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# AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN VOL.9 ISSUE 4: OCT '19 - NOV' 19



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.....

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### EAMHRA

So the Autumn gathers in with the heralding of the oldest Agricultural Show and the Oldest Irish patented Horsefair, reminding us all starkly of the origins of our Market town and how some 3 centuries after it was laid out - it still relies heavily on the farming or agribusiness sector that surrounds it.

Welcome to Volume 9 issue four

This year's Irish Examiner/ICMSA poll, the sixth, found only 32% of farmers imagined a positive future. That ratio has more than halved in 12 months. A year ago 66% were optimistic. Two-out-of-three have become one-in-three in what seems an unprecedented crisis of confidence even in an industry as cyclical as farming. Only 11% of suckler beef farmers as viable, with 46% sustainable, and 43% vulnerable, according to a Teagasc Report.

Economically viable means income generated can support family labour at the minimum wage, and provide a 5% return on capital held in non-land assets such as machinery or livestock.

The Beef Blockade Crisis is not over, even though the last of the pallets and camp fires have been removed from the processor gates. During the near seven weeks of the protest the Agi Supplies Firms were visibly quiet, the Mart Sales were negligible and our wellington clad friends were not out and about as much on the high street, for shopping or entertainment.

I find it extremely odd that our Government can talk daily about house prices, alcohol prices, insurance prices, health premium prices, education fees, prescription charges, medicine prices

As the Winter comes ever closer it is a good time to stand back and have a look at how you would like to see your town over the next number of years following on from the Town Enhancement scheme. We are similar to many other towns across the length and breadth of the Country, all vying to come up with new ideas to get one step ahead of the rest and reinvigorate life in our town centres.

Ballinasloe Area Community Ltd has submitted a forward looking plan in conjunction with Galway Co. Council for sizeable funding from The National Rural Regeneration Fund, the cornerstone of which is financial aid to build a 15,000 sq ft Technology Building on the existing IDA site in Parkmore. Other funding is sought around further town enhancement, rejuvenation of older buildings and investment in Tourism in conjunction with Failte Ireland Hidden Heartland initiative. We expect to have further update on this application in our next issue.

Over the past month we have had several Music Festivals in the locality all well attended, bringing people from far and wide to enjoy local hospitality.

The Annual October Fair is also upon us with 10 days of activities, followed by a new enhanced Zombie Walk (Trail of Terror) on 1st

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but have found some legal shield that conveniently prevents them about talking at all about the price of beef !

I can recall my late Paternal Grandmother describing vividly the depravations visited upon the small farmers during the Economic War with Britain; when Dev refused to pay the land annuities agreed by Treaty and the UK Government Blockaded Irish Farm produce. Calves were routinely drowned whilst we were all encouraged to "burn everything British apart from their Coal".

Between Mercoser, Brexit and the undeniable fact that we are all eating less red meat our Government has to find a way to allow Irish Farm families, on small holdings to stay on the land. It is just as important as Broadband to towns like Ballinasloe.

It beggars belief that we have lines of products in our supermarkets from the third world signalling "fair trade" which means the producer has sufficient

income to rear a family; often 10,000 kms from here.

Is it to much of an ask for our own Irish producers ?

Le Gach De Ghui, COLM CROFFY,

Editor.

& 2 Nov and the bi-annual people of the year awards mid Nov. Our newly formed Pulse Club / Ballinasloe Retail Life Group are also hosting a showcase event early December.

Keep up to date with these and much more on our Ballinasloe Life Facebook page and Ballinasloe.ie.

On a final note I wish to remind you Businesses in

Ballinasloe have had a turbulent 9 months with the ongoing enhancement works, which will continue well into next year. This has made trading circumstances very difficult. During this time they have been very supportive of local events but please consider the impact of the works have had when seeking sponsorship as we want them to be around in the many more years to come.

03

SEAMUS DUFFY. Chairman Ballinasloe Area Community Development Limited.

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### **ROADS, JUNCTIONS AND RESOURCES**



The meat and veg of Council business was in plentiful supply at the recently monthly meeting of the Municipal District Meeting – Roads, Surfaces, and the lack of money to keep doing same vexed representatives and officials in equal measure.

Cllr. Dermot Connolly sought an update on the previously agreed Road Safety Audit for the treacherous Creagh Junction. The Council had been promised a T.I.I. Survey.

Damien Quigley Engineer confirmed the procurement process was complete and that Consultants would be appointed shortly with a report to Council to ensue within a few months.

There were a few motions unanimously agreed by Councillors to take in charge previously private roads which provoked a long debate about procedures and the limitations of Councils Resources.

The Engineering Dept made the case that currently the Council has not got the wherewithal to repair, resurface and maintain the thousands of miles of roads that they currently have and just adding to that burden without cash to meet it was unwise.

A long discussion about the unfairness of Galway County Council's annual equalisation allocation from the Property Tax and they way it limits completely the type of annual Estimate they can produce took place. If Councillors want more activity covered they either get more money nationally or raise it from an increase in house tax or rates their pre Estimates District Council Budget meeting takes place on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of October with the full Annual Estimates meeting in late November.

Cllr. Dermot Connolly had lots of representations about the speeding on a link road from Portnick into the Moycarn Lodge through an estate with lots of young kids. He wanted it listed for traffic calming measures. The Engineers also suggested that the matter for speed enforcement is really one for the Garda Siochana in the intervening period. Under Chairman's business, Cllr. Timmy Broderick queried how a decision unanimously agreed and passed at the budgetary meeting of the District last Autumn was not implemented.

He detailed how a submission was made by the St. John's Parish Vestry seeking annual funding for the ongoing maintenance of the Town Clock. The District Council undertook to provide €1,500 per annum towards those costs. When he went to draw down the funding in Summer this year he was informed that the funds could not be released until the Committee made a specific application to a Small Grants Fund.

"What is the point in us taking time out of busy day passing motions and providing resource if the officials at Aras an Chontae refuse to recognise those decisions" he questioned.

All the Councillors present previously agreed with the Chair's version of events.

Director of Services Alan Farrell promised to review the decision and its implementation with Corporate Services stating that "it was highly unusual".

There was unanimous welcome to invite Paddy Mathews CEO of Ireland's Hidden Heartlands to address the Council about his plans and priorities for Ballinasloe with the roll out of the new Marketing plan for the Shannon Corridor.

Alan Farrell confirmed to the meeting that a strong element of the application to the Dept of Rural and Community Affairs was the Tourism element as part of assisting the town capitalise on its strategic status vis a vis the Hidden Heartlands and members were pleased to hear that the Council were in the final stages of appointing a new Tourism Officer.

Finally the Director of Services reminded the members that the Council by law must prepare a Five Year Corporate Development Plan 2021 – 2026 to consider the strategic priorities for investment and focus in each of the Municipal District. This process was being led by the Corporate Section and Policy group, there would be a call for public proposals and consultation but that Councillors should be thinking about what they would wish to see prioritised.





### **COUNCILLORS PUSH FOR MORE IMPACT**

At their September Municipal District Council Meeting, Cllrs questioned the impact the European City of Culture Galway 2020 may have on Cultural activity in the Eastern part of the County.

## Gaillimh 2020 Galway

### A sum of €4 million has been allocated by the previous County Council to the €30

million plus programme on the understanding that programmed events would take place in the County. County venues, communities and arts groups would be engaged with the programme, existing cultural events and festivals would be marketed and promoted by the European Programme and the county would benefit from the legacy programme.

Cllr. Dermot Connolly wanted the officials to detail what the calendar of events was for the municipal areas after the significant investment and "hoped that with all the discussions moving away from the year to legacy he was adamant that a % of the specific legacy funds or projects should be ring fenced for each of the Municipal District or else it would all be swallowed up by the City".

Cllr Aisling Dolan wished to know if the arts and culture groups of the county understood the deadline for inclusion in the programme for the year, if the Small Town Big Ideas project would run for the duration of the 2020 year and " that many artistic and quality cultural events that animate our annual calendar year in and year out here in East Galway will be fully marketed and promoted as part of the campaign and programme; as they will add huge value to the year ".

Cllr Timmy Broderick, Chair of the District Council stated "from what I am seeing and hearing, the City will be the epicentre at the expense of the county, with 4 months out where is the omph and the lack of engagement with the business community is appalling".

Cllr. Peter Keaveny was aghast to learn that there is no specific available funding stream for cultural groups "solam right in assuming

that there is no 2020 funding over the next 12 months for small cultural drama, cultural or music groups all over the county ".

Alan Farrell Director of Services for the District Area explained to the meeting that the "Small Town Big Ideas Project" was the principal

avenue for the County towns and villages to have engagement with the programme.

He pointed out that the Council were not in charge of the project, that it was a separate Company that was set to manage the whole progamme which had the Chair of the County on the Board. As he was not personally involved he could not give assurances as to what would or would not be in the official programme but confident that the programme would reach out to all parts of the county. He was also sure that the online programme would indeed list all the significant county festivals and events.

The Galway 2020 European Capital of Culture launched its 164 page Official programme at a gala outdoor ceremony in Eyre Square last month.

It may not be surprising to some to note the county town is not mentioned at all but then neither is Clifden, Loughrea, Gort, Ballygar, Mountbellew suffer from the same fate.

The regular annual cultural festivals that light up our calendar year in, year out - don't even receive a listing in the official programme but we are assured they will be listed on the website and in follow up marketing collateral.

Naturally, all the annual festivals of the City of the Tribes have their dates fully listed in the official programme!

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### BY COLM CROFFY

LOCAL NEWS 05

### **RURAL REGENERATION DEVELOPMENT FUNDING BID 2019**

Its fingers crossed that B.A.C.D. may be third time lucky, as the management team and Executive Board on the Advanced Technology Centre Project have put in huge hours researching and detailing a fresh application, since the last rejection of funding in Winter last year by the Department of Rural and Communirt Development.

Ballinasloe is a proven incubation hub for high potential MedTech and engineering start-ups. MEIC/Glan Agua established in the Enterprise Centre in 2007 with 3 employees. They grew the business to employ 120 people and in 2016 relocated to a 15,000 sq ft workspace in Loughrea (as there was no suitable space offering locally). They are still rapidly expanding and now have over 200 employees. injecting an additional  ${\in}11$  million per annum into the local economy.

The Total cost of all the projects under the three strands is an ambitious €4.6 mil of investment but the Lion's share of this – approx. €3.7 being focused on the Enterprising Community element.

The joint application process conducted for BACD and Galway County Council was led by independent Consultants Momentum and included subprograms as outlined in the table.

It is hoped that the Nationwide announcement on successful projects will be made by the Department in late November/Early December.

#### **Review Colm Croffy**

The development of an advanced manufacturing enterprise facility of 15,000 sq is a longstanding multi agency ambition and should prevent future moves of successful start-ups.

Specifically targeting relocating medical technology and engineering companies it is also designed to act as a second site for the fastgrowth companies and a specific focus to attract Brexit relocations. More than just workspace, it is designed as an integrated package of supports including facilities, a talent pool and education partnership with access to agencies.

The application estimates that approximate €2.5 million funding request would secure – the creation of 220 new jobs,



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### DOROTHY SCARRY - NEW BUSINESS FOUNDER

Mountbellew native Dorothy Scarry is married to Martin Scarry and they have three children. Daughter to Tommy and Carmel Quinn, she attended Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew and followed that with four years in NUI, Galway where she obtained a HDipED, a Dioploma sa Ghaeilge and a BA in English, Sociology and Politics. She later completed a PGCE in Primary Education at Oxford Brookes and followed her father into the pathway of teaching.

