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BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 8 Issue 2: June '18 - July '18

FREE



Photo by Robert Riddell

**WILLE BOLAND
DERRYMULLEN'S BREWER**



**AMIE DOHERTY
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REAMHRA

Had a Benedictine morning recently and found myself on the 6.12 am service to Dublin – which was rather crammed till Clara, and then began to resemble something like those scenes from the Bangladesian Railways, from Tullamore onwards to Heuston, with the scores of priced-out-of-it Dublin commuters commencing their 2.5 hour trek to their jobs.

All these fellow citizens must undertake the same camel ride home; so that's effectively for some nearly 4- 5 hours of commute for an 8 hour working day, which is nearly 11 or 12 hours – nearly 65% of your waking time. Allowing for a good 6.5 hours sleep; this leaves us with 5.5 hours of down time – to feed, wash, do a few household chores , do a few lessons with kids or walk the dog and watch a bit of Netflix ?? Living for the weekend – as they do in the States.

From many car bound commuters in the City of the Tribes, I am hearing horror stories of 100 minute and 80 minute treks in the car for a journey of 60 km. Apart from the monthly and annual hours exhausted in shuffling to and from work – the toll this has to be taking on community and voluntary life is huge.

Who after a 2.5 hour commute, a 9 hour day in Dublin a 2.5 hour return home around 7.40 pm has the energy or inclination or head space to attend a committee meeting at 8.00 pm to help with the local school, sports club, cultural organisation or charity? When people lived and worked close by we had much more opportunity in our working weeks to engage and build healthy communities.

For those of us running voluntary organisations, skype calls, whatsapp groups, texting and email meetings are becoming the norm. Face to face meetings are becoming rarer especially if you think you are going to have a full house.

Societal life is changing rapidly for commuter towns and the community and voluntary pillar has to keep abreast of this change. If you don't have to have Benedictine mornings – look around there are countless groups in our community that could do with a hand. If you are running a Committee; please bear in mind that the most precious commodity of all, is our spare time – don't waste it with a meeting starting late or dragging on for ever. It will only remind us of how silly we were to say yes to join in.



Le Gach De Ghui, **COLM CROFFY**, Editor.

We had our annual AGM recently in the newly refurbished office space over the new Library in the Town Centre and are in the process of formally putting an agreement in place with Galway County Council whereby BACD will take on the role of marketing this space for new businesses to set up.

The 4,000 sq ft over 2 floors is fully kitted out and ready for immediate occupation.

Michael Burke CEO Chanelle Group, Loughrea, our guest speaker was extremely impressed with the centre.

His company now employ over 500 people worldwide and are a great example of how a company can grow from a Garage in 1985 to a provider of generic pharmaceutical products and services to a World Market.

A more detailed report on the AGM is covered in the magazine.

Over the last two months we have met with many politicians, IDA, EI & other stakeholders to try and bring investment to the area. We believe there is opportunity out there but we all have a part to play in knocking on doors and promoting the Town as a great place to do business, given its location, transport infrastructure, educational facilities and workforce available.

We expect that the Town enhancement project will have commenced by the time our next issue is published but we cannot emphasise enough that despite the inconvenience it will cause we must continue to support local Business through what will be a difficult 18 months. The rewards at the end of the day will be beneficial for generations to come with enhanced services, decent footpaths visual impact etc.

The response to the survey in regard to St Brigid's hospital initiated by Minister Naughton has been huge, let's hope we can build on same through a co-ordinated Action Plan to bring some form of life back to the Campus.

As Lyndon B Johnson said "Yesterday is not ours to recover, but tomorrow is ours to win or lose".

SEAMUS DUFFY,

Chairman Ballinasloe Area Community Development Limited.



Articles and Photos Welcome

NEXT ISSUE
Deadline 17th July

For submission of articles, please email:
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GRASS CUTTING IMPASSE RESOLVED FOR ESTATES

Members at a recent Municipal District meeting were informed that Tenders for Grass Cutting in the 11 private housing estates were assessed & 2 companies had tendered. The lowest tender amounted to €9,500 including VAT, with the second tender costing €25,000 including VAT.

Executive Engineer Damien Mitchell advised that for some reason, should the lowest tenderer not be in a position to complete the contract, there would be a shortfall in funding to continue the service considering the higher cost of the second placed tender.

Mr Mitchell also advised that this level of service was not carried out in other Municipal Districts and that the onus was on individual estates to sort out grass cutting once the Council had taken the estate in charge.

A compromise had been reached with regard to delivering the service this year but asked that the members would consider what will happen in the coming years in light of the reduced level of funding for the Local and Regional Road Network in the Municipal District.

Councillor Dermot Connolly stated that this level of service was a follow on from the Town Council and that it should continue. All members of the Council agreed that the tender received was good value for money and hoped that the quality would remain the same as previous years.

Tim Broderick and Dermot Connolly asked that all the members would ensure at the Annual Budget Meeting for the Municipal District that funding would be set aside for cutting of grass in the 11 private housing estates under Parks and Open Spaces Budget.

The 11 private housing estates included in the tender are as follows: Ashfield Drive, Dun Ide, Garbally Drive, Ard Mhuire, Hillcrest Park, Woodlands, Kilgarve Court, Kilgarve Gardens, Hawthorn Estate (excluding Hawthorn Close), Portnick Drive and The Pines.

The process was agreed by resolution that the grass would be funded by way of Road Maintenance Grant funding via Notice of Motion contributions.

ENGINEER ADRIAN HEADD



Councillors Michael Connolly, Dermot Connolly, Michael Finnerty, Tim Broderick, Donal Burke and Aidan Donohue, with Adrian Headd.

Ballinasloe Municipal Districts Head Engineer Adrian Headd has left the Council after 13 years of service. He now finds himself heading to Clare County Council, where he will serve as Senior Executive Engineer.

Adrian attended his final District Council Meeting in May, where he was credited for all his hard work and commitment to the Municipal District by all Councillors in attendance.

Councillor Michael Connolly said that Adrian will be a huge loss to the area;

"Its such a pity to see Adrian go, I've been working within the council for 19 years and for every year he was there he was brilliant. He was such a diligent, honest and hardworking man,

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himself and our other engineers within the council were a brilliant team together”.

“Clare County Council are lucky to be getting such a hard-driven worker, I wish him the very best of luck in his new career and hope that one day he will come back to our council”, stated Cllr. Michael.

“We can’t thank Adrian enough for all the work he has done in the council, and for everything he has done for Ballinasloe. Whenever a crisis situation came into hand, he always stepped up and went out of his way to solve it”, stated Cllr. Dermot Connolly.

Mayor of the Municipal District Aidan Donohue admitted Adrian will be a big loss, and thanks him for his 13 years of service;

“I’m sorry to see Adrian leave us, his experience and knowledge of his sector was invaluable. When you look back on all the crisis’s which affected our area from the major flooding in 2009 all the way up to storm Ophelia and Emma in the past few months, he really made a critical difference in helping the town at such difficult times”.

He has also worked so hard on the upcoming Town Enhancement Plan, its no doubt he’ll be a huge loss throughout its works. Nevertheless I wish him all the very best of luck with the Banner Council, and we will welcome him back to Galway with open arms if he ever decides to do so”.

Aidan was the last in line of a long distinguished hall of fame of Urban or Town Engineers that included in the most recent past PC O’Connor, & Eugene Cummins.

THE BIG DIG UPDATE

After some 60 months of delay and many false dawns it appears that contractors are being appointed to undertake and deliver the final 2 stages of the town enhancement scheme.

Taking learnings from the big dig in Towns like Gort and Tuam and indeed from phase one in Brackernagh – a liaison team of representative businesses from the streets and zones affected has been created.

Key Business leaders have agreed to represent their streets for the upcoming construction works and inconvenience and will be the liaison persons with the Contactors foremen throughout the project.

The initiative was undertaken by the BACD and Town Team in establishing a Retail Business Network for the Town Centre. A letter was circulated to all the businesses in the town centre and has been signed by the individual business owners on each street assenting to the representative and liaison scheme.

Dermot Salmon has agreed to be the communications person to liaise directly with the council and contractor officials;

“The main thing for people to understand is that the whole town will not be on shutdown, all businesses will be running as normal, with access routes available for streets which are being worked on. The big dig will give the town a new lease of life I’m sure”, said Dermot.

The list of business owners and liaisons representing each street are listed below;

Main Street: Dermot Salmon (Salmons Department Store) and Emma Lynch (Ballinasloe Opticians)

Dunlo street: Regina Divilly (Carry Out Off Licence) and Damien Clarke (The Dunlo Tavern)

Society Street: Sean Fletcher (Fletchers Expert Electrical) & Val Colleran (Utah Department Store)

St Michaels Square: Martina Reynolds (The Bread Basket) & John Mulvihill (An Táin).

Talks between the town council and the contractor are in the final stages of agreement to carry out the work in a timescale and format that minimises disruption.

The plan over the next 20 months is to provide updates and site specific information on the full project, via Ballinasloe.ie website under the tab ‘Town Enhancement Plan’.



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TOWN TEAM AND MINISTER ENCOURAGED WITH RESPONSE TO “RE – IMAGINING ST. BRIGID’S”



Denis Naughten outside St Brigid's Hospital.

Minister Denis Naughten has and continues to engage with the community at a local and national level to discuss what the future might hold for the Campus of St Brigid's Hospital.

The Town Team are working very closely with Minister Naughten on this

project and are looking forward to hear what the outcomes might be from an upcoming symposium which Minister Naughten hosted in Gullane's Hotel .

Over 600 online surveys were completed in advance of the workshop and a great many residents and diaspora contributed their ideas and thoughts for future possible usages of the site and facilities.

A good deal of debate was sparked of the need to keep some space or facilities for continual Mental Healthcare needs and future needs of the community.

Many took the view that the historic landmark buildings should be re – instated and utilised as an Educational or Micro Enterprise Campus. Some online participants felt that the campus as a whole could be re developed into a fullscale retirement village.

Local Minister Denis Naughten has confirmed that the project he announced recently – 'Reimagining St. Brigid's' – has now moved on to the second phase, a discussion-based workshop. "I would like to thank everyone who took the time to complete the survey and those who also submitted detailed submissions," commented Minister Naughten.

"The response to this project has been extremely positive with over 600 surveys completed, which has confirmed my belief that everyone has a view on what the future of this site should be.

"This is a site with enormous potential and this project is the first step in reimagining what the future could hold for it."

Minister Naughten added: "This is an exploratory process and each survey response has been analysed and will now form part of the next stage of this project which is a discussion based workshop in the town on the potential future use of this site.

"This workshop will bring together not just representatives of the local community but also people from across the country representing business interests, state agencies, the arts, enterprise bodies etc and I look forward to seeing what emerges from this event.and process", stated the Minister.

NEW €8.6M INVESTMENT IN FLOOD RELIEF WORKS FOR TOWN



Minister Naughten recently announced that Ballinasloe flood relief project was approved to go to design stage. Consultants will now be engaged for detailed design of the Ballinasloe flood relief scheme.

This project will significantly address the flood risks and builds on the works already taking place on the River Shannon itself south of where it meets the River Suck. These works which include removing blockages on the Shannon have a direct impact on flooding south of the town and along the Suck/ Shannon Callows.

This investment comes on top of over €400,000 allocated in conjunction with former Minister Sean Canney TD for flood relief measures in Ballinasloe, South Roscommon and East Galway since the Government was formed two years ago.

The proposed measures as detailed by the OPW Consultants include in summary:

Construction of 530m of new flood defence walls, 5,050m of flood defence embankments and a demountable flood gate. Construction of two new €6m wide flood alleviation arch culverts at the East Bridge. Dredging and regrading of the riverbank 130m upstream and downstream of the bridge

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to 35.3m to maximize efficiency of the flood alleviation culverts. Construction of two Lock Gates across the Canal and a sluice gate across the channel flowing into the marina from the canal; Upgrading existing culvert to a 2.0m dia. Culvert. Upgrade the existing Kilclooney Road Bridge on the River Deerpark;

Regrading of the riverbed upstream and downstream of Kilclooney Road Bridge to maximize efficiency of the upgraded structure;

Repainting and maintaining all existing defences; The West and East Atlas channels to be maintained to ensure their full capacity can be utilised in a flood event. Dates for the works to begin will be confirmed once the design process is completed.

Meanwhile a further Flood Risk Management study is to be carried out in the Ahascragh Area under the CFRAMS advancement study being carried out by OPW which has been welcomed by Councillor Michael Connolly.

“The initial study showed need for works to be carried out, but there are concerns that the initial study did not take account of the record high levels encountered during 2015 and 2016. The CFRAMS study took place prior to 2015 and recent consultation with local people has identified the need for a further study to be carried out in Ahascragh. The result of this study and plans will be brought before Councillors in September or October as part of flood Risk Management Plans”; said Cllr Michael.

NEW MEMBERS AND NEW PROJECTS FOR TOWN TEAM

The Ballinasloe Town Team welcomed two new members Andrea McLoughlin and Anita Touhy Killeen. Andrea is a local business woman, where she runs the very successful beauty salon The Front Room. Andrea is not shy in expressing her opinion (she writes a mean blog) and is a very welcome addition to the team.

Anita has worked in X-Ray in Portlincula Hospital since the 1990's originally a Portlincula woman Ballinasloe has been her home since the late 1990's. Anita has been quietly involved in many a project in the locality.

Jacinta Divilly Town Team Facilitator remarked “We are delighted to have such strong women on board and such willing workers; the future is looking good for both our town and team”.

At a recent meeting the Team discussed the progress of the Town Enhancement Plan and the active role Centre Manager Lyn Donnelly played in establishing the town centre liaison group.

One of their project sub teams are working on the Ballinasloe Heritage Trail, which is a very excited project as there is plenty of wonderful heritage in Ballinasloe and its surrounds.

The Town Team are also with the help of a local media tech building on the fantastic work done by Sinead Colleran two years ago to continue to develop Ballinasloe.ie, they hope to make the website more interactive going forward.

Crazy as it sounds they are already discussing Halloween and Christmas! What has now become an annual event the Zombie Walk will take place again this year in Garbally Park and seeking new volunteers and ideas.

This year, due to the Town Enhancement things (such as street lights etc) may have to be curtailed but the fantastic European Christmas tree will return again this Christmas with a programme that is in the pipeline.

The Town Team are still working on developing the next phase of the Sports Hub, if you have any suggestions as to how we can develop this project they would only be delighted to hear from you.

“The future is looking good, we have the most amazing citizens living in this town, whether it's the Arts, Fitness or sports it is covered, Ballinasloe Tidy Towns are doing great work and we should get behind them to give a hand. The important thing is to recognise all the things we have and for what we don't have please get in touch we would love to hear from you” states Facilitator Jacinta Email info@ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie

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AUGHRIM REMEMBERED

This year the Aughrim Interpretative Centre is again hosting their annual festival, with a line-up of plays, talks and music throughout the day. Aimed at promoting the awareness of the battle of Aughrim 1691 and its context through the expression of the arts, music, literature, tradition and heritage.

The event starts at 13.00 on July 21st with a war re-enactment by Warren Rainey and Jackie Eastwood.

From 15.30 to 17.00 a talk on “The O’Neills at Aughrim” and the Strategic Contexts will take place combined with a questions and answers debate.

To follow, Micheal McNally launches his book “Aughrim 1691- St Ruth’s Fatal Gamble (Helion, 2018)

At 18.00 the presentation of the Flag of Gordon O’Neill’s Regiment by Tomas Ó Brogain will take place.

The Admission fee for the day is €10. Further info please call 0909673939

NEW DERRYMULLEN BREWERY

Local resident- Willy Boland has taken to a new part-time business venture by opening his own brewery in Derrymullen, 'Heartland Brewing Company', with his wife Lisa and his father-in-law Don.

Willy who is originally from Mitchelstown Co. Cork, works as a technician by trade but got inspired to start his own home brewing during his spell in New Zealand over 15 years ago.

After returning home to Ireland, Willy took a few years to rebuild his passion by sourcing new products to get brewing. Once everything came together, Willy and his wife Lisa decided to get back into business.

The Brewery started off in the couple's household with heaters and tanks and grain taking up the whole kitchen area, where they began to start brewing from scratch. After more than 30 batch experiments Willy finally settled on his own take of a blonde ale 'Dirty Lil Blonde'.

During the summer of 2017, the trio decided to take the next step forward in their project, by moving all their equipment out of their household and re-locating to a new 3000 square foot premises specifically just for their brewing.

Willy says that the upgrade to their new brewing station has come as a huge positive for his company "Since we moved our business, we have upgraded our equipment, spent a lot of time and a lot of energy on our brewing processes, and now have our beer available to purchase in local outlets around the area".



Willy, Lisa and Don.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Dirty Lil Blonde is a light and refreshing blonde ale made with pure spring water, malted barley and two hop varieties and absolutely nothing else, no chemicals, no preservatives, zero sugars. It's unfiltered and bottled conditioned leaving a cloudy appearance and a little yeast in the bottle earning it the name Dirty (unfiltered) Lil Blonde (style of beer).

Over 1,000 Litres of Dirty Lil Blonde is produced every week in the new premises, which can be bought in most pubs around Ballinasloe town,

The Shearwater Hotel, The Golf Club and off-licences such as The Carry-Out.

"We hope to expand our range of beers little by little using lots of taste tests to get our customers feedback as we expand, so please bear with us while we try to create greatness", stated Willy.

Willy hugely appreciates his family who helped him get his brewing passion rekindled since he came back to Ireland, and to all the retail outlets and bars who have made his craft available for purchase;

"Without my family and friends, the Heartland Brewing company wouldn't be where it is today, I owe so much to them. To all businesses across the Ballinasloe wider area who have given me the pleasure of selling Dirty Lil Blonde, if it wasn't for all of you my crafts wouldn't come close to becoming successful, so thank you", said Willy.

For more information on the Heartland Brewing Company please check out their Facebook Page and Website www.brewbabybrew.com.

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MINISTER PAT BREEN PRAISES COMMUNITY ACTION IN ATTRACTING NEW INVESTMENT

Minister of State for Trade, Employment, Business, EU Digital Single Market and Data Protection Pat Breen recently visited Ballinasloe to meet with Directors and members of the BACD and other enterprises and was very enthused from what he saw and learned.

The Minister was invited by local Senator Maura Hopkins, with a breakfast briefing by the Management and Board of the Development Company at the Enterprise Centre – kicking off the day. An interactive discussion between the Minister and the Board members ensued. The Minister was anxious to hear first-hand what the stakeholders and agencies were doing to support and partner the community led initiatives in the locality.

Students of St Theresa's Special Needs School were visited by Breen while he came to the Centre, before heading down to the IDA Business Park. Here the Minister met with staff members of Aptar, before checking out the site where outline planning permission has been obtained for a new Advance Factory/ Facility.

Minister Breen concluded his visit by stopping off at the local Library, which he stated was 'a fantastic resource for Ballinasloe'. Breen was also amazed with the new Pulse Business Centre and the Church Gallery Space which are both located above the Library.

"I enjoyed my early morning visit with local Senator Maura Hopkins where I met the members of Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre. BEC have a great vision for their town and I believe they will achieve this by collaborating with the Local Authority, 3rd level Institutions, our Agencies and the wider Community", stated Minister Pat Breen.

He believes that the newly renovated Library in the Town Centre has great potential for a Local Digital Hub and staff. "I would also like to thank all the local Fine Gael members including former Senator Michael Mullins who joined me at the end of the visit", said the Minister.

"This is a major positive development that Minister Breen has come to Ballinasloe to move on development of the IDA site which we hope will lead to new jobs in the Ballinasloe Area. The Minister visited several locations in town to put meat on the bone in regards to the facilities and quality of life that we have here" stated Seamus Duffy Chair of B.A.C.D.

BEC Manager Lyn Donnelly said "we are delighted that the Minister can see for himself all the work and energy the people of this town are putting in to create new jobs and Investment and in getting the stakeholders like the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to work more closely with us."

"The objective of Minister Breen's meeting today was to ensure that Ballinasloe is on the radar, and with the hard work of our agencies and the BACD we are achieving this, but now we need to work further with our agencies to ensure that people know that Ballinasloe is open for business", stated Senator Maura Hopkins.



Visitors for delegation of Minister Breen's Visit.

BY IAN O'BOYLE



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BACD AGM REVIEW SUCCESSFUL YEAR

BY IAN O'BOYLE

The Ballinasloe Area Community Development Company held their Annual General Meeting in the new Pulse Business Centre above the Town Library to review plans for 2018.

