waiting 12 months or more.

"If a GP feels that a child, or indeed any person, needs to be seen by a hospital consultant, then there is a clinical need and the health system must be able to respond in a timely manner" Deputy Murphy commented.



## Fundraiser for St. Theresa's Children's Ward

Funds for St. Therese's Children's Ward, Portiuncula recently raised €830 through fundraising auctions. A Star Wars poster was sold for €140, while a Galway jersey signed by the All-Ireland Hurling team was sold for €140. A US Open Flag, donated by Shane Lowry, was auctioned



Supermacs donated this jersey, which was signed by the All-Ireland winning Hurling Squad

off at €300. The group have now raised over €31,000 for the children's ward.

## Hospital Ranking

Portiuncula holds its position as 13th best public and 30th best overall hospital in Ireland, according to RateMyHospital.ie's rankings, consisting of 69 public and private hospitals. Roscommon County Hospital is currently ranked 38th and University Hospital Galway is 66th. Portiuncula is now the top ranked hospital for paediatrics and remains 2nd for maternity.

## 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**

Find us on Facebook
 

## 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

Sean Fletcher &  
Modern Media Presents

# THE VAPORS

Turning Japanese

+ + DJ JACQUI CARROLL

229 The Venue,  
Great Portland St., London  
Friday 10th November 2017  
Doors 7pm

[www.229thevenue.com](http://www.229thevenue.com) [www.facebook.com/thevaporsofficial](https://www.facebook.com/thevaporsofficial) [www.modernmedia.ie](http://www.modernmedia.ie)

REMINGTON

Sean Fletcher  
modernmedia  
PRESENTS

**ticketmaster**

# BALLINASLOE GRADUATE FIRST TO ATTEND COLLEGE OF EUROPE

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN



Kyle Greene of Society Street in Ballinasloe has been awarded a place on the LL. M. European Law programme at the College of Europe in Bruges, Belgium. The NUIG graduate has recently embarked on his journey to Europe and is the first past pupil of Garbally to do so.

Kyle's grandmother, Gretie, used to run a taxi service and a video shop in town with her husband Richard, who passed away in 2013. As a child, Kyle spent his time between the two locations.

He attended Garbally College, and, of course, dabbled in playing rugby with the school. He also took part in amateur boxing with the Emerald Boxing Club in town. He later found his niche in college, where he began fencing. "It's a really tactical sport" Kyle explained, "and when I studied in Toulouse, I got to train and learn from Olympic fencers." He has also worked in Spain, as a counsellor in a summer camp.

Before attending college, Kyle initially had Medicine as his number one choice. "It was first on my CAO, though I knew it wouldn't suit me. I ended up doing really well in History and English and I got my second choice: Law with French in NUIG" he recounted, explaining how he would study French Law and European Law through the French language. "I got to go on an Erasmus" he added, "which was the best year I spent in college. It broadened my connections and really helped me develop."

The College of Europe in Bruges is regarded by The Times as "the European political elite what the Harvard Business School is to American corporate life." Kyle's course is specifically geared towards qualifying lawyers to work with top international law firms. Judges are another product of the system, with one of the top judges in Ireland, Mary Finlay Geoghan, having attended.

Over the summer, Kyle worked as a judicial intern at the Supreme Court of Ireland as part of the Chief Justice's summer internship programme. "I learned more about the process and dynamic of the court in that internship than I did in the four years I studied law" he explained, detailing how the tension of the court chamber really makes it an intimate arena. "I got a real feel for things there. I was the assistant to the judge of court, so I did a lot of research for them." He commented on how the placement put him at the cutting edge of the Irish legal system, and that he had the opportunity to have his opinions and thoughts listened to by Ireland's top judges. "The most important thing I was taught was that to become a great leader, you have to put your shoulder to the wheel, not pull from the front."

Kyle has also commented on other former students of his school graduating and finding opportunities. "Shane Kelly's graduated in Biomedical Engineering while Oisín Murphy has graduated from a Law degree, too. Shane Deane is going to Belgium now, having graduated from global business in Dublin." Ballinasloe's list of university graduates continues to grow year by year.

He is keen on seeing more of the town attend and graduate from college degrees, and hopes that the latest group of Leaving Cert students can achieve great things. "To succeed, at this early stage, one will have to make sacrifices, there's no two ways about it. The right sacrifices will push you along the path to where you want to be" declared Kyle.

Kyle began his study in Bruges in September, where he will remain for the 2017/18 academic year.



Kyle Greene with the Chief Justice Susan Denham at the Four Courts

## Hosting a Gathering?

Let us look after the Food



Follow us on Facebook



**corrib**  
**deli**   
ready already

Corrib Oil, Brackernagh, Ballinasloe.

**Call 09096 46054**



**corrib**  **bakery**  
bake & takery





**Born 13 weeks early in Portiuncula Hospital, Emilie Grace Winters' journey has been a tough one. Born to Jodi Barker and Shane Winters, the pregnancy featured several complications.**

Jodi Barker, 27, is the eldest of three. Her mother, Emily, was originally from Moore where Jodi and her family moved when she was nine. Her boyfriend, Shane Winters, 30 years old, originates from Knocknacarra in Galway city.

**Complications first began when Jodi was 16 weeks pregnant. She noticed that she was bleeding and had to go to Portiuncula. They ensured the baby was okay and that her body wasn't going into pre-term labour. Two days later, the bleeding began again. Jodi was sent to the early pregnancy**

**unit for an in-depth scan that week, which showed that the baby was perfectly healthy.**

Issues, however, persisted. In early April, Jodi began to feel unwell. With an abundance of pain and a lack of energy, she visited her GP suspecting a kidney infection. After a week of antibiotics, she returned to the labour ward in Portiuncula due to more bleeding. The Doctors there administered steroid shots to Jodi – the reason why Emilie's lungs were so developed when she was born. She was admitted to the ward for observation and stayed in the hospital until the weekend. She was still losing blood and was transferred to Dublin in case she entered early labour. She was discharged two days later, however she quickly felt unwell again and went into labour.

**On the Tuesday night, Jodi felt a lot of pain and discovered that she was bleeding again. She rang labour in Portiuncula, who advised that she come straight in. At 3.30 am they arrived and were met by her midwife, Susan. Jodi's blood pressure was checked while her doctor made his way to them. "I was brought by wheelchair to labour where the doctor examined me. I was 9cm dilated" Jodi explained- the baby was on the way. The couple were very distressed as the pregnancy was only at 27 weeks and they worried about their child's chance of survival. Susan reassured the two, explaining that they would do everything they could**

**SHEARWATER HOTEL**  
CONFERENCE LEISURE WELLNESS

**Shearwater Weddings**  
Creating Lasting Memories

**Catering**  
from 50 – 500

Call our Wedding Coordinator  
**Noel Fahy 090 9630400**

[www.shearwaterhotel/weddings/](http://www.shearwaterhotel/weddings/)



**Emilie was brought home from the hospital after two months in the incubator**



The happy family. Jodi Barker and Shane Winters with their daughter



Emilie at 14 weeks old

**for the baby. A team of paediatricians and the Special Care Baby Unit were brought in to prepare for the baby's arrival.**

Emilie came into the world at 5.50 am on April 26th. She was born a full 13 weeks early, weighing just 1.01kg.

**Dr Shahid took over the care for Emilie, ventilating her swiftly and stabilising her. After she was rushed to the SCBU, midwife Zoe asked for Jodi's phone to take some photos of the baby for her. Dr Shahid returned to Jodi, explaining all that had happened. Jodi and Shane felt scared and overwhelmed, but the doctor explained that they had a lovely, strong baby. He went through different scenarios of what could happen and explained Emilie's transfer to Dublin. He promised them that Emilie would get the best care possible. At 10 am, Majella from the SCBU asked if they would like to meet their newborn. When the couple arrived at the SCBU, Emilie was hooked up to different machines and was wearing a green hat. A priest had blessed Emilie and she was transferred to the Rotunda Hospital.**

Emilie spent five weeks there, receiving care from doctors and nurses in the neonatal intensive care unit. While in Dublin, the couple stayed with Jodi's aunt, Jackie Scott, who generously looked after them. They were then transferred back to Portiuncula, where they spent 7 weeks. "Emilie improved a lot over the 57 days she spent in the incubator and on oxygen, and she actually came off the machines on Fathers' Day" Shane detailed. Nurses Tina and Samantha surprised the couple, revealing Emilie in a cot, all dressed up. The hospital staff had reassured them, laughed with them, listened to their concerns and they had all formed friendships. "It was a strange home away from home" Jodi described, reflecting on how the staff had always said how strong and beautiful Emilie was. "We kept bothering them with question after question, but they were brilliant" Shane added. Doctor Cooke also reassured them, making sure their minds were at ease.

**On July 20, Jodi and Shane brought Emilie home for the first time. Emilie was still six days shy of her official due date. Leaving the hospital was an emotional experience, but the couple knew that their journey was only now beginning.**

"Emilie is doing really well" Jodi explained. "She's well able to scream and shout now. For weeks, we never heard her cry, but now it's pretty regular." They describe Emilie as a happy baby, and that she recently learned that she enjoys falling asleep in her parents' arms. "Everybody's smitten by her" Shane mentioned, noting that their family seemed to adore her. He

also added that their friends and family have been a huge support, offering their help, company and advice.

**"I was told early on to take it day by day" Jodi reflected. "We focused on the little positive milestones. We celebrated each one." Their journey has been a strenuous one, but they say they're stronger for it. "We were shown compassion and support. The nurses and doctors at Portiuncula, really, they were tremendous" she added, feeling a great personal debt to the hospital.**

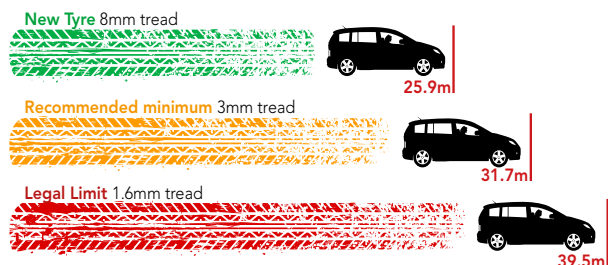
The happy family now reside in Creagh, where they feel excited to continue their adventure.

*For more information on premature babies, you can visit the Foundation of Irish Premature Babies on [www.irishprematurebabies.com](http://www.irishprematurebabies.com)*

## BALLINASLOE TYRE CENTRE

### Advice on safe braking distance this Autumn/Winter

**Breaking distances** (metres) at 50mph in wet conditions



**HAVE THOM OR ANY OF OUR TYRE FITTERS CHECK YOUR TYRES FOR THE MIN DEPTH OF 1.6M.**

There is no obligation by just calling in for a free check up, we are glad to help and avoid 2 penalty points and a €80 fine.

Follow us on Ballinasloetyres

Thank you for your loyal custom and safe motoring.

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL THOM FOX

**@090 9646956**



# FRANKIE WALSH RETIRES AFTER 52 YEARS

Frankie Walsh is sure to be a well-known name locally. Now retired, Frankie has spent many years playing sports and working in bars in town. He has spent 52 years working in total.

Frankie's family is deeply rooted in the town, and he was born in 1951. He lived in the family home at St Michael's Place until he got married. He was born to Richie and Kathleen Walsh, and was one of seven children: Johnny, Mary, Joan, the late Vincent, Mickey, Kathleen and himself. His grandparents were farmers in Glentaun.

Always involved in sport, Frankie never limited himself to just one. "Frankie played for Ballinasloe at all levels" his brother Johnny explained, "including senior football. He was a right half forward." Frankie was a part of the panel for the Senior Football Final in 1971, when Ballinasloe lost by a point to Milltown. "I still think that if I had played that day, we would have won!" Frankie joked. He even got to play with the Galway Minor team for a brief stint. Likewise, he played scrum-half in senior rugby for the town and was the County Champion and Connacht Champion in boxing at youth level. "He was also a part of Ballinasloe's three-in-a-row team in soccer, they won three leagues and two cups in three years" Johnny added. Frankie played soccer with other locals such as Joe Kelly, Paul Riddle, 'Spud' Murphy, Tony Coyne and the late Tommy Bartley, who played with Athlone Town in the League of Ireland. As well as playing with Ballinasloe Town AFC, Frankie has played with Creagh United, Dubarry Apache, Ahascragh and Aughrim.

In addition to all the sport he was involved with, Frankie started full time work at just 14,

working with Dubarry Shoes. "I worked there for 10 years and then went to England for a short bit" Frankie detailed. It was in England that he was introduced to the 'pub game' when he worked in the Duke of Edinburgh in London. He then returned to Ballinasloe, where he worked in Dubarry, AT Cross and Square D. In addition, he has worked in many different pubs and hotels across the town. "Hayden's, Rothwell's Bar, Staunton's Pub, the Dunlo Tavern, Frankie's worked at them all," Johnny jokes. In addition, Frankie ran his own pub for 12 years – the "Cellar Bar". "It was never easy to balance with family, the pub" Frankie reflects, "I spend more time with my four grandchildren now than with my two kids back then."



Frankie Walsh and the late Joe McDonagh, Former Uachtarán CLG

The highlight of his pub life, he explains, was getting to spend a weekend with the Manchester United team in 1993. "Paul Riddle and myself met Joe Ward from Eyrecourt, who was involved in Man Utd organising their 25th anniversary of the 1968 European Cup" he explained. Joe arranged for Paul to play in the anniversary game, which took place in the RDS. Johnny, Paul and Frankie spent 40 minutes in the VIP Suite with the players and later went for dinner with them. They spent the weekend socialising with the team, which included names such as George Best, Bobby Charlton, Nobby Stiles, Denis Law, Brian Kidd and Tony Dunne. "It really was a magnificent weekend" Frankie concluded.

Frankie has spent the last 16 years of his working life as a salesman at Michael Ward's Menswear. He was the longest-serving member of staff, and found himself doing all sorts of work at the store. "Frankie always had very good people skills, he always had a smile for customers, so he was a great choice for the store" Johnny explained. Frankie reflected on a recent pick-up in the town's economy, detailing

\*\*\*\*\* WINTER SPECIAL \*\*\*\*\*

*Receive with every service booked this winter*

- 15% off Wipers
- 15% off Batterys
- FREE Winter health check



## Opening Hours

Monday - Friday: 9.00 am - 6.00 pm  
Saturday: 9.00 am - 5.00 pm  
Sunday: Closed

**Fred Kilmartin LTD**  
Ballinasloe

Phone: 090 9630800 Michael 087 1335921 John 087 4165623 Micheal 086 3489164 Website: [www.fredkilmartinltd.ie](http://www.fredkilmartinltd.ie) Email: [sales@fredkilmartinltd.ie](mailto:sales@fredkilmartinltd.ie)



*Where you'll do  
a good deal better*

that "people are spending more now, buying suits for weddings or graduations instead of hiring them." He was hopeful that this trend can continue.