With the formation of her new venture, Workplace Health and Wellbeing Ltd, in November 2018, she soon joined The Pulse Club as the idea of being part of a local business network appealed to her. She is also a member of the Grow Remote Chapter of the town and the Network Ireland Galway Branch. Dorothy was a finalist in the "Emerging New Business" category in the Network Galway Business Woman of the Year 2019 Awards.

She completed an MSc in Workplace Health and Wellbeing in 2018 after identifying the need for regulation and structures in the whole area of workplace wellness. The first few months were figuring out the exact target audience, the professional services that could be provided, the brand and the basics like how to close a deal. Service delivery began in Spring of this year and she has achieved a lot in a short space of time working with both private and public organisations as a consultant, facilitator and writer.

Workplace Health and Wellbeing Ltd is building alliances nationally and there is great synergy between the company and others that are looking to invest in resilience and wellbeing interventions. In a nutshell, Dorothy's business provides evidencebased and theory-driven benchmarking, frameworks and workshops. Workplace Health and Wellbeing Ltd can work as a stand-alone unit in smaller organisations or link in with Human Resources and Health & Safety departments in larger organisations. They hope to employ 3 people directly by this time next year and 10 by 2021.

Dorothy also founded "Next Step Forward" in May 2019, delivering workshops to schools directly and providing 1:1 coaching on school transitioning for children moving from primary to secondary school and young adults moving from leaving cert to college. The idea for the service came to her having seen heightened anxiety and worry experienced by both pupils and their parents when transitioning from primary to secondary school.

She hopes that Next Step Forward can become a social enterprise and is currently looking for the correct pathway to achieve this. Dorothy has represented Next Step Forward on Cork, Limerick and Dublin radio stations and her articles have been published in the Dublin People, The Galway Advertiser and the Cork Independent.

Dorothy is a member of the professional groups INTO, Teaching Council, Association of Health Promotion Ireland and Occupational Hygienists of Ireland and the Society of Occupational Medicine. She is a Mental Health First Aider and has also completed further CPD in Health Coaching, Mindfulness and Nutrition, and is further is involved by being the GAA Club Secretary of Pádraig Pearses GAA Club in Ballymacward and Gurteen and is involved in all aspects of club activities from club development, events, fundraising and administration.

Dorothy can be contacted at dorothy@ workplacehealthandwellbeing.comorinfo@nextstepforward. ie; alternatively, more information can be found under www.workplacehealthandwellbeing.com/ or www.nextstepforward.ie/

**BY JEJE BEGRAOUI** 

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### **BUSINESS HORIZON 2020 NETWORKING EVENT**

Following on from the successful "Future Business Trends" event held during the summer, The Pulse Club, (an entrepreneurial networking group formed in January 2019 under the umbrella of BACD Ltd to provide a networking and mentoring platform for entrepreneurs and developing businesses locally) is hosting another event, "Business Horizon 2020" on the evening of December 5 in the Shearwater Hotel and are delighted to confirm the attendance of Guest Speaker Sean Gallagher.

Sean is an experienced entrepreneur, an inspiring speaker and highly regarded business writer and is widely recognised as a champion of business and job creation. He was a co-founder in 2000 of

Smarthomes. He was a panellist on RTÉ's *Dragons' Den* from 2009–2011 and an active member of Fianna Fáil for 30 years from 1981–2011. He sat on its National Executive twice (from 1985–87, and from 2009–11), having spent much of his career before Smarthomes working in Fianna Fáil, and in the Irish public service.

Gallagher stood as an Independent candidate in the 2011 presidential election and finished second to Michael D. Higgins; he came third in a second 2018 bid. He is one of Ireland's most sought after business speakers largely due to his depth of knowledge and unique down-toearth delivery style that consistently captivates audiences.

Business Horizon 2020 is being organised as a major networking event for businesses in the east Galway, South Roscommon and Midlands area, with all being invited to showcase their products or services at the event. Further guest speakers are to be confirmed, with the main theme of the event to allow local businesses to network and be inspired and motivated by the speakers. The full agenda and itinerary for the event is being finalised by the members of the Pulse Club, with registration details to be released mid-October through their websites www.thepulseclub.com and www.ballinasloe.ie.

The event will be free, but businesses must register to attend as numbers will be limited.

For further details check out the Pulse Club website and Facebook page or contact Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre under 090 964 6516.

At the last meeting, Lorcan Mitchell and Peter Garvey updated the other members on their businesses, with Arlene Naughton offering support & mentorship on marketing and communications.

There was an excellent exchange of ideas and very positive feedback. The next Pulse meeting takes place on **Tuesday**, **October 8**, and in the form of a **breakfast session**, 7:30 to 9am, with one business challenge update (person to be confirmed) and networking for the remainder of the meeting, location and details to follow.

The meeting on Tuesday, November 5 will be a coaching / motivational session for members led by Marie Lyons and Anthony Dockery (life coach).with the topic: "Motivation - Getting the headspace mindset for success".

> Young entrepreneurs or those who have just started in businesses are invited to get involved in the Pulse Club by contacting them on facebook or check out the Pulse Club website and Facebook page or contact Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre @ 090 964 6516.

Sean Gallagher, Keynote Speaker for Horizon 2020 Networking Event.

#### **BY JEJE BEGRAOUI**

### NOW TAKING APPOINTMENTS FOR HD BROW TREATMENTS

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### END OF AN ERA AS IMAGE CLOSES

Ita Naughton, the owner of Image Boutique on Society Street, retired after more than 40 years in business, having witnessed the changing face of the town and the retail trade over many years.

She enjoyed every year of her fashion business, stating: "I loved every minute of it and I am leaving the business with so many fond memories of the people I have met and the customers I have come in contact with. Their loyalty is something that I will never forget"

Initially, she started off as an apprentice in Thomas Burgess & Sons in Athlone - an outlet founded in 1839, the longest established department store in the country - and moved up the ranks, becoming a buyer for various departments. Even before she started working for the company, Ita had had an interest in fashion since her early teens.

She worked there for 20 years, enjoying her job very much. She then decided to open up her own, familyrun business with the help of her husband Patsy in early 1977, with her daughters and granddaughters having worked there.

Ita also received tremendous help from her sister Veronica Brooks – in more recent years her daughter Michelle became more active in the business, and her loyal staff comprised of Mary Egan, Ita Fahy, Bridie Carty, and Mary Mannion made the operation seamless.

Ita had a customer base from all over county Galway, South Roscommon, and Westmeath, catering mainly for younger to middle aged customers in the early stages, having fared well over the years. She observed the changes of consumer behaviour and especially seen the significant shift to online shopping in recent years which has undermined the niche independent retailer in all goods.

Significantly this wasn't the only thing affecting her business, she comments: "The roadworks had a big impact on my business. And when I heard they were going to return to Society in January and February in 2020, that did it for me. The pay parking situation of the past few years also really didn't help" states Ita.

All these factors signposted her route to finally go into retirement after so many years, though she will very much miss all the loyal customers from the over the years and has very much appreciated their business over the last 42 years - even those who just popped in for a chat. Now that she is retiring, unfortunately the business will also retire.

Ita, originally from Kiltoom in South Roscommon now resides with her husband Patsy, a farmer, having two daughters, Sheila and Michaelle, and a son David. Now that she is retired, she will not sit by idly, but continue to live out her creative side through gardening and painting.

The shop will close for good at the end of first week of October, and she has a parting message to any customers: "Use up your gift vouchers at the stock clearance sale!"



IRFLAND

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.....

Principal: Eimear Loughnane B.A., L.L.B. James O'Donohoe BCL, Notary Public, TEP, Dip Emp Law

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BUSINESS 09

### **GREENWAY PUBLIC OFFICE FOR LIBRARY**

#### **3 BY JEJE BEGRAOUI**



### Ireland's Hidden HEARTLANDS

The new public project office for the Athlone to Galway Greenway project will be sited in the office space above Ballinasloe Library on Society Street.



In summer 2019, a budget of over €5 million was allocated to the

Greenway project and confirmed by Minister for OPW Kevin "Boxer" Moran T.D. This allowed for the building of an underpass at the railway station in Athlone and allows for the planning process to take place for a potential bridge over the River Shannon to create a link with Athlone Castle – consultants have been appointed already for these construction works.

The Planning Office will see some 8 to 10 fulltime staff, occupy the new top floor incubation unit of the Library for an anticipated 36 to 48 months until the Greenway is in place. The office is meant to make it easy for the public to stay informed on any progress and ensure a better consensus amongst the community, with consultants also putting an emphasis on planning with landowners and other stakeholders

Significantly since the last time a draft route plan was flagged, the Dept of Tourism and officials have used some key learnings from Greenways in Mayo, Donegal, Waterford and Carlow to come up with a new code of "Best Practice for Stakeholder Management". This code underpins the concept that C.P.O. (Compulsory Purchase Order) along Greenway routes is not a long term advisable solution. The code has also taken into account some of the positive changes that have been negotiated by the State, and landowners over access rights, owner occupier indemnity and insurance legal issues.

Senator Maura Hopkins stated, "It is essential that communities are engaged with at the earliest possible stage to ensure maximum support for this project. I know that there is a significant groundswell of support on the ground in Ballinasloe and across the region. It is important now that we can utilise that momentum to deliver this project in a timely manner."

Senator Hopkins believes that "This project has the potential to be the flagship tourism offering for Ballinasloe and the wider region. It will play a central role in the connection between the Beara Breifne Way and linking this region into the New Ireland's Hidden Heartlands Tourism brand.

"In particular, the Athlone to Ballinasloe section of this greenway has so much to offer in terms of tourism development. The wake house at Nure, the Clonmacnoise monastic site, Shannonbridge as well as the wealth of history which exists in Ballinasloe itself, all should be key sites of interest on this national greenway route.", continued the Senator.

"Fáilte Ireland is doing a lot of work to promote the region – Ireland's Hidden Heartlands – but it is also important to have structured amenities to allow for people visiting the area, getting attracted to it and making it possible to visit the local sights and enjoying the tourism potential this location has to offer. We have seen how greenway development can revive communities through the examples in Waterford and Mayo and I want to see Ballinasloe and this region benefit fully from that potential" concluded Senator Hopkins.



### TOWN CLOCK SET TO CHIME ANEW

The Ballinasloe Town Clock will be restored to its former glory and painstakingly preserved for decades to come in a special event. On the night, as the clock strikes seven, a historic civic ceremony will begin with a procession into St John's Church, accompanied by the Town Band.

A memorable evening of community celebrations will begin with an ecumenical Service of Thanksgiving in St John's Church.

"This service is for all the people of Ballinasloe," explained the Rector, Reverend John Godfrey. "Together, we want to show our gratitude to all who have invested their time, talent and money into this remarkable project. It's about making sacred time to bless the

fruits of all our labours, before offering them back with thanksgiving to the people of Ballinasloe and its visitors."

Immediately after the service there will be a reception in Gullane's Hotel, with music, refreshments, and a chance to hear some of the stories from the people who were involved in the project. The evening will



#### **BY JEJE BEGRAOUI**

also showcase a short film about the clock itself, which includes unique insights from local craftsman Kevin Cunniffe, who has maintained the Town Clock for many years.

The celebrations will mark the culmination of a major renovation project launched in 2017 by the Ballinasloe Credit Union to mark its 50th anniversary, under the banner TIME FOR YOU. Chairman of Ballinasloe Credit Union Adrian Ahern said "We wanted to mark that anniversary by giving something lasting back to the people of Ballinasloe. It's such a unique landmark - no matter where you are in Ballinasloe, if you look up towards Church Hill you can see it."