Over 50 people were in attendance from locals to business owners, and political representatives such as Minister Denis Naughten, Senator Maura Hopkins and local Councillors.

The meeting was opened by Chairman of the BACD, Seamus Duffy, who welcomed everyone in attendance, before giving a brief address about the new offices in the Pulse Business Centre where the meeting took place.

Duffy went on to speak about how the BACD had grown and progressed in the past year. Future plans discussed were the Town Enhancement Plan, Re-imaging St Bridgid's and Work with IDA to progress the use of the land they own in Creagh.

"I am delighted that a new town centre - Retail Business Network is in its infancy to ensure good communication is in place between the newly appointed contractors for the €6m town enhancement scheme which is due to commence in next few weeks."

"This is also the basis for the group to collectively work together to build on the positive Business vibes that are beginning to come through and to build on those despite the challenging 18 to 24 months they have ahead of them", continued Seamus.

"Minister Denis Naughten has been very involved in pulling together ideas and views on what St Bridgid's Hospital & 200 acres should be used for. The survey had a huge response and the inputs are currently being collated", he said.

"This is only a starting point but it will bring potential parties together who could ultimately provide a suitable solution for the use of the facility and possibly deter others which would not be of any economic benefit to our Community"; explained the Chairman.

"We are very grateful to the local Credit Union who provided us with 30k to apply and get planning approval for a 15,000 square feet building on the IDA site, with capacity to double in size if required as has happened with Aptar & Surmodics. The IDA must now follow through on their commitment to aggressively market Ballinasloe as a suitable location. I do not believe we were on the Radar at all prior to this"; concluded the Chairman.

Lyn Donnelly, Company Manager presented about the projects running under the BACD such as the Enterprise Centre in Creagh and the Pulse Business Centre. The headline statistics of the Ballinasloe Life Magazine were highlighted, showing how much the magazine and its social

networks have grown and developed over the past couple of years.

The Town Team Projects which were held over the course of 2017 such as the Garbally Zombie Walk and the People Of The Year Awards. Lyn expressed her thanks with everyone in the town who partook and helped build these projects, saying that their effort makes all the difference.

There are now over 23 Business Tenants within the BEC as of the date of the AGM, which fills it at a 95% capacity.

A detailed presentation on the charitable company's finances was made by the Auditors from Coyle & Co. Auditors, Surplus for financial year €37,563 up from €19,853 the previous year, main reason is change of depreciation rate on the building from 5% to 2%, (difference of €21,000 for the year).

Further reports and statistics can be found on the Ballinasloe.ie Website. Guest speaker Michael Burke, CEO of Chanelle Group Loughrea, who spoke about how simple ideas can grow a huge enterprise in a rural location:

"When I first started my business in Loughrea I never imagined it would expand to the capacity its at now. Our company now trades products all over the world from our factory site, something many people wouldn't expect from a business outside of an urban area". He continued -

"My advice to anyone looking to start up their own company here is to use all the resources that are made available to you here. The BACD are here to help you get up and running so please don't hesitate to get in contact with them".

Directors Re-appointed to serve for the forthcoming year were Seamus Kelly (Credit Union), Dan Dowling (Creagh Community Development Council), Donal Burke (Galway County Council), Seamus Duffy (Membership), Paul Hargadon (Membership), Joe Lyons (Membership), Kevin Broderick (Membership), Pearse Keller (Membership), Marina Downey (Membership), Noel Madden (Co-opted), Ann Conlon (Co-opted), Brian King (Co-opted), Valerie Dolan (Co-opted, replacing Micheal Dolan).



Members of the public attending the BACD AGM.

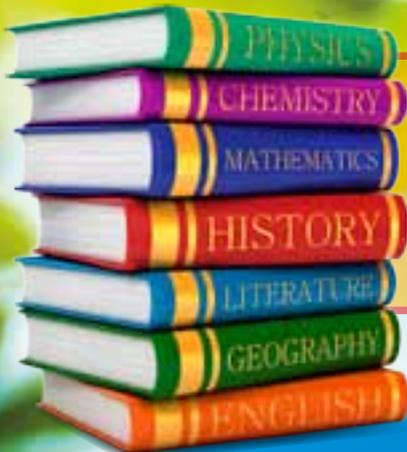
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KELLERS CELEBRATE 60 YEARS AS MAIN ST. EMPLOYERS



Management and Staff Keller's of Ballinasloe



Management and Staff of Keller Travel & Campotel

Over six decades ago brothers Liam and the late Michael Keller together purchased 4-5 Main Street back in April 1958 for the sum of £3,625. Number 4 Main Street was known as the 'China Hall' as it specialised in giftware and China sets, with up to 80 sets on display at any one time.

Number 5 Main Street consisted of a travel shop, 'Cogivans' as the shop was previously known, held an International Air Transport Association licence, which at the time was only the 8th such licence issued in Ireland.

From a two man and one staff team some decades ago the enterprise has now grown to over 20 full time and some 45 seasonal or part time employees.

Members of the Keller Family, staff, past and present, suppliers and colleagues in business - all gathered for an evening of nostalgia and celebration of some 6 decades in Gullane's Hotel Main St in late April.

As time went on Liam concentrated on the Fuel, Hardware, Household and Furniture elements Michael further developed the Travel Agency, and his services were very much sought after. Sadly in 1976, Michael passed away as a young man, husband and father.

It was a short time after in 1978, Liam and the late Olive took their maiden voyage with their kids in their new caravan to France. Fast forward to 2018, the family now have Kelair-Campotel, which celebrated 38 years in business this year, and now operates in 20 locations throughout France and Spain.

In 1995, a major reconstruction was undertaken on the premises where they took out the entire front wall from the bottom of the basement right up to the eave-shoots, and finished up with over 20,000sq.ft of retail space.

In a night of warm of nostalgia pride of place went to Liam and Lena Keller (Michael's Wife) and their families who continue to manage



Liam, Lena Keller and extended Keller families on the occasion of celebrating some 60 years as employers in Main Street.

the family firm.

However it was primarily an evening for the family to salute and recognise the dedication, unique achievements and unstinting loyalty of their current and indeed past staff.

Both Bill Keller, Manager of Keller's of Ballinasloe, and Pearse Manager of the Keller Travel & Campotel spoke eloquently and movingly of growing up in Main St and the ebb and flow of their professional lives surrounded by such a team of wonderful staff. Sheena Keller, who Manages the French / Continental Operation, also spoke movingly about the work ethic that her parents had instilled in them as youngsters.

"We have a team of wonderful and devoted staff, without whom we wouldn't be where we are today. We are lucky to have a loyal supportive customer base, and we have forged strong friendships with many of them throughout our years on Main Street" stated Liam Senior.

Presentations were made to a great number of staff who had some significant years of service completed.



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ACCESSIBLE PICTURE MENUS AT DOWNEY'S BAR & RESTAURANT

BY IAN O'BOYLE

A joint partnership between Downey's Bar & Restaurant, Accessibility Ballinasloe and Galway West of Ireland European Region of Gastronomy, saw the formal launch of their accessible picture menus.

At the launch, Marion Ruane Chair Accessibility Ballinasloe thanked Marina Downey and all the staff at Downey's Bar & Restaurant who have worked together on this project over the past number of months. "I also want to acknowledge the contributions of the design team for their professional services and understanding of the brief-namely Daithi Hynes, Signs and Systems and Kasia Skowron for her photography services", stated Marian.

The Accessible Menu project was embarked on late last year was a key action for Accessibility Ballinasloe following a series of community engagements. The picture menus are in use since January and the feedback from customers and members of the public has been extremely positive.

At the launch, Carol Pender, Manager Brothers of Charity said "this is another step in the direction of developing Ballinasloe as a more accessible and inclusive community and increasing independence for people in our community with additional needs. The menus are also a useful reference for families with young children".

Both Marian and Accessibility Ballinasloe were enthused at the co-operation of the proprietor and her staff. "Marina who is Proprietor of Downey's Bar & Restaurant, has been working with the Accessibility Ballinasloe team since it was established in 2016 and is an excellent ambassador for the business community here", stated Marian.

"Aside from the obvious benefits to the consumer, from a business perspective, the benefits to business in terms of increasing customer base and satisfaction is evident and worth the initial investment in time and resources", outlined Marina Downey.

The project was supported by the Galway West of Ireland European Region of Gastronomy Project and Ms. Elaine Donohue, Programme Co-ordinator who attended the launch paid tribute to work of the entire team and the fact that Ballinasloe is the first



Staff At Downey's Bar & Restaurant - David Dowd, Eileen Kelly, Marina Downey, Carmel Kenny, John Lawless.



Teresa Coughlan, Daragh Flynn, Marion Ruane (Accessibility Ballinasloe), Karen Breen, Marina Downey, Aiden Kenny, Carol Pender (Manager Brothers of Charity).

town in the county to lead out on this project.

Following the success of the project, the Accessibility Ballinasloe team would hope that other hospitality businesses within the town and wider county region would take this initiative to further support accessibility and independence.

Marion Ruane acknowledged the challenges and lessons learned from the project "there are numerous possibilities which could be explored which would see business utilising existing technologies such as hand held devices or visual screens to display menus with minimal costs", reflected Marian.

If your business is interested in implementing picture menus or would like to find out more about the project please contact the Accessibility Ballinasloe Team through their facebook page @ <https://www.facebook.com/accessibilitybsloe/> or directly by emailing accessibilitybsloe@gmail.com

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STONE CUTTER TONY DOLPHIN CELEBRATES 30 YEARS IN BUSINESS

BY KEN KELLY



Tony Dolphin, who was raised at the top of Brackernagh in Ballinasloe, had only a short distance to travel to work when he decided to embark on a career as a stone cutter in the nearby Top Quarries. He started his apprenticeship there shortly after he left school but thirty years ago he decided to branch out on his own.

That was 1988, initially working as a sub-contractor for Stone Developments for a number of years, renovating churches and cathedrals from the Latin format to the modern layout. Cathedrals he worked on include Derry, Carlow, Enniscorthy and Cobh as well as numerous churches and castles throughout the country.

Tony Dolphin Stoneworks was now operating from a new centre in Tristane, Aughrim, where his headstone business rapidly expanded. He was making, erecting, cleaning and adding on names to memorial headstones throughout the county and even further afield. Tony progressed with the times by expanding

into granite and quartz kitchen worktops. His dedication to detail and his expert craftsmanship have been the hallmark of his success, dealing sensitively with each individual order.

Tony has also worked on shop fronts in Athlone, Roscommon and Galway while also supplying and fitting vanity units in the bedrooms of top hotels in Dublin, Galway and Cork.

With the help of his son Eoin, Tony was very proud of the works they carried out on the renovated St. Catherine's Church in Aughrim which including making the Sanctuary Chair, Altar and Ambo as well as the steps from White Italian Marble. They also cleaned and restored the Baptismal Font as well as other works.

"We make headstones in all colours and sizes as well as granite and quartz kitchen worktops, hearthstones, grave momentos etc. Anything you want in stone or marble we can make it", declared Tony as he and Eoin worked away on another order.

Tony Dolphin Stoneworks can be contacted at 087 2608055 or email: tonydolphinn@gmail.com



Tony Dolphin and his son Eoin with a selection of Granite slabs



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THE MAKING OF A WILL

Question: My husband is currently unwell. He is self-employed in his own business. We have five children, two of whom may be interested in the family business. I have asked my husband to make a will but he is putting it off, please advise?

Answer: Troublingly, two thirds of Irish adults have not made a will. While there is no obligation on your husband to make a will, I would strongly advise you both to do so. There are a number of common pitfalls and mistakes you should avoid when settling your affairs:

1. Failing to plan ahead may result in additional costs for you and the beneficiaries of your estate. Planning can minimise the tax liability of beneficiaries and reduce legal costs after your death. I would advise you both to sit down, list your assets and obtain professional advice on the legal and tax implications of making a will. This makes it easier to divide what is being left.
2. Without a will, any assets of your husband's, not held in your joint names, will be distributed under the rules of intestacy (these legal rules dictate how your assets are divided if you do not make a will). Under these rules, you would receive 2/3 of his estate and your children the remaining one third. This may frustrate his intentions. By making a will your husband may pass the business to one or more of your children in a tax efficient manner. For example, your children are each entitled to a tax free gift up to €310,000 from their parents during their lifetime. Anything above €310,000 is taxed at a rate of 33%. Therefore I would advise you to obtain advice on claiming business relief to avoid any potential tax liability for your children.

There are many eventualities that may not be covered if you fail to make a will. The question of who will run the family



business until the children are in a position to take over should be addressed. Failure to do so may cause acrimony and complications. There may be personal wishes that cannot be fulfilled without a will.

3. Until a will is signed, a simple way of arranging your affairs is to ensure all assets and Bank accounts are transferred into your joint names. Banks will not release funds from a deceased persons account. You should ensure your home is registered in your joint names. This reduces the burden on a widow(er). It will also reduce costs on administration of an estate. Notwithstanding such steps, making a will provides clarity and eliminates the potential for disputes.
4. If a will is put in place, you need to ensure it is updated. Family circumstances can change and a failure to update it can defeat the best laid plans.
5. If you have young children, you should cater for the unthinkable and make a will which deals with your wishes in the event of you and your spouse's untimely death. For example, who would you like to act as guardians of your children and trustees of your estate. This type of will protects young beneficiaries.
6. While a will is a relatively simple document, I would advise against making your own will. Unintended consequences can arise from an incorrectly drafted will. Clear unambiguous language and professional advice are vital.

If you would like advice on a particular topic for the purpose of this column, please email your query to brendan@phogan.ie

This article contains general information about Irish law. The information contained in this is not intended to provide, and does not constitute or comprise legal advice and is for general information purposes only.

Advt.  BY BRENDAN GLYNN

CLARE'S FLOWERS NEW STORE

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Clare Lawless has moved her flower business across the street from her old premises on Dunlo Street. The new store has given Clare more valuable space for her blooming plants and interior decorations.

Clare moved to Ballinasloe from Wicklow back in 2004, and 12 years later decided to open her own flower store. "Having my own store in Ballinasloe was an ideal choice for me, the locals are so supportive and its an ideal location away from a busy urban environment".

"My new premise now gives me the chance to sell a wider range of products and draw in more customers. I really needed more space & a larger premises. We do flowers for any occasion's such as weddings, communions and bereavements".

"For anyone who's interested in coming down and having a look at my new store please don't hesitate to, if you have any questions in relation to my products and services I'll be more than happy to help".

Clare's is open from 9:30am to 6:30pm from Monday to Saturday, and 11am to 6pm on Sundays.

Her move into the old Jekyll and Hyde premises – marks another milestone in the rejuvenation of the Western end of the Street with many vacant properties being let.



Clare Lawless and her new flower store.

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FLETCHERS OF SOCIETY ST CELEBRATE 55 YEARS IN BUSINESS

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Fletchers Expert Electricals of Society Street are celebrating 55 years of business this year and have been the town's leading electrical goods sales store in town ever since their establishment.

Set up in 1963 by John and Mary Fletcher, the store has grown to have the highest per capita sales of all 72 Expert Electrical Stores across Ireland.

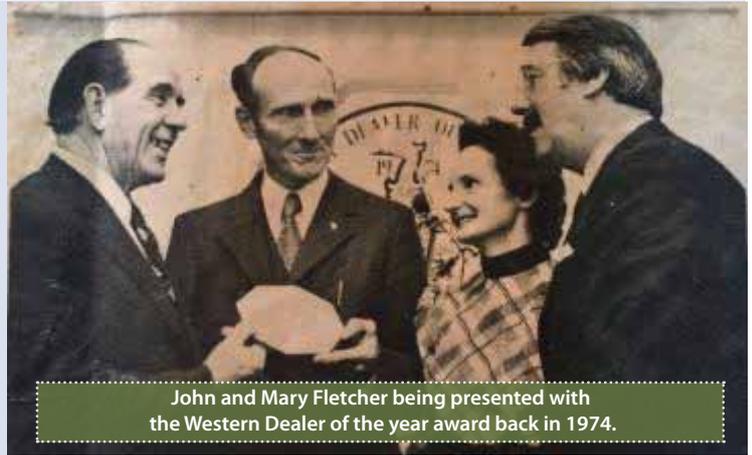
Store owner Séan Fletcher (son of John and Mary) says it is remarkable to be running for 55 years, especially with new foreign competitors in the modern day;

"I'm very proud to see our store last so many years, we've seen so much technological advances in our store from black and white to colour tv, the VCR to DVD, and from one network TV to Satellite. None of this would have been possible without our everyday customers who show great local support, to our dedicated and hardworking staff members".

The flagship store on Society Street has seen the introduction of decimal currency, the intro of the euro and all the various ebbs and flows of trends and commerce since. For years it was one of the top Music Instrument suppliers in the mid west and was the store in town to go to for Records. An advantage that kept many of the pupils of the then busy secondary schools of Ard Scoil Mhuire and St Michael's Vocational School making the store a go to place for lunchtimes and after school meet ups!

Many of those pupils whilst remembering their first new bicycle or favourite LP coming from Fletchers now visit to replace kitchen or household appliances from their keenly costed national range of top suppliers.

Store Manager Paulina Garby, who has been working with Fletchers since 2015, has achieved the highest sales over all the nationwide stores in the first 4 months of 2018.



John and Mary Fletcher being presented with the Western Dealer of the year award back in 1974.



Manager Paulinha Garby.

Paulina, who is originally from Poland began her employment at the store as a retail assistant, and has now taken the managerial position, which has allowed store owner Séan to concentrate on his modern media concert business in London.

Fletchers now have a 35% increase of sales from the same period of last year, making them the fastest growing Expert Electrical Store in the Country.

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MINISTER FOR JUSTICE VISITS THE €1.6 MILLION RENOVATION ON GARDA STATION

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Minister for Justice & Equality, Charlie Flanagan T.D. visited the local Garda Station to see first hand the €1.6 million refurbishment and extension works which are ongoing at the station at the invitation of Senator Maura Hopkins.

Senator Hopkins stated, "It is very positive to see that works to upgrade the Garda Station are now well underway. This project involves the demolition of the existing cell block and the construction of a new one, a new prisoner processing area, the refurbishment of the public office, upgrade of the heating system and the incorporation of the adjacent building to increase the capacity for the station."

The OPW indicate that the project will be ready for October this year. "This modern and fit for purpose facility when completed will help Gardai based in Ballinasloe to carry out their work with maximum efficiency on behalf of the public", stated Senator Hopkins.

There are 57 Gardaí in the Ballinasloe District, which includes Ballinasloe, Ahascragh, Ballygar, Mountbellew, Kiltormer, Kilconnell, Moylough and Creggs.

Given this large geographical area, it is imperative that more gardai would be assigned to the district and this was discussed with Minister Flanagan during his visit. There has been a significant investment in vehicles in recent years and at present the district has 7 vehicles.

Minister Flanagan said, "I have been aware of the need for investment in Ballinasloe Garda station for many years since my time as party Justice Spokesperson a number of years ago. I was very pleased that my colleague the former Minister for Justice, Frances Fitzgerald T.D. provided funding for these works in late 2015."

"Senator Maura Hopkins has raised the need for the commencement of these works on several occasions over the past year since my appointment as Minister for Justice and Equality, it is positive that the project is now well underway."

Minister Flanagan also stated, "I want to compliment the gardai in this district for the excellent work that they do on a daily basis. I want



L-R: Former Senator Michael Mullins, Senator Maura Hopkins, Cllr. Aidan Donohue, Sean Óg Hurley, Superintendent Aidan Foley and Minister Charlie Flanagan.

to particularly note their involvement in Operation Thor which is focussed on tackling rural and organised crime. It is also excellent that members of the Gardai are working closely with local communities on crime prevention measures."

Senator Hopkins concluded, "I will continue to work closely with Minister Flanagan to ensure that further Gardaí are allocated to the Ballinasloe district to serve the needs of people locally."

MINISTER FOR JUSTICE AND EQUALITY CANAL HOUSE VISIT

Minister Flanagan recently spoke with staff, trainees and Board members about the work of the Centre, as well as guests from the community including Senator Maura Hopkins and Carmel Donnelly, Regional Manager of the Probation Service.

The Minister commended the Centre for the work being undertaken, the range of training and education programmes being delivered, as well as supports with preparation for work and practical skills and qualifications towards increasing employment opportunities.

Minister Flanagan was welcomed by Páraic Lawless, Chairman and shown around the Centre by Orla McCaffrey, Centre Manager. He met with trainees and discussed the training programmes and pieces of work they were undertaking and future opportunities.