The town has, of course, changed massively over Frankie's working life. "Before, there were 34, 35 pubs in town. Now, there's around 12. They used to always be packed, Wednesday to Sunday, the town was always busy" Frankie remembered. While he bemoans that the town is now a "weekend town", he noted that the town's sports facilities are the best in Connacht. "The Soccer Club and GAA Club both have fantastic facilities, and there's the running track, plans for a new tennis court," Frankie went over. Johnny added that businesses appear to be picking up again after suffering for a period of time, drawing attention to Creagh Medical's

improvement and expansion over the last 10 years. "The Enterprise Centre has an awful lot of people, and really most people aren't actually aware that there so many jobs out there" Johnny noted. The two agreed, however, that the town council was a "big loss", with people unable to get the small jobs done now.

Now retired, Frankie enjoys his time at home with his family. Frankie married Angela and they had two daughters, Sabrina and Orla. He is now the grandfather of four: Natasha (Tosh, who plays rugby with the Connacht Under-18s); Lauren, Sophie and Ryan. "Lauren is the family's little traitor," Frankie joked, noting that she plays camogie with Cappataggle. At home, Frankie and Angela continue working on the house, like painting. He hopes to be more involved with the sports teams in town, as he attends most home games. He especially follows his granddaughters camogie games.

Though he played many different sports, Frankie would advise young

people to "decide on one sport and commit to it. If you're good at something, keep at it." He also mentioned the fantastic facilities in town and how they can help everybody looking to get involved in a sport.

"You will always find opportunities, you just have to commit and make the most of them" he concluded.



Frankie in the 1975 'Centenary' Football Team

# 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](http://www.tomrafterycarsales.ie)**

Member of the Society of the Irish motor industry



**ISUZU**

**PEUGEOT**

**KIA MOTORS**  
The Power to Surprise™

**7 YEAR  
KIA WARRANTY**

**SIMI**



# CREAGH MAN HEADS UP CLEAN TECH AND LIFE SCIENCES

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

Tom Kelly, a Ballinasloe native, has forged himself a long, fascinating career at Enterprise Ireland. From his early years, he has committed himself to business growth, research and development and green technology.

Tom grew up in Creagh, attending school at Creagh NS and later Garbally College. He was awarded a PhD in Chemistry from University College Galway for his work on the catalytic properties of zeolites and he also holds Masters Degrees in Materials Technology from the University of Sheffield and Industrial Engineering from University College Dublin.

Tom's earlier career included the role of Director of IFI Joint Ceramics Research Centre, a joint undertaking with the University of Ulster. The Centre was part-funded by the International Fund for Ireland and involved working closely with firms in all parts of Ireland to develop new and improved products and processes. "I really learned a lot about developing businesses with the Research Centre" Tom reflected, "I knew I wanted to be more involved."

Tom began his work with Enterprise Ireland prior to their establishment as Enterprise Ireland in 1998 – he started in 1980, the early days of the state agency. He has held a number of senior positions within Enterprise Ireland in his 37 years, always being involved in business and technology growth.



Tom Kelly, the long-serving Enterprise Ireland man

"I was responsible for a wide range of technical support, consultation and research and development services to the industry" Tom explained, going on to mention that he later became the senior manager within the Scaling Division. In this position, Tom led a team of specialists in business development and innovation work. He worked directly with a select group of fast-growth client firms, watching the industry transform over his tenure. "We assisted firms with adopting better manufacturing and business practices, research and development and technology transfer."

At present, Tom works as the Divisional Manager for Cleantech, Electronics and Lifesciences. Part of his work involves holding responsibility for developing and implementing strategies for these sectors. "A long time ago, I committed myself to engineering and science, always wanting to help develop a better future in the industry." He remarked, "After all my time working that is what keeps me going." His belief in clean-industry is reflected in his leadership of Enterprise Ireland's Lean Business, Environment and Green Technologies programmes. He is also a member of the Business Committee, Finance Committee and Growth Fund Committee.

Tom holds a positive view of Ballinasloe as a town for enterprise. "The town has many fine qualities, even after suffering from the loss of companies in the last ten years" he commented. He pointed to the successes of



Tom Kelly at the opening of Easyfix's new premises outside Ballinasloe

Creagh Medical and Easyfix as examples of how the town can still grow. "We have the building blocks of agriculture and equine industries, as well as a strong history in manufacturing. With a commitment to excellent, local entrepreneurs can find success in Ballinasloe" he added. After his many years involved in business growth and sector development, he believes that the town is poised for growth, holding a significant potential.

Though approaching the end of his working years, Tom shows little sign of slowing down. "I have had an exciting, interesting working life, watching new technologies and careers emerge and evolve. I have never stopped learning" Tom reflected, satisfied with the positions that he has held in his time with the company. "I've always believed in the importance of business development, and I've always wanted to be involved."

Tom has written several articles that have been published in scientific literature, spanning traditional and advanced ceramics as well as surface engineering technology. He is currently based at Enterprise Ireland's headquarters in East Point, Dublin.

# UTAH

DEPARTMENT STORE



# BARGAIN BASEMENT

MENS - LADIES - KIDS - HOMEWARE

Society Street, Ballinasloe 090 9649000

Higher Standards - Lower Prices

ALWAYS UP TO 60% OFF

# NOMINATIONS OPEN FOR TOWN TEAM PEOPLE OF THE YEAR AWARDS

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

The Bi Annual 2017 People of the Year Awards will acknowledge outstanding people and organisations who, through their commitment to participating in community and voluntary activities, have had a positive and significant impact on the quality of life of their communities.

The Town Team organised awards are generously sponsored by The Ballinasloe Credit Union, the Shearwater Hotel and K.P.W

There are eight Categories

1. Arts, Culture and Heritage Award. 2. Sports and Recreation Volunteer Award. 3. Sports and Recreation Team Award. 4. Sports and Recreation Individual Award. 5. Young Person's Award. 6. Social, Community & Civic Special Recognition Award. 7. Business Community Spirit Award. 8. Hall of

Fame Award (Lifetime Achievement Accolade).

People of organisations can make a nomination by downloading the nomination form from [ballinasloe.ie](http://ballinasloe.ie), and emailing or posting it back.

The closing date for receipt of nomination forms is 5pm Thursday 12 October 2017. The awards will be independently assessed after the closing date and winners will be chosen.

All shortlisted nominees will be invited to The People of the Year Awards Ceremony on the evening of the 12 November 2017 where the winners will be announced and presented with their awards.

All shortlisted nominees from each category will be presented with a Scroll of Achievement and each category winner will be presented with a specially commissioned prestigious award.

## HALLOWEEN ZOMBIE WALK RETURNS TO GARBALLY WOODS

The Town Team are rerunning the famous walk again on Saturday

October 28 and Sunday October 29 of the Bank Holiday weekend.

Last year, over 2,000 people of all ages descended on the woods and nature trails of Garbally Park for a 20 minutes scary stroll through the woods.

Set in the parkland of the historic Clancarty Estate, complete with its own resident ghost – the White Lady – the 2.5km walk will be bedecked with a cast of over 50 witches, zombies, goblins, pixies and Garbally House staff of the 18th Century who have left their tombs to haunt the walk.

After parking in Ardscoil Mhuire, patrons will again go to the handball alleys to queue for their walk. Groups of 25 will be taken

by zombie guides –all past staff members of Lady Clancarty's Household.

The Zombie Walk is suitable for all ages. Organisers are recommending that children under 12 are accompanied by their parents/guardians.

"Last year we had over 40 stewards as well as performers and this year we are appealing to other clubs and organisations to lend us their volunteers for a few hours on the build-up and on the nights" said Chairman Seamus Duffy.

This year tickets are priced at €5 per person. They are ONLY available to buy at certain times online at [BallinasloeTownHall.com](http://BallinasloeTownHall.com). There will be no admission at the gate to manage numbers safely.

"We are thrilled as a group that Fr Allman and the governors of Garbally are allowing us to use the grounds, and proceeds raised will go towards Town Team Projects and Activities" continued Seamus.

# Paddy Keane I.P.A.V.

## AUCTIONEERS • VALUERS • ESTATE AGENTS

[www.ballinasloeproperties.com](http://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](mailto:paddykeane@eircom.net)**

**[www.paddykeane.com](http://www.paddykeane.com)**

**Houses & Lands**

**urgently Required**

**for Genuine Clients.**



**ipav**

Institute of Professional Auctioneers & Valuers



# BOTTLED OFF TO WISCONSIN



BY STEPHEN COLEMAN



Joanne with her great-great grandfather's bottle as she leaves Ballinasloe

Joanne Steacie recently came to town on holiday to learn more about her ancestor, Edward Steacie, but enjoyed an incredible series of events that reconnected her with her Irish roots.

Joanne resides in La Crosse, Wisconsin. While aware of her Irish heritage, she knew little about her great-great grandparents, aside from their names and their hometown of Ballinasloe. Her great-great grandfather was Edward Steacie.

Edward Steacie was once a prominent figure in the town, having served as a Town Clerk (to the then Town Commissioners, later then the Urban/Town Council) for 30 years. Every year or so, Joanne would google his name in hopes of finding any bit of information about him. Her searches came up empty, until last year. Damian Mac Con Uladh wrote an article for Ballinasloe Life and Ballinasloe.ie about Edward Steacie last autumn – “Message in a Bottle.”

“I had always wanted to visit Ireland. I planned a trip in 2010, but I had to cancel it. When I found Damian’s article online, I knew I had to visit Ballinasloe” Joanne explained, looking to connect with her ancestor’s hometown.

With a print-out of Damian’s article, she arrived in Ballinasloe on a CIE Bus Tour. When they stopped at Gullane’s Hotel, Joanne went inside and met Tomás Gullane, who introduced her to Úna Spain. The pair made their way onto Society Street, with the vague plan of hoping to run into Damian.

Incredibly, Damian Mac Con Uladh, who is the Irish Times’ Correspondent in Athens, just happened to be in Ballinasloe for a few weeks. “Joanne and Úna found me walking along Society Street, on my way to the library to do some research” Damian explained. The two discussed the story and how remarkable their encounter was. He also told Joanne where the reported bottle could be found. It was a cream and beige-coloured vessel that read “Clancarty Arms Hotel, Ballinasloe” – the unfamiliar hotel name was what prompted Damian to research it in the first place. Sinead Ganly, on Dunlo Hill, was keeping the bottle, and so they continued on in the hopes of seeing the bottle.

To add to the list of coincidences, Sinead had happened to be leaving her house at that moment, about to drive away. When she heard from Úna and Joanne, she was only too happy to stop and show them the bottle. “Sinead told Joanne she could keep the bottle. She always hoped that the bottle would be passed on to another Steacie” Damian mentioned.

“I was about 15 minutes late for the bus” Joanne concluded. “I felt so bad for causing a delay, but when I told people about the bottle and the story, they were all understanding.” As the bus left Ballinasloe behind, Joanne desperately wanted more time in the home place of her ancestors. “I had no concept of time” she added, “I could have been in the town for 45 minutes or an hour, but I just couldn’t track it.”

“It really was a series of unbelievable coincidences” Joanne remarked, “Everybody in the town was so welcoming and understanding.” She specifically praised the selfless work of Úna Spain, who ran across the town with her to find the heirloom: “She was a star, really, she helped me with everything.”

Another Steacie descendent has since been in contact with Damian, again finding his article while searching “Ballinasloe Steacie.”

Joanne keeps the bottle in a glass-case back home in La Crosse, a treasure of her first visit to Ireland. “I hope to come back to Ballinasloe soon! And for longer than an hour, this time!” she mentioned, reflecting warmly on her brief spell in the town.

“It was really great to witness Joanne reconnect with her family’s history” Damian concluded, “I was delighted to be a part of it.”

You can read Damian’s original article, “Message in a Bottle” on Ballinasloe.ie for more information on the history of Edward Steacie and the Clancarty Arms Hotel bottle.



Joanne Steacie, Kimon & Damian Mac Con Uladh, who originally reported about the bottle

Tomás Gullane and Joanne Steacie with the Clancarty Arms Hotel bottle

# SOLD

**Michael McCullagh**  
AUCTIONEER & ESTATE AGENT

Commissioner for Oaths Dip. Sec. Act. Licence No. 003001  
30 Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Republic of Ireland.  
M: 086 2550677 E: michaelmccullagh30@gmail.com



# NEW SOROPTIMISTS PRESIDENT



BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

Earlier in the year, Mary Magee took the reins as President of Ballinasloe's Soroptimists organisation. Having been involved with the club for ten years, Mary is keen to ensure that the group can continue to grow and continue with success.

Hailing from Co. Roscommon, Mary lives near the Padraig Pearses' GAA Club. Her late husband was a garda in town. She grew up on a farm, and later attended the Convent of Mercy in town, now Ardscoil Mhuire. She has been involved in a number of activities in the town. Her daughter and her son started a Deli Store on Dunlo Street, which is run by herself and her children. She has been involved in school committees for primary and secondary schools, as well as Creagh Community Council.

Mary first got involved with the local Soroptimists ten years ago. The group focuses on improving the lives of women through offering social engagement, promoting awareness and raising funds for charity. Ballinasloe's group is a part of Soroptimists Ireland, which is a member of Soroptimists International. Internationally, clubs are located in a wide variety of countries, most notably where women's rights are still contested.

Knowing a few friends involved in the organisation, Mary opted to attend three sittings. Enticed by their frequent social meetings, she attended these meetings as a prospective member. Afterwards, she was formally invited to join the club. This recruitment process has since changed to an open-door policy. Her first position in the club was as Social Secretary, where she got to organise the group's outings. They have attended a variety of locations in her time, namely Newbridge Silverware, the Flying Boat Museum in Limerick, and even Poland.

Mary enjoyed her first stint as President of the club in 2012, focusing on fundraising for worthy causes. The group has raised money for DEBRA Ireland, cancer research and the social

services. "Every president has their own project" Mary remarked, "and raising these funds is mine." For fundraisers, the group has organised horse-racing nights, golf days and coffee mornings. As president of the club, she chairs their monthly meetings and attends meetings for Soroptimists Ireland. She is also involved in organising and attending friendship weekends, anniversary meals and leads different club campaigns.

Ballinasloe's Soroptimists even travelled to Áras na Uachtaráin for a meal with President Michael D. Higgins, having written to the president about their achievements and commitment.

Most recently, the group attended an All-Ireland Friendship Link in the Shearwater Hotel where eighteen clubs throughout Ireland attended the event. The group visited Clonmacnoise, played golf, hosted a gala dinner and heard guest speakers talking about different issues. Former Ballinasloe President, Maria Finnegan, who is now the National President, worked with Mary to organise the event.

"We're really looking for some younger members, people getting involved for the first time" Mary mentioned, adding that the door was always open to anybody interested. "We're a vibrant group and we always welcome new members, making sure they're cared for" she promised.

In recent times, the group has hosted an event with White Ribbon Ireland in the Shearwater, where they discussed the roots and impacts of violence against women. Following on from this positive event, the group has ran surveys on human trafficking on what people know about human trafficking as a whole. The feedback has been positive and has helped shape their approach to raising further awareness.