The Town Clock was originally presented to the town and entrusted to the Town Commissioners in 1901 by the Earl of

> Clancarty, replacing the original turret clock which had been destroyed by fire two years earlier. It is exceptional in having four clock faces driven by the one mechanism; and its workings have been compared with those of London's Big Ben.

Overthelasttwoyears, nearly €90,000hasbeenspentonthisproject,

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including a €55,000 investment from the Ballinasloe Credit Union, supplemented by funds from St. John's Church and by a grant from Galway County Council under the Built Heritage Investment Scheme. Works have been carried out by Rainey's Height Access Specialists, contractors John & Shane Cahalan, and sign-writer Colm O'Connor, under the supervision of heritage architect Gerry McManus, engineer Gabor Molnar and project co-ordinator Martin O'Duffy.

New cut-stone surrounds have now replaced the old mortar ones, ensuring that the external clock structure will be safe for generations to come. The top section of the tower has been repointed, in order to reduce the risk of damp from seeping into the clock in the future. Each of the four clock faces and its hands have been restored and repainted in gold leaf. New structural supports have been added to the bell tower and a new motor fitted, in order to allow the Town Clock to chime the hour once more. Furthermore, minor repairs have been carried out to the clock mechanism itself; the pinnacles on top of the tower have been repaired; and the lightning conductor has been replaced.

Friday, November 15, is a red letter day for the people- put it in your diary and make sure you don't miss it! That's the day when the community will be given the most wonderful of gifts, not only for the current generation but for the ones to come.

### CHRISTMAS LIGHTS PROJECT TRIAL FOR 2019 3 BY JEJE BEGRAOUI

Three years out since the Town Team's re energising of the Xmas Lights programme with the signature Wooden Environmental Tree in the Square and other installations, the dilemma of what to do for this season is all too apparent with the big dig underway.

The BACD Board and Town Team have canvassed business opinion and believe that leaving no lights up would send completely the wrong signals, so a draft plan has emerged to try and deploy the old lighting stock and use the limited resources to best possible effect.

Given that Dunlo St. ought to be fully finished in the mid Nov period, it should be possible to trial or experiment with different limited new shapes and forms of lights that will for season 2020 evolve throughout all the completed streets.

With the changes to the way the streets are powered, trans thoroughfare festoons of lights will no longer be useable; so some pole external illumination will have to be experimented with. So St. Michae's Square in full and Continental Tree will be bedecked as per usual. Dunlo Street will have some new look installations and if works allow some hanging or signature lights will be placed in Main St and Society Street.

The plan is to use the old lights in parts of the town centre that are quite dark and tree or installation lighting might work best – like the Marina, Sli na hAbhainn, Harris Road, the Fair Green, or indeed the monument. Businesses are asked to share their views with their Big Dig Street Reps before the 15th of October or to any member of the Town Team or BACD Board.

The Festive Gathering will still take place on the first Sunday in Dec at teatime with the usual Yuletide fun and games.

All of this of course is dependent on the success of the town team fundraising events and the subscriptions of the business community as there is a much depleted Galway County Council grant available this year !

### TOURISM CLUSTER WORKING GROUP FORMED

Failte Ireland's new Hidden Heartland initiative is to drive tourism to the centre of Ireland. Their target markets are not only overseas tourists, but domestic visitors to come and explore this region for a few days.

After initial discussions with Failte Ireland, B.A.C.D. has decided to put a piloting structure in place which would eventually make Ballinasloe and the surrounding areas, a **TOURISM HUB** within the Hidden Heartlands strategy.

Compilation of all the wide variety of attractions within a 15km to 20 km radius of the town has begun at a seeding meeting in the Shearwater Hotel last August.

A follow up workshop was held at the Enterprise Centre with representatives from The Hidden Heartlands and Galway County Council in late Sept to examine what models of best practice that this cluster of interests could partner with the agencies in coming up with a targeted and focused tourism offering.

It was very clear that any marketing or product offering route the group go would have to fit in with the current branding and priority for segmented visitor and Hidden Heartlands Strategy. The Group are interested in hearing from anyone in a service or visitor friendly business locally who has services or facilities that could be included in the initial mapping exercise, or indeed would like to be involved.

Development Company Lyn Donnelly can be contacted at info@ ballinasloeenterprisecentre.com or at 0909646516.

The group intend to work on some development templates provided by Hidden Heartland to drill down on what may be possible in determining where our Tourist Strengths lie and how best to progress them over the next 36 to 48 months.



Pictured at the Hidden Heartlands Tourism Workshop at the Enterprise Centre in late September were L to R: Valerie Dolan, Tony Dawson, Hidden Heartlands, Renate Kohlmann, Brian King, Kieran Coyne, Ecomonic Officer Galway County Council, Lyn Donnnelly, Manager BACD, Paddy Mathews CEO Hidden Heartlands, Seams Duffy, Padraig Fahy, Evelyn Parsons.

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### **ARCHITECTURE ON THE EDGE**

Architecture at the Edge festival have confirmed Open House at St. Brigid's Psychiatric Hospital, on the weekend of 12-13 October 2019. The theme for this year's festival is Adaptive Reuse.

On the festival Saturday 12th at 2.00 pm in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre, Professor Oonagh Walsh from the Department of Social

Science (Glasgow Caledonian University) will deliver a talk on the history of the importance of St Brigid's over the past 186 years before a guided tour of the grounds and an external viewing of the former hospital buildings.

#### **BY JEJE BEGRAOUI**

Being a Ballinasloe native, Oonagh also has personal connections to the hospital; as her mother used to be a psychiatrist there, and as a historian, she published on the asylum/hospital.

Full details of this FREE event will be published via http://www. architetcureattheedge.com on October 1st.

Prebooking is advised. Limited tickets available. For any further ormer queries, please contact architecture.edge@gmail.com or Triona. waters@mic.ul.ie

### SECOND NATIONAL AWARD FOR FRONT ROOM

Over 500 of Ireland's elite Hair & Beauty professionals gathered at The Galmont Hotel and Spa in Galway, for a memorable night, dedicated to the best of the country's hair and beauty industry that make clients look and feel on top of the world.

The Irish Hair and Beauty Awards, now in their fourth year, celebrated once again experienced hair stylists, nail technicians, colourists, beauty specialists and make-up artists among others who offer innovative treatments to clients and take care of all their needs in the best possible way.

The competition was fierce but The Front Room, Society Street, Ballinasloe were crowned winner in the Team of The Year category and took the trophy home for a second year in a row. "We are delighted and so shocked to take home an award for a second year. Team work makes the dream work and having only gone into partnership in March this year makes the "Team of The Year" title even more special" stated Andrea McLoughin Proprietor.

Technically a new partnership since March, the business has been some four years established. At the moment it's only Andrea McLoughlin and Breda Mongan who are the key stylists. Their key services are waxing, HD brows, nails, tan, facials, and make-up. In common with most modern salons they do call-outs for weddings and special occasions when booked well in advance. Andrea is specialised in waxing and has a certificate from Waxperts Academy Breda is specialised in brows, with a certificate from Official HD Brows.



Their opening hours are 9-6 (Tuesday - Friday) and 9-5 Saturday.

The awards also showcased meritorious salons and experts who are at the forefront of the industry and lead the way in creating elegant and sophisticated looks whilst following the latest trends.

The glitzy evening was hosted by international sports announcer and presenter, Joanne Murphy. As chosen by the public, she presented trusted and tested hair and beauty gurus and provided a platform to thank those in the industry who maintain the high quality of services and promote excellence within their business.

The awards also provided the opportunity to fundraise for a worthwhile cause and this year helped to raise money for the official charity partner, Make A Wish Foundation UK, a charity.



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### KILMARTINS CONTINUE TO SERVE CORE CLIENTS

At Fred Kilmartin Ltd, customers are highly valued, both those who have been with them for many years, as well as newly acquainted friends. They pride themselves on the fact that the customer comes first and with every customer they try their very best to help them in one of their more important purchases decisions. The motto is: "Where you will do a good deal better", and they do their utmost to live up to it!

Fred Kilmartin Ltd. was established in 1962 by the late Fred Kilmartin and his wife Rose. The business remains true today to his high standards of sales and service to its valued customers. Much of the success over the years was, no doubt, due to Fred's combination of business acumen and a genuine concern for people. Many changes have taken place since the 60's but the commitment to providing first class service was continued by his late son Noel and

still remains.

A family-owned company, under the stewardship of Managing Director, Teresa Kilmartin, it now offers its customers a relaxed setting in which to do business. It has recently upgraded its service department, adding a pre-NCT test lane so that they can continue to offer a wide range of services to most marques. The parts department carries a large range of genuine Ford parts and they have added the award-winning Ford Boutique. The tyre bay at Fred Kilmartin boasts many ranges of tyres to suit most vehicles at competitive prices.

They also have a used car centre at the rear of the showrooms with a large selection of quality approved pre-owned cars which carry both manufacturers' warranties as well as their own. The unique Drive Away Finance can be arranged within fifteen minutes subject to terms and conditions. Currently, Fred Kilmartin Ltd has great offers on Kuga commercial vans and 4-seater utilities, allowing new owners to claim VAT back.

The business also has a large selection of used commercials from 2014 to 2019 including a special



Micheal Deane (Sales Executive), Karen Smyth (Sales Administrator), Michael Kelly (Sales Manager).



offer on 191 Transit Custom and Connect vans with 5-year warranty (150,000km/miles) depending on the vehicle. Finance is available on all commercials so pick up the phone for a quotation. All of the quality pre-owned cars are fully checked and carry a manufacturer's warranty and Fred Kilmartin Ltd's own pre-owned car warranty.

The service department also offers repairs on Ford and all other makes. Services include: Free vehicle checks, air condition service on all makes and models from €80, servicing and diagnostics on all makes and models. All work is carried out by fully trained technicians, book your service for the month of October and get a free voucher, please quote LIFE when booking!

For more information or to avail of any of the above offers, contact Fred Kilmartin Ltd today on 090-9630800.



### LOCAL MAN BUILDING CAMBODIAN SCHOOL

Creagh resident and well known proprietor of the former Clonfert Print, Edward "Eamon" Conway is a man on a mission. Semi-retired and with more time on his hands for travels, he has pledged to help the people of the poorest parts of Cambodia to build a Village School from scratch. He was inspired to support the cause by his visits to Cambodia, having visited the country for the first time in 2017 where he was struck by the people, their spirituality, and humane nature, considering their difficult circumstances.

He has managed to raise €9,500 to date through various local fundraising efforts (Facebook, Table Quizzes, a Family Fun Day, etc.) and now hopes to raise another €5,500 to finish the works.

Aspire, or the Irish School as it is also called, is a school in Siem Reap Province, for poor, homeless, and orphaned children, providing free education in English, Arts & Crafts, Computer Skills,



Gardening, and Khmer Traditional Dancing. Currently, it has 75 students - 15 of which are orphaned and stay at the school. The works are not finished yet, but will be with the rest of the funds he hopes to raise though a special Fundraising Concert in the Town Hall Theatre on November 20th at 8 pm.

The night will feature uplifting, sing along, and maybe even some Christmas music including talents such as Christina O'Flynn (His Eye is on the Sparrow) and her husband John, Ukephoric (a Roscommon based Ukulele group); Cill Aodáin Choral Group, Kiltullagh Community Choir, and local talents Saidhbhe and Ailbhe Concannon among others. There will also be a raffle on the night.

Cambodia is an elective constitutional monarchy located in Southeast Asia with a population of 15 million people.