"I commended the students on their work and urge them to avail of the opportunities in the Centre and I also congratulate Canal House on their recent 40th Anniversary, reflecting the strong links between Dept. of Justice and Probation Service with Canal House, providing support from the earliest of days", stated Minister Flanagan.



Cathal Concannon, Sean Óg Hurley, Pat O'Sullivan, Senator Maura Hopkins, Chairman Páraic Lawless, Minister Charlie Flanagan, Centre Manager Orla McCaffrey and Retired Senator Michael Mullins.

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FARMYARD IN YOUR SCHOOLYARD ACCREDITED WITH ALL STAR AWARD FOR AGRI BUSINESS 2018-19

Leading lights in Irish Business descended on Croke Park last April for the Fourth Annual All-Ireland Business Summit, where a 1000 strong audience from all 32 counties were captivated by the speakers who revealed their top secrets, confessions and the do's and don'ts that have helped them achieve their business success.

The Business All-Stars competition final was one of the key elements of the summit. The Business All-Stars is an annual competition designed to identify, recognise and accredit Irish companies and individuals that have distinguished themselves in the conduct of their business over the last 12 months.

Farmyard in your Schoolyard was accredited with an All-Star Award for Agri Business. Speaking at the event, Kieran F. Ring, CEO Global Institute of Logistics, Deputy Chairperson Adjudication Panel said;

"The decision to designate Farmyard in your Schoolyard with the Agri Business Award 2018-19 is based on the score achieved in four rounds of intense competition".

"The application, supported by references, interviews and independent ratings from the 'mystery shopper' process left the adjudication panel in no doubt that Farmyard in your Schoolyard is richly deserving of this accreditation. We would like to extend our sincere congratulations to all concerned and we wish you every success for the future".

Farmyard In Your Schoolyard is a family run business based in Ahascragh, Co Galway, Farmyard in your Schoolyard offers a unique and valuable service to education and healthcare sectors across Ireland. Corporate clients include Radisson Blu and the Irish National Stud amongst others and they offer corporate events and fun days at varying prestigious settings across the country.

The interactive farming experience that Farmyard in your Schoolyard offers, is unrivalled in Ireland and offers a unique experience for family fun days, corporate events and agricultural awareness across the country.

In response to the announcement, Christina James of Farmyard in your Schoolyard said;

"On behalf of the Farmyard in your Schoolyard team I would like to express our sincere thanks for being accredited with the All Star Award for Agri Business 2018-19. Achieving All-Star accreditation is a great source of pride for us and we look forward to continuing to meet and indeed exceed the standards set by the All-Star programme.

The competition finals benefited enormously from the atmosphere created at the All-Ireland Summit which was driven by the three key pillars of knowledge sharing, facilitating new business



Kieran F. Ring, CEO Global Institute of Logistics alongside Christina James and Ashley O'Rourke of Farmyard.

relationships and the continued improvement of business standards in Ireland, the All-Ireland Summit improves year-on-year like so many of the great teams to have graced the hallowed turf of Croke Park.

For bookings/more information, please visit www.farmyardschoolyard.ie, Tel: 086 377 3026 / 0909 688099 or Email: hello@farmyardschoolyard.ie

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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NEW STAFF JOIN THE DUBARRY OF IRELAND, BALLINASLOE TEAM

BYKEN KELLY



It has been a busy few months at Dubarry, as new members joined the staff at the Ballinasloe office. A spokesperson said "We take great pride contributing to the local economy, and are delighted to see local residents joining our team. We would like to wish each of our new staff a long and happy employment in Dubarry."

Declan Madden, Sales Administrator, Portumna. Declan hails from Portumna, and joined the Dubarry Sales team in February last. Declan has previous experience in Sales, but his main passion is for Hurling and enjoys playing this sport in his spare time.

Evelyn Haney, Credit Controller, Loughrea. Evelyn also joined Dubarry in February. She has previously worked as Credit Controller, for 11 years, at Western Beverages Ltd, Wholesale division Heineken Ireland. Having grown up in Ballinasloe, Evelyn was familiar with the Dubarry brand from a young age, and is delighted to be part of the team.

Rory Hogan, Sales Administrator, Ballydangan. Rory originates from Coosan, Athlone but now lives in Ballydangan, Roscommon. He is the newest recruit to the Dubarry team, having previously worked in HR, and is excited to take on his new venture in the Dubarry Sales office.

Valince James, Sales Administrator, Ballinasloe. Valince, joined the Sales team in Dubarry in October 2017 and has a background in Customer Service roles. Valince is originally from Jamaica but now resides in Ballinasloe. He holds a very easy going and happy-go-lucky personality, and is a breath of fresh air in the office.

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CIVIL DEFENCE AWARDS 1916 COMMEMORATION

Volunteer members of The Civil Defence Unit in Ballinasloe have been awarded with their very own 1916 commemoration medals for their hard work and dedication to the force. Medals were also presented to four members for over 20 years of service, and ten more were awarded for 10 years of service.

There are over 30 - 40 active members within the unit partaking in full work, and another others coming in for other intervals such as emergencies and teaching purposes.

The medals were presented to the crew members by Aiden Dillion, who is the Assistant Principal of the Civil Defence Branch of the Department of Defence.

The Civil Defence office is located right next to the town's Fire Station on Society Street. Volunteers carry out many different jobs such as First Aid, Water Rescue, Fire Services and much more.

Second Officer of the Ballinasloe and Galway Civil Defence, Micheál Kelly has been within the team for more than 15 years, and says that being a member of the Civil Defence can be life changing;

"I've developed a lot through the Civil Defence, I started off as a very quiet person before I started, but now I've developed into an officer and instructor in multiple areas, and it has pushed me forward in my career in the National Ambulance Service".

"One of my biggest achievements to date with the Civil Defence was becoming a swift water technician and a search & flood swift water responder. With this of course being promoted to Second Officer

gave me a great sense of achievement and confidence".

Though Micheál is an officer and instructor, he is still heavily involved with carrying out everyday duties with his team members; "I'm very involved with the First Aid side of the job, I work as a full-time paramedic outside of the Civil Defence. I do a lot of teaching and training in this department for our crew members".

"I'm also very heavily involved with our water crew, I run the water side of Ballinasloe Civil Defence by co-ordinating the actions of the boat and swift water team. I tend to assist in the Kayak duties when I'm needed".

Keith Cunningham, who has been a volunteer in the force for 25 years, says that working in the Civil Defence is not only rewarding, but enjoyable too; "My favourite thing about working in the Civil Defence is the boat work and boat rescue, along with the new drone technology that we now have for searching for missing people".

"Working at local events as a paramedic is also another activity I enjoy within the service, knowing that your doing your bit for the community by keeping them safe is a great feeling".

Civil Defence Officer Brendan Qualter gives huge praise to all members who volunteer, saying that their hard work, dedication and attitude makes the job a lot easier; "The interaction between all our volunteers is the core of our whole operation, and it really is the essence of what the Civil Defence is all about. Each one of our Volunteers has their own special skill and attribution which is crucial for the team".

Volunteer Sarah Kilduff highly recommends for anyone to come



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MEDALS



Volunteer Sarah Kilduff receiving her 1916 Honorary Medal.

Second Officer Micheál Kelly receiving his Honorary Medal.

Keith Cunningham awarded for 25 years of service with the Civil Defence.

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and get involved with the Civil Defence as it is life changing in her opinion; "There's so much to do here with us, the spirit between everyone here is great and we have not only met new people, but we have made friendships that will no doubt last forever".

Michaél also persuades people to get involved are looking for a step forward in their career; "It's something that made a lot of changes for me in a very positive way, so I highly recommend joining the Civil Defence. I have learned many new skills and developed them highly over the years. Getting to partake in many different courses can teach you a lot with us from First Aid to Water Safety".

"The medals which we have received are a recognition of the years of service that we have given, and dedication to the Civil Defence. It makes the job so much more worthwhile when your awarded for your service, and should anyone sign up for the Civil Defence, they will feel very proud to be rewarded with a medal in the future for their hard work and dedication".

Micheál gives a quick insight into how people can sign up to become a Volunteer; "To get involved with us there are two ways around it. First you can get in contact with our Civil Defence Officer Brendan Qualter who will lease the information on where to join and when the meetings take place, otherwise you can come down to our headquarters beside the Fires-Station and fill in the paperwork at one of our meetings, which will then be sent onto our college for verification".

For more information about the Civil Defence, check out their website at Civildefence.ie.

BY IAN O'BOYLE



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LIDDY MEDAL FOR BALLINASLOE GARDA

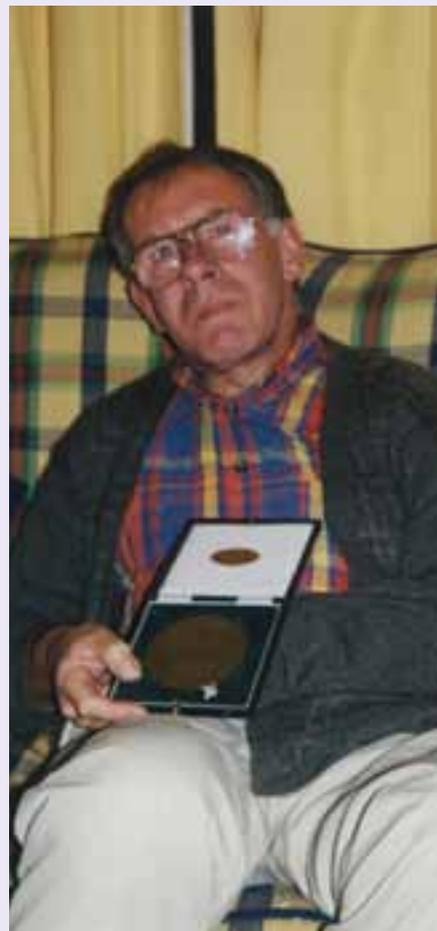
BY KEN KELLY

A Ballinasloe Garda who received horrific injuries in a motoring accident 38 years ago has been awarded the Liddy Medal, which is given to retired Gardai who were injured in the line of duty.



Garda Christy Ryan was on duty at a Circuit of Ireland Rally, on the outskirts of Ballinasloe town in 1980, when he was struck by a motorist. He sustained serious injuries, including seven breaks to his right leg as well as head and body injuries, resulting in him spending many years in hospital. Four years afterwards he returned to work and was assigned to clerical duties at the Ballinasloe Garda Station before retiring in November 1994.

A native of Easkey in Co. Sligo, Christy joined the force in 1958 and served in Cavan, Crossmolina and Kilconnell before moving to Ballinasloe in 1974. The now 80-year-old who lives in Beechlawn, Ballinasloe was joined by his family and friends at a function in Gullane's Hotel where the Liddy Medal was presented to him.



Some eleven years ago, in 2007, another Ballinasloe-born **Garda Bernard Ryan**, was also awarded the Liddy Medal after he sustained very serious injuries when struck by a motorist while investigating an accident on Christmas morning 1967, outside Wicklow town, where he was stationed.

Bernard was 27 years old at the time and was hospitalised for a very long time afterwards. He has been confined to a wheelchair in recent years and is in the Millrace Nursing Home. A native of Duggan Avenue in Ballinasloe, Bernard was the son of the late Garda Pat Ryan and he had other brothers in the Force—Michael in Listowel and Christy in Sligo as well as Vincent, all now deceased.

Both retired Gardai, Christy Ryan and Bernard Ryan (no relations) are the only West of Ireland officers to be awarded the Liddy Medal, which was first presented in 2005, in memory of Sean Liddy, a founding member of An Garda Síochána.



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HOSPITAL WATCH

It's been a busy past

few months in Portiuncula Hospital with news breaking & a national Media blitz at the beginning of May as the External Independent Review of Maternity Services Reported.

The Report has highlighted some of the issues regarding the Maternity Unity, such as staff issues in which lack of training and communication between members had a role to play in the death of the babies.

The HSE is facing five different Court Case's by families who lost their child (6), or who's child was heavily injured (12) while being delivered at Portiuncula Hospital in recent years.

During the report period, there were 1,884 babies born in 2015, 1,816 in 2016 and 1,664 in 2017 according to Saolta reports.

Dr Pat Nash, Group Chief Clinical Director of Saolta University Health Care Group and the Review Commissioner expressed deep regret for what has happened;

"On behalf of the Saolta Group, I have again offered the families involved our deepest apologies for the distress and suffering they have endured. We know that this has been a deeply traumatic process for them which has been compounded by the length of time this complex review process took to complete".

"We recognize the profound impact that these events have had on the families involved and we thank them for their willingness to engage with the review process".

Warren Reilly, who lost two of his daughters during the period at Portiuncula says, "They were absolutely not open to disclosure practices, there was no willingness to explain to us in an honest and open way what had happened. We were told this is an unfortunate incidence, these things simply don't happen, this is the only case here. We were led to believe it was just bad luck".

Maurice Power, CEO of the Saolta University Health Care Group added;

"I want to offer reassurance both to the families involved in this review and to other patients and their families that use maternity services at Portiuncula University Hospital that the Saolta Group and Portiuncula University Hospital are fully committed to

implementing all the recommendations outlined in this report".

Over the last three years, the number of obstetricians on site has increased from three to five which means that there is far more availability of obstetric consultant support and advice in the unit on an ongoing basis. Five additional Non-Consultant Hospital Doctors (NCHDs) have also been appointed to the maternity unit. There is now dedicated consultant presence on the labour ward during the day, Monday to Friday and the rostered consultant has no other clinical commitments at that time.

An additional Paediatrician has been appointed who is supported by three additional NCHDs.

A new Director of Midwifery and Assistant Director of Midwifery for the hospital have been in place since 2017 and they provide senior midwifery leadership on the hospital management team and in the maternity unit along with five senior clinical midwife managers who provide 24/7 senior clinical midwife cover on the labour ward.

Policies and procedures relating to patient safety have been improved and strengthened. A programme of multi-disciplinary clinical audit is in place, including weekly C-section and CTG audits.

A specialist bereavement midwife for the unit has been appointed and that person will begin in June 2018. This appointment will be the key support person for women and their families who suffer a loss.

The hospital is progressing with a number of refurbishment projects and upgrading facilities in the maternity unit and have consulted with their service users as part of these projects. The hospital has also replaced and enhanced some equipment such as ultrasound scanners and neonatal resuscitators.

Portiuncula Hospital sits at 29th place out of 69 public and private hospitals across Ireland in terms of ranking on RateMyHospital.ie, moving up one place since the start of the year. In comparison to neighbouring hospitals, Portiuncula remains 6 places above Roscommon County Hospital, and 36 above University College Hospital Galway.

During the month of April, only 8 people were recorded to be on hospital trolleys during the course of the month. April of 2017 had a number of 12 patients waiting for a bed.

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KATHLEEN KEIGHERY – 9 DECADES OF LIVING



Kathleen Keighery, a true lady and noted Ballinasloe woman, passed away in her 90th year.

Born in St Michaels Square, Ballinasloe in 1928, to her parents Delia and Michael Boyle, Kathleen was one of seven children. As some of her siblings grew up and immigrated to the UK and America, Kathleen remained in her hometown and married her husband John Keighery in 1945, aged 17. Kathleen and John set up their marital home in St Brendan's Terrace, Polboy and shortly afterwards started their family.

They went on to have 15 children in total – 7 boys and 8 girls. It was here in the family home in Polboy, that Kathleen happily remained until her last day.

Kathleen was a very well-known woman around town, and you would be sure to see her on weekly visit, stopping every few yards to have a chat with someone she knew. Kathleen became great friends with business people in town, and every Friday, almost routine, she would pay them a visit, even if it was just for a little chat. She had a firm belief that anything you could ever need or want, could be gotten in town. She was a local woman, who supported local all her life, and always emphasized with her family to do the same. She had a great love for her native town and she was delighted to see some of her own children set up their own businesses locally.

Kathleen had true talent and love for dancing. For years she attended the local dances in Hayden's or Gullane's Hotel, and would spend her night waltzing into the early hours. She was always in demand for a dance, frequently travelling to the Glen Eagle Hotel for weekends away with her friends. She won many medals for her elegant performances, and would happily show them off to her family the following Sunday afternoon.

Kathleen had a great eye for fashion and style, and like most women it was one of her weaknesses. Her notable favourites were Kathleen's Fashions, Chris Daly Shoes, Cahalan's Jewellers and Sarah Parkers Boutique. She had a new 'rigout' or 'frock' for every occasion with perfectly matching shoes and jewellery. Bingo was another favourite pastime of Kathleen's, and for many years she travelled to Kiltormer weekly, and also attended local

Bingo in the Emerald Ballroom every week with her friends – she was a founding member of 'Millionaires Row'.

Her greatest pride and possession were her family and friends. Kathleen was a real family woman, a proud mother of 15, grandmother of 34, great-grandmother of 43, great-great-grandmother of 1, and true friend to many. She was known to countless people as 'Nanny Keighery', because she just had a naturally caring, and welcoming disposition about her. She was always very pleasant and very obliging to everyone who met her. She was a wonderful woman, who will be forever missed by her family and friends.



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THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER.....

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

Mrs. Kathleen Keighrey, St Brendan's Terrace, Ballinasloe, celebrated her 90th birthday shortly before her death in the company of her fifteen children (7 sons and 8 daughters) as well as her 34 grandchildren, 40 great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Born in St. Michael's Square, Kathleen (nee Boyle), lost her husband, John, in 1993.

Fr. Christy McCormack, the Parish Priest of Fohenagh/Killure/Kilgerrill, recently celebrated his 60th Birthday with a party organised by his parishioners. For many years the President of the Ballinasloe Agricultural Show, Fr. Christy is an avid equine enthusiast.

Ballinasloe October Fair dates this year are Sunday, 30th Sept. to Sunday, 7th October. Committee meetings in Gullane's Hotel, every second Monday night at 8.30 throughout the summer months. Volunteers and stewards welcome to come along.

Leo Mulvany is the new Secretary of the Ballinasloe Millennium Golf Society. He succeeds Mike Barrett, who held the post for the past six years and did not seek re-election. Leo can be contacted at 087 4159858.

Ballinasloe Queen of the Fair competition will be held in mid-September. Further information from (087) 2071869. The Festival Office will also open in September.

Cooper Helmets are the main sponsors for a world record attempt on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th June, in Gowran Park, Kilkenny for the largest gathering of people wearing helmets, on the one day. The Cooper Helmet Day, organised by the Black & Whites GAA Club in Kilkenny, is supported by Horse Racing Ireland, Kilkenny Co. Council and the Irish Injured Jockeys among others. It hopes to raise awareness together for the wearing of helmets in several sports. One of the races

on the day is sponsored by Cooper Helmets.

Kathleen Doyle, St. Brendan's Road, Portumna, who died on 9th December last year, left €3,786,302 in her will, according to documents lodged in the Probate Office in Dublin. She was described as a homemaker.

Robert Burke from Aughrim who was involved in a motoring accident in Faro, Portugal, remains in hospital there. The 27-year-old who is son of John and Mary Burke sustained horrific injuries when the car he was driving collided with a bus. His family have made a number of trips to Portugal to visit him in hospital.

Cllr. Aidan Donohue, Mayor of Ballinasloe Municipal Council, led a Town Twinning delegation to Challone Sur Loire in France, on a four-day visit last month, with whom Ballinasloe has been twinned for over thirty years. The group also included a number of people from Galway City.

The East Galway and Midlands Care Centre in Ballinasloe benefitted to the tune of €2,890 from the Caltra Bridge Club's President's (Sheila Costello) tournament. The cheque was presented to the Chairman of the EGAMCC, Mossy Concannon, by Ms. Costello.

Aughrim Active Retirement Group visited Áras an Uachtaráin where they met President Michael D. Higgins and his wife Sabine, before being brought on a guided tour of the Aras. The 50-strong party were also entertained to refreshment during their two-and-half hour visit.

The Annual Croagh Patrick Climb in aid of the Galway Hospice takes place on Saturday, 16th June. Those wishing to sign up for the event can call Galway Hospice on 091 770868 or call Shane on 087 2220807.



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OUR LADY OF CLONFERT NOVENA ATTRACTS THOUSANDS OVER MONTH

Thousands flocked to the Shine of Our Lady of Clonfert during their Novena, from early morning to late evening. People from all over the country and abroad have made the annual pilgrimage to the Shrine as they have done for the past number of years.