The group meet on the first Monday of each month in Gullane's Hotel. You can find more information on Soroptimists Ireland on [www.soroptimist-int-roi.com](http://www.soroptimist-int-roi.com)



Members of Ballinasloe's Soroptimists with the bust of Mary McAleese in Áras na Uachtaráin



Jane Enright-Mooney handing over the Presidency to Mary Magee

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](mailto:info@noonancuddy.com)

Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Ireland.







## GARBALLY LEAVING CERT RESULTS



Adrian Kenny

Daniel McMorro, Billy McKenna and Andrew Salmon

James Grealy and Daniel Potter

Michael Dolan, Garbally's  
highest achiever with over 600 points

Michael Jennings and his  
mother, Maura

Przemek Dybowicz and Damian Bednarczyk

# HUTCHINSON DAVIDSON & SON

## Solicitors

**Principal:** David C. Colbert, B.A. LL.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](mailto:info@hutchinsondavidson.ie)



[www.hutchinsondavidson.ie](http://www.hutchinsondavidson.ie)



## Aoibheann and Meabh win Gold

Aoibheann Reilly and Meabh Deely were both involved in the recent International Schools' Rugby 7's Competition in Loughborough University. The two fifth year students played eight games over a hectic weekend with the Irish team. The Irish side defeated defending champions England in the semi-final, before beating pre-tournament favourites Wales, 19-10 in a pulsating final. Meabh performed well with some speedy runs and a great score against Scotland in the pool. Aoibheann was a rock in defence as they kept the Wales line quiet in the final. All at Ardscoil Mhuire got together to celebrate the girls' fantastic achievement.



The Irish Schools Rugby 7s team, featuring Meabh Deely & Aoibheann Reilly



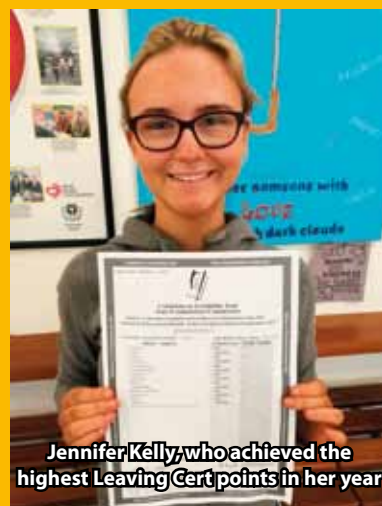
Meabh and Aoibheann with their Gold Medals

## Graduating at the Top of Her Class

Louise Smyth, a former student at Ardscoil Mhuire, has graduated with a first class honours in Physiotherapy from University College, Dublin. Louise graduates at the top of her class and the school hopes to welcome her back in time to celebrate her success.

## Leaving Certificate Results

The school passes on congratulations to last year's Leaving Certificate students, who have received their exam results and are now well into their further studies. The students' hard work and dedication has paid off, with many students achieving excellent results and earning their places in their desired courses of study. The school thanks the teachers for their constant hard work and commitment to all students. Special congratulations is passed on to Jennifer Kelly, who achieved the highest points total for the school this year. Jennifer has started her studies in Pharmacy in Trinity College Dublin. The school wishes the very best to all graduating students in their future endeavours.



Jennifer Kelly, who achieved the highest Leaving Cert points in her year

## Staff Retirement

Ardscoil Mhuire says farewell to Ms Breda O'Neill who has recently retired. Ms O'Neill taught as the Art teacher and her students wish her health and happiness as she embarks on her retirement. The school thanks the popular teacher for her commitment and dedication to the students over her time teaching.

## Two New Members of Staff

Two new teachers have joined the Ardscoil Mhuire faculty for the coming year. Ms Elva Conole will be teaching Art, following Ms O'Neill's retirement while Ms Mary Neylon will be teaching Irish in the school. The two are looking forward to what they hope will be a positive time in Ballinasloe.



Ms Conole, the new Art teacher



Ms Neylon, a new Irish teacher



# CHALKFACE CHRONICLES

UPDATES FROM OUR SCHOOLGOERS



## SCOIL AN CHROI NAOFA'S NEW JUNIOR INFANTS CLASS



Ms Paige's class of 22 junior infants

Ava Nott & Dylan Dempsey

Kacper Jedrzejowski & Ava Nott

Nicole Blaga & Bonnie O'Driscoll

Dominikas Auskscionis & Prescott Mwase

Evan Kelly & Tom Devine

Isabelle Corcoran & Elisha Stokes

Thomas Finnerty & Maja Hegarty



Approved Stockists of Calor fittings and accessories

## Peter Madden Fuels

**OPEN MON - SAT**  
**9.30 - 6PM**

facebook



Official **Homefire** Stockist

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



# OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE

## Mayo Exiles at the top!!



Pictured above are TOM HORKAN (Swinford) President Ballinasloe Rugby Club, DAVID FLYNN (Ballina) Captain Ballinasloe Golf club, VINCENT PARSONS (Charlestown) Chairman Ballinasloe GAA Football Club & SEAMUS DUFFY (Kilmovee) Chairman Ballinasloe GAA Club & Chairman BACD.

## U10 County Shield Champions. Beal Atha na Slua 2-1, Killimordaly 2-0.



Back row l/r: Caitlin Dempsey, Keisha Manning, Saorla Gallagher, Aoife Headd, Amy Clarke, Ruth Dudgeon, Ava Burke, Ceyda Kara. Front l/r: Deirdre Headd, Aoife Berrigan, Caoimhe O'Connell, Adelle Finnegan, Aoibheann Coughlan (Capt), Caoimhe Naughton (Capt), Mary O'Grady, Laoise Caulfield. Mascot: Fiadh Connolly. Managers: Sharon Kelly, Kevin Caulfield.

## Minor Hurling County Stars who are grandchildren of Helen and Toddy Caulfield, Harbour Road, Ballinasloe.



Paul Carey, U-17 Roscommon team. Son of Tom and Geraldine Carey, Newtown.



Conor Caulfield, Kilconieron, with his Ballinasloe cousins Laoise and Eanna Caulfield.



Conor Caulfield, centre back Galway minor team who is son of Tommy and Aine Caulfield (Kilconieron) and nephew of Kevin Caulfield B'sloe U-10s and U11s Hurling Manager.

## North Board Shield Champions. Defeated Na Bridoga in the Duggan Park.



L/R Back R. Aoife Headd, Ruth Dudgeon, Mary O Grady, Laoise Caulfield, Saorla Gallagher, Ava Burke, Adelle Finnegan, Caitlin Dempsey. L/R Front R. Caoimhe O Connell, Caoimhe Naughton capt, Amy Clarke, Aoibhinn Coughlan capt, Aoife Berrigan, Deirdre Headd. Managers Sharon Kelly Caulfield and Kevin Caulfield.



Ballinasloe's Under-12 Football Team.



# OCTOBER EVENTS GUIDE

Sunday 1st		
Art Exh/Majestic in Time	Church Gallery	First Day
J. Derwin Pony of the Fair	Fair Green	12pm
CU Horse of the Fair	Fair Green	2pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	5.30pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Live Music	Maud Millars	8pm
Nite Owls	Downey's	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Liam's Country Rd Show	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Gagean Paegan	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Hickory Windy	Pillar House	10pm
The Live Wires	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Monday 2nd		
Yoga	Gullaness Hotel	6.30pm
Steve Reilly	Dunlo Tavern	8.30pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Tuesday 3rd		
Ladies C'mas Hamper	Golf Club	All Day
Unislim	Gullaness Hotel	5.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullaness Hotel	9pm
Live Music	Maud Millars	10pm
Wednesday 4th		
Active Retirement	Gullaness Hotel	3pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
B.Kilkenny & Friends	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 5th		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullaness Hotel	11am
Soapbox Derby	Dunlo St/St.Ml's Sq	8pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	9pm
S. Moore Country Dance	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Acoustic Session	Maud Millars	10pm
The High Reel	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Friday 6th		
Art Exh/Majestic in Time	Church Gallery	Last Day
Bsloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Monster Fireworks	B'sloe Marina	8.30pm
Jiving Competition	St.Michael's Sq	9pm
Tug-o-war Finals	Society Street	9pm
Michael Regan	Shearwater	9pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
The Risers	Pillar House	10pm
The Rivulets	Maud Millars	10pm
DJ Johnny F	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Dollar Daly	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 7th		
Live Music	Soundstage/Square	2-5pm
Gaegan Pagans	Dunlo Tavern	5.30pm
Happy Bar Stars	Shearwater	9pm
DJ Johnny F	Downey's Bar	10pm
Blaggards	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Eoin Egan	An Tain	10pm
Alan Lawlor	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Crossfire	Maud Millars	10pm
Skillet Pot	Pillar House	10pm
The Crime	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Ken Solo	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 8th		
Food & Craft Market	St. Michael's Sq	All Day
Vintage Display	St. Michael's Sq	All Day
Bakery - Arts - Crafts	St. Michael's Sq	All Day
Dog Show	St. Michael's Sq	1pm
Social Dancing	Shearwater Hotel	5.30- 8pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Ray Flanagan	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
Declan Nerney	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
KORA Live Country	Downey's Bar	10pm
Sean Crehan	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
The Nudie Suits	Maud Millars	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
DJ Johnny F	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Split	Dunlo Tavern	10pm

Monday 9th		
Yoga	Gullaness Hotel	6.30pm
Tuesday 10th		
Art Exh Aesthetic Fus	Church Gallery	First Day
Vintage Display	Gullaness Hotel	10am-4
Unislim	Gullaness Hotel	5.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullaness Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 11th		
Active Retirement	Gullaness Hotel	3pm
F.Hession & Friends	An Tain	9.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
Thursday 12th		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullaness Hotel	11am
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	9pm
Country Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Acoustic Session	Maud Millars	10pm
Friday 13th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30
Trad Session	Pillar House	9pm
Steve	Shearwater	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Loose Rooster	Maud Millars	10pm
Evan Blake	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Hickory Wind	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 14th		
Last Man Standing	Rugby Club	First Day
High Reel	Shearwater	9pm
Desi Egan	Downey's Bar	10pm
Jack & Davy	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Eoin Maher	An Tain	10pm
Paul Casey	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Too Tall Paul	Pillar House	10pm
Beggars Velvet	Maud Millars	10pm
The Ledgends	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
The Hush	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 15th		
Liam Mannering	Shearwater Hotel	5.30pm-8
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Live Music	Maud Millars	8pm
Ray Flanagan	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
Robert Mizzell	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Olivia Douglas	Downey's Bar	10pm
Take Time	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Emerald Dave	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Monday 16th		
Yoga	Gullaness Hotel	6.30pm
Tuesday 17th		
European Seminar	Church Gallery	12.30pm
Unislim	Gullaness Hotel	5.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullaness Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 18th		
Active Retirement	Gullaness Hotel	3pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
B.Kilkenny/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 19th		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullaness Hotel	11am
Big Maggie	Town Hall Theatre	8pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	9pm
Colm Bourke	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Acoustic Session	Maud Millars	10pm
Friday 20th		
Art Exh Aesthetic Fus	Church Gallery	Last Day
Baboro Concert	Church Gallery	All Day
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30
Big Maggie	Town Hall Theatre	8pm
Luka Bloom	Pillar House	8pm
John Molloy	Shearwater	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Live Music	Maud Millars	10pm
DJ Johnny F	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Dunlo Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Saturday 21st		
Hermitage g./Macy South	Lukers of S'bridge	7pm
Big Maggie	Town Hall Theatre	8pm
Amy Brennan	Shearwater	9pm
Chillibillies	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Simon Brady	An Tain	10pm
Hoppy Bar Stars	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Plearaca	Pillar House	10pm
Anchormen	Maud Millars	10pm
Finnegan's Fury	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Tommy Berry Trio	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 22nd		
Tommy O'Flaherty	Shearwater Hotel	5.30- 8pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Hoppy Bar Stars	Maud Millars	8pm
Ray Flanagan	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
Gerry Guthrie	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Bojangles	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Shane Moore	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Monday 23rd		
Yoga	Gullaness Hotel	6.30pm
Tuesday 24th		
Art Exh Collection	Church Gallery	First Day
Unislim	Gullaness Hotel	5.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullaness Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 25th		
Active Retirement	Gullaness Hotel	3pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	8.30pm
B.Kilkenny/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 26th		
Witches & Wizards	Golf Club	Start Day
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullaness Hotel	11am
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	9pm
John Molloy	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Acoustic Session	Maud Millars	10pm
Friday 27th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30
Trad Session	Pillar House	9pm
Ger Long	Shearwater	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Toxic Twins	Maud Millars	10pm
Evan Blake	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Paul Watchorn	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 28th		
Zombie Walk	Garbally Grounds	6-8pm
Live Music	Shearwater	9pm
Fantastic Avg James	An Tain	10pm
Toxic Twins	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Take Time	Pillar House	10pm
Live Music	Maud Millars	10pm
Trad Stone	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
The Humble Superstars	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 29th		
Blue Ridge Country	Shearwater Hotel	5.30pm-8
Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Zombie Walk	Garbally Grounds	6-8pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Red Tape	Maud Millars	8pm
Patrick Feeney	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Ray Flanagan	Lukers of S'bridge	9.30pm
Colin Galligan	Downey's Bar	10pm
Small Deal	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Massive Halloween Pty	An Tain	10pm
Treblemakers	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Paul Byrnes	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Monday 30th		
Witches & Wizards	Golf Club	Finish Day
Yoga	Gullaness Hotel	6.30pm
Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	7pm
Tuesday 31st		
Unislim	Gullaness Hotel	5.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullaness Hotel	9pm

# NOVEMBER EVENTS GUIDE

## Wednesday 1st

Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenny/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm

## Thursday 2nd

Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Live Acoustic Session	Maud Millars	10pm

## Friday 3rd

Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am- 1.30
Trad Session	Pillar House	9pm
The High Reel	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burkes's Bar	9.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Evan Blake	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Hoppy Bar Stars	Maud Millar	10pm
Dunlo Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10pm

## Saturday 4th

Michael Regan	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Coyle Family	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Martin Cunningham	An Tain	10pm
Night Owls	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Alan Lawlor	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Chris Nash	Pillar House	10pm
Loose Rooster	Maud Millars	10pm
Too Tall Paul	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

## Sunday 5th

Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Brego	Maud Millars	8pm
Desi Egan	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Pub Fiction	Auld Sod Bar	10pm

## Monday 6th

Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
------	----------------	--------

## Tuesday 7th

Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm

## Wednesday 8th

Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
M.Hayes & D. Cahill	Pillar House	8pm
B.Killkenny/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm

## Thursday 9th

Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
B'sloe People of Year	Shearwater Hotel	7pm
Steve	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Singers Circle	Dunlo Tavern	9.30pm
Country Dancing KORA	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Acoustic Session	Maud Millars	10pm

## Friday 10th

Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30
Blossom Harp Concert	Town Hall	8pm
Trad Session	Pillar House	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
The 2 Q's	Maud Millars	10pm
DJ Johnny F	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Dunlo Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10pm

## Saturday 11th

ASLAN Lukers live Room	Lukers of S'bridge	7pm
Ken	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Spirit	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
James McKelvey	An Tain	10pm
Paul Casey Main Bar	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Live Music	Pillar House	10pm
The Nudie Suits	Maud Millars	10pm
The Crime	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Hickory Wind	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