Eamon got to know the country quite well through his travels, having seen both the wonderful areas such as ancient temples, Tonle Sap Lake (the second largest freshwater lake in the world) and the floating village (a village on the lake with stilt houses, schools, and shops rising and falling with the water level), but has also seen the horrors the Cambodian people had to endure - indiscriminate use of landmines, years of war and terror during the Khmer Rouge Genocide and the subsequent 20 year-long civil war. As a result, the healthcare and education system are now in shambles, and Eamon is determined to help them.

In 2014, a new Minister for Education has been appointed, but the focus remains on big cities, rural areas are still neglected - Eamon got to experience them first-hand through his travels, also visiting rubber plantations (in colonial times, Cambodia was an important source of rubber

**BY JEJE BEGRAOUI** 



sap for companies like Michelin), got to see traditional silk production, and tried the local cuisine - one delicacy being sautéed spiders apparently the legs are tastier than the bodies.

Tickets for the concert go on sale after the October Fair and can be purchased online on the Town Hall Theatre website or at Salmon's,

J&S Photography Shop, and the King Pharmacy. Any additional support is greatly appreciated, contact can be made to Eamon himself for anyone who would like to donate under 086 897 2776 or castlebar100@gmail.com.

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### PASSING OF POPULAR SCHOOL PRINCIPAL

#### **BY KEN KELLY**



Sister Aidan Killian, whose passing has occurred, served as a Secondary School Principal for more than 24 years in the Diocese of Clonfert. Though born in Dublin, in 1928, Maria Killian and her family moved to Drum, Co. Roscommon when she was 13 years old.

She received her secondary education, as a boarder, in Scoil Mhuire, Ballinasloe where her aunt, Sr. Celsus, was the principal before

entering the Convent of Mercy, Loughrea in 1946. Following her profession she received the name Aidan and her first teaching appointment was to Woodford Primary School where she spent two years, followed by a year in Eyrecourt before graduating with a Commerce degree from UCD in 1957.

A year later Sr. Aidan founded a secondary school in Eyrecourt, where she was teaching principal until 1971. She was then transferred to Ballinasloe, serving as principal there for four years, then back to Portumna for three years and in 1978 moved to St. Raphael's, Loughrea where she remained the Principal until 1985.

The Mercy Sister spent the final years of her education in Portumna Community College from 1985 to 1993, and following a Sabbatical she volunteered to help out the Clonfert Sisters in South Africa, where she spent six months. She was always passionate about helping the poor and dejected, and particularly the homeless, starving children in parts of the world.

Many of her past pupils spoke of Sr. Aidan as a "gifted teacher" and in her retirement years she did "Grinds" in Maths both in CANA, Garbally Drive, where she lived from 1995 and in Scoil Mhuire before the era of SNAs. She also took the VEC training course in Adult Literacy and went to the VEC Centre in Lawrencetown for up to 7 hears, helping adults with literacy and numeracy skills.

Bishop John Kirby who celebrated Sr. Aidan's funeral mass, assisted by sixteen priests from the diocese, praised the 90-yearold nun for her contribution to the education of so many students throughout the Clonfert Diocese as well as her work overseas. Many past pupils and teaching colleagues turned up to bid farewell to a remarkable lady who was looking forward to "meeting a loving, merciful God."

Sr. Aidan Killian is survived by her sisters Sr. Antonia, Athlone and Pauline Nolan, Bealnamulla as well as many other relatives, past pupils and friends, together with the Sisters of Mercy, Western Province.

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this year about the launch of their pay plan from the 1st August which they opened up to every customer who wished to be part of it for their Christmas Gifts and it has been a huge success so far.

All their Christmas stock is here early this year to avoid any disappointment to any of the past, present or future customers.

### This plan can be used for large purchases like Engagement and Wedding Rings too.

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### **NEW CHAIRMAN FOR CANCER SUPPORT CENTRE**



Jackie Brien Mr. from Ahascragh was recently elected as Chairman of the The Ballinasloe Cancer Support Centre in Main Street.. Jackie has been involved with the centre since

John Kilcommins (previous chairman) and Jackie Brien (new chairman).

its inception, and brings considerable managerial experience and knowledge to the role.

On his election, Mr. Brien paid tribute to the founder John Kilcommins and thanked him for researching the need for a cancer support centre in the town in 2009, and for establishing a committee and company to meet that need. At that time, it was a pioneering initiative. The Centre now provides services like a drop-in centre, bereavement counselling, cancer care massage, reflexology and many more complementary therapies to cancer patients and their families.

Mr. Kilcommins stated that the time was now right for him to step down in the centre as it is now getting the full support from the Irish Cancer Society and the HSE for Ballinasloe and surrounding areas. The Centre is affiliated to the Irish Cancer Society and operates within its guidelines. It is now in the process of moving to a ground floor premises which will be wheelchair accessible.

Mr. Kilcommins thanked the new Chairman, the committee members, volunteers and the therapists for giving their time, energy and expertise over the last 10 years. In that time, they have tended caringly for the needs of many people in the town and surrounding areas. He was very grateful for their commitment, dedication, loyalty, and sense of service to the community. He wished them all well for the future and he said he was delighted to be involved with them and the Centre and to see it growing from strength to strength. He says he steps down now knowing that it is in safe hands with a caring and committed Chairman and team.

The Ballinasloe Cancer Support Centre is open 3 days a week but will be extending its hours when it moves to the new premises on Main Street in the coming months.

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### CLADDAGH WATCH PATROL SUCCESS

#### **BY EIMEAR GULLANE**



Each year, Galway City is numbed by the too frequent news of yet another tragic death due to drowning in the River Corrib. This city with many pubs and nightclubs near the water's edge has seen a chilling rise in the number of both accidental and suicidal deaths in the waterways over the past number of years, with five

lives claimed in three days earlier this year alone.

It was at this dark and seemingly helpless time, that two Ballinasloe locals decided it was time to act to prevent further loss of life.

Deborah and Arthur Carr have a long history of promoting mental health awareness in County Galway and founded the Galway East Life Support charity in Ballinasloe in 2013. They both looked at the situation in Galway and realised that at a person's most vulnerable and low point, there was no one there to help them. They decided that the city needed an 'early alert' system for potential water emergencies and together with a group of people who had experience of losing a loved one to the river, they formed a new charity - 'Claddagh Watch'.

Claddagh Watch, which came to fruition in the summer of this year, sees volunteers patrolling the most dangerous 'black spot' areas along the waterways at night time and into the early morning in an attempt to notice dangerous or concerning behaviour in people and to help them to safety. The Claddagh Watch volunteers look out

for vulnerable people who appear to be struggling due to alcohol or substance misuse or are showing signs of depression around the waterways, they approach them, and provide assistance and support if necessary.

Members of Claddagh Watch never enter the river, even in emergency situations. The main aim of the patrols is to prevent an incident and to notify the emergency services as



quickly as possible in the event of one. Currently, the organisation has around 70 volunteers which, in the first 10 weeks of the operation, assisted in 21 incidents, including 5 water rescues.

This charity would not have been possible without funding, equipment and the kindness of both strangers and friends including Wexford Marine Watch who donated the equipment that enabled the patrols to commence and the people of this town. The following businesses of Ballinasloe supported the enterprise so far: Gadget Tech, Main Street who donated an iPhone for use on patrol nights; Barry Taylor Cycles who donated two bicycles for mobile patrols on longer stretches of waterway, Signs and Systems who donated magnetic vehicle signs which are used to advertise the charity, Gullane's Hotel who provided funding for a long beam torch, an essential piece of equipment on nighttime patrols; Tomás & Caroline's daughter Eimear has been a dedicated Claddagh Watch volunteer since its inauguration.

This amazing support, along with the monetary donations online, is proof of how strong community spirit is in. City Hotels and Business have also been very helpful in supporting the work of the charity and volunteers.

It is already apparent how important and beneficial Claddagh Watch Patrol is to Galway City. This organisation is trying to make a difference, at what is a difficult period for mental health services in Ireland - It is so important that you simply talk - talk to your children, talk to your parents, talk to your friends and open up about how you

are feeling inside.

If you need mental health support or know somebody who does, you can contact The Samaritans on 116 123, Pieta House on 1800 247 247 or Galway East Life Support 085 123 7878.

If you would like more information on Claddagh Watch Patrol or to donate or become a volunteer, please email claddaghwatch2@gmail.com.





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### HOSPITAL WATCH – 50 BED UNIT CONFIRMED FOR CAPITAL PLAN BY JEJE BEGRAOUI

The 50 bed replacement unit at Portiuncula Hospital has been included under the new HSE Capital Plan 2019 – 2021, the works will include the replacement 50 bedded ward block, fire safety works, and lift replacement programme.

Maura Hopkins TD stated: "We know that the current ward block is simply not fit for purpose and this project is extremely important to improve conditions for patients and staff at the hospital."

Also included within the capital plan is the completion of two new houses for those with an intellectual disability in the town.

The ward block is on track to be completed by 2022, a commitment which was secured from the Government in Project Ireland 2040 by Denis Naughten.

"This is very welcome as it is now urgently required to address the chaotic situation that many patients, and staff, are facing in our local A&E Department. The enabling works required in advance of construction of the new ward block will commence with a followon commitment of funding to bring this long-promised project to completion. If we are to develop Athlone into a city then we must ensure that it has a hospital, and Portiuncula is that hospital, states Denis Naughten TD.

On top of this, a new heart failure service for the hospital has been approved, which will see patients diagnosed and treated quicker than in the past.

Working with local GPs the new pilot service funded by the Dept. of Health will see more patients treated locally by GPs with the support of the medical team.

The objective is to treat patients with heart failure quicker and before they need to go to hospital in the first place. For those who do



need hospital care this will be available to them far quicker and they will be discharged home in a shorter period of time.

The Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) Trolley Watch. Every morning at 8am, members count how many patients are waiting in the Emergency Department for a bed and how many are waiting in wards elsewhere in the hospital.

Data collected over the August months shows a 137% increase of patients having to wait on trolleys or elsewhere in the country over the last 10 years, with an increase of 20% from 2018 to 2019 throughout Ireland.

Portiuncula Hospital also experienced a significant increase in waiting patients, having gone from 67 in 2009 to 129 in 2019, with a significant spike of 162 in 2018, compared to 2017. This year's numbers have decreased to 129 and the new hospital ward should help the numbers decrease even further.

Meanwhile on Rate My Hospital .ie Portiuncula lies 29th of 69 public and private hospitals with an average score of 73% against the average of 71%. Roscommon is ranked 35th, Merlin Park is ranked 39th and University College Hospital Galway is 65th out of 69th with a score of just 60%.



### LARGEST ANNUAL GATHERING OF THE YEAR SET TO

The 2019 edition of the annual Horse Fair and Festival continues a tradition that dates formally by Crown Patent to 1722 but in the mists of time the buying and selling of cattle, sheep and especially horse on the ford of the last western frontier river has gone on for centuries. Visitors come to what has been described as the community of the Horse to meet old friends and acquaintances and

enjoy all the hospitality that the town has to offer.

While now primarily associated with the horse, in its day the Great Fair was a significant agricultural event. Its importance to the economy of Ballinasloe and its hinterland cannot be underestimated.

As a heritage event, it has no equal. The town is very fortunate to host this unique gathering, a point acknowledged by President Michael

D Higgins in his opening address in 2018 when he pronounced the horse fair being worthy of UNESCO status. Ireland currently has two sites with this status. What better way perhaps to celebrate the 300th anniversary of the Great Fair, than achieving this status in just three short years' time.