The history of the Shrine dates to the 13th/14th Century when the wooden statue of our Lady was first created. To this day the statue is one of the only remaining of its kind to have survived throughout the reformation of Ireland and the Cromwellian destruction of Catholic places of worship – which was probably why it was hidden in a tree, by the parishioners at the time. What makes the statue significant according to local folklore; is that when the arm of Our Lady was accidentally cut off while it was hidden in a hollow oak tree, it started to bleed! Since it was restored to the Church as a shrine in the late 1800s – news of her mystic powers spread and a huge outpouring of devotion and intercession followed.

People came to light candles, write petitions and join each evening for Mass at 8pm where visiting priests and guest speakers delivered uplifting and inspirational homilies. Fr. Declan McInerney P.P. was on hand each evening to welcome everyone and set the tone of the Celebration.

This year often saw the Church full an hour before Mass with overflow accommodation in the adjacent hall where Mass was streamed on live networks.

Some of the key highlights of the novena were; Jacqueline Daly from the East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre, speaking on living with and beyond cancer. Liam Curley, Ballinasloe Addiction Counsellor on Alcohol and gambling addictions, Peter Roche who spoke on the loss of his young son to suicide and dealing with the loss.

There was the annual mass for Exam students, which was packed with young people praying and asking for good results from Our Lady of Clonfert. A special mass with Anointing of the Sick by Fr. Bernie

Costello, Chaplain Portiuncula was packed to capacity as it had been in previous years.

Mass of remembrance for all our dead loved ones was hosted by Fr. Simon Cadem.

Every Friday at 12 noon Fr. Declan celebrated Mass for those who are in nursing homes and groups from schools along with many others.

Reflecting on the month, Fr. Declan P.P. said numbers are once again up on previous years with more and more young people visiting each day, and many families especially at weekends;

“People are definitely searching for hope in their lives, and the Shrine to Our Lady of Clonfert offers that peace and calmness that people need”.



Declan McInerney P.P. and Fr. Benny McHale Athenry, Mary Dolan, Creagh & Mr and Mrs. Cusack Clonaslee Co Laois.



Fr. Brian Boyle, Fr. Declan McInerney, Brid Devine and Tess Boyle.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

PASSING OF POPULAR AHASCRAUGH MAN

BY KEN KELLY

Pat Hughes of Annaghbeg, Ahascragh, who passed away after a long illness, borne with great dignity and stoicism, was a former President of both Ballinasloe Rugby club and Ballinasloe Bridge club. He was a loyal member of both clubs where his contribution over the years was much appreciated.

Following his education in Garbally College, where he was a boarder and a prefect, Pat spent a while in London before returning to Annaghbeg to take up farming. In 1970 he married the love of his life, Pauline Ryan, a theatre nurse in Portiuncula Hospital and a native of Kinvara. They had four children before Pauline's tragic passing in 1996.

In his forties Pat left farming and embarked on a career in sales which he enjoyed as it enabled him to be out and about meeting people. But Pat was always a keen businessman and working for himself was where he excelled. His business, Hughes Transport, where he partnered with his son Tomas, was a great success and a source of local employment, which Pat was very proud of. He worked hard and diligently up to his retirement in 2010.



During the last six months of his illness, Pat was resident in St. Brendan's CNU in Ballinasloe, where he was cared for by the most dedicated staff. Indeed, throughout Pat's illness his needs were met by remarkable healthcare professionals as well as his loving family, his companion Anne and many friends.

It was easy to see how much Pat Hughes was loved and regarded, judging by the sheer volumes of people that filled St. Cuan's Church over the course of the two days, as Pat's life was celebrated. His funeral mass was presided over by his good friend, and parish priest Fr. Kevin Reynolds, who mirrored the beautiful sentiments of Pat's caring and gentle nature, spoken by his eldest son, Tomas, during the requiem. Pat's daughters, Orla and Ciara, read meaningfully at the mass as did his sisters, nieces and grandchildren. His son, Paul, sang "She Moved Through the Fair" during the mass – one of his favourites and his brother, brother-in-law and grandchildren remembered Pat with symbols that represented a gentle, caring and loving life lived by Pat. May he rest in peace.

ANTI BULLYING PROGRAMME FOR NEWTOWN NS



BY: ELLEN FLANAGAN, 6TH CLASS
In Newtown N.S. over the past few weeks, 3rd – 6th class have been meeting in the senior room with teacher Ms. Connolly and Principal Mrs Parker, once a week to talk about the importance of anti bullying.

On the first day we learned what bullying is and different types of bullying such as verbal, which is calling people names.

Physical, which is physically hurting someone. Social, which is leaving someone out. In groups we read different scenarios and discussed the type of bullying that went on in each.

In another workshop we discussed how a victim feels and also how a bully feels when they are bullying. We talked about the effects bullying has on the victim and also on the bully.

We also learned how to deal with these situations. Talk to someone you trust. If on social media block them from your profile. You can report to a teacher or other adult. Do not fight back. Tell the bully to stop and calmly walk away. Know it's not your fault. Be strong.

One of the most important things we learned about was the importance of a bystander. (A bystander is someone who is standing near or around where bullying is taking place). You should stick up for the victim; make friends with the victim. Tell an adult if the victim is unable to because of worry.

3rd – 6th class filled out a questionnaire about bullying. Unfortunately there has been a bit of bullying going on in the school. Together we are determined to put a stop to that so school can remain a happy, safe place for children to learn and staff to work. Soon we will be designing and handing out an anti bullying contract which will state we will not take part in bullying. All students will get one to sign along with their parents and teacher.

ENGLISH N.S. STUDENTS ENJOY ERASMUS PROJECT IN GREECE



Many lucky Students of English National School got the chance to travel to Greece, along with other schools from different European Countries as part of an Erasmus Programme 'Once Upon an Island'.

Teachers from Poland, Croatia, Portugal, Italy and Greece were welcomed to Ballinasloe to begin the planning process with teachers from English NS Students. Teachers and parents from the School travelled to Kissamos, Crete in March for a week-long study visit to the Greek partner school.

The topic of this project gave each student a real-life opportunity to use their imaginations in the creation of their very own islands and all that this entails. In Kissamos, students from the six partner countries which included two students from English NS collaborated on drafting and agreeing the laws and Constitution of their island nation.

On the first morning, upon arrival at school, the delegation were welcomed by the Mayor of Kissamos, the School Principal, staff and the students.

The day after, everyone took part in an interactive quiz in the Archaeological Museum of Kissamos which the Greek students had prepared. The Irish group from English won the award for best performance on this quiz. Afterwards, all students from the partner countries were treated to an Archaeology workshop which involved some excavation activities.

Wednesday morning, everyone visited Heraklion, the capital of Crete where they toured the awe inspiring archaeological site of Knossos and the Venetian Fortress of Heraklion.

The final day was celebrated with a farewell dinner where the visitors were treated to performances of traditional songs and dances, as well as sampling many local culinary delights and delicacies.

"Our school has been involved in Erasmus + projects for the last number of years. We search for partner schools across Europe by using the eTwinning website. Just imagine the absolute privilege of being able to attend school, observe home life, cultivate relationships with people from other countries. We are very grateful to have this amazing opportunity. Everyone from the students, staff and the wider school community benefit greatly from our involvement in eTwinning and Erasmus Plus projects. I recommend that more schools check out the eTwinning website and see the many opportunities that are available", stated Principal Siobhan Fitzgerald.

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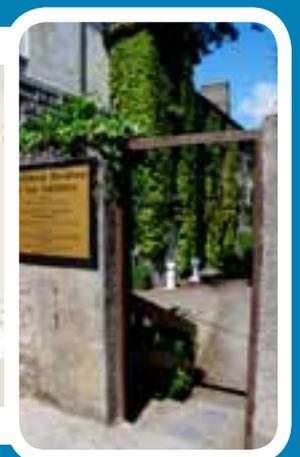
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GARBALLY ST. JOSEPH'S DAY AWARDS



3rd Year Academic awards L to R:
Josh Bleahen, Niall Costello, Bishop John Kirby,
Gerard Colleran, Liam Hession

Junior Sports award L to R:
Ronan Lynch Riddell (Soccer), Conor Goode
(Hurling), Bishop John Kirby, Gerard Colleran
(Rugby), Eoin Colleran (Gaelic Football).

Senior Sports Award L to R:
Joseph Devine & Colm Reilly (Rugby), Bishop
John Kirby, Oisín Duffy (Soccer), Niall Collins
(Hurling), Odhrán Dooley (Gaelic Football)



1st Year Academic awards L to R:
Charlie Naughton, Adam Burke, Bishop John
Kirby, Matthew Clinton, Seán Ronaldson



2nd Year Academic awards: L to R:
Derrick Woha, Masib Jawad, Bishop John Kirby,
Adam McGreal, Cathal Ó hAnnluain



**Boys from Garbally who have represented
Ireland in the past year. L to R: Shane Jennings
(U18 Irish Rugby Team), Dylan Stynes
(U21 Motocross World Cup), Gavin Daly
(European Showjumping Championship),
Colm Reilly (U19 Irish Rugby Team),
Saul O'Carroll (U18 Irish Rugby Team).**



Social Action Award L to R:
Christopher Feeney, Bishop John Kirby,
Brian Burke

Garbally College held their annual St Joseph awards for students academic, sporting, artistic and social concern engagement and performance.

The awards have been running for decades and are specifically named after St Joseph who is the Patron Saint of the School.

Over 45 awards were presented by Bishop John Kirby (past pupil and past principal of Garbally) on the night, to numerous students who worked ever so hard during the school year.



**5th Year Academic awards L to R: Odhrán
Dooley, Daniel Greal, Luke Bleahen, Bishop
John Kirby, Cathal Whyte, Killian Murphy**



Senior & Junior Music Award L to R:
Christopher Feeney (Senior Music), Bishop
John Kirby, Gerard Colleran (Junior Music)



Senior & Junior Art Award L to R:
Bailey Reynolds (Senior Art),
Bishop John Kirby, Jamie Curley (Junior Art)



Full St. Joseph's Day Award Winners
Back L to R: Cathal Whyte, Joseph Devine, Luke Bleahen, Dylan Stynes, Christopher Feeney, Bailey Reynolds, Oisín Duffy, Abuzar Jawad, Brian Burke, Colm Reilly.
3rd Row L to R: Killian Murphy, Josh Bleahen, Niall Collins, Gavin Daly, Gerard Colleran, Charlie Naughton, Jamie Curley, Liam Hession, Niall Costello.
2nd Row L to R: Conor Goode, Seán Ronaldson, Eoin Colleran, Daniel Greal, Derrick Woha, Shane Jennings, Odhrán Dooley, Saul O'Carroll.
Front L to R: Cathal O'hAnnluain, Ronan Lynch Riddell, Matthew Clinton, Mr. Stephen Reilly (Principal), Ms Jacinta Deady-Henry (Deputy Principal),
Bishop John Kirby, Adam Burke, Masib Jawad, Adam McGreal.

ARDSCOIL MUIRE ANNUAL AWARDS



The culmination of another very successful year was celebrated at the Ardscoil Mhuire Awards Day this year. The school community came together to celebrate academic success, sporting endeavour, friendship and extra-curricular participation. The Awards were presented by past student, Edel Kelly, PhD, Researcher and Lecturer in UCD School of Agriculture and Food Science and the Michael Smurfit Business School.



5th year Academic award winners l-r Aoife Dudgeon, Saoirse Ni Thuairisg, Aoife Sidaway and Alannah Downey.



Bank of Ireland Student of the Year 2018 Jane Corbett with BOI representative Alan Newell presenting.



Echoes editors Maria Colohan and Laura Frehill with Edel Kelly and Principal Patricia Kilgallen launching this year's edition of our magazine.

ARDSCOIL MUIRE ART EXHIBITION

Students of Ardscoil Mhuire held an Art Exhibition themed 'Sea Change' with the hope of showcasing the creative talents of young teenage minds in the west of Ireland.

Both Junior and Senior Cycle students took part in the event, with hopes that the exhibition will be up for inclusion in Galway City of Culture 2020.

The students were given the theme 'Sea Change' which the students were creatively free to interpret in whatever manner they chose. Everything from sea pollution to underwater surrealism was highlighted in the student's artwork. It took the format of a large series of postcard sized artworks, hung in a fashion to create visual impact, as well as individual creativity.



Students: Saoirse Boden, Kayleigh Corcoran, Nicola Curley, Emily Devlin Murray, Lauren Doherty, Katelyn Donnellan, Chloe Fallon Sweeney, Teresa Fogarty, Enya Forrestal, Armida Grumbinaite, Ciara Holahan, Roberta Kazlovaite, Aoife Keighery, Emma Kelly, Carrie Markham, Abbie Mongan, Lisa Naessans, Domonika Olber, Sarah Jane Ruane, Majida Sawan, Teresa Ward.

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OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE



Tony Dolphin, President of the Millennium Golf Society, on left, presenting some of the prizes from his President's Golf Outing. From left are recipients Frank Donohue, Pat Harney and Martin Kelly.

Mike Barrett is the new Captain of the Ballinasloe Millennium Golf Society, having previously served as Hon. Sec. for six years. Tony Dolphin remains on as President as does Pat Harney as Hon. Treasurer while the new Hon. Sec. is Leo Mulvany. The committee comprises Ciaran Arnold, Darren Egan, Gerry Fitzgerald, Michael O'Hehir, Paul Spencer and Michael Ward.

The first of the six outings had a big turnout in Mullingar (where Frank Donohue had a hole in one), while Portumna Golf Club is the next venue on Thursday 14th June, between 12 noon and 2.30. The remaining outings are Luttrellstown (July 26th), Glasson (August 23rd), Druids Glen (Sept. 20th) and Headfort (October 11th).



Ava McKeon who won a National silver medal in the u14 60m hurdles at the National Indoor Track & Field Championship.



Pearses Sponsor: Finnerty Sports Care. Cathal Finnerty presents a new set of jerseys to Pearses GAA Club. L-R: Shane Ruane, Colm Rafferty, Cathal Finnerty, John Rafferty, Fergal Flannery and Adrian Sweeney.

Ballinasloe R.F.C. End of Season Awards



From Left to right: Ronan Kelly & Joseph Kelly U13 Most Improved Players Awards. U14 Cian Grenham (*Player of the Year*) & Jack McGuire (*Most Improved Player*). Sean Brennan (Club Vice President) presents the Girls U15 Most Improved Player of the Year Award to Leah Hogarty. U15 Arron Burke (*Player of the Year*) & Caelim Keogh (*Most Improved Player*). U16 Ger Colleran (*Most Improved Player*) & Alex Majanovic (*Player's Player of the Year*). Jamie Curley & Cormac Finn U17 Most Improved Players Awards. Ladies Irish International Players Awards were presented to Meabh Deely, Beibheann Parsons & Aoiheann Reilly. Boys Irish International Players Awards were presented to Michael Reilly on behalf of Colm Reilly U19, Shane Jennings U17 by Sean Brennan (Club Vice President). Kim Connaughton (*Junior Ladies Most Improved Player*).

OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE



Artist Martin McDonnell showing his work to viewers at the Library Art Trail.



Local Artist Noreen O'Sullivan with her Bogland Painting in the Library Church Gallery.



Enda Lohan carrying the Irish Flag through the New York Patricks Day Parade.



Tristan and Joseph after winning the Midlands Mathlete tournament for Youthreach Ballinasloe.



Roscommon Moore Scouts Cleaning up in Ballinasloe.



Minister of State for Trade, Business and Employment, Pat Breen TD made his first official visit to Ballinasloe at the invitation of Senitor Maura Hopkins, Cllr. Aidan Donohue. Among the places he visited were the BACD Centre and the Business Park in Creagh, as well as St. Teresa's Special School. Pictured during the visit were from left: Sean Og Hurley, Cllr. Aidan Donohue, Minister Breen and Michael Mullins.

JUNE EVENTS GUIDE

Friday 1st		
Tennis Intermite Comp	Tennis Club	Last Day
Bsloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am
Open Singles 18 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Trad/Folk Ballad	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Road Runner	Canal Bar	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9.30pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Saturday 2nd		
Ken	Canal Bar	9pm
Race Night	Luker's of S'bridge	9pm
Liam's Country Rd Show	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Live Music	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Ruby Dukes	The Pillar House	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Simon Brody	An Tain	10pm
Live Line	Downey's Bar	10.30pm
The Live Wires	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Sunday 3rd		
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Country Dance Patrick Feeney	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Soc. Dance Pat McKenna	Plaza Suite	9pm
Anchormen	Brewery's Lane	9pm
Donkey Derby Buckeye	Luker's of S'bridge	9pm
Off The Wall	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Matt Keane	The Pillar House	10pm
Olivia Douglas	Downey's Bar	10.30pm
The Humble Superstars	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Monday 4th		
Trad/Folk Ballad	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm

Tuesday 5th		
Regional Novena	St.Michael's Church	7.30am,10am,8pm
Open Week	B'sloe Golf Club	First Day
Lego Club	Ballinasloe Library	4.30pm
GROW	Ballinasloe Library	6pm-8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Race Night	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm

Wednesday 6th		
Regional Novena	St.Michael's Church	7.30am,10am,8pm
Knitting/Crochet Club	Ballinasloe Library	11pm-1pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenny/F.Hession Friends	An Tain	9.30pm
Trad Session	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm

Thursday 7th		
Regional Novena	St.Michael's Church	7.30am,10am,8pm
Open Singles 9 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Sacrament of the Sick	St.Michael's Church	4pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Michael Regan Soc. Dancing	Downey's Bar	10.30pm

Friday 8th		
Regional Novena	St.Michael's Church	7.30am,10am,8pm
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am
Trad/Folk Ballad	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Open Singles 18 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
John Molloy	Canal Bar	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9.30pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
3 Legged Dog	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
Wesley Wykes	Downey's Bar	10.30pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Saturday 9th		
Regional Novena	St.Michael's Church	7.30am,10am,8pm
Coding Club	Ballinasloe Library	11pm-12pm
Happy Bar Stars	Canal Bar	9pm
80's Disco Night	The Pillar House	9.30pm
Streetwise	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	10pm
The Suspect	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Lorcan Live	An Tain	10pm
Jiggers of Erin	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Sunday 10th		
Regional Novena	St.Michael's Church	7.30am,10am,8pm
Mass Blessing of Children	St.Michael's Church	12.15pm
Open Week	B'sloe Golf Club	Last Day
Trad/Folk Ballad	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Steve Reilly	Downey's Bar	7.30pm
Soc.Dance Demot McConnell	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Country Dance Jimmy Buckley	Plaza Suite	9pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	9pm
Shane Moore	The Auld Sod	9.30pm
Live Music	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm

Monday 11th		
Regional Novena	St.Michael's Church	7.30am,10am,8pm
Rite of Reconciliation	St.Michael's Church	All Sessions
Trad/Folk Ballad	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm

Tuesday 12th		
Regional Novena	St.Michael's Church	7.30am,10am,8pm
Active Retirement Book Club	Ballinasloe Library	4pm-5pm
Lego Club	Ballinasloe Library	4.30pm
GROW	Ballinasloe Library	6pm-8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm

Wednesday 13th		
Regional Novena	St.Michael's Church	7.30am,10am,8pm
Bernadette Blessing Art Exh	Church Gallery	Last Day
Cuidiu Breastfeeding Gp	Ballinasloe Library	9.45pm
Knitting/Crochet Club	Ballinasloe Library	11pm-1pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenny/F.Hession Friends	An Tain	9.30pm
Trad Session	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm

Thursday 14th		
Anne Hill Art Exh 'Journeys so far'	Church Gallery	First Day
Open Singles 9 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Singers Circle	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Ger Long Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm

Friday 15th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am
Open Singles 18 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Trad/Folk Ballad	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Eamon O'Neill	Canal Bar	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9.30pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
Hoppy Bar Stars	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Stephen Reilly	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Saturday 16th		
Anne Hill Art Exh Launch	Church Gallery	2.30pm-4pm
Steve O' Reilly	Canal Bar	9pm
Nightowls	The Auld Sod	10pm
Coding Club	Ballinasloe Library	11pm-12pm
RiverFest	Lukers of S'Bridge	2pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	2pm
RiverFest Hermitage Green	Lukers of S'Bridge	8pm
Red Tape	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Desi Egan	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Maggie Dunne	The Pillar House	10pm
Eoin Maher	An Tain	10pm
Take 2	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Sunday 17th		
RiverFest	Lukers of S'Bridge	2pm
RiverFest Hermitage Green	Lukers of S'bridge	2pm
Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Soc. Dance Liam Mannering	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
C. Plaza Suite	Plaza Suite	9pm
The Dropouts	Brewery's Lane	9pm
Liam Country Road Show	The Auld Sod	9.30pm
Live Music	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm

Monday 18th		
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Trad/Folk Ballad	Lukers of S'Bridge	6pm