## Sunday 12th

Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Live Music	Maud Millars	8pm
DJ Johnny F	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Liam's Country Road	Auld Sod Bar	10pm

## Monday 13th

Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
------	----------------	--------

## Tuesday 14th

Art Exh Artlink	Church Gallery	Last Day
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm

## Wednesday 15th

Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenny/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm

## Thursday 16th

Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Country Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Acoustic Session	Maud Millars	10pm

## Friday 17th

Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30
Trad Session	Pillar House	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Evan Blake	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Toxic Twins	Maud Millars	10pm
Beardy Bucks	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

## Saturday 18th

Olivia Douglas	Downey's Bar	10pm
Sean Crehan	Killee's of S'bridge	10pm
Eoin Maher	An Tain	10pm
No Bodder	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Rise & Shine	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
G2	Pillar House	10pm
Red Tape	Maud Millars	10pm
Split	Dunlo Tavern	10pm

## Sunday 19th

Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Live Music	Maud Millars	8pm
River Breeze	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Ken	Auld Sod Bar	10pm

## Monday 20th

Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
------	----------------	--------

## Tuesday 21st

Art Exh The Gables	Church Gallery	First Day
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm

## Wednesday 22nd

Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenny/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm

## Thursday 23rd

Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Country Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Acoustic Session	Maud Millars	10pm

## Friday 24th

Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9am-1.30
Trad Session	Pillar House	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
The Knots	Maud Millars	10pm
DJ Johnny F	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Dunlo Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10pm

## Saturday 25th

Paddy Casey Live Room	Lukers of S'bridge	7pm
Desi Egan	Downey's Bar	10pm
Maggie Dunne	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Simon Brody	An Tain	10pm
Boom Diggity	Pillar House	10pm
Anchormen	Maud Millars	10pm
The Crooked Jacks	Auld Sod Bar	10pm
Toxic Twins	Lukers of S'bridge	10.30pm
The Humble Superstars	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

## Sunday 26th

Trad Session	Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Live Music	Maud Millars	8pm
Colm Bourke Country Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Emerald Dave	Auld Sod Bar	10pm

## Monday 27th

Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
------	----------------	--------

## Tuesday 28th

Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm

## Wednesday 29th

Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenny/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Maud Millars	10pm

## Thursday 30th

Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Country Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Maud Millars	10pm

To advertise your events here contact: [ballinasloelife@hotmail.com](mailto:ballinasloelife@hotmail.com) or Call **090 964 5831** by November 8th.





The Aughrim Active Retirement Group marked a historic milestone when they commemorated their tenth anniversary by launching a 60-page booklet, entitled "A Journey of Discovery 2007-2017" which records their achievements and trips over the last decade.

Launching the publication, in Valerie's of Aughrim, the Cathaoirleach of Co. Galway, Cllr. Eileen Mannion, said "The group is to be commended for the wide range of activities and events that they schedule for their members each year. Life-long learning is very important to all of us and I am delighted to read about the courses the group have undertaken from health and well-being to computers and oral heritage. The trips at home and abroad are also a very important aspect of the group's activities, as they say 'travel broadens the mind.'"

The Aughrim Active Retirement Group was established in 2007 after a preliminary survey conducted by the Aughrim Pastoral Council revealed that little was provided for the older generation in the community. Interested people then got together and after hearing from Larry Carey, a guest speaker from the Renmore Active Group, this inspired the setting up of a group in Aughrim where the initial committee comprised Helen Mannion (Chairperson), Michael Mitchell (Treasurer) and Mary Ryan (Secretary). This encouraged many more to come along and now there are over forty members aboard, with an open door to everyone.

The group's philosophy is based on dignity, independence and self-help and membership is open to active retired people in the locality. Chairperson Helen Mannion, reminiscing on the last decade, said "Over the last ten years we have learnt a lot, laughed a lot and cried a lot. The genuine friendships we have made over the years, we truly cherish. For many of us, it is a great social outlet to allow us to actively participate in our community in many different ways."

The book which records all the trips made by the group, also contains a "Photo Gallery" of their trips, both at home and abroad. Apart from several centres in Ireland the group have also holidayed in Portugal, Spain, London and Italy as well as taking in a Mediterranean Cruise. It also remembers the nine former members who have passed away over the last decade and pays tribute to Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer and Marian Donohue, Corporate Services, Galway Co. Council for their assistance in producing the "Journey of Discovery 2007-2017."

The book which is on sale in local newsagents at the modest price of €5, concludes "Over the past ten years, great friendships have been forged both within the group and with people we have encountered while undertaking our various activities. We have learned so much, from computers to cooking, to heritage, to first aid. The trips at home and



At the launch of the book were from left Christy Connell, Galway Co. Cllr; Mai Quaid, former National President; Cllr. Eileen Mannion, Cathaoirleach Co. Galway; Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer; Rev. John Godfrey, Marian Donohue, Heritage Office and Bishop John Kirby.

abroad opened up new horizons and experiences for us. We have also put our new skills to great use, undertaking very valuable work documenting our local heritage, assisting with local events from a catering perspective, fundraising and flower arranging. We look forward to the next ten years and always welcome new members and are ready, willing and able to embark on new journeys of discovery."

Marie Mannion and Marian Donohue of the Heritage and Corporate Services in Galway Co. Council said the group's publication "shows the importance of documenting, recording and photographing of the ordinary, yet extraordinary events in life."

Finally, Cathaoirleach Mannion complimented the Aughrim Group on undertaking the research, documentation and publication of their previous book "Echoes of the Past" which she described as "a model of excellence for other communities who want to document the local history and heritage."



Helen Mannion, chairperson of Aughrim Active Retirement Group, presents a bouquet of flowers to Mai Quaid, former National President Active Retirement Ireland, at the book launch in Aughrim



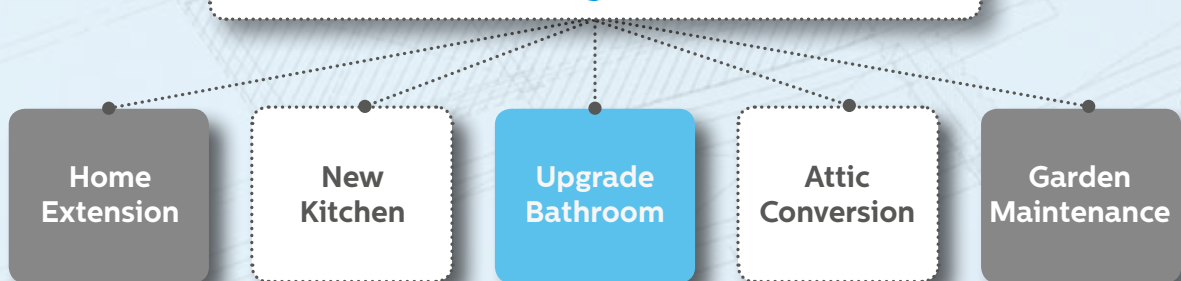
Marking the 10th Anniversary of the founding of the Aughrim Active Retirement Group



Make yourself 'at home' with a Renovate loan

**Renovate is a new lending product brought to you by**  
Ballinasloe, Naomh Breandan, Loughrea  
and Gort Credit Unions.

### Whatever your needs:



**Renovate is the financial package for you**



Ballinasloe Credit Union  
Gort Credit Union  
Naomh Breandan Credit Union, Loughrea

☎ 090 9643179  
☎ 091 631250  
☎ 091 841773

[www.renovate-cu.ie](http://www.renovate-cu.ie)



# CREAGH SAYS GOODBYE TO ONE OF ITS BELOVED CITIZENS

BY EVELYN DONELLAN



The late Margaret Walsh with Cardinal Brady at the 150th Anniversary of St. Michael's Church, Ballinasloe in 2008

**Creagh has recently said goodbye to one of its best loved citizens, former sacristan Margaret Walsh.**

Margaret was born in 1926 to Patrick and Mary Ann Corcoran in Fahy, Co. Galway. One of eight children, Margaret was very close to her brother Gus. The family remained in Fahy until she was seven when they moved to Eyrecourt.

**Prior to her marriage, she worked in Hayden's Hotel, Ballinasloe. It was then she met and married Michael Walsh, a**

**man that loved horses, breaking them in and teaching many children in the town how to ride them. They were eleven years married when they welcomed the birth of their daughter Geraldine. Having lived in the town for a number of years they moved to Creagh in the early**

**1970's.**

Then sacristan, Mrs. O'Hara, was retiring and Administrator Fr. Gerry O'Shea approached Margaret, offering her the position. She accepted and held the position for over 40 years. She loved her job and got on so well with all the servers, priests and parishioners. She looked after all the servers like they were her own children and was often seen drying or warming their coats on the radiator in the sacristy.

**In 1981 her husband Michael passed away suddenly at the age of 52. She had great faith and always said that her job in the church helped her to get through this very difficult time. Margaret had so many good friends in Creagh.**

In 2012, she retired from the church and went to live with her daughter Geraldine and her son-in-law Frank where she was visited regularly by Fr. Seamus Bohan. Margaret enjoyed the countryside, and said that her greatest pleasure was seeing her grandchildren and great grandchildren. She also greatly enjoyed going to the local day centre in Portumna on a weekly basis where she made many friends.

**Margaret will be dearly missed by her family and friends. Her contribution to the Creagh area and community will be long remembered.**

## GROUP 8 ART



Nuala O'Connor, Tommy Campbell, Joyce Little, John Soden, Grellan Ganly & Brendan Greal, members of the Group 8 Art Group, discussing their Culture Night exhibition that will run for the next two weeks in the Church Gallery.

# HEALY'S PHARMACY



Society St., Ballinasloe.

**ORLA KIELY GIFT PACKS NOW IN STOCK FOR €14.<sup>95</sup>**  
**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**



# GELS GOLF SCRAMBLE SUCCESS

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN



**A fabulous time was had by all at the Galway East Life Support (GELS) 3-Ball Scramble that recently took place at the Ballinasloe Golf Club. A few showers failed to dampen the spirits of the players and the sun shone consistently over the two days.**

Huge coverage and encouragement for the event was received from Ollie Turner, Ronan Lardner, Marc Roberts and Galway Bay FM on the Saturday and all over the week. Support, both local and from afar, was most impressive. The golf course was fantastically dressed with signage, banners and a selection of SsangYong vehicles from Whelan's Carsales, Portlaoise and Mountbellew. This included the SsangYong Tivoli Jeep, which was the grand prize for a hole in one. While one player came extremely close to a hole in one, the jeep wasn't won over the weekend.

**An appearance by the Liam McCarthy Cup and members of the winning Galway Minor Hurling team on the Saturday morning caused great excitement with all present making the most of the wonderful photo opportunities.**

A generous donation by the family of world famous golfer Christy O'Connor Snr. astounded the Galway East Life Support members and all who attended on Saturday. A favourite Wood and an Iron used in Christy's 10th Ryder Cup in 1973 created a real stir and is set to be auctioned at a later date.

**Chairperson of GELS, Arthur Carr, thanked all of their sponsors, including Supermacs, Ballinasloe Credit Union, Utah, Hogartys Galway & Ballinasloe, Applegreen, and every business that bought a tee box, supplied a prize, gave a donation. Special thanks are owed to Noel and Michael of Whelan Carsales, Mike Coughlan and the Ballinasloe Golf Club. The event raised over €4,000 for the service.**

Galway East Life Support were thrilled with the support they received and the funds raised will go towards heating and general running expenses. GELS is a volunteer based local Suicide Prevention & Awareness charity based in The GELS Centre, Cullen's Yard, Main St. Ballinasloe. They can be contacted by calling 085 123 7878.



Ballinasloe store extended opening hours

**Monday to Saturdays  
9am - 6pm  
(open lunchtime)**



**Haven  
Pharmacy**



# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## BALLINASLOE TO MALTA FOR TOP TATTOOIST



BY CLARISSA BUCHER

From Ballinasloe to Malta, Paul O'Rourke has found himself owning a tattoo studio on the Mediterranean island. He opened the studio, **Corazón Tattoos**, earlier in the year.



Paul O'Rourke

A sample of the work Paul has done

His father's family hail from Coreen. His parents, Tony and Betty, still live in the town, in Beechlawn. His sister Melinda and her husband Dave both live in Ahascragh while his brothers, Rob and Gearoid have both left the town. Rob is a web-based entrepreneur in Malta, while Gearoid is a film-maker in Dublin.

Paul, 33, did his Leaving Certificate in Athlone before travelling to New Zealand to study Design. He later studied stained glass in London.

His early working life was focused on carpentry and stonework construction, having learned from his father. In spite of this, he has always thought of himself as creative, and wanted to focus on

that creativity for his career. "I got my first tattoo at 17, and I just knew I needed to learn the craft" Paul commented. In 2008, his dream became a reality when he got the opportunity to work as an apprentice in the All Star Ink Tattoo Studio in Limerick. "The apprenticeship there is what really got my career up and running" he reflected.

In 2015, Paul decided to leave Ireland and live in Malta with his girlfriend, Vanessa, who comes from there herself. "Before moving I had visited the island a couple times, and I really do not regret

moving. I love my job, I love the country, and the lifestyle in Malta is perfect for me" he enthused.

"My work gives me the opportunity to meet people from all over the world, it's fantastic. I've gotten to travel all over the world too. I was a guest artist in Rome at Swanson Tattoo, in Toronto at Pearl Harbour Gift Shop and most recently at the Bristol Convention" Paul explained, detailing his experiences.

His work, he remarks, is not without its difficulties. "I need every tattoo to be as perfect as possible. Good communication with the customer is key for this" he explained, noting that some of the designs he has worked on are intricate and precise. Hearing the stories of his clients remains extremely rewarding, however, and he adds that people's motivations and causes for their tattoos can be very interesting.

Despite the distance, Paul remarks that Ireland is never too far away. "My second customer was Irish, actually. The Irish Navy often stop in Malta, too, and the Irish community here is quite big" he detailed. He does his best to visit Ballinasloe a couple of times a year, and he always keeps an eye on how the town is doing. "I saw videos and photographs of the Galway Hurlers Homecoming in Ballinasloe, and it was incredible to see the turn-out," he added.

You can find out more information about Corazon Tattoos on his website, [www.tattoo.com.mt](http://www.tattoo.com.mt) or his Facebook Page, Corazón Tattoo Malta.



The front of Paul's Corazón Tattoo Studio

# 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](http://www.MOLONEYBUILDERS.ie)**

# PASSING OF OLIVE KELLER – CO DIRECTOR KELLERS – CAMPOTEL FOUNDER



Olive Keller, co-director of Kellers of Main Street, passed away on July 14th, aged 82. Olive fought a long battle with her illness, which inevitably left her dependant on her loving husband Liam, and the rest of her family. Although much of her life had been lost to her illness, she has left behind her a legacy of great achievement, perseverance and many fond memories, which her family will cherish forever.

Born to her parents John and Greta in Headford, Co. Galway, Olive was the second eldest of her 3 siblings; Aidan, Brendan and Mary. The family moved to Moate, where Olive completed her education, and subsequently settled in Athlone, where they set up shop – namely “Golden’s Stores” in Baylough, Athlone. In her late teens to early 20’s, Olive worked as a secretary for Flynn’s Construction, before reassigning to Athlone Urban Council.