Chairman Mal Croffy said: "Our Horse fair is the oldest in Europe, and the greatest celebration of the horse, and equine culture in Ireland." The committee have worked tirelessly to put together a programme of events to ensure visitors have an enjoyable experience. He continued "the equestrian element of our programme is essential to the continuance of the fair, our loose lunging competitions on the opening day for 3-year-old horses and ponies has been very successful since their inception 30 years ago. These competitions continue to draw international buyers to Ballinasloe because the grade of horses/ponies competing has increased year on year and it is no surprise to hear that some of those animals have gone on to compete at international showjumping events."

Folks are asked to tune into Facebook for Festival Entertaiment updates for Tuesday to Thursday with a Heritage Evening and Photography Presentation with a Fair theme in Gullane's Hotel at 8.00 pm on Thursday night.





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**20** COMMUNITY

### **ENTERTAIN CROWDS**

The Festival programme is packed with activities for all the family. Street entertainment and music on the festival soundstage is fixed for both weekends. The festival fireworks display commences at 8.30pm on Friday at the Marna, preceded with Family entertainment from 7 pm. The festival jiving competition starts at 9pm in St Michael's Square and the Tarmac Tug-Of-War takes place on Society Street at 9pm.

Largest local crowd day of the week – The Country Fair Day, sees the wonderful Mare and Foal Fair in the Green with the Classes commencing at 12 noon in the Lunging Arena and an exciting line

#### **BY NIALL CLARKE**

of income, the event is totally reliant on sponsors. Any town in Ireland would love to have a weeklong festival and if the festival is to continue then more sponsors need to come on board. The Fair and Festival generates much needed business and revenue for the town.

The main sponsors include: Ballinasloe Credit Union, Supermacs, Jim Derwin, Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe Vintners, Roscommon County Council, KPW Print, Dubarry, Bread Basket. Ambrose & Mary Cuddy, Apache Pizza & SIAC construction. A full list and acknowledgment of all sponsors is contained in the Festival programme.

For more information log-on to http://ballinasloeoctoberfair.com, email info@ballinasloeoctoberfair.com. or call the Fair HQ on 087 4421561 / 089 9812626 1662638. Follow the festival activities on facebook.com/ballinasloefair.





up of live music and entertainment from lunchtime onwards in St. Michael's Square.

On Sunday, the festival dog show, food and craft market, children's bakery competitions, children's tractor race and vintage display take place in the town centre. Due to popular demand the motorbike stunt show returns for three shows on Dunlo Street, commencing at 1.30pm. The show involves motorcycle arena trials specialists performing amazing feats of bravery.

Mal Croffy added "We are delighted with how the second weekend continues to go from strength to strength. Our Ballinasloe Diaspora returns home in huge numbers every year to celebrate and rekindle old friendships resulting in country fair day now being recognised as the biggest and busiest day on the streets of our town annually. Our Sunday street exhibitions are getting bigger and better every year, through the hard work and drive of our local vintage club. The Ballinasloe District & Vintage Club is a great local success story and we are delighted to have them on board. We attract a large numbers of national and international visitors, but it's fantastic to be able to conclude our festival offering locals a great day of free entertainment and celebration".

The lifeblood of the festival is its sponsors, local businesses contribute towards the running costs which are in excess of €50,000. The is no direct source

#### HILLCREST ESTATE CONTINUES **BY JEJE BEGRAOUI** BLOOM TO

The Hillcrest Estate, located on the old Portumna Road, built in 1975 and consists of 28 semi-detached houses. Their **Residents Association came** into being in the late 70's and was formed by Eamon Lally, late Oliver O'Grady Senior, Paraic Lawless, and Patricia Lawless. It is a quiet estate as it is located in a Cul de Sac with no through traffic.

Today's committee consists of Mary Whelehan (secretary for the last 4 years), Paraic Lawless (chairman), Teresa O'Grady and Nora Flaherty (treasurers), and Patricia Lawless.

To give the residents a goal and incentive to work towards, the estate entered the Best Kept Estate Award Scheme, showing off their pride and how much hard work has gone into it. Mary, the secretary,

stated she had been born with the ability to grow things - a skill that takes time to master as she discovered, saying: "I think I killed a few plants while waiting for my ability to catch up with my enthusiasm." She loves flowers and shrubs, seeing them everywhere looking pleasant and neat.

Popular plant choices for the group always include pollinator friendly flowers, such as heathers and roses, fuchsia (lovely ones that are an attractive feature during Summer and Autumn), as well as hydrangea and lavender as they require very little maintenance apart from pruning them back in Autumn.

The entrance and the top of the estate is mowed once a week, the flower beds are weeded, the estate is swept and paint jobs are being done regularly on the fence, walls, gate, etc. with other regular works being done as well; all by voluntary effort.

For any other residents associations and estates, Mary recommends





the community, having your own equipment pays off. It also helps to know the soil type in the estate and whether a plant requires shade" suggests Mary. The most important thing

Mary recommends though is to show up each Spring, ready to try another

season. This year, two bikes were going to be thrown away, but Mary held on to them, painting and adorning them with flowers one pink, the other one black and amber (the colours of Ballinasloe GAA). Visitors to the estate even took pictures of them.

They also erected a seat with a plaque to commemorate late resident John Donoghue (one of their trojan voluntary workers, nothing was too much for him) and all other former residents from Hillcrest who passed away.

"Gardening enhances your life. You can unwind, refresh the spirit, get some exercise out in the fresh air, have a chat", Mary says. Young and old are encouraged to join. Mary continues: "We all have something to offer, no matter how big or small the contribution is. People can make a difference in their area by working together and making the community a better place."

### BALLINASLOE **COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY**



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### ALMOST 1 IN 3 VOICE THEIR OBJECTIONS 3 BY JEJE BEGRAOUI

Upwards of 2,200 official objections to a new Waste Facility Licence have been successfully lodged to the planning authority this month in the hopes of halting again any further development in Poolboy of Waste Infrastructure.

Up to 200 people attended a public information meeting in Gullane's

Hotel towards the end of August. Cllr. Aisling Dolan gave an overview of the application for the current permit to waste operate а transfer station and the huge impacts to the town of trucks proposed to drive through the urban and residential streets, right through the heart of the town. Road safety, health and environment are the key concerns.



Helping with the Objections were Teresa Dolan, Patt Groarke & Bernie Lally - outside the temporary offices on Society Street.

**Dr Vincent Parsons** 

spoke about the health impacts with the second largest urban population in Co. Galway within 2 kms of the proposed site.

A number of other speakers outlined this will damage tourism, heritage and how this does not align to the proposed business or long term development targets for the area.

The ensuing campaign saw 2,000 odd signed objections delivered to the Environment Section of Galway County Council on the day of the deadline Monday 9th September. Combined with a number of other postal and over 150 objections submitted by email. This is equivalent to 1 in 3 people in town and could cover most



Chairperson Dr. Vincent Parsons and ClIr Aisling Dolan at the Information meeting in Gullanes Hotel.

households in the town and surrounding areas.

A joint objection was also submitted by the majority of Councillors in the Ballinasloe/ East Galway Municipal District.

Under the Statutory Process, once processed, all of the objections will be submitted to the operator for a response over 25 working days.. These objections and response from the applicant will then be reviewed and evaluated by the Environment Section over the following 25 working days. A decision is expected towards the end of November 2019. In the meantime the Action Group are preparing for next steps depending on the outcome.

"Support is evident from all parts of our community. There was no proper consultation or Environmental Impact Assessment' completed for this development. We are committed to this campaign and to our vision of a safe and healthy Ballinasloe for all of the families in our town" stated Councillor Aisling Dolan.



### CHIEF SUPER RANK FOR CREAGH MAN

#### **BY COLM CROFFY**

Creagh native and son of a former local Superintendent, has taken up the reigns as a Chief Super with the Garda Siochana in Clare this summer. Sean Colleran grew up in Dunlo St next to Ballinasloe Garda station, along with the rest of his brothers and sisters in the late 70's early 80s when

his father Paddy Colleran was stationed there as Sergeant. The family then moved to Creagh and Paddy still lives there. Paddy served as an Inspector in Ballinasloe and eventually retired as Superintendent in Birr, Co. Offaly.

Sean went to St Grellan's Boys School and then Killure National School where his late mother Nuala taught. He went to Garbally College and started playing golf

in his teens alongside his Dad in Ballinasloe Golf Club and is still a member to this day. He tries to get in some rounds with his father when he has the time.

He started in Templemore after school as a trainee Garda and was first stationed in Pearse St., Dublin. He went on to serve in Tullow, Co. Carlow, The Aran Islands, Croatia with the UN; Salthill, Clifden (on promotion to Sergeant) Galway, Newcastle West in Limerick (on promotion to Inspector), Galway, Westport (on promotion to Superintendent) and Tuam.

Before he was promoted to Chief Superintendent in Clare in July of this year he was the Crime Superintendent in the Galway Division.

Sean would like to see the Clare Garda Division keep its individual division status, but he also said the public shouldn't fear changes proposed under the Future of Policing Plan.





The Future of Policing Plan has made recommendations and Chief Superintendent Colleran acknowledged that these seek to restructure the garda divisions, and also the regions.

"The reason is they want the divisions to have more consistency. At the moment, you have some divisions that are very big, and you have somewhat smaller ones. So their recommendation is to look for bigger divisions and that allows them to be more autonomous in terms of resources, budgetary and financial expenditure and training.

"Any chief superintendent is supported by a divisional office here or in another division and it shouldn't really have an impact where that office is as long as his/her first line managers are based locally".

Last February Chief Supt Colleran was tasked with the responsibility for crime in the Galway division and out of that he said he intends to place more of a focus on economic fraud. "This is something we will

be focusing in on from September that people should never ever give out any sort of banking details. I've seen it in Galway and it's becoming a huge thing".

"My main job is to make sure that we are making best use of what we have, whatever it is, you'll always want more, and it is a natural thing. My main thing is to give comfort to the people that they're in a safe county that is well policed and that when something happens we can respond. The one thing I will be saying to any garda down here is that we try to treat people in the same way as we would like them to treat their own family and everyone is our customer," he said.

He said this year has been an eventful one for the division with the visit of President Trump, the Irish Open and later the visit of Vice President Mike Pence.

Hopefully he'll still get some time to play a few holes with Paddy in Rossgloss.



### PEOPLE OF THE YEAR AWARDS SEEKING NOMINATIONS



The bi-annual People of the Year Awards returns for their third edition. Organised by the town team, a sub group of the **BACD Ltd (Ballinasloe Area Community Development**) awards recognise the and celebrate voluntary



Back Row, L-R: Denis Naughten T.D. , Cllr Aidan Donoghue, Adrian Ahern, Tomás Gullane, Leo Mulvaney, John Donnelly, Colin Ryder, Seamus Duffy, Darren Frehill. Front Row: Heather Payne, Julianne Green, Liam Kelly, Laura Frehill, Teresa Coughlan.

work of individuals, groups, organisations, and schools that contribute to the community who are based in Ballinasloe and its hinterland.

"Our community and the over 250 active clubs, societies and organisations that make it up can't function without the huge work and contribution of volunteers and these important awards sponsored by Ballinasloe Credit Union are an important moment for us all to collectively take stock and note who the real unsung heroes are, that make it happen day in day, out with sometimes little recognition" stated Seamus Duffy Chair BACD Ltd.

They acknowledge the tremendous amount of voluntary work carried out in the area, which forms the backbone of the community. This way, people can be formally recognised with their efforts and achievements being publicly acknowledged, and the awards also honour those who achieved excellence and represented their community or activity nationally and internationally.