Tuesday 19th		
Lego Club	Ballinasloe Library	4.30pm
GROW	Ballinasloe Library	6-8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm

Wednesday 20th		
Knitting/Crochet Club	Ballinasloe Library	11am-1pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenny/F.Hession Friends	An Tain	9.30pm
Trad Session	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm

Thursday 21st		
Open Singles 9 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Karen Breen Concert	Church Gallery	12.45pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Social Dancing	Luker's of S'bridge	10.30pm

Friday 22nd		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am
Open Singles 18 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Trad/Folk Ballad	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Amy Brennan	Canal Bar	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9.30pm
Ken Solo	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Toxic Twins	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Saturday 23rd		
Live Music	Canal Bar	9pm
Laker	The Auld Sod	10pm
Coding Club	Ballinasloe Library	11pm-12pm
The GoodLife	Brewery's Lane	10pm
DJ	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Chris Nash	The Pillar House	10pm
Hot James	An Tain	10pm
The Suspect	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Sunday 24th		
Trad/Folk Ballad	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Soc. Dance Muriel O'Connor	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Dec. Nerney & Jim Devine	Plaza Suite	9pm
David Mills	The Auld Sod	9.30pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Live Music	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm

Monday 25th		
Trad/Folk Ballad	Lukers of S'Bridge	6pm
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm

Tuesday 26th		
Lego Club	Ballinasloe Library	4.30pm
GROW	Ballinasloe Library	6pm-8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm

Wednesday 27th		
Cuidiu Breastfeeding Gp	Ballinasloe Library	9.45am
Knitting/Crochet Club	Ballinasloe Library	11am-1pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenny/F.Hession Friends	An Tain	9.30pm
Trad Session	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm

Thursday 28th		
Open Singles 9 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Book Club	Ballinasloe Library	7pm-8pm
Blossom Harp Ensemble	Town Hall Theatre	8pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10.30pm

Friday 29th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am
Open Singles 18 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Trad Session	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Ger Long	Canal Bar	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9.30pm
Small Idea's	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Keith & Shane	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
Alan Lawlor	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Saturday 30th		
Anne Hill Art Exh 'Journeys so far'	Church Gallery	Last Day
Coding Club	Ballinasloe Library	11pm-12pm
Billy Garvin	Canal Bar	9pm
Finnegan's Fury	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Live Music	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	The Pillar House	10pm
An Other	An Tain	10pm
DJ	Downey's Bar	10.30pm
Sum Craic	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

JULY EVENTS GUIDE

Sunday 1st		
Trad/Folk Ballad	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Pat.McKenna&GlenShane	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Barry&Dominic Kirwan	Plaza Suite	9pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	9pm
Live Music	The Auld Sod	10pm
Black Water	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Monday 2nd		
Kellogs Cul Camp Football	B'sloe Club Grounds	First Day
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	10am-11am
Trad/Folk Ballad	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Tuesday 3rd		
Rainbow Services Art Exb	Church Gallery	First Day
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	10am-11am
Lego Club	Ballinasloe Library	4.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 4th		
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	10am-11am
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenny/F.Hession Friends	An Tain	9.30pm
Trad Session	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 5th		
Open Singles 9 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	10am-11am
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10.30pm
Summer Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Friday 6th		
Kellogs Cul Camp Football	B'sloe Club Grounds	Last Day
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am
Open Singles 18 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	10am-11am
Trad/Folk Ballad	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Ken	Canal Bar	9pm
Legend of Luke Kelly	Luker's of S'bridge	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9.30pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
The 2 Q's	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 7th		
Joe Wynne	Canal Bar	9pm
DAITHI DJ	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Nightowls	The Auld Sod	10pm
Red Tape	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	10pm
The Legends	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Live Music	The Pillar House	10pm
Crazy Cats	An Tain	10pm
DJ	Downey's Bar	10.30pm
Hickory Wind	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 8th		
Trad/Folk Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Country Dance	Plaza Suite	9pm
Social Dance John Molloy	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	9pm
Pub Fiction	The Auld Sod	9.30pm
Live Line	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Monday 9th		
Kellogs Cul Camp Hurling	B'sloe GAA Grounds	First Day
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	9am-10am
Cuckoo Hill Summer Camp	Tommie Costello's	11am-3pm
Trad/Folk Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Tuesday 10th		
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	10am-11am
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	9am-10am
Cuckoo Hill Summer Camp	Tommie Costello's	11am-3pm
Lego Club	Ballinasloe Library	4.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm

Wednesday 11th		
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	10am-11am
Cuidiu Breastfeeding Grp	Ballinasloe Library	9.45am
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	9am-11am
Cuckoo Hill Summer Camp	Tommie Costello's	11am-3pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenny/F.Hession Friends	An Tain	9.30pm
Trad Session	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 12th		
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	10am-11am
Open Singles 9 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	9am-10am
Cuckoo Hill Summer Camp	Tommie Costello's	11am-3pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Olivia Douglas	Downey's Bar	10.30pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Summer Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Friday 13th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am
Strings Festival	Church Gallery	Day 1
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	9am-10am
Kellogs Cul Camp Hurling	B'sloe GAA Grounds	Last Day
Open Singles 18 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	10am-3pm
Cuckoo Hill Summer Camp	Tommie Costello's	11am-3pm
Trad/Folk Session	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
John Molloy	Canal Bar	9pm
Donal Clancy	The Pillar House	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 14th		
Strings Festival	Church Gallery	Day 2
Amy Brennan	Canal Bar	9pm
Pacifica	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Split	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Live Music	The Pillar House	10pm
Simon Brody	An Tain	10pm
DJ	Downey's Bar	10.30pm
Bothareen	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 15th		
Trad/Folk Session	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Soc.Dance Michael Collins	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
C. Dance Derek Ryan	Plaza Suite	9pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	9pm
Liam's Country Road Show	The Auld Sod	9.30pm
Small Deal	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Monday 16th		
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	10am-3pm
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Trad/Folk Session	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Tuesday 17th		
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	10am-3pm
Lego Club	Ballinasloe Library	4.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 18th		
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	10am-3pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenny/F.Hession Friends	An Tain	9.30pm
Trad Session	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 19th		
Open Singles 9 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	10am-3pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10.30pm
Summer Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Friday 20th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am
Open Singles 18 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Rainbow Services Art Exb	Church Gallery	Last Day
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	10am-3pm
Trad/Folk Session	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Steve and Friend	Canal Bar	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9.30pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
Paul Burns	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Saturday 21st		
Syrian Families Art Exb	Church Gallery	First Day
Aidran Rabbit	Canal Bar	9pm
Off The Wall	The Auld Sod	10pm
The Goodfella's	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Boithin	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm
Boom Diggity	The Pillar House	10pm
Eoin Maher	An Tain	10pm
DJ	Downey's Bar	10.30pm
Gaeagan Pagans	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 22nd		
Trad/Folk Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Soc. Dance Liam Mannerig	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
C. Dance Robert Mizzell	Plaza Suite	9pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	9pm
Ken Solo	The Auld Sod	9.30pm
Babylon	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Monday 23rd		
Trad/Folk Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Tuesday 24th		
Lego Club	Ballinasloe Library	4.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 25th		
Cuidiu Breastfeeding Grp	Ballinasloe Library	9.45pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenny/F.Hession Friends	An Tain	9.30pm
Trad Session	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 26th		
Open Singles 9 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'bridge	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10.30pm
Summer Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Friday 27th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am
Open Singles 18 Hole	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Trad/Folk Session	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
The Happy Bar Stars	Canal Bar	9pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Burke's Bar	9.30pm
Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9.30pm
Small Idea's	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Toxic Twins	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
Shane Downey	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 28th		
Eamon O'Neill	Canal Bar	9pm
Laker	The Auld Sod	10pm
The Goodlife	Brewery's Lane	10pm
Jock & Davy	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Hickory Wind	The Pillar House	10pm
Celtic Cajon	An Tain	10pm
Take 2	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 29th		
Trad/Folk Session	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Soc. Dance Tbone Country	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Country Dance Andy Feery	Plaza Suite	9pm
Live Music	Brewery's Lane	9pm
David Mills	The Auld Sod	9.30pm
Maggie Dunne	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
DJ	Downey's Bar	10.30pm
Steve Reilly	Downey's Bar	10.30pm
Monday 30th		
Star Camps	Town Hall Theatre	9.30am
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Club	9am-10am
Trad/Folk Session	Luker's of S'bridge	6pm
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Tuesday 31st		
Star Camps	Town Hall Theatre	9.30am
Lego Club	Ballinasloe Library	4.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm

To advertise your events here contact: ballinasloelife@hotmail.com or Call 090 964 5831 by July 17th.

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS



Judith, Tommy, Shauna, Yvonne, Ronan, Stephanie and Kathleen partaking in the Darkness into Light.



Noel and Ellen Gavin.



Celia Russel and Guinan.



Mike Salmon and his family celebrating his 70th Birthday at Downeys Bar.



Conradh na Gaeilge Competition

I mí na Marta bhuaigh Lisa Nic an Bhreithimh comortas Gearrscéalaíochta a d'eagraigh Craobh Greallain de Chonradh na Gaeilge. Bhuaigh an Craobh gradam dara háit i gCuige Chonnacht dona h- imeachtaí freisin.

Sa phictiur ag an bronnadh bhí (ón taobh chlé sa chúil) Tomás beag Ó Broin Fahy, Úna Ní Bhroin, Irial Ó Ceallaigh, Deirdre Uí Bhaoill, Seosamh Ó Bergin, Tomás Ó Corbán, Teegan NíBhroin Fahy, Lisa Nic an Bhreithimh (leis an Corn), Mairín Uí Thuairisc (leis an gradam) Pádraicín Uí Mhuineacháin, Peadar Ó Fhlannchadh.



Ana Victoria Mulcahy, on behalf of ballinasloe Fair and Festival presenting a cheque for €800 to Mark's Wish to Walk Chairman Seamus Concannon. This will be used to cover 10 Intensive Therapy Sessions for Mark in First Steps Clinic in Limerick. The proceeds were raised by Ana Victoria and the Festival Committee during a fashionable evening in the Shearwater Hotel during the Fair.

Also in the photo left to right Kevin Dolan (Father of Mark), Seamus Concannon, Ana Victoria Mulcahy, Fidelma Dolan (Mother of Mark) and Elaine Loughnane.

A donation of €800 was also made to st Johns Oncology ward, Crumlin Hospital on behalf of Evan Jones.



Shane Byrne, Owen Byrne, Conor Donellan, Alan McDavitt & Pat Glynn presenting a cheque for €1,240 to Edith Ward & Margaret Kerrigan of the East Galway & Midlands Cancer Support Group.

A HEALTHY, SAFE & CLEAN FUTURE - NEXT STEPS IN THE CAMPAIGN

BY IAN O'BOYLE

With Galway County Council Executive granting planning permission to construct a Waste Transfer facility beside the old Poolboy landfill and also approved the permit to allow Barna Waste infill at the proposed site in spite of over 200 objections in January 2018; the Ballinasloe Says No Committee are planning the next steps in the campaign.

Dr Vincent Parsons, Chairman of the Ballinasloe Says No Committee, is planning the next steps in the campaign. "Fundraising is a key element in our legal battle to protect the future and health of the families in town".

However Dr Parsons noted that further funds and pledges will be part of our plan to ensure that the Ballinasloe Says No campaign prevents toxic diesel trucks coming through all access routes in the town to the proposed site. "Barna Waste can start bringing hundreds of trucks through town from today, this is an urgent issue for our town and Ballinasloe Says No".

Dr Parsons pointed out that 21 years ago locals battled the Ballinasloe UDC -Urban District Council, (now represented by Galway County Council) to obtain a High Court Agreement to close the toxic landfill at Poolboy in 2005 after 6 years in operation. "It is disappointing that the community and our Committee in 2018 have to challenge our local government again to protect our families and our children's future. This is unacceptable and we need strong representation for Ballinasloe at a local and national level", stated Dr. Parsons.

With over 850 followers on the Facebook page (@ballinasloesaysno), people are angry that Galway County Council are ignoring profound concerns for the health and safety of families and children growing up in the town. Objections were also raised about air pollution, noxious odours, vermin and other health risks in a location roughly a few thousand metres from the centre of town and a major national acute general and maternity hospital.

Aisling Dolan, Campaign Secretary notes that 'Ballinasloe has fantastic business and tourism investment opportunities especially as Galway



Members of the Committee Aisling Dolan, Eamonn O'Donoghue, Vincent Parsons, Caroline Donelan, Niall Donelan attending Aras An Chontae for a recent meeting to discuss the granting of a waste transfer licence.

city is among the top medtech regions in Europe however waste industry will damage our potential to attract companies and people to live in our town, we need to plan our future now. Increasing the numbers of tourists is also at risk and questions on the safety of thousands of cyclists using the proposed Dublin-Galway greenway and combating 30 ton trucks for roadspace when they enter the town need to be answered."

Earlier in the year it was revealed that Sean Curran from Barna Waste has also purchased a further 86 acres opposite the old landfill and towards the Suck river.

Aisling maintains "this is not solely a one-off development within Ballinasloe and no environmental impact assessment (EIA) has even been completed by the EPA for the initial transfer station. EU directives & regulations protect our rights to clean air, clean water and a clean environment and to know the full impacts. Ballinasloe RWSS (regional water supply scheme) is still on the 2018 EPA remedial list (RAL). And yet further construction and suspected illegal dumping on low-lying floodplains is considered acceptable?"

Environmental campaigners highlight that construction on these lands this will have detrimental effects on the floodplains of the Suck River Callows and impact already severe flooding within the town-centre. Volunteers are welcome and please email or message the committee on facebook.

A public meeting is planned for end of June and online donations are welcome at ifundraise.ie

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LOCAL HELPS CAMBODIAN WATER PROJECTS

Eamonn Conway, originally of Castlebar Co. Mayo but now living in Kilgarve, has spent the past few months working on fundraising for clean water wells in Cambodia, outside of his daytime job in CH Office Supplies, Main Street.



After going to Cambodia and Vietnam in recent years, Eamonn was taken by each country and particularly the plight of the Cambodians after years of hardship from killings and starvation. "The whole country disintegrated and even to this day outside the main cities there is still widespread poor water supply and dirty water", said Eamonn.

After talking with his tour guide, on returning home - Eamonn endeavoured to try some practical help. Since then has since sponsored 2 wells costing €220 each, that includes 10 years maintenance free, which he states is 'A really a great return for a little outlay'.

"If one contributes to this cost, you can have your name on the well's plaque with your county or nation's crest. To donate you can either send cheques or drafts or myself", stated Eamonn. Address - 12 Kilgarve Court, Creagh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway or contact Kim (Tour Guide) direct for more information on email: angkorweltwunderkhmer@yahoo.com

For a fuller account of Eamonn's full Cambodia Journey and Volunteer work, please visit the Ballinasloe.ie Website.

WHERE ARE THEY NOW? FERGAL LENEHAN FROM BALLINASLOE TO LEIPZIG

BY FERGAL LENEHAN



Fergal Lenehan & Family.

My parents are Phil and PJ Lenehan from Beagh, in Creagh. I went to Creagh National School, where

Johnny Johnson's love of poetry and song left a lasting impression, and then to Garbally College. Garbally

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really opened the world up to me, in terms of foreign language learning anyway. There were very dedicated German teachers there then-Kay Spokes, Anne Greene and Frances Gilmore-and I really enjoyed learning the language. I liked the mechanics of German, figuring out the intricate grammar. There are no longer any boarders at Garbally College; it would now be possible to open the stately home to the public. It could, potentially, be an excellent tourist attraction along the lines of Strokestown House, and a real boon to the town. As a teenager I also started reading spy thrillers and watching foreign-language films on Channel 4 and my interest in German culture was solidified.

During my teenage years I was also very involved in athletics and ran with Ballinasloe A.C., representing Galway in the Community Games. I made the Irish schools athletics team at one stage too and competed in the 400 metres for Ireland at the then Nep Stadium in Budapest. The geography of wonderful mid-week training sessions with the devoted Ballinasloe athletics coach Padraig Hennelly-thundering up the hill from the Fair Green to St. John's Church-are etched upon my mind. My father was also very dedicated and ferried me around the country to races. In addition I played hurling and Gaelic football with Pearses in Woodmount, winning a number of Roscommon county hurling medals.

While studying German and History at UCD I was lucky enough to take part in an EU Erasmus exchange to Leipzig University, in the former East Germany. I also met a girl called Kirsti. Being a non-native speaker of the main language in daily use, and the difficulties of suddenly being 'stupid' and ill-informed on basically everything, was a frustrating but very humbling experience. I later

returned to Leipzig to do a PhD in Cultural History, funded by a stipend from the German Academic Exchange Programme. I am now married to Kirsti and have two daughters; a 7-year-old called Clara and a 3-year-old named Rosa. We still live in Leipzig and I commute by train to work in nearby Jena.

I am now a fixed-term lecturer at the Friedrich-Schiller-University of Jena, where I have taught cultural theory and cultural history (in German and English) since 2010. Permanent jobs are very hard to find these days in academia. I have written two books. One on different ideas of a united Europe; what Europe is and could be from a German, Irish and British perspective, and a book on German media impressions of Ireland from 1946 to 2010, looking chiefly at two weekly magazines. Each book took about five years to research and write. Academic books are, unfortunately, not very widely read beyond a specialist readership. I have also written a number of academic articles on various topics, in recent years particularly on Irish-German relations.

There are definite advantages to living in Germany. Certainly state services are much better here than in Ireland. There is an excellent tram system in both Leipzig and Jena, and a very good network of bicycle lanes. We don't own a car and don't really need one in our daily life. Childcare provision is also very reasonable. It's state-funded, extensive and of good quality. There is an undoubted social democratic ethos in society; the state intervenes in a positive way in people's lives, and a certain degree of fairness reigns. In East Germany there is also, however, a nasty national-conservative strain in some places, which I think does not really exist in Ireland, or not to the same extent anyway. Things are often a lot more exact, complex administratively, and less easy-going in Germany (to generalise horribly!). Germans tend to be very direct and honest with their opinion, which has advantages and disadvantages, but are often very nice when you get to know them.

My daughters are growing up bilingually and can speak both German and Hiberno-English (with distinct touches of Peppa Pig!). I am also trying to make sure that they grow up bi-culturally. I try to cook some Irish meals (such as Shepard's Pie, although I'm not a very good cook to be honest) and read them Irish legends, such as the story of Tír na nÓg. They are also developing a good relationship with their grandparents in Ballinasloe, and cousins, aunts and uncles in Loughrea, Dublin and Australia. It's a distinct advantage to have a dual identity and to grew-up knowing implicitly that the world is complex, that there are different ways of seeing things and thinking about things. Identity is pluralistic and multifaceted. In Creagh people often have an ambivalent Galway-Roscommon dual identity; my daughters will have an ambivalent Irish-German dual identity. Clara, until fairly recently, thought 'Ireland' was my parents' house in Ballinasloe. She now calls it 'Ballinasnow'!

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DEAR EDITOR

Henry Ford once said "half my advertising is a waste – I just don't know which half". However from my experience with Ballinasloe Life I know it pays to advertise with you.

Recently you were so kind as to feature my recent appointment as PRO and director of the Irish Vintage Society for which I am grateful. Not only am I writing to thank you but I also wish to point out the popularity of your excellent publication. To say that I am amazed by its popularity is an understatement. In excess of one hundred people mentioned to me that they saw the article with a wide demographic spread which not just includes people from Ballinasloe itself as one would expect but also readers from Athlone, Loughrea, Mountbellew and Tuam, many reading it whilst in waiting rooms in Portiuncula Hospital, Accountants, Dentists etc.

I do hope that your advertisers and potential advertisers realise the potential of advertising in a publication which not only helps promote the town and its environs but also supports much needed local employment. To quote Henry Ford again "A Man who stops advertising to save money is like a man who stops a clock to save time" Sincerely Yours, Anthony Grenham.



*Husband Aiden,
children Lauren, Cian and Odhran
of the late Maureen Dooley.*

*Husband Kieran and children Emma
and James of Deirdre Kilmartin,
their siblings, brothers in law, sisters
in law, parents and families;*

*wish to acknowledge with sincere
gratitude the heart warming response
from the people of Ballinasloe
and wider community and for the
immense strength this gave to our
families at our worst time.*

Ar dheis Dé go raibh a n-anamacha

GARDA PATRICK McCORMACK AWARDED



Probationary Garda Patrick McCormack from Shannonbridge Road, Ballinasloe, son of Ann and Brendan McCormack, was given an Excellent Police Award after saving the life of an infant while on duty.