It was here in Athlone, in the mid 50’s, that Olive and Liam first met. With weekend dances few and far between in Ballinasloe, Liam had little choice but to hitch a lift to Athlone, to attend the Sunday dance in The Crescent Ballroom. He reminisces how Olive was always “all style, always had the hair well done and was dressed to the nines.” On the 18th August 1960, Olive and Liam married in Athlone. As Liam had set up the Hardware Shop on Main Street with his brother Michael three years previous, Olive relocated to Ballinasloe. A year later, they welcomed their first born Bill, and later added to their new family with the arrival of Sheena and then Pearse. Whilst Liam continued to grow the business downstairs, Olive looked after the children upstairs, in the family home on Main Street.

In the early 70’s, they decided to further expand their business, and had their sights set on Olive’s hometown of Athlone. With Liam commuting to and from Athlone, to keep things afloat in Ballinasloe, Olive continued to rear their 3 children and manage the new furniture shop, which was situated under the Crescent Ballroom, the very place that they had their first dance. After purchasing their first famous caravan in 1976, Olive and the family made their way to Royan, France, for what was initially a family vacation. Fast forward three years, and after the purchase of a few tents, Olive found herself as “Campotel’s” first and only campsite courier, giving Irish families a taste of camping life in France.

It was here, in her mobile home in France, in the later years that Olive felt most content. She would spend her days chatting with people who had become life-long friends, reading one of her endless romantic novels, watching the latest episodes of Emmerdale or Coronation Street, or walking around the markets of Les Sables, accompanied by Liam to carry the bags.

In recent months, although largely confined to her home, Olive continued to enjoy life to her fullest ability. There would be daily visits from her friends and family - to catch up on the current news, a weekly visit from the hairdresser - to keep the hair “well done”, and the usual visit from one of the girls to paint her nails. Up until the day she passed, Olive would continue to have a laugh and a joke with her family and would never cease to correct them if they happened to get a date, or name wrong, when recalling a story.

Olive will be sorely missed by her husband Liam, family, friends and colleagues, but her presence will continue to remain with them forever.

## 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





**Eugene  
Murphy**

Roscommon - Galway



**Constituency Offices Details**

<p>Ballinasloe Office Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre Creagh Road, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway <b>Tel. 087-4353834</b></p>	<p>Elphin Street Strokestown, Co. Roscommon <b>Tel: 071-9633000</b></p>
<p>Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2 <b>Tel: 01-6183056</b> <b>Email: eugene.murphy@oireachtas.ie</b></p>	<p>The Square Roscommon Town, Co. Roscommon <b>Tel: 090-6625722</b></p>

Please ring Constituency Office in advance to make appointment



# PASSING OF POPULAR VET

BY KEN KELLY



**Former Ballinasloe Veterinary Surgeon, William J. (Billy) Flanagan, who passed away recently had succeeded his late father, who founded the business, in Dunlo St. in February of 1916. The late William J. Snr. came to the town from Ballyhaunis to set up the veterinary practice and subsequently married local girl, May Murray from River St.**

Following his secondary education in Garbally College, Billy Flanagan qualified as a Veterinary Surgeon in 1953 and joined his late father in the business. They were later to be joined by Billy's brother Declan, who also qualified in 1959. Following their father's retirement both brothers operated a very successful and thriving business before Billy's retirement in the early nineties and Declan's a few years later.

**Billy Flanagan's love of his home town saw him work tirelessly to improve the commercial and business life. He was a herculean worker in the Chamber of Commerce and as its president strived to attract industries to the town and fought for its amenities to be improved.**

A highly competitive golfer, Billy at one stage played off a handicap of four. He was honoured with the captaincy of Ballinasloe Golf Club in 1962, was elected president in 1976 and subsequently became a trustee and honorary member. His sister, Helen (Keane) was also Lady Captain on the Ballinasloe Club in the early sixties and in later years was captain of the Tuam Golf Club when she went to reside in the North Galway town. Billy, who was born in 1929, was also a former president of the Ballinasloe Bridge Club, where he enjoyed universal popularity for many decades.

Following his funeral mass, past officers of both clubs formed a guard of honour as his remains made their way to Creagh cemetery for burial.

The late Mr. Flanagan is pre-deceased by his brother Frank and sister Megan (McDonagh). He is survived by his brothers Declan (Ballinasloe), Fr. Joe, Columban Fathers, Dalgan Park and Tom (England) as well as his sister, Helen Keane (Tuam), sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces, relatives and friends.



There's  
*always*  
time for  
*cake!*

**kariba's**  
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](http://www.domachire.com)

Est. 1990

Poolboy Ind. Est. Ballinasloe – 0909642888 – [sales@domachire.com](mailto: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.**

# CAHALAN JEWELLERS RECEIVE JCI OVERALL LOCAL AWARD

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

**The JCI Friendly Business Awards, sponsored by Junior Chamber Ireland and Bank of Ireland, recently awarded local businesses after successful nominations.**

Business owners in Ballinasloe town and the surrounding areas were invited to the recent event held in the local Bank of Ireland.

From Ballinasloe, the eight successfully nominated businesses were Barrett's Hardware, Broderick's Pharmacy, Gullane's Hotel, Supervalu Brackernagh, Salmon's Department Store, Gibbons Pillar House and Cahalan Jewellers. Kathryn Gibbons, Dermot Salmon, Maureen Cahalan, Fergal Dunne, Kevin and Anne Broderick, Gerry Barrett and Tomas Gullane all accepted awards on behalf of the Ballinasloe businesses.

The JCI Awards recognise the importance of the role played by small businesses in the local community and celebrates the values that these businesses bring. The winners will next be judged nationally on criteria such as Community Impact, Customer Care, Digital Experience, Disability Access, Eco-Friendliness and Shop Layout and Design.

Gibbon's Pillar House, one of the award winners, recently hosted the successful Larry Reynolds Festival. The Pillar House hosted different events during the festival, as well as the "slán abhaile" evening to close the event. Festival Chairperson, Claire Gibbons, is sure to be delighted with the bar's recent success.

The winners were all presented with certificates, and everybody involved was thrilled. In each town an overall category winner is chosen and Maureen



Margaret Barrett BOI; Tomas Diskin BOI; Kathryn Gibbons - Gibbons' Pillar House Bar & Restaurant; Dermot Salmon - Salmons Department Store; Maureen Cahalan - Cahalans Jewellers; Fergal Dunne - Supervalu; Sara Gilligan - JCI Galway; Kevin & Anne Broderick - Brodericks Pharmacy; Gerry Barrett - Barretts of Ballinasloe and Tomas Gullane - Gullanes Hotel

Cahalan was singled out. "I was delighted for both my staff and myself" Maureen Cahalan of Cahalan Jewellers commented. "These certificates express the significance of these businesses to the town which has struggled over the last year with local enterprise. Recent observations, however, as well as these awards seems to indicate that the town's enterprise has

been improving steadily over recent years" stated Maureen.

Nominations for the awards opened over the summer, with members of the public nominating Ballinasloe businesses that they felt were worthy of the award. Award winners will now be judged nationally at the JCI Ireland Conference.

**The National Awards Ceremony will take place during the National JCI Ireland Conference, from the 13th to the 15th of October.**



Maureen Cahalan of Cahalan Jewellers accepting her award and certificate

Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe. Tel.: 090 9643921

## October Specials

**€10 OFF Balayage Colour & Cut**  
Tues, Weds & Thurs  
with Leah or Karin only

## November Specials

**€20 off Lisse Hair Smoothing Treatment**  
Tues, & Thurs  
with Leah or Karin only

Find us on facebook

**CALL US 090 96 43921**  
\*See in store for details

## Dolans Service Station

### Dublin Road, Ballinasloe

**CENTRA**

**TOPAZ**

**Supermac's**

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

**2 Car Washes  
Mini Valets**

**Call & Collect:  
090 964 3177**

**Tel: 090 9642178 Email: [dolanscentra@eircom.net](mailto:dolanscentra@eircom.net)**

**OPEN 24 HOURS, 7 DAYS**

Serving the People of Ballinasloe for over 50 years



# JOHN BOLAND – A RELAY'S THESPIAN GIFT

BY STEPHEN  
COLEMAN



**John Boland is sure to be a familiar name for readers in Ballinasloe. He is a retired teacher, a sportsman, an actor and a director.**

John was born in 1940 on a farm in Creagh. One of seven children, John's father was a stonemason who became a tradesman for St Brigid's Hospital after the hit to the construction industry in the 1920s and 1930s. His mother was a nurse at the hospital, where the two met. The farm was located on the River Suck, allowing John and his siblings a childhood of swimming and fishing. "We tried to emulate Tom Sawyer, of course" John reflects, brightly. He attended Creagh NS, before moving to St. Grellan's Boys School.

**His childhood in the town was largely spent with a group of friends. "The GAA clubs were always where we met, it seemed like everybody in town did" he mentioned, adding that the former tennis club served the same purpose. The cinema in town was a favourite, especially the matinee shows that were held on Saturdays. "Before going in, we would go to Rosie Keane's shop on Church Hill for her penny sweets, and then for four-pence we escaped the world of the 1950s and joined Hop-along Cassidy as he rode horses and beat the baddies" he detailed. He added that for days afterwards the children would swagger down main street mimicking the characters they had seen on the big screen. Three circuses came to the town every year, which was always a source of excitement for John and his friends.**

John attended St. Jarlath's boarding school in Tuam, where he learned that young men from other towns had experienced a similar childhood to his own. They all longed to be understood, he reflected. "We were all jealous of the kids from the coast, who would spend summer days on a small boat with a bottle of water, some cheese and bread, fishing for mackerel" John

admitted, thinking back to his childhood on the River Suck.



John Boland, Ballinasloe's award-winning stage actor and director.

**At St. Jarlath's, he won an All-Ireland Hogan Cup Football medal. Back home, he played hurling and football for Ballinasloe GAA. "We were always training in Duggan Park" he reflected, although he played with Roscommon rather than Galway. He was part of the Roscommon side that won the All-Ireland Junior Championship in 1965.**

In 1967, John married Nuala Brennan of Bridge Street. "Nuala is a wonderful, beautiful, patient woman" he detailed. "She is the inspiration to all I have achieved." The couple have recently celebrated their 50th anniversary. Their sons Kevin and Emmett both have families in England.

**Once qualified as a Primary School Teacher, John returned to St. Grellan's School, where he taught until 1985. "They truly were the happiest days of my life" he reflects, "there was a terrific spirit in the staff, and our students found great achievement in their time."**

Perhaps most widely known for his involvement in the town's theatre, John first joined Relay's Drama Group in the 1970s. "Dermot Connolly, the director then, was short a barman for 'The Field', so I was brought in. The play was then abandoned, and we presented 'Da' instead!" John explained. From the outset, he loved the stage. As a teacher, he had long appreciated the importance of storytelling, and believed that "acting is telling a story in the best way possible." He was involved in regular productions, as well as a summer school for drama. Under the guidance of Eamonn O'Donoghue, the Relay's Group entered drama festivals all across the country and even qualified for the All-Ireland drama finals in Athlone on a number of occasions. John even won the



## 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**

trophy for 'best actor' in "Death of a Salesman" in the 1980s. The standard for Irish playwrights, directors and actors improved during that period with the emergence of Acorn Production. In the 1990s, the RTE established Access TV, a scheme to bring television drama to rural areas and involve new writers and actors to take part in the production. Though never repeated by RTE, John starred in "The Changeling". Later, John won best actor in a Radio Drama competition for his role in "Death of a Jogger".

**Having made friends with talented musician Tomás Mannion, who aimed shows at Irish diaspora audiences in the US, Canada and Australia, John joined his touring show. The show focused on historic Ireland and Irish music session, featuring comedy, dance and drama. The show became a group of 40, touring with harps, percussions, sound equipment, musical instruments, decorations and costumes. The toured the world five times, travelling across London, Singapore, Perth, Sydney, Adelaide, Brisbane, Hawaii, San Francisco and New York. "I was a producer and narrator, and I am very proud to have been involved," John mentioned.**

After retiring from primary teaching, John was invited to work with Transition Year students in Garbally College, who sought to produce a play for their school programme. "For eight wonderful years, I got to watch young people adapt to and enjoy drama, just as I had" John detailed, adding that each student was determined to leave their mark and learn to make the most of their time on the stage. The students of Garbally later took part in a Public Access to Law programme, started by the Law Society of Ireland. This programme presented court case scenarios for the students, where they must enact a court room presentation with a prosecutor, defendant, witnesses, solicitors and a jury. The students progressed to the national finals in the Four Courts in Dublin, before going to the Crown Courts in England to face a team from Cornwall. Though they returned without success, the experience had been a truly enjoyable one.

**John believes that while many young people today have become distracted from the theatre, they still remain a key component to each show. "If you look at a recent cast list of a musical or pantomime, you'll see that many of the cast are students" he explained. The students, now with a strong grasp of technology, help the productions achieve a new level. "I hope that the students in each production can find the same love of the stage that I have enjoyed" he concluded.**

You can keep updated with the Town Hall Theatre on their Facebook page Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre, or on [www.ballinasloetownhall.com](http://www.ballinasloetownhall.com)

## BIG MAGGIE SET TO RETURN TO TOWN HALL



**The Town Hall Drama Group will present John B. Keane's "Big Maggie" this October. The play will take place in the Town Hall, raising funds to continue the work currently underway to further develop the building.**

"Big Maggie" has long been one of John B. Keane's most popular plays, revolving around a domineering mother of four grown children who are determined to go their own way, though they are most likely heading in the wrong direction. Maggie's drunken and often womanising husband has recently passed away, freeing her to exercise some control over her own life at last and over her children – much to their consternation.

**Audiences have long been intrigued by Maggie. She is a hard, bitten and uncompromising woman who puts her own personal security above all other concerns. She is the sole owner of a shop and a farm, and rejects her maternal role and drives her children away from her, rather than nurturing them. It was first performed in 1968 and has long been a popular performance for Town Hall Theatre audiences.**

The cast is as follows: Maggie - Aisling Sheehy, Gert - Lisa Whyte, Katie - Rachel Walker, Mike - Barry Healy, Maurice - Brendan Boland, Teddy Heelin - Dave Hardiman, Byrne - Declan Kelly, Old Woman - Christina O'Flynn, Old Man - Noel Lohan, Mary Madden - Lucy Dolan, Mrs. Madden - Ann Murray. Director - John Boland

**"Big Maggie" will be staged on October Thursday 19th, Friday 20th and Saturday 21st in The Town Hall Theatre. Tickets @ €12 and €10 will be available at the door, or you can contact the theatre by phone at (090) 964 3779 or at [www.ballinasloetownhall.com](http://www.ballinasloetownhall.com)**



Back l-r: Dave Hardiman, Brendan Boland, Barry Healy. Middle l-r: Declan Kelly, Noel Lohan, Gabriel Rohan, John Boland. Seated l-r: Rachel Walker, Aisling Sheehy, Lisa Whyte. Missing from photo: Christine O'Flynn, Ann Murray and Lucy Dolan.