There are eight categories: The Arts, Cultural and Heritage Award, covering a wide range of activities and events that contribute to the enhancement of Arts, Cultural and Heritage in the area. The Sports and Recreation Volunteer Award, for individuals and groups who support and encourage participation in sport and other recreation activities. The Sports and Recreation Team Award, recognises sports teams who have excelled in their chosen sport and represented their locality with distinction. The Sports and Recreation Individual Award, celebrates sports individuals who have excelled in their chosen sport.

people make to our society, through voluntary or fundraising work (age limit 25 or under).

The Hall of Fame (Lifetime Achievement Award), recognises individuals from the area who have achieved excellence and are successful in the field of either sporting, professional, business, entrepreneurial or artistic endeavours over their lifetime.

Nominations are now open and close at 5 pm on Thursday, October 10th. Nominations can be made directly through www.ballinasloe. ie or you can download the official nomination form and email it to info@ballinasloeoenterprisecentre.ie or post it to the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre – only nominations for voluntary effort will be accepted, any paid work will not be considered.

Once nominations are closed, they will be assessed by a team of four judges (two local, two external) and shortlisted nominees are invited to the awards ceremony which takes place on November 14th at the Shearwater Hotel with this year's MC Darren Frehill from RTÉ Sport. Each nominee will receive a Scroll of Achievement, with each category winner receiving a specially commissioned award.

This year's event is sponsored by Ballinasloe Credit Union and supported by the Shearwater Hotel, KPW Design & Print, and the town team.

For any queries, reach out to Lyn Donnelly under info@ ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie or 090 964 6516 and see full details and nominations forms at www.ballinasloe.ie

#### **BY JEJE BEGRAOUI**

Business Community

and beyond the call of duty

to support and contribute to

their community. The Youth

Volunteer Award, recognises

the contribution that young



**COMMUNITY 25** 

#### FIA ASHLEY IS SELECTED QUEE

23-year-old Ashley Walsh, daughter of former Mavor Johnny Walsh (Soccer Club Stalwart) and Diana Walsh, was selected the Oueen of the Fair for 2019 at a memorable Gala evening in Gullane's Hotel.

Recently qualified as a primary school teacher in Mary Immaculate College,

Limerick, she is looking for a full-time teaching position having a huge interest in the Irish language and is back post college residing at the family home in St. Joseph's Place.

She is sponsored by Ballinasloe Town AFC. As a young girl, Ashley was always part of the club with her father being the chairman, having visited all matches and supported all games. For several years, she

was asked to represent the club, but with college and work placements, she wasn't able to make the time. This year, after having received her qualification though she was finally able to fully participate.



ohnny and her sister and brother in la

**GULLANE'S HOTEL** 

After being crowned, Ashley is looking forward to the next year full of events and special occasions, representing the town at the Fair and Festival, as well as during the Galway Rose 2020. She is also excited about meeting the people and committee during the Fair week and properly being a part of the town. "As a

> child, I used to love going out onto the Fair Green, seeing all the horses and thousands of people, as well as visiting the Toft's Fun Fair, the whole experience of the markets and just walking up and down the streets and

The Queen with her other 15 particpants at the Queen of the Fair Selection night.



Members of the Fair and Festival Committee 2019.

seeing the ancient tradition in the town"

She continues: "I remember always looking up on stage and admiring the Queen of the Fair and always wished to one day become the **Oueen of the Fair.**"

**BY JEJE BEGRAOUI** 





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### NATIONAL SCHOOL NUMBERS HOLDING

Since last September, the number of National Schools in the Life Magazine catchment (within the common bond area or a 15 km radius of the town) has dropped from 19 to 18 with the closure of Attyrory N.S.

However a quick analysis of enrolments at National Schools in the catchment area has remained consistent, with a steady number of students across the board. Data was collected from the 18 different National Schools.

Creagh NS remains the school with the largest number of pupils at 415, followed by Scoil an Chroi Naofa 294 and Gaelscoil Ui Cheithearnaigh 220 – all boys and girls mixed schools, under the Patronage of the Diocese.

The number of junior infants has remained steady, while there is some small increases and decreases as the table illustrates, with an increase of 1.76% of students enrolled; 207 children started junior infancy in 2018 and 216 in September of 2019.

All in all, 1896 students are enrolled in primary schools all over the catchment area, which is a lot of pick ups, collections, school lunches and school events!



#### **ENROLMENTS IN THE CATCHMENT AREA**

Name	County	No. of Students 2018	No. of Students 2019
Aughrim	Galway	85	86
Ahascragh	Galway	6	5
Caltra	Galway	71	70
Cappataggle	Galway	107	112
Clontuskert	Galway	43	44
Creagh	Galway	430	415
Eyrecourt	Galway	56	56
Fohenagh	Galway	40	41
Gaelscoil ui Cheithearnaigh	Galway	220	217
Kilconnell	Galway	60	62
Kiltormer	Galway	27	28
Laurencetown	Galway	61	68
New Inn	Galway	101	102
Newtown	Galway	88	92
Scoil an Chroi Naofa	Galway	294	286
Taughmaconnell	Galway	94	104
Clonmacnoise	Offally	76	71
Castlesampson	Roscommon	34	37
Total		1893	1896



"Any colour-once it's Black"

Seventy years ago, in 1949, Ballinasloe's last family-owned paper "The East Galway Democrat" ceased publication. Its last editor was the late Nicholas O'Carroll, a member of the well-known O'Carroll dynasty in the town.

"The Democrat" was described as "the local rag" for well over one hundred years, fearless in its reporting of news and sport in the community. It was renowned for its back page column "Under the Lamp" where it highlighted the highs and lows of the town's personalities, often revealing their individual lifestyles for their curious readers.

Located in Society Street, at the rear of O'Carroll's Hotel, "The Democrat" offered a limited commercial printing service. Like Henry Ford they produced literature "in any colour once it was black!"

Seventy years ago, in 1949, Colour Printing was introduced to Ballinasloe when a 33-year-old man established Kelly's Printing Works in St. Michael's Square. Later Kellys purchased the old Democrat premises and 30 years after moved to Poolboy. Over the years the family-run business has invested heavily in modern technology, increased to a 30,000 sq. ft. plant on the Poolboy Industrial Estate and is a major employer in the town.

KPW Print Management, as it is now known, produces top quality colour publications and is renowned for its wide range of specialised wedding and memorial cards (in any colour-BUT Black)!

### PAST PUPILS GATHER FOR 100<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY



Holly Cafferky, Carmel Finn, Mary Drea, Rita Jordan Spencer, Mary Fitzpatrick, Rosaleen Cunningham, Kate Tierney.

Ollie Hanniffy (former deputy principal), Phil Lally (former deputy principal), Margaret Garvey.

Ardscoil Mhuire in Ballinasloe, are celebrating their 100year anniversary of establishment in the town, and held a special day of celebration and commemoration for part pupils and public. The festivities took place at the school itself, where members of the public and, especially former students were greeted by today's prefects and many staff and former staff.

The day started with a short presentation from some of the students who gave an overview of the history of the school, followed by mass with Bishop John Kirby accompanied by music – a choir and a trad group made up of current students. Some past students, the parents' council, the board of management and the Sisters of Mercy all took part in the Liturgy.

The day also featured a photo gallery in the school library, showing the generations of students and some classrooms were set up with video recordings of past and present students as well as staff. One of them was also redecorated to match the style of a 1919 classroom, so attendees were able to see what school was like 100 years ago.

Imelda Costello Glynn (Graduate Year 68), Patricia Burke (Year 67),

Assumpta Donnellan (Year 67), Marie Mullan (former teacher).

The day finished off with a reunion at the Shearwater Hotel, where (former) students and staff were able to meet and mingle.

Former Deputy Principal Phil Lally one of the Co-ordinators said: "It's a very historic day. The Mercy Sisters have contributed enormously to the town, and while there are no Mercy Nuns working here in the school now, their rich legacy has really continued."

#### **BY JEJE BEGRAOUI**

Patricia Kilgallen (Principal), Sister Mercedes Walsh, Sister Carmel Molloy, Sister Bridie Flynn, Sister Mary Corcoran, Sister Loretto McLoughlin, Lilian Hynes (Deputy Principal).

### **GARBALLY COLLEGE LEAVING CERT RESULTS**



Nathan Ward



McGerald Wohan

IN KLEIM IEAN

Daniel Greally & Stephen Reilly

Odhrán Dooley & Stephen Reilly



aneset.

John Fallon

0

Introducing some of the graduates from Garbally College. This year's top achievers were Odhrán Dooley and Daniel Grealy, who both got the exact same points in excess of 600.

Odhrán, son of Aiden Dooley and the late Maureen Dooley, hopes to study Science in UCD, while Daniel, son of Martin and Mary Grealy, intends on studying Engineering in Limerick University.

The principal, Stephen Reilly stated: "The students did really well, and we wish all of them well as they progress to 3rd level education."

Cathal Whyte and Cormac McNally

Fergus Finneran and Liam Dolphin

Evan Dowd

### **OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE**



Joan Dervan & **Geraldine Ward** cutting the cake at their Credit Union retirement party.



Annie Dillon celebrates her 105<sup>th</sup> birthdav.

Pictured with (I-r) John Dillon, Wayne Ledwich, Theresa Rourke, Eileen Finnerty, Annie Dillon, Fr Michael Molloy, Peggy Grene.



Sarah Dervan - Captain of the victorious Galway Camogie Team pictured with the Naughton Family at the homecoming on Monday 9th September 2019.



The Casey Cup Winners at the Galway Sheep Breeders 97th show and sale in Athenry. Pictured: Blatnaid Gallagher, Aughrim, Ballinasloe receiving the Casey Cup from Tom Murphy, Creagh, Ballinasloe, Secretary of the Galway Sheep Breeders Association. Blatnaid won the cup this year for Best Pen of Females, her Pen of Galway Ewe hoggets also won the red rossete for best in their show class.

### NEW REPORTER FOR LIFE



Mountaineering Men on Ireland's highest peak.

After almost 8 months of toiling on the Reporters' Bench for all of our LIFE Content – online and off line on a weekly basis, we say a huge Thanks and Bon Courage to the young Holycross man Donogh Moore.

His totally unflappable nature and professional diligence warmed him to many contributors, PRO's and community volunteers with a tale to tell.

His time between Press and Communications Assistant with LIFE and the Festival Networks and Production Assistant for yours truly was a whirlwind of effort, energy and hopefully some new skills and friends were made.

He, like many others, is now safely ensconced on Erasmus in Paris as part of his UL Degree programme and we wish him well with his studies and career.

We welcome G.M.I.T. undergraduate in Festival and Event Management with public relations, Jeje Begraoui originally from Germany, has been living in Ireland since 2014

- fully embracing the Irish lifestyle and culture and started her traineeship with us in summer and will work until her return to studies in the new year.

She comes with a great background in social media and events management through her post as social media and events coordinator of Dublin Kiz Project, a dance school located in Dublin and her involvement in various other projects.

When she is not in the office or out and about with the camera you can see her on the dance floor herself, dancing to genres such as Kizomba, Bachata, and Salsa.

We wish her good luck with this Edition and the next two of this Volume!

The Editor.



Je Je Begraoui

### **OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE**





### Margaret Creaven from Parkmore pictured with her children, grand children and great grand children at her 90th birthday/family reunion function in Gullane's Hotel.

Back row: Sean Creaven, Austin Creaven, Seamus Kenny, Phil Connaughton, Paddy Creaven, Paul Creaven, Conor Creaven, Niall McDonald.