The 24-year-old garda based in Ennis Garda Station just recently graduated from Templemore. When the child's family came rushing into the station in a panic, he had no time to think and just rushed straight to the incident. McCormack used his quick thinking and CPR training to get the baby's breathing restored.

Chief Superintendent John Kerin has told Clare's Joint Policing Committee that Garda McCormack's quick mind and actions saved the babies life.

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VINTAGE TRACTOR RUN



Members of Ballinasloe and District Vintage Club held one of their local Vintage Tractor Runs recently. Over forty tractors registered for the event, a substantial increase in numbers from last year. The quality of the vehicles entered included variants of the veteran Ferguson 20 right up to the more modern yet classic John Deere and Ford tractors.

The day started off with a hearty breakfast served in Gullane's Hotel. The route took the tractors and drivers along a scenic area around the environs of Ballinasloe, through the picturesque villages of Ahascragh,

Fohenagh (via Clonbrock), Kilconnell and Aughrim. The run eventually finished up at the East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre, where a spread of homemade food along with tea and coffee was served, a welcoming treat for the weary drivers after their long drive of almost 40 Kilometres.

Chairman of the Vintage Club, Shane Burns, thanked all who made the day a success, both before and during the event and in particular the drivers who travelled quiet a distance to support the run. All proceeds from the Tractor Run were donated to the East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre. A total figure of €1,240 was raised overall from the event.

BY IAN O'BOYLE



Eugene
Murphy

Roscommon - Galway



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LOCAL BASED AUTHOR NUALA O'CONNOR SCOOPS SHORT FICTION LITERARY AWARD

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Author Nuala O'Connor has won the prestigious UK-based Short Fiction Prize – The Visual Literary Journal – for her story 'Gooseen'. The story is about Galway woman Nora Barnacle, who is the wife and muse to James Joyce.

Nuala was born and reared in Dublin, before moving to Galway City almost 22 years ago, and then touched base in Ballinasloe in 2005. She started writing as a child after being influenced by numerous authors from all her reading. At the age of 9, Nuala placed second in the national poetry awards for a piece she wrote on the struggles of the Travelling Community in Dublin.

Throughout her teens Nuala continued writing poetry based on real life events happening all around her. After finishing secondary education in her local Gaelscoil, Nuala went on to study in Trinity College. By the time she moved to Galway she decided to take her writing seriously by writing short fiction novels.

From a shortlist of seven stories, judge Róna Judge McCormack chose Nuala's story for its 'freshness, its stunning use of language, and its warm, beating humanity...There is a finely-balanced weighting here between the raunchy, delicious beginnings of a love affair and the more poignant aspects of Nora's inner life.'

'Gooseen' relates the first four months of Nora's relationship with Joyce which culminated in their emigration to Trieste. The *Irish Times* called *Joyride to Jupiter*, Nuala's latest collection, 'skilfully crafted fictions' and said, 'the blending of wry, caustic irreverence and meditative poignancy is central to the success of O'Connor's storytelling.'

During her writing career Nuala has published over 14 books, ranging from poetry, short-stories and novels. She has won numerous awards over the years for her work and has been shortlisted for many more.

Nuala says that winning the award was one of her proudest moments; "It felt truly great, there's just something about writing from the perspective of Galway women that makes me proud. I'm fascinated by the women of Galway, their strength and connection to one another is unbreakable".

Nuala's fourth novel, *Becoming Belle*, will launch in Ireland, the UK and Australia in September. It follows the fortunes of another historic

Galway-based woman and is described as 'a witty and inherently feminist novel about passion and marriage, set in Victorian London and Ballinasloe, and based on the true story of the unstoppable Belle Bilton, a music hall actress, who became an Irish countess by marrying the third Earl of Clancarty.'



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DIPLOMATS IN THE CLASSROOM AT ARDSKOIL MUIRE

Diplomacy, international relations, travelling the world promoting Irish interests, helping Irish citizens both at home and abroad ...are just some of the topics discussed with the Transition Year students at Ardscoil Mhuire when the Irish Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade visited the school as part of one of the Department's public diplomacy efforts, the *Global Horizons Youth Initiative*, which the *Diplomats in the Classroom* programme is a part of.

The *Diplomats in the Classroom* programme aims to increase senior cycle students' awareness of what the Foreign Service does and of Ireland's place in an increasingly changing world. The initiative also seeks to provoke discussion and debate on these topics – something which the Ardscoil Mhuire students entered into enthusiastically!

Particular topics which raised many eyebrows among the students were the fact that Ireland's official colour is **St. Patrick's Blue**; with many students quite astonished that it wasn't green and that our country's official legal name is **Éire (or Ireland) and not the Republic of Ireland!**

The students also participated in a simulated consular exercise which involved them adopting a range of different roles including distressed Irish citizens both at home and abroad, journalists, doctors, and for the lucky few, ambassadors. The exercise stimulated an engaging and thought-provoking exchange between the students on an important part of what Irish diplomats do when serving abroad – helping Irish citizens who find themselves in trouble or in danger – a role which we take very seriously.

The "honorary" ambassadors for the day proved to be very much

up to the job and conducted their duties confidently and with no small amount of panache! Perhaps one can already see some of our future Irish diplomats harking from Béal Átha na Slua!

While there may be a perception of the diplomatic lifestyle as exceptionally glamorous and exotic (this mainly being the fault of film and TV representations of the diplomatic life), the job of diplomatic officer is a wide-ranging and multi-faceted role. The day-to-day challenges of the work could range from organising high-level Irish Government visits, promoting trade, reporting on EU and foreign policy issues, to assisting Irish citizens in difficulties, managing mission budgets and development aid programmes and directing the work of local staff. Champagne receptions and glitzy ballrooms do not figure that often in our daily work!

All in all, the chance to represent Ireland and its people, either at home or overseas, is an immense honour and privilege and, arguably, there is no better embodiment of this opportunity than working for the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

Qualities which the Irish Foreign Service looks for in its staff include adaptability, resilience, a keen interest in international relations and international and domestic current affairs as well as an interest in foreign cultures and languages.

A very sincere thanks to Principal Patricia Kilgallon, TY Coordinator Ronagh O'Brien, and the staff and students of Ardscoil Mhuire for their generous assistance in facilitating the visit.

So, if you think you possess the above skills and qualities and are interested in pursuing a career as an Irish diplomat, or indeed more generally in the Irish Public Service, recruitment competitions are periodically advertised on the Public Appointments website, www.publicjobs.ie. Further information about the work the Department is currently doing is available on the website www.dfa.ie.

BY GARETH HARGADON

Gareth Hargadon, a Creagh native and Garbally College alumnus, is currently working with the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade and he and his family are Asia-bound this Summer as he departs these shores to take up a position as Deputy Head of Mission at the Embassy of Ireland in Seoul, Republic of Korea.



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GALWAY EAST LIFE ANNUAL SCRAMBLE

Galway East Life Support are holding their 2nd GELS Annual 3 Ball Scramble this year, following on from a highly successful event held last year.

The event takes place on Saturday 9th June at the Loughrea Golf Club, with prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams as well as 1st and 2nd Ladies teams there is the added attraction of a Perpetual Shield trophy.

A prize of a €1,700 Campotel Holiday is up for grabs in a draw to be held on the day, which is sponsored by Keller's Travel. The prize includes return ferry passage with onboard accommodation for a family of 5, with 7 nights' accommodation at a choice of 15 4/5 Star resorts in France or Spain.

Tickets are €5 each for the draw and will be available on the day as well as from GELS, Gullane's Hotel and the Birchgrove Bar. Golf Scramble teams are €75 each and tee times can be booked by calling Loughrea G.C. on 091 841049 or 087 9119147

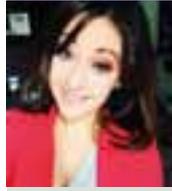
"This event is an opportunity to raise awareness by having the conversations with participants about mental health and work of GELS. Plans for this year include a Safe Talk and an Asist Course. The Safe Talk is a 3-hour Suicide Alertness training course, while the Asist is a more intensive 2-day workshop in Suicide First Aid. Anyone interested in participating in either of these should contact GELS for details on 085 123 7878"; stated Arthur Carr, Chairman of Galway East Life Support.



GELS members Arthur Carr, Ber Coughlan, Deborah Carr, Seamus McCarthy, and Johnny Farrell Ballinasloe Golf Club.

SARAH CORCORAN

A.I.M.S. NOMINEE FOR BEST FEMALE SINGER



Ballinasloe native Sarah Corcoran, well known for both her acting and singing talents was nominated in the Best Female Singer category for her role as Sarah in 'Ragtime' which was staged last September with Bravo Theatre Group, Loughrea.

The AIMS (Association of Irish Musical Societies) nominations for 2017/18 were announced in New Ross, heralding Sarah's first - nomination that was very much deserved as Sarah played this part to perfection giving a performance second to none.

Sarah has been involved in the theatre from a very young age, her first appearance being one of the children in 'Oliver' with Ballinasloe Musical Society in 1997, from there she got the bug! She has been involved in many musical productions with BMS since then, playing roles in 'Seven Brides for Seven Brothers', 'Mrs Potts in 'Beauty and the Beast', 'My Fair Lady', 'Pirates of Penzance', 'South Pacific', 'Sally' in 'Me & My Girl', 'Wednesday Addams' in the award winning 'Addams family' and 'Ulla' in the 2016 production of The Producers.

In 2012 Sarah was the winner of 'Coyote Factor', one of Galway's most prestigious singing events. Along with Musical Theatre, Sarah's singing talent has seen her as lead singer with bands in town and Galway & can often be seen taking the mic at music sessions in town.

She has appeared in productions such as 'Listen to my Heart' and 'The last five years' with Bravo Theatre Company and has a diploma in musical theatre from the Irish College of music theatre in Dublin. Earlier this year Sarah enjoyed taking on the role of Deloris Van Cartier in 'Sister Act' with Ennis Musical Society, a role which also did true justice to her musical talent.

The awards will be announced at the AIMS awards weekend in Killarney on June 16th. Frances Leahy Secretary of B.M.S. stated "BMS Congratulates and wishes the best of luck to Sarah but also to Shane Farrell, who has been Musical Director with BMS for a number of years, for his nomination as Musical Director in Bravo Theatre Group's, production of 'Ragtime'".

Members of the Society will travel to the Kingdom for what is always a weekend full of music, dance, laughs and very little sleep!!



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FOURTH DARKNESS INTO LIGHT WALK A SUCCESS



Andrew Naughten and Donnan O'Dowd.



Brian Derrane.



Gabrielle Glynn and Edel O'Brien.



Mary Noonan and Rita Kilgallon.

This year's Darkness Into Light walk/run saw over 400 people from around the local area take part in the fundraising event for Pieta House. The events focus is to remember those who lost their lives through suicide, and to create awareness for those who are suffering with mental health.

Registration for the event started off with refreshments and other goodies being handed out. Before everyone headed out to the road, Chief Organiser Brian Derrane addressed everyone in the Ballroom with a few quick words on behalf of Pieta House;

"Because of all your help, last year nationwide we supported 7,170 with face to face therapy, and we responded to 16,500 callers through our helpline, and because of you this service is now free of charge for those who need it"

Continuing he stated "I am extremely happy with everyone who came out tonight, Ballinasloe has been a great supporter of Darkness into Light and Pieta House, and we understand the importance of our local Pieta House centres in Athlone, Galway and Tuam".

"This our 4th year running, and the support hasn't changed, and for the people who missed it this year we certainly missed you too, but we welcome you to next year's one. You never know who could be walking next to you during Darkness into Light, that person might have had some trouble in life or even had some crisis along the way. The most important thing to do is to walk, talk, listen and engage"

People of all ages took the road in their brand new bright yellow T-Shirts which were allocated at registration for the event. The walk took all partaking members from the Emerald Ballroom, up through Garbally and back to the starting point.

Andrew Naughten, who took part in the event for the third time was joined by his nephew Donnan O'Dowd, said that each year

the Darkness into Light becomes more inspiring;

"It's a great cause, my own mother-in-law unfortunately died through suicide and it's a great way to remember her each year. It's great to see all the young people turning out tonight, it encourages everyone to get talking to those who need help, and it shows them that people do care".

Edel O'Brien and Gabrielle Glynn both made their Darkness into Light debuts this year, and their cause was to support everyone who has lost a family member or friend through suicide;

"I think most families in Ireland have been affected by suicide in some shape or form, and if we as a community can do our little bit just to raise awareness it can help the lives of so many people. By showing your support and raising funds for such a great cause, it gives you a great feeling", said Edel.

Once people started to cross over the finish line with the sun rising just above the horizon, there was an extremely warm and happy atmosphere amongst the people who had partaken. Locals Mary Noonan and Rita Kilgallon said that the walk was great fun to partake in, and everyone should try and get involved.

"It was great that we managed to do the Darkness into Light this year, it's such a lovely walk. We would definitely come back again next year no doubt, it's such a great way to support people going through a difficult time in their lives. A big well done to everyone who organised tonight's event, the set up was marvellous", said Mary

Concluding Brian Derrane noted "I can't thank enough to everyone who came out tonight, and to the people who sponsored each member, these donations will make all the difference in many peoples lives not just here, but all across Ireland"

If you or someone you know is suffering from mental health issues, please don't hesitate to get in contact with Pieta House through their free helpline on 1800 247 247.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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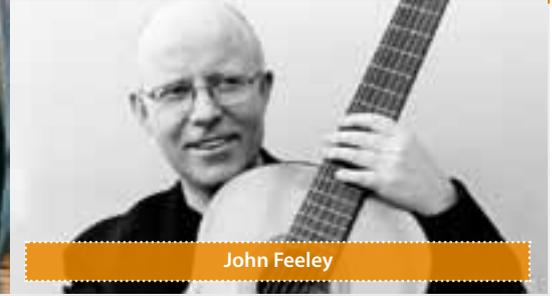
STRINGS FESTIVAL SET TO MAKE WELCOME RETURN



Daniel Valentin Marx



ConTempo



John Feeley

Strings Festival is returning to the Library this year after a very successful running in 2017. The Festival takes place on the weekend of the 13th/14th of July with performers such as John Feeley, ConTempo, Daniel Valentin Marx and much more. A trumpet call by the Town Band will be performed at the opening ceremony to kickstart the weekend.

Local Classical Guitarist John Feeley studied at Trinity College, Dublin; Queens College of the City University, New York and The National University of Ireland, Maynooth; where he graduated with a PhD in music. He has taught at the American Institute of Guitar, Memphis State University, the Conservatory of Music, Dublin Institute of Technology, the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin and is currently Adjunct Professor at the Conservatory of Music, DIT.

In addition to his solo and chamber music concerts, Feeley has performed widely with orchestra. He has had many works written for him and is a regular performer at many international guitar festivals. He is well known for his own guitar arrangements of Irish music which appear on several of his many recordings.

Celebrating their 20th anniversary this season, ConTempo Quartet is recognised as one of the most exciting and vibrant chamber ensembles performing today. They have performed world-wide in many prestigious venues, winning prizes at competitions in Munich, Rome and London, and worked alongside artistes of the highest calibre.

They have broadcast widely on European radio, premiered and recorded many contemporary pieces, and in June 2016 the members were awarded with honorary doctorates in music from

NUI Galway in recognition of 13 years of music and education in the West of Ireland. In 2014 ConTempo was also appointed RTÉ's Quartet in Residence.

Daniel Valentin Marx began playing the guitar at the age of seven in the Kreismusikschule Erding. He studied under Professor Roberto Aussel at the Musikhochschule of Cologne, graduating with honours in 2016. Aged 17, Daniel debuted as a classical soloist, playing the guitar concertos of Vivaldi with the chamber orchestra of Erding. Daniel is carrying forward his studies at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles and continues to work in numerous academies and masterclasses. His debut album will come out in 2018.

Dedicated to the discovery of new guitar music, Daniel is a founding member of the Cologne-based ensemble Electronic ID and is also the artistic director of the guitar festival in his Bavarian hometown Dorfen and Artiste in Residence at the Max Kade Institute in Los Angeles.

Local young musicians will also be performing throughout the festival which has at its core the celebration of classical music.

The Festival will be hosted in the Town Library during the weekend, with performances taking place in the Church Gallery, the Reading Area, and should the weather be good there will be some artistes performing outside. Food stalls and mini markets will also be located around the town to mark the event.

Official line ups and performing times/venues are to be released in early June. Tickets for the event are free of charge and they can be booked through Eventbrite.ie. For more information on the festival, please contact Una Kelly in the Library on 090 964 3464, and check out their Facebook Page (Europe Direct Ballinasloe Library) for updates.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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NEW YOUTH MUSIC PROGRAMME FOR TOWN BAND



Members of the Ballinasloe Town Band.

A new Youth Music Programme directed by famous Irish Musician and former Artane Band Leader - Keith Kelly is being piloted by the Ballinasloe Town Band.

This is a new initiative sponsored and promoted by Music Networks Ireland and Ballinasloe is one of only 3 locations in the West to secure the activity in order to boost young peoples participation in live music.

The Band was established back in the 1800's , as a brass and reed band and has been a musical fixture on the community on and off ever since. Its most recent welcome revival came six years ago after it was out of action for a few years.



Keith has been actively involved in community bands and ensembles around Ireland for over 20 years. He joined the Irish Defence Forces Band in 2004 where he served as principal clarinettist of the Band of the Western Command for over 10 years and featured as a clarinet and saxophone soloist on many occasions. During this time, Keith was actively involved within Irish community banding. As a conductor and administrator, Keith assisted in the founding of successful Irish concert bands such as the Clara Town Band and Midlands Wind Ensemble, the former of which would go on to win national awards.

Keith served as the General Manager of the Artane Band and School of Music from 2014 -2017, where he oversaw the implementation of a major strategic plan, the redevelopment and extension of the school, the formation of a new 100-strong choral society, and the development of an ongoing partnership with Notre Dame University.

In 2014, Keith and a team of other passionate music educators and performers founded the Irish Symphonic Wind Orchestra, an ensemble of almost 100 performers from throughout Ireland.

Keith now works as the music consultant for Celtic Horizon Tours, assisting bands and choirs from around the world to perform in Ireland and arranging festivals and educational experiences for musicians of all ages.

Keith lives with his family in Ballyforan, Roscommon, and is incredibly excited to be part of Ballinasloe's new youth band programme starting this year. His children Ryan (7), and Faye (5) will be the first new band members he recruits.

The price for partaking in the course is €260, which is the equivalent to €5 a week. Sponsorship for the programme to reduce costs has been secured by national music networks across Ireland, the Local Council and Applegreen stores.

There are currently 11 members in the town band under the age of

18 .The Programme is aimed to get more children between the ages of 6-12 to get involved with the Town Band so it can keep running for years to come.

The programme is based for beginners and those who already have music instrument experience. It will start off with simple learning tasks such as basic rhythm, with some fun games helping them get used to their chosen instrument. Once the children feel comfortable with their instrument, they will learn how to read music, and get some lessons.

Students will be given their chosen instrument to borrow and take home to practice with. A small deposit will be required depending on which instrument the child chooses to borrow.

The course begins in September this year, with days and times to be decided after registration so it can fit the children's schedules as best needed.

Throughout the course the members will be assessed on their progress and ability, and afterwards will be certified Music Strings, an American music programme.

Band Flutist Katia Connolly, says that working with Keith is an opportunity not to be missed;

"This programme for children is a fantastic opportunity for those who have a love for music, or simply want to come and give it a go. The opportunity to work with an extremely talented musician like Keith may never present itself again to those who miss out".

"Though it may be looking very far ahead, the certificate in which each child will receive at the end of the programme will come in handy for educational credits. It can be the difference between acceptance and rejection from a music college if they should apply in the future", states Katia .

See their website or facebook page for registration details.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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BRACKERNAGH'S AMIE DOHERTY HOSTS FAMILY AT GALA NEW YORK PREMIERE

Amie Doherty has taken to the film sector in Hollywood, composing music for big name movies produced across the States. The talented music artist started off by playing the cornet in her local brass band when she was a child, which kickstarted her love for music.

The composer's passion for music came from her upbringing in Brackernagh, (with Parents Chris and Martina) from being engaged by all types in her home and in school. Her mother has been producing musicals in schools across the region, along with hosting choirs and teaching music with many different organisations.

Amie moved to the west-coast five years ago to fulfil her dream of working in showbiz and light entertainment sector and has been highly credited for her work by numerous co-workers, film and show critics.