Declan Kelly, who will be appearing in 'Big Maggie'.



**ANN BRUEN**  
ACUPUNCTURE

Infertility    Sports Injuries  
Vertigo        Stress  
Insomnia      Migraines

### Infertility Treatments:

Special Offer on all fertility treatments for October & November.

Contact Ann directly for full details.

Ann Bruen Acupuncture, Society Street Ballinasloe

Phone 0868236750

Email [ann.bruen@gmail.com](mailto:ann.bruen@gmail.com)

Facebook @ AnnBruenAcupuncture



## TRADESMEN

**VERY COMPETITIVE LIABILITY  
INSURANCE QUOTES NOW AVAILABLE.**

**CONTACT: BRUEN BROS & CO**  
Society Street, Ballinasloe

**TEL: 090 96 43320**

**EMAIL: [insure@bruenbros.ie](mailto:insure@bruenbros.ie)**

**Your local insurance broker since 1980**

Gerard Bruen t/a Bruen bros .& co. are regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland as an investment intermediary





# SLEEPING BEAUTY CONFIRMED FOR PANTO SEASON



BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

Pantomime season is almost upon us once again in Ballinasloe, as this year the Town Hall Theatre will play host to "Sleeping Beauty". The Ballinasloe Panto group are set to put their own unique twist on the classic fairy-tale, focused on a slumberous princess and a forest in dire need of a good groundskeeper.

B'sloe Panto are celebrating their 8th season in what is sure to be another fantastic production. Eoin Croffy is set to return as the producer, alongside Ria Purcell and Rachel Walker who will choreograph the performance. Last year saw several sell-out shows performed at the Town Hall Theatre under the Musical direction of John Roe, in what was another fantastic year for the group.

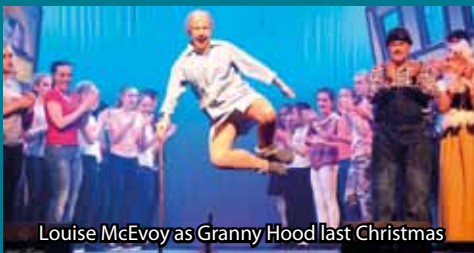
The search for the perfect, tired princess and her hero has recently begun. Auditions took place in the Town Hall Theatre recently, with entrants coming in to recite a few lines, sing a few songs and to show off their dance moves. Along with the two lead roles, the panto group was recruiting a handful of good fairies, as well as a rather evil one. A whole host of chorus parts were on offer too, especially for anybody aged six and up that enjoys acting, singing, dancing and making new friends all while taking part in another magical production.

Casting decisions will soon be made public on the group's Facebook page, *B'sloe Panto*.

The cast will feature actors of all ages and all levels of stage experience. Everybody involved is confident of putting on another memorable Christmas show.

The show will run from the 11th to the 17th of December, allowing the cast sufficient time to get into character and put together a thoroughly enjoyable performance.

For further information on the auditions or to help out as a volunteer with sets, costumes, make up, contact the production team on 087 3961208.



Louise McEvoy as Granny Hood last Christmas



Enda McGrath, Rachel Walker, Louise McEvoy and Pat McGovern in last year's panto



Auditions for this Christmas's pantomime choir

## Moycarn

lodge & marina

**BALLINASLOE, Co GALWAY**  
Tel: 090 96 45050

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

## Garbally View Nursing Home

22 Years in Business

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

**Current Resident Services Provided:**

- |                             |   |
|-----------------------------|---|
| • <b>Hairdresser</b>        | • <b>Music Therapy</b>                    |
| • <b>Chiropody</b>          | • <b>Full time Activities Coordinator</b> |
| • <b>Mass (Weekly)</b>      | • <b>Movie night</b>                      |
| • <b>Community Visitors</b> | • <b>Sonos Program</b>                    |
| • <b>Bingo</b>              | • <b>Dietician</b>                        |
| • <b>Physiotherapy</b>      |   |



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



# JOCKEY PAUL CARBERRY TO OPEN HORSE FAIR



**This year's Ballinasloe Fair and Festival will be the largest ever held with 85,000 visitors expected and estimated €8.5 million revenue for the local economy.**

The new Fair and Festival Chairman, Mal Croffy said: "The Ballinasloe Horse Fair is the oldest in Europe, and the greatest celebration of the horse and equine culture in Ireland."

**"This year we have a huge number of activities planned from the traditional equine elements to a wide range of activities to cater for families and tourists including: Soapbox Racing, Tug-of-War, Fireworks display, a Jiving competition, the Craft Market and Vintage Day on the second Sunday. New for 2017 is a Fashionable Evening which takes place on Wednesday the 4th. There is also great music in the local pubs throughout the week. The ever popular Dog-show, which is sponsored by the Bread Basket, is back as always" he added.**

On the opening Sunday, October 1st, jockey Paul Carberry will officially open the Fair. The Horse Fair gets into full swing on the town's Fair Green. A great tourist attraction in its own right, the colour and characters on the Green make for a uniquely Irish experience. The Green's lunging area also plays host to the 'Credit Union Horse of the Fair' Lunging competition, as well as the Jim Derwin All-Ireland Pony of the Fair competition. There will also be a great selection of local music on the sound stage.

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN



Ballinasloe Fair features the famous Horse Show



The Festival's much-anticipated Tug of War event



Ballinasloe's Fair Queen at the Soap Box Derby



The Open Dog Show has been growing over the last number of years



Ballinasloe children celebrating their awards from the heritage show

**On Monday, October 2nd, the Fair Green will again be full of traders and the inaugural Creagh Galros Connemara Competitions will take place.**

A heritage presentation will be presented in the Library on Tuesday, the 3rd.

**On Wednesday the 4th, a Fashionable Evening will take place in the Shearwater Hotel, whilst Soapbox Racing is scheduled for Thursday the 5th.**

On Friday night, October 6th, the sky will light up with the Supermac's Monster Fireworks display at the Marina. There is also the much-loved Jiving competition on St. Michael's Square. The Gullane's Tug-of-War will take place on Society Street.

**Saturday, October 7th is "Country Fair Day." This is set to be a huge day with stalls and free street entertainment. The best of traditional Irish music will be playing all day on the sound stage.**

Sunday, October 8th is the final day of the Fair and is jam packed with activities for the whole family. The Open Dog Show will take place in St. Michael's Square. The International Craft & Food Market will be running all day, offering food and stalls from all over the globe. Bargain hunters and food lovers fill the streets and the pub scene promises much entertainment.

**A more recent addition to the Fair is the Vintage Parade on the main streets.**

**The Parade is getting bigger and better every year as vintage vehicle owners from all over Ireland gather together.**

You can learn more about the history of the Fair and the events taking place on [www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com](http://www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com)

# EVERYTHING IS BETTER IN THE SUN



**FANCY A LAST MINUTE GETAWAY?**

**WWW.KELLERTRAVEL.IE CALL US 090 964 2131**



# TOWN HALL SOCIETY REVIEW SUCCESSFUL YEAR

The Town Hall Society recently held their AGM at the Town Hall, where they discussed the improvements over the last year, the upcoming events and accepted nominations for the committee moving forward.

Chairperson Frances Leahy discussed the changes that the Town Hall has seen over the last year. The outside doors have been painted, a storage shed for props, scenery and paint has been built at the rear of the building, the dressing rooms have been cleared, cleaned and painted

and new thermal blinds have been fitted.

The building is now just six years into its 35 year lease, leaving 29 years remaining with an option to renew for a further 35.

In terms of funding, the Town Hall Society has been fortunate to receive large funding assistance to upgrade and modernise equipment. The Department of Arts, Heritage & the Gaeltacht provided €8,050 to assist with the upgrading of the lighting system, including 48 dimmer packs, four moving heads plus a new house light. Earlier in the year, thermal blinds were fitted onto 18 windows after the group received a €757 grant from Galway Community Support Scheme. This grant aid covered 40-50% of these project costs.

The building has also seen a new cinema screen set up, and a number of film screenings have already occurred. The group hopes to see more of these screenings take place over the coming months.

The new online booking office has proven a success for the group and it is proposed that going forward tickets for all performances and events be available through this facility.

Outgoing Chair Frances Leahy thanked TUS and the Ballinasloe Community Employment Scheme for their continued involvement in the refurbishment and upkeep of the building.

Treasurer Gerry Sweeney will not be rejoining the committee and he was warmly thanked for all his work over the past 10 years. Gerry, a long standing member of the Musical Society, has given a huge unwavering commitment as the "Minister for Finance" of the project.

The Treasurer presented the annual accounts of the Society and of course the audited accounts of the Society.

The society's committee for the 2017/18 year duly elected were Frances Leahy, Maura Hughes, Pat McGovern, Mary O'Connell, Eoin Croffy, Elaine O'Hanlon, Niamh Cavanagh, Eva Burgoyne and Pat Joe Guinnessy. At their first Management Committee meeting Maura Hughes was elected to serve as Chair, with Mary O'Connell as Secretary, Frances Leahy as Treasurer and Eoin Croffy as PRO.

Over the coming months, the Town Hall Theatre will be playing host to John Boland's "Big Maggie" production, as well as the 8th rendition of the Ballinasloe Pantomime. The Town Hall is sure to see much activity for the remainder of the year.

## Putting off making a will?

Let us make things a little easier.  
Draft your will online at  
[www.phogan.ie](http://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](mailto:info@phogan.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:**

• Source of Life Gold Liquid <b>20% Off</b>	• Lecithin Granules <b>20% Off</b>
• Naturtint was €13.95 <b>now €12.75</b>	• Magnesium 365 <b>20% Off</b>
• Udo's Choice Super 8's <b>save up to €11</b>	• Glucosamine 2 x 90 <b>€27.99</b>

**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](mailto:JORENA@OUTLOOK.IE) [WWW.JORENAS.COM](http://WWW.JORENAS.COM)

# NEW TRAINING HOURS FOR SWIMMING CLUB

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

The Ballinasloe Swimming Club have announced new training hours for club members. All training sessions take place at the Coral Leisure Centre on Sarsfield Road.

The A Squad train on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 5pm-6:30pm, and on Saturdays from 1pm-2:30pm.



Ruth Dolan, who a Gold Medal in the 100m breaststroke in the Connacht-Munster Championship

The B Squad train on Mondays and Wednesdays from 4pm-5pm, and on Fridays from 5pm-6pm.

The club are no doubt looking to have another enjoyable swimming year, having finished before the summer with fantastic representation at the All-Ireland Championship as well as the Connacht-Munster Championship.

Training has only recently recommenced after the club's summer break, and anybody interested is encouraged to contact the club about joining.



Members of the Ballinasloe Swimming Club that competed in the Spring Community Games in Tuam

If you would like to have a free assessment to join Ballinasloe Swimming Club, you can contact club secretary Sinead on 087 910 9909. You can also visit their Facebook page - Ballinasloe Swimming Club or their website [www.ballinasloeswimmingclub.com](http://www.ballinasloeswimmingclub.com)

## BALLINASLOE COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY CHURCH HILL, BALLINASLOE



FRANK KENNEDY  
M.SC. PSYCHOTHERAPY

P: 087 362 3809 (office hours)  
E: [frank@bcap.ie](mailto:frank@bcap.ie)  
W: [ballinasloecounsellingandpsychotherapy.ie](http://ballinasloecounsellingandpsychotherapy.ie)

*It helps to talk*



**15 Years Celebrations**

**OCTOBER 21<sup>ST</sup>**  
**HERMITAGE GREEN**



**WITH MACEY SOUTH & ROFI JAMES  
IN THE LUKERSLIVE ROOM**



**Main bar**  
 Dan Elliot, Wayne Dunican, Hoppy Bar Stars & more TBC from 5pm (free entry)

**Food Served 7 Days**  
**12.30-8.30pm**

For tickets call 09096 74995 or [lukersbar.com](http://lukersbar.com)

*Now taking  
Christmas Party  
Bookings*

**Sat  
Nov 1<sup>st</sup>  
Aslan**

**Sat  
November 25<sup>th</sup>  
Paddy Casey**

**Sat  
Dec 9<sup>th</sup>  
Hudson Taylor**

**& live  
music  
all Xmas**

CALL 09096 74995 for enquires



# A GOOD YEAR FOR UNDERAGE FOOTBALLERS BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

**Ballinasloe GAA has enjoyed wide success across their underage teams as we approach the end of their respective seasons. The team are optimistic about achieving success in their remaining competitions.**

Three players from the Under-16 football team earned a place on the Co.Ted Webb team, where they represented Galway in a Connacht competition. Shane Jennings, Oisín McCormack and Odhrán Dooley were on the Galway side that won the Connacht Shield against Mayo and the Cup against Roscommon. The games were played in the Connacht Centre of Excellence in Ballyhaunis.

**The Under-14 Girls' team recently put in a great performance to defeat Annaghdown in the County Final. Everybody involved with the club has remarked on the players' great spirit and dedication over the run of the season.**

The Under-14 Boys' team put in a series of great performances to reach the Feile final. Unfortunately, they finished as runners up to Corofin after a hard-fought game.

**The Under-13 Boys' team played in the Clan na nGael tournament in Johnstown, where they defeated St Loman's Mullingar, St Joseph's of Clare and Claregalway before losing in the final to Colmchilles' Meath. "The players put in some great performances, so well done to all the young lads" commented Aidan Dooley, a trainer for the underage sides.**

The Under-12 team will be playing in two finals over the coming weeks. They will play in the Walsh Cup Tournament against St Dominic's of Roscommon and in the Galway County League Final against Monivea.

**The Under-10 team currently has over 30 players, with two teams being fielded at local blitzes with neighbouring clubs. Though their season has just ended, they enjoyed great success over the year. They recently ran a successful Street League over four weeks, where great matches were played every Friday. Mike Day and his family presented a wonderful cup for the tournament. Maureen Finneran also donated medals to all participants.**

If you would like to get involved in the coaching or volunteering with any of the football teams, you can contact them on their Facebook, Ballinasloe GAA, or by contacting Donal Fenton on 087 763 3754.



Shane Jennings, Oisín McCormack and Odhrán Dooley who played in the Ted Webb Galway team.



The Under-14 footballers who finished runners up in the Feile



The Under-13 team who won the A1 Hurling Shield.

## 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](mailto:dnaughten@oir.ie)  
[www.puttingpeoplefirst.ie](http://www.puttingpeoplefirst.ie)**



## McKeon's Sand & Gravel Ltd.

Cullaghbeg, Ballinasloe.  
Telephone: Office/Sandpit 090 9642521  
Email: [mckeons1@eircom.net](mailto:mckeons1@eircom.net)



### Now Stocking:

*Decorative Stone  
Paving Sand  
Screened Topsoil  
Bark Mulch*

# HEATHER PAYNE DEBUTS FOR NATIONAL SOCCER SQUAD

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

Having recently made her debut for the Republic of Ireland Women's National Team, Heather Payne is looking forward to an exciting soccer career. The Peamount United winger has entered her final year in Ardscoil Mhuire and will have to balance the challenges of the Leaving Certificate with retaining her place in the Irish national squad.