Third Row: Alan Kelly, Gerry Kenny, Aisling Layden, Sinead Kenny, Oisin McDonald, Margaret Creaven, Lejla Kurtovic, Adam Creaven, Briona McDonald, Trisha Creaven, Darragh Creaven, Ben Creaven. Second Row: Aidan Kenny, Sarah Kenny, Sheelagh McDonald, Mary Creaven, Margaret Creaven, Nora Grace Kenny, Noreen Kenny, Ann Creaven Seamus Creaven. Front Row: Michelle Creaven, Esma Creaven, Dylan Creaven Kelly, Sophie Creaven Kelly, Grainne McDonald, Aaron Connaughton, Niamh Creaven Connaughton.



#### Far Left: Barry Taylor

Left: Tomás Gullane of Gullane's Hotel, Niall Bookless of Signs & Systems, Arthur Carr of Claddagh Watch and Ahmed Mukhtar of Gadget Tech.

All local business supporters of Claddagh Watch Patrol.

## **OCTOBER EVENTS GUIDE**

Tuesday 1st		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11-1pm
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	Lib Hours
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
Art Exhibit, Poetry & Reception	Church Gallery	6.30-7.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 2nd	-	
Knitting & Crochet Group	B'sloe Library	11-1pm
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	Lib Hours
Active Retirement Meeting	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Live Trad & Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
West. Alzheimers Carer Sup. Gp	EG&M Cancer Sup. Cntr	7pm
Thursday 3rd		
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Singing Pub Night	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Friday 4th		
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Family Entertainment	St Michaels Square	7pm
Fireworks Display	Ballinasloe Marina	8.30pm
Jiving competition	St. Michaels Square	9pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Toxic Twins	Brewery Lane	10pm
Niall Ruttledge	Canal Bar	10pm
Steve Reilly & Shane Moore	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	The Pillar House	10pm
Dave Mills	The Auld Sod	10pm
PAUL BURNS	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 5th		
Food & Craft Market	Ballinasloe Streets	All Day
Horse Fair	Fair Green	All Day
Pop up Tea & COffee	Town Hall	All Day
Mare & Foal Competitions	Fair Green	12pm
Festival Soundstage	Ballinasloe Streets	2pm
BOITHRIN	Dunlo Tavern	5.30pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm
The Tav jam band	Brewery Lane	10pm
Dollar Daly	Canal Bar	10pm
DJ John Finnerty	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Lukers o S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	The Pillar House	10pm
Na Riadoiri	An Tain	10pm
Double Trouble	Joe Kellys Bar	10pm
Lve Music	Auld Sod	10pm
THE LIVEWIRES	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 6th		Ton a
Food & Craft Market	St Michaels Square	All Day
Dog Show	St Michaels Square	1pm
Chiladren's Art & Craft Comp	Ballinasloe	1pm
Vintage Show	Ballinasloe	All Day
Motor Bike Show	Ballinasloe	
Kids Tractor Run		1pm
	Ballinasloe	1pm
Wood Carving	Ballinasloe	1pm 1pm
Wood Carving Brendan Magee	Ballinasloe Shearwater	1pm 1pm 5-8pm
Wood Carving Brendan Magee Trad Session	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House	1pm 1pm 5-8pm 6pm
Wood Carving Brendan Magee Trad Session The Noshowband	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane	1pm 1pm 5-8pm 6pm 8pm
Wood Carving Brendan Magee Trad Session The Noshowband Na Riadoiri	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain	1pm           1pm           5-8pm           6pm           8pm           8.30pm
Wood Carving Brendan Magee Trad Session The Noshowband Na Riadoiri R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater	1pm 1pm 5-8pm 6pm 8pm 8.30pm 9.30pm
Wood Carving Brendan Magee Trad Session The Noshowband Na Riadoiri R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan Small deal	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar	1pm 1pm 5-8pm 6pm 8pm 8.30pm 9.30pm 9.30pm
Wood Carving Brendan Magee Trad Session The Noshowband Na Riadoiri R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan Small deal Usual	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar	1pm           1pm           5-8pm           6pm           8pm           8.30pm           9.30pm           9.30pm           10pm
Wood Carving Brendan Magee Trad Session The Noshowband Na Riadoiri R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan Small deal Usual Steve Reilly	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys	1pm           1pm           5-8pm           6pm           8pm           9.30pm           9.30pm           10pm           10pm
Wood Carving Brendan Magee Trad Session The Noshowband Na Riadoiri R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan Small deal Usual Steve Reilly Trad Session Front Bar	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim	1pm           1pm           5-8pm           6pm           8pm           8.30pm           9.30pm           10pm           10pm           10pm
Wood Carving Brendan Magee Trad Session The Noshowband Na Riadoiri R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan Small deal Usual Steve Reilly Trad Session Front Bar Liams Country Road Show	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim The Auld Sod	1pm           1pm           5-8pm           6pm           8pm           9.30pm           9.30pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm
Wood Carving Brendan Magee Trad Session The Noshowband Na Riadoiri R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan Small deal Usual Steve Reilly Trad Session Front Bar Liams Country Road Show LIVE MUSIC	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim	1pm           1pm           5-8pm           6pm           8pm           8.30pm           9.30pm           10pm           10pm           10pm
Wood Carving Brendan Magee Trad Session The Noshowband Na Riadoiri R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan Small deal Usual Steve Reilly Trad Session Front Bar Liams Country Road Show LIVE MUSIC Monday 7th	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim The Auld Sod Dunlo Tavern	1pm           1pm           5-8pm           6pm           8pm           8.30pm           9.30pm           9.30pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm
Wood Carving         Brendan Magee         Trad Session         The Noshowband         Na Riadoiri         R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan         Small deal         Usual         Steve Reilly         Trad Session Front Bar         Liams Country Road Show         LIVE MUSIC         Monday 7th         Line Dancing	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim The Auld Sod	1pm           1pm           5-8pm           6pm           8pm           9.30pm           9.30pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm
Wood Carving         Brendan Magee         Trad Session         The Noshowband         Na Riadoiri         R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan         Small deal         Usual         Steve Reilly         Trad Session Front Bar         Liams Country Road Show         LIVE MUSIC         Monday 7th         Line Dancing         Tuesday 8th	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim The Auld Sod Dunlo Tavern Gullanes Hotel	1pm           1pm           5-8pm           6pm           8pm           8.30pm           9.30pm           9.30pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           8.30pm
Wood Carving         Brendan Magee         Trad Session         The Noshowband         Na Riadoiri         R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan         Small deal         Usual         Steve Reilly         Trad Session Front Bar         Liams Country Road Show         LIVE MUSIC         Monday 7th         Line Dancing         Tuesday 8th         Age Action PC Classes	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim The Auld Sod Dunlo Tavern Gullanes Hotel B'sloe Library	1pm           1pm           1pm           5-8pm           6pm           8pm           8.30pm           9.30pm           9.30pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           11-1pm
Wood Carving         Brendan Magee         Trad Session         The Noshowband         Na Riadoiri         R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan         Small deal         Usual         Steve Reilly         Trad Session Front Bar         Liams Country Road Show         LIVE MUSIC         Monday 7th         Line Dancing         Tuesday 8th         Age Action PC Classes         Active Retirement Book Clb	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim The Auld Sod Dunlo Tavern Gullanes Hotel B'sloe Library B'sloe Library	1pm           1pm           5-8pm           6pm           8pm           8.30pm           9.30pm           10pm           4-5pm
Wood Carving         Brendan Magee         Trad Session         The Noshowband         Na Riadoiri         R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan         Small deal         Usual         Steve Reilly         Trad Session Front Bar         Liams Country Road Show         LIVE MUSIC         Monday 7th         Line Dancing         Tuesday 8th         Age Action PC Classes         Active Retirement Book Clb         Lego Club	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim The Auld Sod Dunlo Tavern Gullanes Hotel B'sloe Library B'sloe Library	1pm           1pm           5-8pm           6pm           8pm           8.30pm           9.30pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           4-5pm           4.30-5.15pm
Wood Carving         Brendan Magee         Trad Session         The Noshowband         Na Riadoiri         R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan         Small deal         Usual         Steve Reilly         Trad Session Front Bar         Liams Country Road Show         LIVE MUSIC         Monday 7th         Line Dancing         Tuesclay 8th         Age Active Retirement Book Clb         Lego Club         GAA Bingo	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim The Auld Sod Dunlo Tavern Gullanes Hotel B'sloe Library B'sloe Library Emerald B'room	1pm 1pm 5-8pm 6pm 8pm 8.30pm 9.30pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 4.30pm 4.30-5.15pm 8pm
Wood Carving         Brendan Magee         Trad Session         The Noshowband         Na Riadoiri         R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan         Small deal         Usual         Steve Reilly         Trad Session Front Bar         Liams Country Road Show         LIVE MUSIC         Monday 7th         Line Dancing         Tuesday 8th         Age Action PC Classes         Active Retirement Book Clb         Lego Club         GAA Bingo         J & S Sound	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim The Auld Sod Dunlo Tavern Gullanes Hotel B'sloe Library B'sloe Library	1pm           1pm           5-8pm           6pm           8pm           8.30pm           9.30pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           10pm           4-5pm           4.30-5.15pm
Wood Carving         Brendan Magee         Trad Session         The Noshowband         Na Riadoiri         R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan         Small deal         Usual         Steve Reilly         Trad Session Front Bar         Liams Country Road Show         LIVE MUSIC         Monday 7th         Line Dancing         Tuesday 8th         Age Action PC Classes         Active Retirement Book Clb         Lego Club         GAA Bingo         J & S Sound         Wednesday 9th	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim The Auld Sod Dunlo Tavern Gullanes Hotel B'sloe Library B'sloe Library B'sloe Library Emerald B'room Gullanes Hotel	1pm 1pm 5-8pm 6pm 8pm 8.30pm 9.30pm 9.30pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 8.30pm 8.30pm 4.30-5.15pm 8pm 8.30pm
Wood Carving         Brendan Magee         Trad Session         The Noshowband         Na Riadoiri         R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan         Small deal         Usual         Steve Reilly         Trad Session Front Bar         Liams Country Road Show         LIVE MUSIC         Monday 7th         Line Dancing         Tuesday 8th         Age Action PC Classes         Active Retirement Book Clb         Lego Club         GAA Bingo         J & S Sound         Wednesday 9th         Bumps & Babes Group	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim The Auld Sod Dunlo Tavern Gullanes Hotel B'sloe Library B'sloe Library Emerald B'room Gullanes Hotel B'sloe Library	1pm 1pm 5-8pm 6pm 8pm 8.30pm 9.30pm 9.30pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 4.30-5.15pm 8.30pm 9.45-11.45am
Wood Carving         Brendan Magee         Trad Session         The Noshowband         Na Riadoiri         R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan         Small deal         Usual         Steve Reilly         Trad Session Front Bar         Liams Country Road Show         LIVE MUSIC         Monday 7th         Line Dancing         Tuesday 8th         Age Action PC Classes         Active Retirement Book Clb         Lego Club         GAA Bingo         J & S Sound         Wednesday 9th         Bumps & Babes Group         Knitting & Crochet Group	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim The Auld Sod Dunlo Tavern Gullanes Hotel B'sloe Library B'sloe Library Emerald B'room Gullanes Hotel B'sloe Library B'sloe Library B'sloe Library B'sloe Library	1pm 1pm 5-8pm 6pm 8pm 8.30pm 9.30pm 9.30pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 10pm 8.30pm 9.45-11.45am 11-1pm
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Wood Carving         Brendan Magee         Trad Session         The Noshowband         Na Riadoiri         R.Mizzelle Sup. M.Regan         Small deal         Usual         Steve Reilly         Trad Session Front Bar         Liams Country Road Show         LIVE MUSIC         Monday 7th         Line Dancing         Tuesday 8th         Age Action PC Classes         Active Retirement Book Clb         Lego Club         GAA Bingo         J & S Sound         Wednesday 9th         Bumps & Babes Group         Knitting & Crochet Group         Active Retirement meeting	Ballinasloe Shearwater The Pillar House Brewery Lane An Tain Shearwater Joe Kellys Bar Canal Bar Downeys Valerie's of Aughrim The Auld Sod Dunlo Tavern Gullanes Hotel B'sloe Library B'sloe Library Emerald B'room Gullanes Hotel B'sloe Library Gullanes Hotel	1pm           1pm           1pm           5-8pm           6pm           8pm           8.30pm           9.30pm           9.30pm           10pm           9.30pm           4-5pm           4-5pm           8pm           8.30pm           9.45-515pm           8pm           9.45-11.45am           11-1pm           3pm