The highlight of Amie's career came earlier this year, as she got to bring her mother, Martina, and sister Rachel down the red carpet as her V.I.P. guests for the acclaimed New York City Tribeca Film Festival.

The two relatives got the chance to meet numerous celebrities on the night, the biggest standout being former Sex in the City star Sarah Jessica Parker. The trio posed with bright smiles on the red carpet for the cameras.

Speaking about the whole experience, Amie's mother Martina said that it was very emotional and fun for the whole family;

"I never travelled to New York before, it was always something I wanted to do, but to get the opportunity in such circumstances is one thing I'll never forget. Myself and my daughter Rachel were bursting with excitement to join Amie for the event, but most importantly it was just meeting up with her for a few days".

"Seeing Amie all dressed up and making her way to the red carpet brought tears to our eyes, for her to get this far after putting her life into music was something we are very proud of. She has known nothing other than music since she was a child, and has always had faith in herself that she would go on to do great things".

"What's truly wonderful is that Amie has never let go of her Irish roots, she can't express them enough to anyone who she meets over in the States. All of her work colleagues know her as the little red Irish girl which we all get a good giggle out of".

"Though her father, brother and other relatives didn't get the chance to come over and see Amie for themselves, they spent the whole evening back on home soil waving their flags in support and keeping in contact with us".



Rachel, Amie and Martina Doherty with Sarah Jessica Parker.

"I can't speak highly enough of all my children, they all work so hard to be where they are today it makes me proud to be their mother. Myself and my husband Chris have always shown great support for their work and we will always continue to do so".

"I felt a tad bit nervous being around all these celebrities for the first time but believe you me they are no different to anyone of us when they are in the real world. The welcoming we got from them was amazing, they may be famous, but they are very practical and friendly, chatting to them was like talking to anyone you'd meet her in Ireland".

The soon to be released movie 'Blue Night' was being premiered on the night, a film in which Amie recently worked on with Sarah Jessica Parker. There has been no official release date as of yet for the movie to premier in Ireland.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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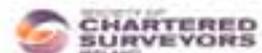
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THE LATE STEPHEN CONNELL COMMEMORATED ON WORKERS BANK HOLIDAY

A commemorative plaque was recently unveiled in St. Grellan's Terrace in recognition of the very positive work carried out in the community by the late Stephen Connell. Stephen of course was a highly respected community activist, a Labour Party Town Councillor and a lifelong and committed Trade Unionist.



Councillor Dermot Connolly, Grellan Connolly, Johnny Walsh, Jack O'Connor and John Connell.

Master of Ceremonies at the unveiling ceremony was Johnny Walsh, former Labour Party Town Councillor and Mayor, who stated that it was honour for him to be asked by the Connell family to officiate at the ceremony, as he had a lifelong admiration for and friendship with Stephen.

Johnny stated that it was Stephen who had inspired him to become involved in community affairs, union affairs and local politics. The former Mayor "Stephen under took tremendous work with the Ballinasloe Community Resources based in the Emerald Ballroom, creating and developing the Community employment scheme, the jobs club, community information centre and the learning centre, where Stephen had successfully worked with Equal Ireland to secure access to and delivery of 3rd level education programmes for the community", stated Johnny.

Special guest of honour on the day was Jack O'Connor, former national President of S.I.P.T.U., and current national Chairperson of the Labour Party, who delivered a fulsome address on the positive achievements of Stephen and his contribution over many years to the community. He stated that Stephen Connell was first and foremost a community

activist who had helped the Community through his involvement with resident's associations, Ballinasloe Trade Union branch, elected Labour Councillor and many other local community organisations.

The guest of honour also recalled that Stephen was very involved with his local St. Grellans resident's association and was instrumental in establishing a local community centre in the estate in the 1970s where bingo was organised for the

wider Ballinasloe community, local children were assisted with school homework, and music classes took place.

As well as being a founding member of the Ballinasloe Community Resources, Stephen was also a founder member of Ballinasloe Social Services Centre which incorporates a day care centre for Senior Citizens, a meals on wheels service and a playschool.

It is greatly appropriate that unveiling of the plaque to Stephen was taking place on the May bank holiday (workers holiday), and he had absolutely no doubt that Stephen would want the fight to continue on a national level for better rights, entitlements and better pay for the working people of our country", stated Labour Party Chairman Jack O Connor.

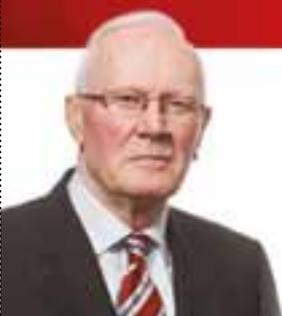
He then unveiled the plaque to recognize the late Stephen's achievements. The official blessing of the plaque was performed by Father Bernie Costelloe.

The family of Stephen Connell thanked everyone involved on the day and also wish to thank the local Ballinasloe Town A.f.C. for hosting everyone at their clubhouse for refreshments after the ceremony.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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TOWN'S GAA TO HOST FÉILE AFTER 25 YEARS

For the second time ever the local GAA community are hosting Féile - the All-Ireland Club festivals for Hurling, Football, Camogie and Handball at Under 14 years of age level.

The GAA Féile Committee have been working hard at raising the money required to host an event that the players, their families, the club and the town will enjoy partaking in. Hosting Féile is recognised to be a positive attribute for hosting clubs, and they are doing their best to make sure it is a success.

The main fundraiser, for the second weekend in June event - it was decided to publish a booklet where local businesses were asked to sponsor a player or do a half page advertisement. The response from the local businesses community has been very encouraging.

A very generous donation was also made by the Credit Union, after putting forward €1,000 towards hosting the event. Betty & Andrew Coyne (Ballinasloe Stone) kindly donated a set of jerseys which the team members will get to keep afterwards. The local SuperValu is supporting the club over the Féile weekend with refreshments & snacks for the teams and officials.

The crowds expected in the town over the weekend are going to be large, with the committee booking 35 rooms in local hotels which were sold out within hours of Portaferry (Co.Down) qualifying. All local businesses are set to benefit largely from the expected crowds travelling.

The schedule for the event starts off on the Friday, 8th of June, evening where the first two group matches will be played, followed by a meet and greet function at the clubhouse. Saturday, teams will link up with

Ballinasloe Camogie Club and host a Féile Dinner and disco for the visitors.

Portaferry GAA Club Chairman Brendan Orr says his club are very keen on returning to Ballinasloe for the Féile for the first time in 25 years;



Members of the Féile hurling team in their school colours.

Back row - Niall Jennings, Seán Power, Niall Cunningham, Conor Dowd, Adam Coyne
Front row - Michael Coyne, Conor O'Grady and Gearóid Markha.

"After beating Ballygalget in the County Down Feile Final, the team were delighted to hear that they would be heading to Ballinasloe for the National Feile. It brings back a lot of great memories for many within our club. 25 years ago, we were also based in in the East Galway Town for the event, and then going on to win the Division 3 title. These memories last forever and we know this will be the case for the 2018 squad as well", stated Brendan.

Fundraising events are well underway in the Ards Peninsula too, including Cake Sales, Sponsor the Player, Sponsored Walk, Fathers and Sons match to get us down for the weekend. "These traditional fun events have carried on since 1993, and all the players are excited and can't wait until June. We look forward to visiting Ballinasloe again, having a great weekend, making memories and friends for life", said Brendan.

Club Chairman Seamus Duffy praised all the parents of the Féile panel for their support with the fundraising bag packing, along with the numerous sponsors involved, and to the families who are hosting players over the weekend, whom without their support it would not be possible to put on Féile.

Féile Committee - Sonya Coyne, Betty Coyne, Linda Cunningham, Marie Cunningham and Bernie Power.



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GAA NEWS UPDATES

World Cup Score Fundraiser

Ballinasloe GAA Club are running a score predictor for the upcoming world cup. Its €10 per player with a top prize of €300, and €100 for the runner up. The club are looking to target 500 locals to take part. Score Predictor is a popular game where a group of players predict the scores for a set of fixtures. Players will get points for their predicted scores based on both the outcomes of the match and if their predicted score lines are correct. The competition continues until all the rounds have been completed, then the player with the highest score wins the competition. For further information visit the clubs Facebook page, and follow the link for their Klubfunder.

Under 14 Girls Win Feile Shield



Back row (L-R); Caoimhe Kennedy, Annalese O'Connor, Shauna Mitchell, Emma Keane, Nicole Ward, Ciara Daly, Ruth Manning, Roisin Coleman, Katie Galvin, Eabha McCarty.

Front row (L-R); Aoife Ansley, Xige Kennedy, Zoe Tumulty, Maeve Reynolds, Mya Kelly, Mollie Naessans, Eilish Kerr, Amy Leonard, Emily Gillespie, Sarah Russell, Ciara Frehill.

The Ballinasloe GAA U14 girls won their Féile shield in Caltra. After playing five group games, they then overcame two teams from a higher League division, St Fursey's (Headford) in the Shield semi-final, and Glenamaddy/Williamstown in the final.



Under 17 Footballers Called Up For County Panel

Odhran Dooley, Oisín McCormack and Cian Reynolds have been selected to represent the Galway GAA U17 football panel for the upcoming season.

Mothers and Others Hosting Weekend Tournament



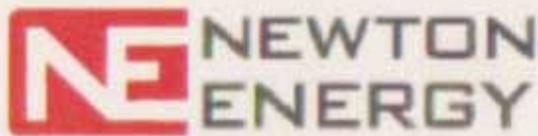
Ballinasloe Ladies GAA, in association with Ballinasloe Sports Hub are hosting St. Sylvesters Under 12 girls, Mothers and other teams along with parents of the Under 12's. The girls will take part in a blitz on the 23rd and 24th along with their Ballinasloe counterparts and some other local clubs. The teams will then play each other in a challenge match. This will be followed by some food and entertainment in the club grounds.

Under 12 Footballers Play During League



Under 12 Football Team who played during the interval at the recent Galway – Dublin League Game at Pearse Stadium –

Front row, left to right: Ryan Smyth, Conor Berrigan, Ferdia McDonagh, Michael Coyne, Fionn Ryan, Nabil Patwary, Ryan Dowd, Rhys Horan, Daire Clarke, Cillian McPhillips, Charlie Killeen, Matthew Tully and Oisín Fallon. Middle row, left to right: Odhran Sheahan, Shane Houlihan, Ryan Howard, Dean Kelly, Niall Jennings, DJ Swarez, Cormac Murphy, Josh Bradley, Jamie Coyne, Corey Waters, and Darragh Madden. Back row, left to right: Brian Madden, manager, Tom Murphy, coach and Conor Ryan, coach.



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LOCAL WOMEN'S RUGBY PLAYERS STAR AT INTERNATIONAL LEVEL

Women's rugby stars Maebh Deeley and Beibhinn Pearsons represented the Ireland under 18's European Sevens tournament in France.

The tournament took place at the end of April where the girls helped the team reach their best ever rank in the competition by taking home bronze silverware after beating Italy in the 3rd place playoff on a score line of 15-10.

Both girls, who represent Ballinasloe Rugby Club and the Ardscoil Mhuire rugby team played a part in each game, with Maebh (Captain of the U18's rugby team in Ballinasloe) playing every minute of all matches played.

This was Maebh's third time representing Ireland in Europe, after previously playing in the Schoolgirls EU tournament and the EU Finals in Viche September 2017 along with Aoibheann Reilly, who fell short of this tournament due to injury.

Beibhinn however made her international debut - representing Ireland at an International level, where she made a huge mark by becoming joint top try scorer with two try's against Latvia, and individuals against Andorra, The Netherlands and Russia proved crucial as the team moved forward to the semi-finals where they were cruelly beaten by France on a score line of 27-0.

Maebh's mother Ann Conlon says that seeing the girls represent their country at such a high level was not just an achievement for them, but for everyone involved within the rugby club; "It was a privilege to see the girls out playing and getting game time, it's something that we will never forget. It's a huge step forward not only for them, but for every up and coming player in our local rugby club".

Maebh herself admits that the engagement at this level helps confidence "This was my third time representing the Ireland Women's Rugby Team at underage level, and it just feels better and better each time. The experience we gained at this level is precious, we can now bring that back to our own club and build on from there".



The team after a well fought game during the tournament.



Maebh Deely and Beibhinn Pearsons along with other team members with their Bronze Winners Medals.

"What I loved most about playing sevens is that there's only 12 members in the full squad, which really helps us communicate and get to know one another with ease. The feeling of scoring a try or kicking a conversion at this level gives ya goose-bumps in front of crowds of people who you never would have thought of playing in front of before", continued Maebh.

"The reception us players received when we came back to the Graigueawoneen club was amazing with everyone justifiably proud of their achievements. It's one of those moments that will stick with me forever. The main thing now is to remain focused any train harder for every upcoming game, our next outing with the national team is this July in Edinburgh so we hope to keep the momentum going", stated Maebh.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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UNDERAGE ATHLETES CELEBRATE VICTORIES AT COUNTY TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS



Cillian Ó Tuairisg, Aaron Hogan, Brian Fitzpatrick, Daniel Mooney and Adam Doran.

The County Galway track and field Athletic Championships for age groups from Under 9's to 19's was held in Dangan, Galway, where Ballinasloe and District Athletic Club was well represented in the various events.

All members who partook in the event took home numerous medals and silverware, making it one of the clubs most successful competition outings over the two days. There was numerous stand out performances on the day in every age category.

The girls U11 group saw Sinead Green win an individual silver medal in the 60-meter sprint, with Cillian O Tuairisg winning silver in the boys U11 600-meter race.

Adam Doran won silver in the U12 high jump, with Daniel Mooney also taking second place in the shotput event.

The Girls U13 saw Caoimhe Kilkenny win silver in the 80 meters, and bronze in the 600-meter race, with Laurina Woha narrowly missing out on the bronze medal when she placed 4th overall. The Girls relay team won qualification for the All Ireland Relay Finals to be

held in July by placing second in the event. Emma McGreal took 2nd place in the U14 80 meters event.

In the u15 boys 4x100m relay the team of Conor Harley, Cáilum Lionel, Derrick Woha Adam McGreal and Shane Fitzpatrick ran a great relay to win silver. The Boys 100-meter sprint saw Cáilum Lionel win his heat and silver overall. Later Conor Harley won silver in the 1500 meters. Adam McGreal won gold for the club with a good run in the 800 meters event, while McGerald Woha ran in the 100 meter and 200-meter races winning two silver medals. This was significant as McGerald finished in 2nd position in the 100mts behind the new championship record time recorded by the winner. In addition to competing on the track, Adam, Conor and Cáilum competed in the Javlelin throwing event, where they finished in 4th, 5th, and 6th positions.

On behalf of Ballinasloe AC, PRO Anne Burke "congratulated everyone who took part over the two days and would like to thank everyone for giving their very best in each event".

For more information and all race results, please visit the clubs Facebook Page.



Derrick Woha, Conor Harley and Cailum Lionel, Shane Fitzpatrick and Adam McGreal.

BY IAN O'BOYLE



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IKKI BALLINASLOE KARATE CELEBRATES NEW BLACK BELTS



IKKI grading and new black belts.

10 members of the IKKI Ballinasloe Karate Club received their prestigious Black Belts this summer, after years of coaching and practicing.

Recipients of Black Belts rank were, Faye Mulvany, Gavin Daly, Leo Mulvany, Eoin Costello, Evan Donellan, Josh Judge, Darragh Blake, Leona Donelan, Colin Blake and David Sipa.

Those holding diplomas received their official certification and black belt rank from Soke Sadaaki Sakagami, President of the IKIF, Yokohama, Japan. This is the culmination of many years of training and competition besides their actual ranking.

Leo Mulvany, Chief Instructor of Itosu-kai Karatedo Ireland, which has its headquarters in Ballinasloe, was awarded his 7th Dan Degree Black Belt by Soke Sakagami.

With only a handful of 7th Dans outside of Japan and ranking as the highest Dan degree in Itosu-Kai Karate in Europe, Mulvany Sensei is humbled by the award and accepted it on behalf of all the students and club Sensei's in the Irish association.

Leo Mulvany, member of the Ballinasloe IKKI stated "the dedication, loyalty and perseverance of every club member is what makes the club a special place to be a part of".

For more information on the IKKI association visit www.ikki.ie

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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CYCLO CHALONNES-ROCHEFORT CYCLISTS FETED BY LOCAL CLUB

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Ballinasloe Cycling Club hosted members of the famous Cyclo Chalonne-Rochefort Club as they pedaled through Ireland on a cycling tour.

The Cyclo Chalonne-Rochefort club made contact with the local Cycling Club last year through their respective Town Twinning Committees (Ballinasloe – Chalonnnes Sur Loire), where a project was set in motion that culminated with the arrival of 17 French visitors to town in mid May.

The group comprised of 9 cyclists and 8 accompanying support members, inclusive of two mini-buses. The age profile of the cyclists ranged from 49 to 71 years. The visitors included Monsieur Guy Biju, President of Cyclo Chalonnnes –Rochefort and Monsieur Phillippe Menard the newly appointed Mayor of Chalonnnes sur Loire.

The ambitious cycling itinerary completed two stages in France prior to their arrival in Ireland (Chalonnnes to Pontivy – 205km and Pontivy to Roscoff (Port of departure)– 127km).

Arriving in Cork off the ferry on Saturday, the Group made their way to Cashel for an overnight stop, before heading up to East Galway the day after.

Noel Slevin, the Chairman of the Ballinasloe Cycling Club, formally welcomed the group having crossed the border into Co. Galway at

Portumna, before continuing their route up to Ballinasloe.

Joined by further members of the BCC along the route, the Chalonnnes' team arrived into town to a great welcome and to the sound of popping champagne bottles. Having completed 560Km in just 4 days there was a great sense of achievement among both cycling clubs. Accommodation for the French guests was graciously provided by host families members of the BCC.

A joint Cycling Club outing to Clonmacnoise and Shannon Harbour was followed by a picnic (Produced by Lily Kelly's) by the waterside in Shannonbridge, before an evening of food and French flair was held in the Golf Club hosted formally by the Town Twinning Committee. Afterwards the Mayor of Chalonnnes spoke of the importance of forming new friendships through such sporting and cultural exchanges.

The group departed Ballinasloe for a tour of Kerry after their three-day visit noting that by the time they returned home to Chalonnnes they would have completed in excess of 1,000Km during their whole journey across France, Ireland and back to base camp!

BCC Club Sec . Don O'Connor was hugely appreciative of all the families who hosted the cyclists during their visit and all others who helped it to be such a success " We are indebted to the host families, to Lily Kelly for the picnic in Shannon Bridge, and to the Town Twinning Committee for hosting the group at the Golf Club for a memorable evening meal", stated Don.



Phillippe Menard (Mayor), Noel Slevin (Chairman BCC), GuyBiju (President Cyclo Chalonne-Rochefort), Geraldine Kelly (Ballinasloe Town Twinning), Don O'Connor (BCC), Mike Kelly (Ballinasloe Town Twinning).



Cyclists from BCC and Cyclo Chalonne- Rochefort.

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SPORTS ROUND UP



Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh students expressing their delight after winning their first ever Connacht Title.



Aoibhin Coughlan, Keith Coughlan, Hannah Clarke, Aislínn Coughlan meeting president D Higgins on the promenade in Salthill in Galway after competing in the County Galway track and field competition.



Camán to Croke 2018, U12 Beal Atha Na Slua Camogie girls playing in Croke Park on Sunday 10th April.

Front Row, L to R: Ellen Curtin, Aoibhín Coughlan, Abby Carroll, Saorla Gallagher, Eva Ruane, Caoimhe Naughton, Ruth Dudgeon
Back Row, L to R: Niamh Casey, Alannah McKeigue, Aoibhinn Fitzpatrick, Niamh Kerr, Anna Harney, Sinead Greene, Eabha Hardiman.



Carmel Greally & Niall Clarke BCU with the medal winners in the U4, U5, U6 categories at the 2018 Community Games.



First Year Connacht Champions

Back: Shane Fitzpatrick, David Khaliman, Ben Bleahen, Thomas Goode, Conor Ryan, Alain Brooks, Conor Harley, Diarmuid McDonagh, Cathal Carty, Jamie Malone, Luke Kenny, Tadgh McLaverty, Yaswanth Radhakrishnan, Seán Quirke

Front: Cian Daly, Ryan Kelly, Joseph Tierney, Cian Grenham, Jason Cunningham, Charlie Naughton (Captain), Ronan Lynch Riddell, Godfrey Gibbons, Keelan Ryan, Tom Cafferky, Adam Nevin. Trainer Mr. Michael Gallagher.