Heather, 17, hails from Creagh. She is the youngest of three children, born to Grainne and Brendan Payne. Grainne is a clinical manager in Portiuncula, while Brendan has recently retired from psychiatric nursing.

Heather has always been involved in different sports groups and organisations. She has been involved in local athletics, rugby, soccer, swimming and from her career playing football with Padraig Pearses' she featured on the Roscommon Minors. "GAA always helped me with fitness" Heather reflected, "it's really helped with my soccer style."

Heather began playing soccer with Ballinasloe Town AFC at 8 years of age and it emerged as her favourite sport as she grew older.

Heather plays as a winger, with a style of speed and flair. "Heather's work rate is fantastic. She won't give up until the final whistle and she always leaves it all on the field" her mother Grainne commented. Heather's flair allows her to attack defenders, running at them with speed. While always a threat out wide, she is looking to add goals to her game to help her become a more complete forward. Much of her development has come from her inclusion in squads that are above her age-group. "Everything feels much quicker and I have to improve my on-the-ball ability" Heather explained. Over the last year, she played with the under-17s, under 19s and the senior squad.

Heather, at under-14s was selected to join the Athlone Academy which selects a couple of talents from each club playing in the Athlone and District Boys and Girls League. This led her to be selected for the Connacht Schools under-15s team to play in a provincial competition. She was then chosen for the FAI Schools under-15 team, getting to play internationally against England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland. She then joined Salthill Devon, her first all-girls team, where she won an All-Ireland Cup after finishing as runners up the year before. In both teams they won the



Heather and the Irish Under-17 side at the end of the U-17 European Championship

Heather challenging for the ball against Norway

Heather shielding the ball against her Dutch opponent

Galway Cup and League. Over the last two years, she has been turning out for the Peamount United team, playing now as a regular starter for the senior squad in the Women's National League.

Heather recently played in the Under-17 European Championships in the Czech Republic and attracted the attention of Senior manager, Colin Bell, who selected her to join the senior squad for a friendly against Iceland at Tallaght Stadium. She stated, "I was really intimidated to start off, but the girls were all really supportive and welcoming." Over the summer Heather was brought in to the senior camp again, this time making her debut as a late substitute against Scotland. She is holding her place in the squad for the upcoming qualifiers for the 2019 World Cup. "I'm working really hard to say in the senior team" Heather mentioned.

Grainne commented, "Many of the senior players are professionals, training five days a week. Heather's still a full-time student."

Balancing her soccer career with school, however, has been a struggle. "I missed 48 days last year due to going abroad" Heather explained, knowing that she could miss similar amounts this year. She trains twice a week with Peamount in Dublin, and plays on weekends in Dublin, Galway or Cork. "It can be hard to catch up on schoolwork, but the school has been very supportive over the last year" she added.

Heather's evolving career is sure to be an exciting one, with her further involvement with the senior Irish squad putting her in good stead to enjoy a rich career as a professional player. As always, it is exciting to see another fantastic sportsperson emerge from Ballinasloe.



## Newton Fuel Oil Ballinasloe

Your local fuel & oil supplier

## Call George 087 906 3431



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



28,000 Cows

335 Galway Farmers

1 Arrabawn

Made in Galway!



Arrabawn  
**MADE IN  
GALWAY**

WWW.ARRABAWNDAIRIES.IE

## HAVE YOU GOT A STORY FOR BALLINASLOE LIFE?

*We're inviting all to send us in articles and good-quality photos from the Ballinasloe catchment area.*

Home or abroad, send us in your stories and we'll voice it to the community.

You can submit your article to:  
[ballinasloelife@hotmail.com](mailto:ballinasloelife@hotmail.com) or you can call our office on 085 764 8377



# utopia

## HAIR DESIGN

Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.  
Tel: (090) 964 5977

### OPENING HOURS:

Mon to Wed: 9.30am to 6pm  
Thur and Fri: 9.30am to 8pm  
Sat: 9am to 5pm



**STRONGER, SHINIER, SOFTER HAIR!!**

Introducing HAIR SUPPORTERS Luxury treatment  
Targets damaged hair which ensures incredibly soft and shiny hair

**LOYALTY CARD SCHEME FOR BLOW DRYS**  
(Get 11<sup>th</sup> one FREE)



FIND US ON : UTOPIA HAIRDESIGN

# LADIES' SOCCER RECRUITING UNDERAGE IN KILTORMER

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

East Galway United are recruiting for their girls teams for the upcoming season. There are openings in the Under-10s, Under-12s and Under-14s, and all skill-levels are welcome.

The team plays in Kiltormer, where there are a few pitches to allow for simultaneous training sessions for different teams. The team encourages players from Ballinasloe, Loughrea and Portumna to join them for the upcoming season.

"There isn't really any local girls' team in any of the towns, so East Galway United hopes to offer the girls in the three towns an opportunity to play" explained Sean Connaughton, club treasurer. "The girls we do have can be really passionate about playing, and it's great to give them a chance to improve and play."

The team has a history of success, regularly placing highly in the Midlands League and competing in different cup competitions.

The season runs from September until March, although last season ran into April after a run of games were postponed due to the weather.

In addition to their youth teams, older players are invited to join them for training sessions and to stay fit. "It's important that older girls can help pass on their experience and skills to the younger



Players for East Galway Utd at the end of last season

players" Sean added. He also mentioned that volunteers to help out at training sessions are most welcome.

There is also an astro-turf pitch at the Kiltormer grounds, which will be used over the winter months. The club is starting up a Women's 5-a-side programme also, offering all women a chance to get their weekly soccer fix.

For more information, you can contact Sean at 087 2242 445 or visit the club's Facebook page at Girls Soccer – East Galway United.

OPEN 6 DAYS  
A WEEK

FIRST FOR VALUE  
**HOGARTY'S**  
FLOORING AND DIY

MON. - SAT.  
9.00 am - 6.00 pm

STOCK CLEARANCE **STOCK CLEARANCE** STOCK CLEARANCE

**LAMINATE  
FLOORING**  
Room lots from as little as  
€ **50.00**

**LIGHTING**  
Centre Pieces  
**HALF  
PRICE**

**CARPET &  
VINYL  
FLOORING**  
Room Lots  
**HALF PRICE**

**WALL ART**  
Variety of Sizes & Patterns  
**HALF  
PRICE**

OLD ATHLONE ROAD, BIRCHGROVE, BALLINASLOE.  
W: [www.hogartyflooringanddiy.com](http://www.hogartyflooringanddiy.com) T: **090 96 43109**



# COMMUNITY GAMES U-14 BOYS SECURE BRONZE

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

The Aldi Community Games National Finals recently took place at the National Sports Centre in Abbotstown, where Ballinasloe was well represented by three young relay teams.

James Burke, Tom Fitzpatrick, Joe Gibbons, Rowan Harley and McGearld Woha competed in the under-16 boys' relay.

Shane Fitzpatrick, Conor Harley, Cailum Lionel, Adam McGreal, Charlie Naughton and Derick Woha performed in the under-14 boys' relay.

Leah Clarke, Aibheann Fitzpatrick, Clodagh Killeen, Lucia Lionel, Emma McGreal and Kayla McKeon all competed in the under-12 girls' relay.

All competitors gave a great account of themselves and the two boys' teams qualified for the All-Ireland Finals in their races. The boys' under-14 team gave an excellent performance, securing bronze in the All-Ireland Final.

Former National President, Carmel Grealy, is a key figure behind Ballinasloe's Community Games, and commented on how well the teams had performed. "The standard this year was very high" Carmel mentioned, "all races were keenly contested and the town can be extremely proud of our young representatives."

Many of the competitors will be eligible for the same

age category in 2018, so their experience in these finals can be used as a launch-pad for further success next year.

With the year's calendar ending now for the Community Games, Carmel, on behalf of all competitors thanked the "committed trainers behind the teams, namely Ann Fitzpatrick, Paula Harley and Ann Burke. We also must thank the different team managers for their efforts, as well as the very loyal, committed parents who support their children through success and failure".

The Community Games AGM will take place in November and the club is currently sending in nominations for the National Community Games Volunteer of the Year award, as well as the Youth Volunteer award. As this is the 50th anniversary of the Community Games, the awards promise to be a notable occasion.

The Community Games will recommence in February 2018, and the Ballinasloe club is excited for what is hoped to be another successful year.

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 Grealy at [carmelgrealeycg@gmail.com](mailto:carmelgrealeycg@gmail.com)



The Under-16 Boys that qualified from the All Ireland Semi-Finals



The Under-14 Boys that won bronze in the All Ireland Final



The Under-12 Girls that competed in the National Championship



MEAL C 14" PIZZA

+ 3x REG DRINKS + 3x REG FRIES + DIP

€19.95



DELIVERING TO BALLINASLOE from MAIN ST. 090 9643151

Dublin Road: 090 9642178

Shannonbridge: 090 9674929

Sarsfield Road: 090 9643814

Mac's Diner: 090 9643444



HOT MUFFIN

& ICE CREAM

ONLY

€2.00\*



CHOOSE FROM : CHOCOLATE MUFFIN • BLUEBERRY MUFFIN

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.

# NEW SEASON - NEW START FOR RUGBY

BY STEPHEN  
COLEMAN



**With a new season just starting, a busy year lies ahead for the Ballinasloe Rugby Club. Newly elected President Tom Horkan has gathered a strong committee around him with old and new faces hoping to steer the club forward.**



Ballinasloe's U17 Connacht Squad members: Sean Horkan, Cian Treacy, Oisín McCormack & Odhrán Dooley - absent from photo Shane Jennings

Meabh Deely & Aoibheann Reilly

"Like any other club, be it soccer, GAA or rugby, we all face the same modern-day issues - fielding teams and finances" Tom explained. "This year there will be particular emphasis on both and I've gathered a strong team of dedicated and committed people around me."

**The first event of the year was recently held in the clubhouse as the club celebrated the 25th anniversary of winning the Connacht Senior Cup, back in 1992. It was a momentous night for the club, as a large number of the original squad returned to the club to join in on the festivities.**

It was also a busy start for many of the youth players, with strong

representation at various Connacht Underage levels from both the Boys and Girls teams. The club also have three under-18 girls on the Irish 7's squad, which the club are sure to be thrilled with.

**"We're always looking for new volunteers. You can never have enough people helping out - be it selling tickets, helping out on the sideline or even in the bar," Tom expressed, hoping to find a few new people to aid the club in its operations this season. "We'll be organising a number of fundraisers throughout the season - our first one, the Last Person Standing, is already out there."**

Last Person Standing is a unique, enjoyable way of raising money for the club and operates based on the English Premier League matches. For further details, you can contact Pearse Keller of Keller Travel on 086 243 2084, or call into the shop on Main Street.

**This year the club will be fielding two adult teams. The Men's team will play in the J1A Connacht League, while the newly-formed Women's team will play in the Invitational Cup and the Junior League.**

The club is looking forward to what they hope will be an interesting and successful season. To keep up the date, you can find the team on Facebook at **Ballinasloe Rugby Club**.



The 1992 Connacht Senior Cup winning team.

## GEAROID GERAGHTY & COMPANY SOLICITORS



[www.gearoidgeraghty.ie](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:mountbellew@gearoidgeraghty.ie)



# TOUR D'SHAMS TOPS OFF BUSY SUMMER FOR CYCLING CLUB

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

**Ballinasloe Cycling Club recently held their 3rd annual charity cycle in aid of Ballinasloe Social Services. The "Tour D'Shams" cycle saw 167 cyclists take to their bikes on 50km and 100km spins.**

The wet start to the day failed to dampen spirits as the cyclists embarked on one of the two routes. The 50km route brought the cyclists up north to Dysart, westwards to Ballyforan before looping back down to Ballinasloe through Ahascragh. The 100km route brought the cyclists through Taylorstown and Athlone, all the way north to

Ballymurray Forest, back around then to Athleague and Ballygar before returning to Ballinasloe through Ahascragh. The cyclists enjoyed short breaks with snacks at Ballyforan Hall and Athleague Hall.

**Cyclists were greeted at different points along their journey with cakes and buns, kindly prepared by volunteers who also helped out with lead cars, road marshals, motorbike marshals and sweeper vans. Ballinasloe Social Services also provided assistance during the event.**

A wide array of cyclists took part in the event, including an 11-year-old and an 82-year-old, with many more in between. There was a great mix of bikers, ranging from leisure cyclists to local clubs supporting the event. Ballinasloe's Cycling Club holds good relations with neighbouring clubs, and the benefit is clear to be seen here.

**Much of the organisation of the event was done by John Donnelly, the club PRO, who has yet to cycle in any of the club's Tour D'Shams. Always too busy with the organising and logistics, John hopes to get out on the bike next year. "I can cycle the route any day but it's more enjoyable knowing everyone gets around safe" John commented.**



Tour D'Shams Cyclists enjoy a break with tea and cake.



Owen Buckley, Kieran Kilmartin and Ann Quigley



Micheal Blehine, John Donnelly and Gary Devlin



Gerry Blake, Clare Dillon and Dermot Salmon



Marion Rurane

Spot prizes were kindly provided by Barry Taylor, Geraldine Donnelly, James Murphy, Alan Grenham, Dubarry, Coral Leisure and Monaghan & Sons.

**John also praised Lyn Donnelly and the BACD Directors, who allowed the club to use the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre as a meeting point for the Charity Cycle.**

The club have previously raised funds through the Tour D'Shams Cycle for East Galway Cancer Care and Saint Teresa's Special School. This year, the club raised almost €4,000 for Ballinasloe Social Services.

**If you're interested in joining the cycling club or wish to keep up to date, visit the club's Facebook page: Ballinasloe Cycling Club.**

## BALLINASLOE GARDEN CENTRE

DEERPARK, BALLINASLOE. PH: 090 9643787. MOB: 086 0673167. PROP: BARRY WARD

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

**Locally Grown Vegetables:**  
2 packs for €5 or €2.99 each

**3 Fruit Trees €50**

**Chicken Pellets 10 kg €12.99**

**Selection of Hardy Shrubs 5 for €20**

**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 Autumn/Winter Bedding**  
3 for €10 or €3.99 each

**Range of New Ceramic & Concrete Pots**

**Tippland Compost 75L 2 for €10**

**Bord na Mona Compost 75L 2 for €12**

**Mini Bark 3 for €20 or €7.99 each**

**Selected Roses Half Price**

**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*



# SOCCER SEASON LOOKS FORWARD TO FRESH START

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN



**Ballinasloe Town AFC recently held their AGM in their clubhouse in the Curragh Grounds. The new committee is looking forward to what they hope will be a positive season, following on from the successes of the last year.**

Chairperson Joseph Kelly reflected on what was a very successful year for the club. The past year saw the Curragh Grounds playing host to an Under-16s international game between Ireland and Hungary, the opening of their new clubhouse, underage sides excelling and Jordan Carr and Conor Layng represented the club at international youth level.