Assistants: Stuart Madden, Seán Horkan, Craig Potter.



Connacht Juvenile Champions

Back: Terry McGowan, Adam Mulry, Jack Tumulty, Andrew Gibbons, Cormac Gillespie, Cormac Kenny, Evan Clancy, Samuel Almeida, Cian Poland, Cathal Ó hAnluain, Declan Kenny, Daithí Ward, Liam Collins, Caelim Keogh, Eoin Coleman, Abdullah Shahid, Shane Fitzpatrick

Front: Dara Hession, Jack Finn, Liam Hession, Adam O'Carroll, Luke Caulfield, Eoin Colleran (Captain), Luke Walsh, Charlie Naughton, Adam McGreal, Ronan Lynch Riddell, Conor Ryan, Conor Harley. Trainer: Mr. Aodáin Ó Droigheáin.

Assistants: Stuart Madden, Seán Horkan.

JUNIOR CHESS PLAYERS QUALIFY FOR EUROPEAN CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS IN GREECE

Ballinasloe Chess Club had the biggest day in their 16 year history after they qualified for the Junior European Club Championships in Greece.

Competing in the National Club Championships in Athlone, the east Galway club finished third place behind three-in-a-row winners Gonzaga and runners-up Dublin Chess Club.

The young players started the competition as seventh seeds and weren't expected to be in contention for the podium, but a dominant third round performance shook up the form book.

The team of Denis Ruchko, Thomas Dunne Jr, Jonathan Peoples, George O'Brien, Josef Vezely, John Dunne, Kenneth Higgins and Conor Barrett were on the wrong side of their opening game going down 4-2 to Elm Mount but they launched their challenge after that.

A 3-3 draw with Trinity College led them to defeating Skerries 5.5 to 0.5. Finally, they completed an unlikely achievement in their final clash drawing 3-3 with St. Benildus College.

The European Club Championships will take place in Rhodes, Greece from October 11th to 19th, where Ballinasloe will join the two Dublin outfits in representing Ireland. While the club has had individuals, including Barrett, play for their country before, it will be the first time they've done it as a team.

Junior Club Championship Results; The club concluded their playing season on Wednesday, May 2nd with the culmination of the Junior Club Championships in Creagh National School. 45 players participated in the contest and all received medals with the four semi-finalists in each section receiving trophies.

WINNERS:

Aoife Castle, (Runner-up – Luke Feehily, Semi-Finalists – Fionan Darcy and Jeothish Chinniparri)

B – David Cunningham (Runner-up – Matthew Tully, Semi-Finalists – Eoin Grehan and Jessica Tully)

B1 – Benjamin Gacquin (Runner-up – Daniel Connelly, Semi-Finalists – Emma Harvey and Cian Coughlan)

C – Leah Cunningham (Runner-up – Daniel Booth, Semi-Finalists – Eoin Byrne and Ilya Neilan)



Leah Cunningham, David Cunningham, Aoife Castle, Benjamin Gacquin.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

LOCAL PHARMACIST NIAMH RAISES OVER €2,400 IN HALF MARATHON



Murphy's Medical Hall on (Main St) Pharmacist Niamh presenting a cheque for €2403.20 euro to Jackie, Elish and Carmel of the East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre in Brackernagh.

This was possible through the generosity of all the people that sponsored Niamh, who completed a half-marathon and a coffee morning which was held in aid of the charity

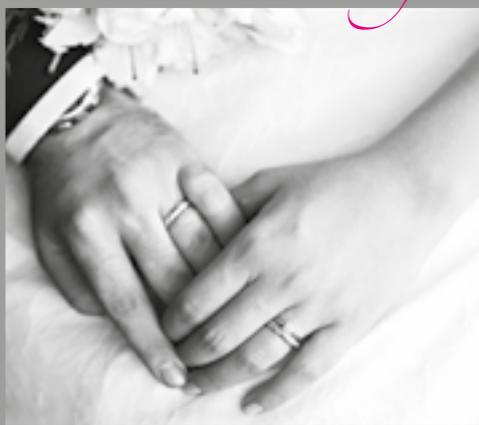
East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre is completely publicly funded and needs the support of everyone to continue the amazing work that they do.

Niamh would like to thank everyone for the phenomenal support she received, she was blown away by the everyone's generosity!



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SOME OF THE MYRIAD OF SUMMER CAMPS



CUCKOO HILL BOOTCAMP

The Bootcamp allows children to have fun and take part in many outdoor activities in a safe and natural environment under the instruction of a qualified coach.

The camps take place over five days from Monday 9th July - Friday 13th July and Monday 6th - Friday 10th of August from 11am to 3pm. The cost is €50, and it is designed for boys and girls aged from 5 years and older.

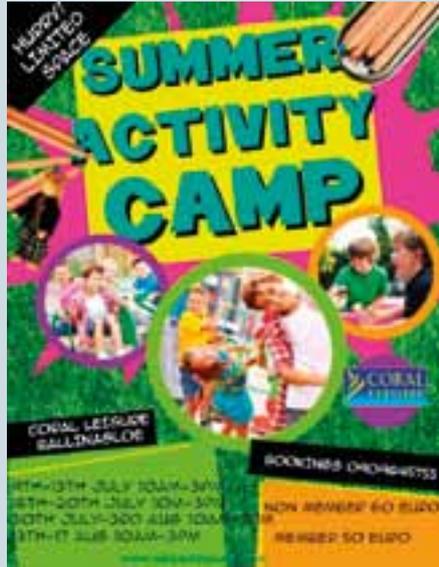
To get in touch with the Cuckoo Hill Bootcamp, contact Tommie Costello on 087 6411530, or visit the website www.cuckoohillbootcamp.com or the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/cuckoohillbootcamp/>.

GOLF CLUB SUMMER CAMP

The Golf club will host summer camps for the month of July, with dates to be released soon.

For further information you can have look at the website www.ballinasloegolfclub.ie, contact 090 9642126 or e-mail at ballinasloegolfclub@hotmail.com

CORAL LEISURE SUMMER CAMPS



Coral Leisure facilities are now taking bookings for their Summer Camps for July-August.

The Summer Activity Camp will take place from July 9th to 13th, July 16th to 20th, July 30th - August 3rd and August 13th -17th from 10am to 3pm. The Camp costs €50 euro for members and €60 for non-members.

The Swim Camp will take place from July 2nd-6th at 10am - 11am, July 9th-13th at 9am-10am, July 30th - August 3rd at 9am-10am. The Camp costs €40 for members and €50 for non-members.

For further information or for bookings, contact Rochelle on (090) 964 5755, email ballinasloe@coralleisure.ie, or visit the website www.coralleisure.ie

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STARCAMP is where children get to experience the perfect balance of singing, dancing and acting with camp games & activities, arts & crafts, kids news reporting, fun masterclasses and much more. STARCAMP Summer Camps are renowned for their core ethos of building children's self-esteem and confidence.

STARCAMP will host a summer camp at the Town Hall Theatre in Ballinasloe from July 30th to August 3rd for boys and girls aged 4-12.

Prices start at €95 for 1 child, €170 for 2 siblings, €235 for 3 siblings and €300 for 4 siblings.

For more information check out the website www.starcamp.ie, call +353 214377900 or email info@starcamp.ie

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FINE GAEL

CONNACHT RUGBY SUMMER CAMPS



Registration is now open for the 2018 Connacht Rugby Summer Camp, which will take place at Ballinasloe RFC from Monday 2nd July until Friday 6th July (inclusive) from 9.15am – 1.30pm daily.

The Connacht Summer Camps are an introduction to the game of rugby for all children between the ages of 6-12 (no rugby experience is necessary). It takes place in a safe and controlled manner and will be managed by IRFU coaches who will guide the children through fun games and activities over the camp.

New this year is the brand new Camp Pack which includes a 1/4 zip top, one free ticket to a Connacht Rugby game next season and some other extras.

Parents are asked to provide their children with a spare change of clothes, a mouth guard, rugby/football boots and a packed lunch with drink.

The camp costs €85 each, you can book online at: www.community.connachtrugby.ie or call (091) 561568.

CONNACHT RUGBY "GIVE IT A TRY - SUMMER 2018"

Give It A Try Summer Fun 2018 is an 8-week programme run in selected clubs where girls aged 10 - 14 can attend and learn how to play rugby in a fun environment.

The class will start on Monday 4th June from 7.00am – 8.00am for 8 weeks.

For further information visit the website www.irishrugby.ie, and get in touch with Ann Conlon at 0872440828

KELLOGG'S GAA CÚL CAMPS

Ballinasloe GAA Club are hosting the Kellogg's Cúl Camps between July 2nd to 6th for Football, and July 9th to 13th for Hurling, from 10.00am to 14.30pm.

The camp caters for primary school boy and girls between the ages of 6 and 13. Kids will be provided with an action-packed week of activity during the summer holidays which revolves around sustaining involvement in Gaelic Games.

Participants are asked to bring a packed lunch + drink, Hurley and helmet, mouthguard, suitable playing gear, tracksuit, shorts, runners, boots, rain jacket and changes of gear on wet days, sun cream and baseball hat, a towel and water.

The camp costs €60 for 1st child, €50 euro for 2nd child and €40 euro for 3rd and subsequent children. For children attending a second camp without gear, the cost is €35 euro.

For more information contact Michael Tully for Football at 087997592 and Ronan Lally for Hurling at 0872369665 or visit www.kelloggsculcamps.gaa.ie to book a place.

CAREY'S HORSE RIDING SUMMER CAMPS

The Creagh Equestrian Centre is hosting summer camps over the summer. They begin at 10.30am and finish at 4.00pm starting from July 2nd for every Monday until the end of August. The camp is open to children aged 8 and older and is designed for beginners and for those with horse riding experience.

During these events, children will learn how to ride and care for horses and have fun with some mounted games.

The price for the camp is 130€. For more information or to confirm your attendance, contact Damien Carey at 0872254227.

BALLINASLOE AFC SOCCER CLUB

Ballinasloe AFC provisional dates would be Monday 6th August until Friday 10th. The age group maybe raised this year but more than likely it will still be girls and boys from 5 to 14 years. Price for the camp will be given once the camp is confirmed.

For Further Updates and information on these and possibly a few more keep an eye on Ballinasloe.ie and [BallinasloeLife Facebook Page](https://www.facebook.com/BallinasloeLife)



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THE GALWAY ELECTION

BY BARRY LALLY

County Galway in 1870 was a two-seat constituency represented in the Westminster Parliament by William Gregory and Viscount Burke. On the latter's retiring in that year, Captain John Philip Nolan (pictured in later life in our photograph), a Catholic landlord from Ballinderry near Tuam, put himself forward to fill the vacant seat, but was prevailed upon to withdraw his nomination after rumours began to circulate that he had capriciously evicted tenants on his Oughterard estate. In his stead, Mitchell Henry, a Home Ruler, was nominated, who then proceeded to take the uncontested seat. The tranquillity of the county, however, would soon be shattered in one of the most turbulent and controversial by-election campaigns in 19th-century Ireland.



decided that - now that Gregory had departed the scene - the constituency should not be left without representation of the Unionist and propertied interests. They accordingly nominated Captain William Trench of Garbally, a Church of Ireland member and a son of the Third Earl of Clancarty.

Gregory had been able to reach an accommodation with the bishops during his term as MP, and Trench hoped to do so on this occasion as well. His hopes, however, were dashed when he received a stringing rebuff from McHale in answer to his request for an interview: "The Archbishop would be wanting in his duty if he did not respectfully offer his advice to the honourable Captain Trench, as to other aspirers

to Parliamentary honours, not to disturb the peace of the county by a contest with Captain Nolan; a contest in which he could not hope to win but by the unconstitutional coercion of the Catholic constituents, who form the great mass of the Galway electors."

The ensuing campaign was marked by widespread violence and allegations of voter intimidation by priests. Under the prevailing open voting system electors were particularly vulnerable to intimidation by powerful figures in the community, be they landlords, clergymen or employers. Polling was on 6th February 1872, and from an electorate of 4,685 Nolan received 2,823 votes, with 658 going to Trench. By modern standards the numbers were low because the franchise was limited to adult males with a property qualification. Trench appealed the results on the grounds of undue influence and intimidation, and the petition was heard in Galway Courthouse before Justice William Keogh, starting on 1st April and ending on 21st May.

Another vacancy arose in 1872 when Gregory was obliged to resign his seat on his appointment as Governor of Ceylon. Having reinstated his evicted tenants under pressure and declared himself an advocate of Home Rule and of tenants' rights, Nolan once more stepped forth to throw his hat in the ring. His candidacy was warmly endorsed by the Catholic bishops whose respective dioceses shared part of the constituency's territory, Duggan, McEvilly and McHale. They issued a joint statement indicating their full confidence in Nolan and calling on such of their "parishioners as are privileged to vote, to record their votes fearlessly and conscientiously for that gentleman in the coming struggle."

For their part, the Catholic and Protestant landlords of the county

Ample, undisputed evidence was presented of numerous instances of priests' abusing their social position to threaten voters and foment

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riots. While the bishops may have been personally innocent of the charge of intimidation, they were nonetheless culpable in tacitly consenting to the misconduct of their clergy at parochial level. Bishop Duggan was alleged to have issued a threat from the pulpit of St. Michael's Church, Ballinasloe, on his first visit there after his consecration, proclaiming: "Anathema, anathema, shall be hurled at any person who will not do as I recommend, or as my clergy direct." There was, however, a conflict of evidence, though, perhaps tellingly, a priest who was present on the occasion was not called as a witness for the defence.

The court found in favour of the petitioner, unseating Nolan and awarding the seat to Trench. Keogh's judgement occupied nine hours, was couched in intemperate, provocative language, and delivered as a theatrical performance. His behaviour on the bench sparked off protest demonstrations throughout the country, and in Galway his effigy was paraded through the city streets by an angry crowd, the proceedings culminating in a riot in Eyre Square and the destruction of the effigy with a charge of gunpowder.

The case was referred to the Court of Common Pleas, which upheld Judge Keogh's ruling and returned thirty-six persons for trial, including the three bishops and twenty-nine named priests, although eventually not more than twenty-four individuals out of the original

list were prosecuted. In the course of his judgement, Mr. Justice Lawson remarked: "How jealously the law regards the exercise of spiritual influence in the various transactions of life every lawyer knows. Just in proportion as it is powerful and pervading, so are the safeguards which the law interposes for the protection of those on whom it is exercised. Not only does the law of our country condemn its exercise for unworthy purposes, but it is contrary to the moral law, and the best instincts of our nature revolt against it. It is an application to unworthy purposes of an influence given for a pure and holy purpose."

At the conclusion of the trial held in May 1873 of Fr. Loftus, Fr. Quinn and Bishop Duggan, all three accused were acquitted, an unsurprising outcome: in the climate of the time no jury composed mostly of Catholics would have brought in a guilty verdict. Consequently, the Crown decided not to pursue charges against the other defendants. As for Trench, his victory was short-lived: he retired before the 1874 general election which saw Nolan regain the seat.

Notable as the last parliamentary contest in these islands before the introduction of the secret ballot, the Galway by-election of 1872 could be interpreted as an episode in a power struggle involving the Catholic clergy on one side and the landlords on the other, in which the latter would ultimately be the losers.

CONTAINER GARDENING



Adv BY BARRY WARD

In the past bedding plants sold in the spring were planted out in beds or borders.

Today there has been a dramatic increase in the use of pots, hanging baskets, window boxes and containers adapted for growing fruit and vegetables also.

We think of the flower decked terracotta pots of the Mediterranean or geranium filled troughs in France and would like to add this kind of ambience to our home.

Container gardening is the way to go for people who live in apartments. Containers on the balconies, walls and roof take the place of beds and borders. Container gardening also seen as Adaptive Gardening is good for those who have scaled back and wish to reduce their gardening chores. Containers can be raised to allow ease of access, no bending or stretching. If containers are large enough trellis can be placed inside to add further interest to the display.

Plants, flowers, and herbs can be given an extra dimension using blocks of colour- also blocks of scent like pots of lavender or lemon scented verbena. Fragrant and delicate plants are brought closer to nose and eye level when planted in a container- our senses kick in.

Plants that require special conditions like a lime free mixture Azalea Camelliacan be grown.

Of course there is less pest damage as pots give a degree of protection against some insects and slugs.

Trailing plants are at their best when grown in containers as the cascading stems are properly displayed, with beautiful textures more obvious when containers are filled with multi colours.

Plants can be moved once the display is over and the pot can be used for the next plant of interest, - all year round. This of course will reflect special times of the year like Christmas or Easter and family occasions such as birthdays or anniversaries.

Some planning takes place when container gardening. We must choose a pot deep enough. We must allow enough soil for the plant to grow and to hold moisture. We need to water the plants sometimes daily during a dry spell. Regular feeding every 2-4 weeks is essential to keep container grown plants in good condition.

Check out displays at your local garden centre and all around to see how container gardening can enhance your home.

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DOWN MEMORY LANE



Boys Tech School in the 1960s.



Creagh N.S. students in the 1960s.



Council Worker Paddy Dervan and Sean Caulfield with Charlie the Horse keeping the streets clean in the 1970s.



Star Healy and the sheep in the pram for Paddys Lamb in the fair week parade.

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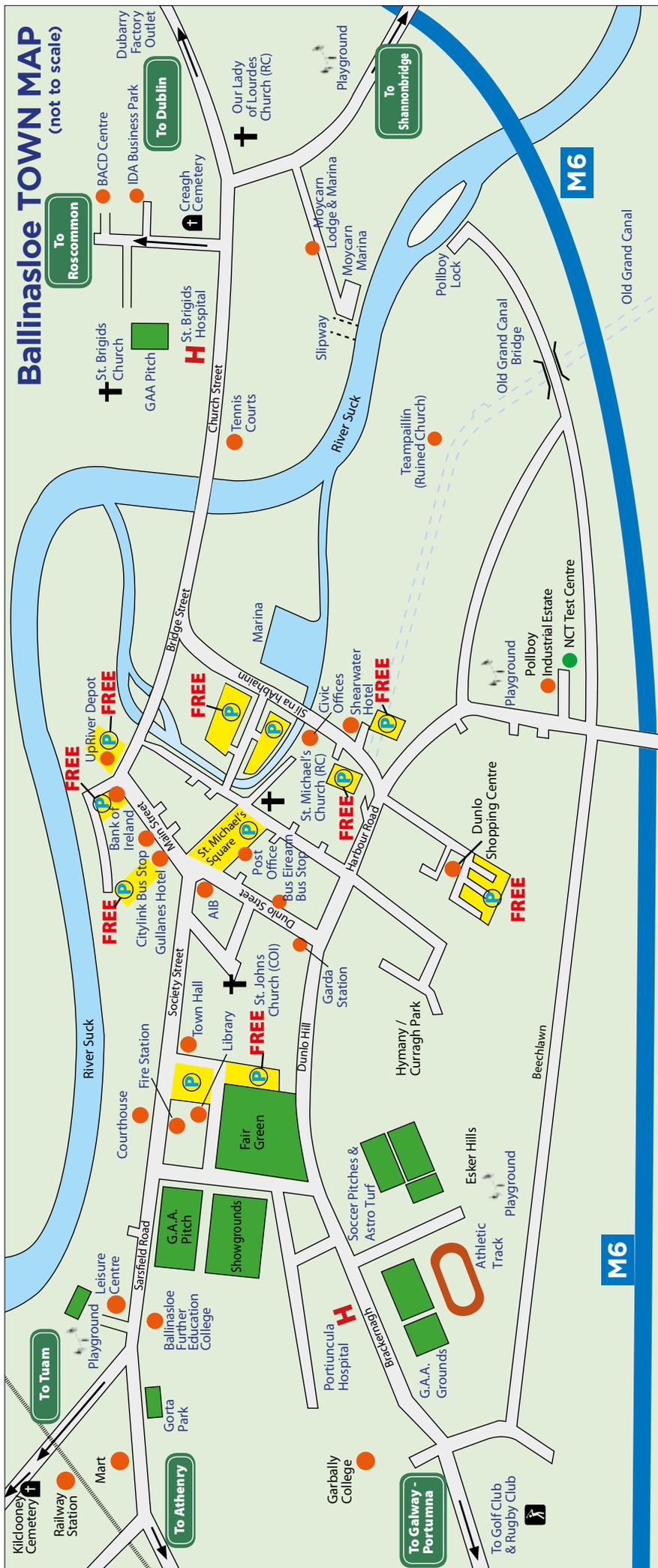
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Ballinasloe History Walk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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