**Much of the core committee remains as it was, with Joseph Kelly staying on as Chairman and Wayne Braithwaite holding his position as Vice-Chairman. Ciaran Keighery stays on as Club Secretary and Jason Fallon remains as Youth Secretary. Ellen Egan has replaced Brendan Fahy as the club's Treasurer and she will be assisted by Johnny Walsh. Sonya Dowd remains on as the club's Youth Fixtures Secretary with Katie O'Connor as the Child's Welfare Officer. Brendan McNally will be the Head Groundsmen and will be helped by Pat Campbell and Font Egan.**

"A large selection of committee members will again be giving up their free time to help in the running of the club" remarked Joseph. "Huge thanks to those members for their hard work and dedication, specifically Mickey Walsh, Shane Fallon, Katie O'Connor, Mark Duffy, James Kinsella, Henry Loughnane, Barry O'Connor and Patrice Fallon" he said.

**The Club's Masters Squad claimed their first ever Roscommon and District Masters League. The squad went unbeaten to claim the title. "It's amazing that the club hasn't won the competition until now, as we've had some great teams over the years" commented Jason Fallon.**

The summer camps hosted by the club saw hundreds of children enjoying a week of training drills, matches and fun activities at the Curragh Grounds. The kids were given a goodie bag and a football for their efforts over the week.

The club is always looking for volunteers and coaches. If you would like to get involved, you can contact Jason Fallon at 087 176 1749

**You can keep up to date with the soccer club by liking their Facebook Page, *Ballinasloe Town AFC*.**



**Children kitted out at one of Ballinasloe Town AFC's summer camps**



**The Masters team that won their first ever Roscommon & District Masters League**



**The Under-13 team pictured with Aiden Curley of Gregg Stone, who has sponsored their Match-day Jerseys and a plaque at the new clubhouse**

## 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](mailto:coylegm@eircom.net)

## SENATOR MAURA HOPKINS



**CONTACT MAURA:**

☎ 086 856 4206

@maura.hopkins@oir.ie

📧 @maurahopkinsfg

📍 @hopkins\_maura

**FINE GAEL**



# EAST GALWAY HUNT PONY CLUB THRIVES ON NATIONAL STAGE

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

The East Galway Hunt (EGH) Pony Club continued to progress over the summer with some fantastic performances at National competitions.

In May, the Minimus team (swimming, running and riding) found great success with the girls team at the National Championship in Punchestown. Emily Martin won the overall National Girls' Title and she was selected for the Irish Minimus team, competing on the winning team in the UK.

At the National Championships in Mullingar, Robbie Bailey of the show-jumping team finished in 3rd place out of over 50 teams. Godfrey Gibbons finished 2nd in the National Combined training event.

Meanwhile, at the Eventing Championships (dressage, show-jumping and cross-country), the club found significant success as Godfrey Gibbons won the National Junior Eventing title, while Katie Naughton finished 4th in the Intermediate Section.

The EGH Pony Club was well represented at these events, and

everybody involved really enjoyed themselves.

In addition to their success, the club has enjoyed a busy summer schedule. Over 20 people took part in the week-long camp in Gurteen, which involved six hours of riding a day, swimming, shooting and other fun activities. They also introduced the pony club games for the under-10s, who enjoyed themselves in competing at events around the country.

The club also recently enjoyed a fun day out at the bay sports. Club members had a great time, and even the parents got their feet wet for the evening.

The club meets in the Showgrounds every Friday night, and the winter show-jumping league is now kicking off. The league will run until the end of November.

The EGH Pony Club caters for members of all ages and abilities, and new members are always welcome. For more information, contact the secretary, Ruth Waldron, at 087 374 1869.



Godfrey Gibbons, winner of the National Junior Eventing Championships



Left to right: Lucy Martin, Caoimhe Ni Thuarisg, Emily Martin and Sarah Costelloe



Left to right: Godfrey Gibbons, Caoimhe Ni Thuarisg, Thie Jones and trainer Miley Cash



## 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**



# ACTION PACKED SUMMER FOR TENNIS CLUB

BY STEPHEN COLEMAN

**The Tennis Club has enjoyed a busy summer, packed with many activities and competitions.**

Ballinasloe finished as runners up in the Connacht Wide Junior Rogy Competition, which ran from February to July. The club won the competition outright last year and only just lost out to Portumna this year.

**Just before school finished the club arranged for a Tennis Ireland coach to spend a day at Scoil Ui Cheithearnaigh to offer all students the opportunity to play tennis. For many, this was their first experience of the sport and it was greatly enjoyed by the pupils.**

Tennis Camps ran for four weeks in July and were a great success. Record numbers of over 50 children attended the different days of the camps. After they finished, the club ran supervised junior matches and activities every Wednesday for the remainder of the summer holidays. Junior members competed in all age groups in the Loughrea Junior Open in August and performed very well. Ballinasloe also recently finished as runners up in an under-10s team competition in Loughrea.

**The adult teams recently participated in a number of competitions, including men's doubles in the Longford Open, mixed doubles in the Midland League and men's doubles in the Midland League.**

Most recently, members participated in a Club Championship over a number of weeks. The men's singles was won by Andrew Salmon, with Mike Johnson finishing as runner up. Lauren Doherty finished first in the

ladies' singles, while Sarah Hanley finished behind her. The men's doubles category was won by Garry Zancanaro and Kevin McKeigue, who bested Enda Staunton and David O'Brien. The mixed doubles was won by Anne Staunton and Mike Johnson, with Louise Doherty and Garry Zancanaro finishing as runners up.

**The programme of events for the remainder of Autumn is as follows:**

**Mondays 5.30-6.30pm  
Mondays 6.30-7.30pm  
Mondays 7.30-8.30pm  
Tuesday 7-9pm**

**Wednesdays 7-8pm  
Wednesdays 7-9pm  
Thursdays 7-9pm  
Fridays 7-9pm**

**Sat, Sun and all other hours Open to members**

**Under 10's coaching,  
10-15 years coaching,  
Adult coaching,  
Introductory sessions for potential members,  
Special Needs Programme,  
Ladies open night,  
Mixed doubles/singles,  
Men's singles/doubles,**

New members are particularly welcome, regardless of ability or previous playing experience. Tuesday night offers introductory sessions for anybody who may be interested in playing with members in friendly and informal sessions.

**For further information, you can visit the club's Facebook page on Ballinasloe Tennis Club. You can also call Garry on 085 112 4197, Joe on 087 252 1424, or for coaching queries, call Sarah on 087 680 0598 or Louise on 087 135 3751.**



The Tennis Club's successful Summer Camp.



Runners up in Loughrea U10's Team Challenge:  
Ryan Fitzpatrick, Fiona Zancanaro, Aliyah Hough,  
Joy Enubele, Fabian Carroll, Caomhin McDonagh

BOOKS

**SALMONS**  
DEPARTMENT STORE

GIFTS



**ALL YOUR GIFT IDEAS  
UNDER ONE ROOF**



**Now taking deposits for Toys & Gifts for Christmas**  
**[www.salmonstore.ie](http://www.salmonstore.ie)** Free customer parking at rear of store

**MAIN STREET, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY**

**Tel: 090 9642120 Email: [info@salmonstore.ie](mailto:info@salmonstore.ie) Web: [www.salmonstore.ie](http://www.salmonstore.ie)**

 Find us on:  
**facebook.**





employment, to whom he gave far higher wages, and wages paid in cash, than were ever before given in the country."

Despite the burning of a house at Sycamore Hill he was preparing for the family of his agent, and the critical stance taken by Father William Derry, a Clonfert parish priest and brother of the bishop of the diocese, Pollok's Lismanny project met with less determined and sustained opposition than he experienced elsewhere in the county. Moreover, he was helped to carry his plans into execution by the generally tranquil state of the country and the relative prosperity of the agricultural sector in the '50s and '60s.

According to the "Galway Advertiser": "After initial difficulties the Pollok estate became an agricultural enterprise on a vast industrial

scale. It became an international showcase as to what could be achieved. Eleven thousand acres supported 3,000 cattle, 4,000 sheep and 500 horses on eight farms which were laid out on picture-perfect pasture and tillage land, often in fields of 100 acres. This level of agriculture was serviced by extensive steam and water-powered machinery, forges, pumps, state-of-the-art drainage and miles of gas and water piping (the pipe tiles were made on the estate). For a time it was the most productive farm in these islands. It brought prosperity to some of the former tenants, many of whom were employed by Pollok." The farm's reputation spread far and wide, attracting visitors from both home and abroad, amongst them the Lord Lieutenant in 1858, and two years later the French Emperor Napoleon III.

One of the consequences of the Great Famine of the 1840s was the impetus it gave to the establishment of the Encumbered Estates Court. A mid-nineteenth-century counterpart of NAMA, the Court was set up by legislation authorizing it to purchase insolvent landed estates at a discount, discharge their debts, and offer them for re-sale.

In the early decades of the century many Irish landlords found themselves in severe financial difficulties because of mismanagement of their estates and their partiality for luxurious living. This situation was exacerbated by the Famine when tenants were often unable to pay rents and landlords were faced with enormous liabilities in the form of Poor Law Rates. It was hoped that the Court would be instrumental in attracting investors from Britain with sufficient capital to put Irish agriculture on a sound footing.

One of those lured by the prospect of early possession of property in Ireland at bargain prices was Allen Pollok whose family had commercial and agricultural interests in and near Glasgow, as well as conducting a lucrative trade in timber between Quebec, Liverpool and Glasgow. Amongst his purchases was the 10,808 acre estate formerly owned by Elizabeth West at Lismanny, some five miles south-east of Ballinasloe, for which he paid the Court £105,000 in 1853.

The plan Pollok had in mind was to divide the estate into a limited number of viable farms conducted in accordance with the most up-to-date scientific principles. This policy, however, involved the eviction of most of the existing tenants and the levelling of as many as two-thirds of their houses. The former tenants were to be employed as labourers, a radical method of estate management that provoked "The Freeman's Journal" to comment: "Mr. Pollok talks of improving – perhaps intends it – but he takes the means to ruin his tenantry. How can he expect to improve what is called in Ireland a snug farmer by converting him into a spade labourer? Men who were wont to ride a good horse to market, give £3 to the priest on a marriage festival, and hand £100 in bank notes to the young farmer who won his daughter's heart, could not be expected to slink down to day-men, called by the ring of Mr. Pollok's bell."

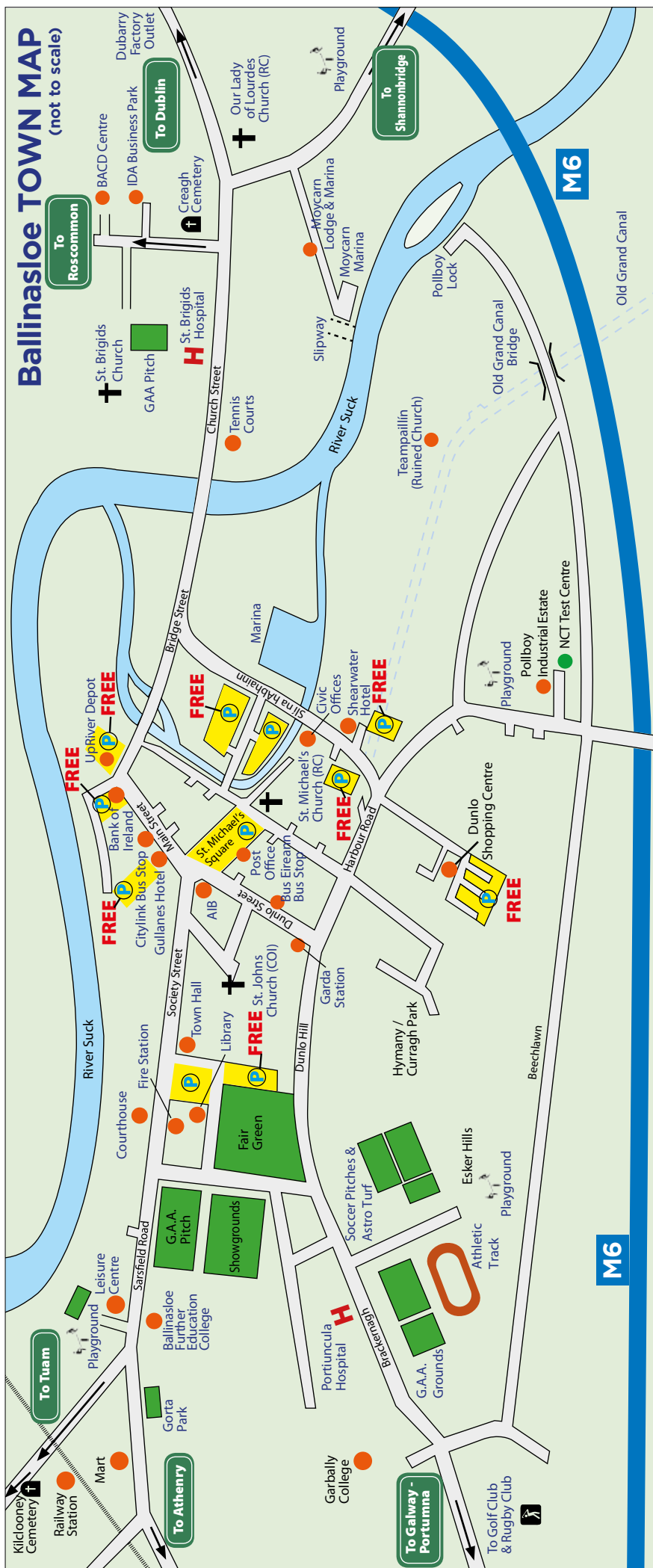
By the end of September 1853, Pollok had evicted 597 persons on his property with 310 of these being re-admitted. In defence of his actions he argued that all but nine of the tenants agreed to the arrangements and that he had "upwards of 400 persons in his

The year 1856 saw the laying of the foundation stone of Lismanny House, the Pollok residence. The accompanying illustration shows it to have been a two-storey building with an irregular façade of gables, and both Tudor-Revival and Georgian windows with rusticated surrounds and three-sided bows. Nearby was the Ganaveen farmyard, reputed to be the largest in Ireland or Britain, with stalls for 500 head of cattle and 25 horses. An enormous complex, the main building was almost an acre in area, all of which was roofed.

Allen Pollok died in 1881 to be succeeded by his son John as his heir. John passed away at the early age of forty in 1891, leaving as heir to the estate his eldest son Allen Bingham Pollok, aged seventeen, who went on to become a Major in the British army, seeing service in both the Boer War and the First World War.

By the late 1870s the halcyon days of the Pollok estate were drawing to a close. Depressed prices for agricultural produce, especially beef, a succession of poor harvests, labourers' wage increases, growing militancy in rural Ireland, together with other factors, all combined to undermine the viability of the enterprise. In 1919 Major Pollok came under severe pressure from locals to sell his land. A mysterious fire which completely gutted the Ganaveen farmyard in May 1920 seemed a harbinger of the estate's final dissolution. Four years later the contents of Lismanny House, which was eventually demolished, were sold at auction. The same decade witnessed ownership of the land pass from landlord to tenants.

It is reported that an older generation in Lismanny had the habit of locating events in the continuum of time by saying, "That was in Pollok's time," or "That was after Pollok's time."



## 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**