Thursday 10th		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Singers Circle	Dunlo Tavern	9.30pm
Live acoustic session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Steve Reilly	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 11th		
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library Town Hall Theatre	3.30-4.30pm
B'sloe Country Market Find the Joker	An Tain	9.30-1.30pm 9pm
The goodfellas	Brewery Lane	10pm
Ken Live	Canal Bar	10pm
Small Ideas	The Auld Sod	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 12th		
UEFA 2020 -Irel v Georgia	Joe Kellys Bar	2pm
Kids Movie Club	B'sloe Library	2.30-4pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm
Live Music Live music	Lukers o S'Bridge	10pm
Small Deal	Brewery Lane Canal Bar	10pm 10pm
Steve Reilly	Downey's Bar	10pm
Dale Hanlon	Joe Kellys Bar	10pm
DJ Chris	Downey's Bar	10pm
No Horse	An Tain	10pm
Live Music	Auld Sod	10pm
Hickory Winds	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 13th	a i	4.20 6
Andy Feery	Shearwater	4.30-6pm
Berney Heany & Boz Trad Session	Shearwater The Pillar House	6-8pm 6pm
Live Music	An Tain	opm 7pm
Thunderslap duo	Brewery Lane	8pm
G.Guthrie sup. Andy Feery	Shearwater	9.30pm
Usual	Canal Bar	10pm
Trad Session Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Liams Country Road Show	Auld Sod	10pm
Monday 14th	Colleges Hotel	0.20
Line Dancing Tuesday 15th	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Tuesday 15th Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
Group 8 Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Lib Hours
Group 8 Art Exhibit Launch	Church Gallery	6-7.30pm
UEFA 2020 -Switz v Irel	Joe Kellys Bar	7.45pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Michael Sexton	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Wednesday 16th	Dislog Lib	11 1
Knitting & Crochet Group Active Retirement meeting	B'sloe Library Gullanes Hotel	11-1pm 3pm
Group 8 Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Lib Hours
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Relays Drama Gp, Blithe Spirit	Town Hall Theatre	8pm
Live Trad & Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 17th		
Group 8 Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Lib Hours
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Relays Drama Gp, Blithe Spirit	Town Hall Theatre	8pm
Live acoustic session Live Music	Brewery Lane Downey's Bar	10pm 10pm
Friday 18th	Downey's Dai	
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Group 8 Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Lib Hours
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Relays Drama Gp, Blithe Spirit	Town Hall Theatre	8pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
The 2 Q's	Brewery Lane	10pm
Dave Mills	Canal Bar	10pm
Small Ideas Trad Session	The Auld Sod Dunio Tavern	10pm 10.30pm
Saturday 19th		.0.50pm
Group 8 Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Lib Hours
Kids Movie Club	Kids Movie Club	11-12.30pm
Kids Movie Club	Kids Movie Club	2.30-4pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm
Hudson Taylor	Lukers of S'Bridge	8pm
Red Tape	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Chris DJ Jeff Collins	Downey's Bar An Tain	10pm
Adrain Rabbit	An Tain Canal Bar	10pm 10pm
Neil Diamond Experience	Joe Kellys Bar	10pm
Wood Rush	Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Sunday 20thSymphonic Waves OrchestaTown Hall Theatre3.pmSymphonic Waves OrchestaTown Hall Theatre4.30-6pmMichael Colins Lisdoonwara Reu.Shearwater6.8pmTrad Session Font BarNaleric's of Aughrim10pmUsualCanal Bar10pmTrad Session Font BarValeric's of Aughrim10pmMichael Collins Lisdoonwara Reu.Shearwater10.30-12.30pmKen SoloAuld Sod10pmMonday 21stUnon10pmLiego ClubB'sloe Library4.30-5.15pmGroug & Art ExhibitionChurch GalleryLib HoursGAA BingoEmerald B'room8pmPeter BurkeGuilanes Hotel3.30pmWednesday 23rdUnurch GalleryLib HoursKhitting & Crochet GroupB'sloe Library11-1pmGroug & Art ExhibitionChurch GalleryLib HoursInvisionGuilanes Hotel5.7.15pmUre Tad & Folk MusicAn Tain9.30pmThursday 24thGuilanes Hotel11amGroug & Art ExhibitionChurch GalleryLib HoursGoral ComhraGuilanes Hotel11amLive Ausic SessionBrewery Lane10pmThursday 25thBrewery Lane10pmFriday 25thBrewery Lane10pmGroug & Art ExhibitionChurch GalleryLib HoursKids Friday FunB'sloe Library3.04-3.0pmGroug & Art ExhibitionChurch GalleryLib HoursGoral ComhraBundi Canal Bar			
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#### 32 EVENTS GUIDE

### **NOVEMBER EVENTS GUIDE**

Friday 1st           B'sloe Country Market         Town Hall Theatre         9.30-1.30pm           Kids Friday Fun         B'sloe Library         3.30-4.30pm           Find the Joker         An Tain         9pm           Muriel O'Connor,Fran Curry         Shearwater Hotel         9-11pm           Small Deal         Canal Bar         10pm           The 2 Q's         Brewery Lane         10pm           Ken Solo         The Auld Sod         10pm	
Kids Friday Fun     B'sloe Library     3.30-4.30pm       Find the Joker     An Tain     9pm       Muriel O' Connor,Fran Curry     Shearwater Hotel     9-11pm       Small Deal     Canal Bar     10pm       The 2 Q's     Brewery Lane     10pm	
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Small Deal         Canal Bar         10pm           The 2 Q's         Brewery Lane         10pm	
The 2 Q's Brewery Lane 10pm	
Kon Solo The Auld Sod 10mm	
Trad Session Dunlo Tavern 10pm	
Michael Collins & His Band Shearwater Hotel 11-1am	
Saturday 2nd Kids Movie Club B'sloe Library 2.30-4pm	
John Molloy Shearwater Hotel 3-5.30pm	
Bingo Kilconnel Town Hall 8.30pm	
Dermot Lyons Shearwater Hotel 9-11pm	
The Tav jam band Brewery Lane 10pm	
Live Music Lukers o S'Bridge 10pm DJ John Finnerty Downey's Bar 10pm	
Hard times An Tain 10pm	
Alex Roe Canal Bar 10pm	
Nightowls The Auld Sod 10pm	
Rugby World Cup Joe Kellys Bar 10pm	
Live Music Duloe Tavern 10.30pm	
M. Collins Guest L. Morrisey Shearwater Hotel 11-1am Sunday 3rd	
Andy Feery Shearwater Hotel 3-5pm	
Michael Collins & His Band Shearwater Hotel 5-8pm	
Trad Session The Pillar House 6pm	
Live Music An Tain 7pm	
The Noshowband Brewery Lane 8pm	
Jimmy Buckley Shearwater Hotel 9.30pm Usual Canal Bar 10pm	
Trad Session Front Bar Valerie's of Aughrim 10pm	
Pub Fiction The Auld Sod 10pm	
Monday 4th	
Line Dancing Gullanes Hotel 8.30pm	
Tuesday 5th Lego Club B'sloe Library 4.30-5.15pm	
Lego Club         B'sloe Library         4.30-5.15pm           Art Link Art Exhibition         Church Gallery         Lib Hours	
Galway's Great Read Talk Church Gallery 6.30-7.30pm	_
GAA Bingo Emerald B'room 8pm	
Social Dancing Gullanes Hotel 9pm	
Wednesday 6th Knitting & Crochet Group B'sloe Library 11-1pm	
Knitting & Crochet Group         B'sloe Library         11-1pm           Active Retirement meeting         Gullanes Hotel         3pm	
Art Link Art Exhibition Church Gallery Lib Hours	
Unislim Gullanes Hotel 5-7.15pm	
Live Trad & Folk Music An Tain 9.30pm	
West Alzheimers Carer Sup. Gp E G & M Cancer Sup. Cntr 7pm	
Thursday 7th Ciorcal Comhra Gullanes Hotel 11am	
Art Link Art Exhibition Church Gallery Lib Hours	
Live acoustic session Brewery Lane 10pm	
Steve Reilly Downey's Bar 10pm	
Friday 8th	
B'sloe Country Market Town Hall Theatre 9.30-1.30pm	
Art Link Art Exhibition         Church Gallery         Lib Hours           Kids Friday Fun         B'sloe Library         3.30-4.30pm	
Find the Joker An Tain 9pm	
Toxic twins Brewery Lane 10pm	
Ken Live Canal Bar 10pm	
Shane Moore Joe Kellys Bar 10pm	
Shane Downey Dunlo Tavern 10pm	
Saturday 9th Art Link Art Exhibition Church Gallery Lib Hours	
Art Link Exhibition Launch Church Gallery 2.30-4pm	
Bingo Kilconnel Town Hall 8.30pm	
Live Music Lukers o S'Bridge 10pm	
Loose Rooster Brewery Lane 10pm	
DJ Downey's Bar 10pm Mustache Queen An Tain 10pm	
Laker The Auld Sod 10pm	
Live Music Dunlo Tavern 10.30pm	
Sunday 10th	
Showbud Shearwater Hotel 5-8pm	
Trad Session The Pillar House 6pm	
Live Music An Tain 7pm Live music Brewery Lane 8pm	
Live music Brewery Lane 8pm Mike Denver sup. B. Jermyn Shearwater Hotel 9.30pm	
Usual Canal Bar 10pm	
Trad Session Front Bar         Valerie's of Aughrim         10pm           Liams Country Roadshow         The Auld Sod         10pm	

Monday 11th		-
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Tuesday 12th Active Retirement Book Club	B'sloe Library	4-5pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
Art Link Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Lib Hours
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing Wednesday 13th	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Bumps & Babes Group	B'sloe Library	9.45-11.45am
Knitting & Crochet Group	B'sloe Library	11-1pm
Active Retirement meeting Art Link Art Exhibition	Gullanes Hotel Church Gallery	3pm Lib Hours
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Live Trad & Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 14th		1
Art Link Art Exhibition Ciorcal Comhra	Church Gallery Gullanes Hotel	Lib Hours 11am
Live acoustic session	Brewery Lane	10pm
DI	Downey's Bar	10pm
Singers Circle	Dunio Tavern	10pm
Friday 15th B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Art Link Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Lib Hours
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
Gatehouse in Concert Beggars velvet	The Pillar House Brewery Lane	9pm 10pm
Niall Ruttedge	Canal Bar	10pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 16th	church C. II	1.1.11.
Art Link Art Exhibition Kids Movie Club	Church Gallery B'sloe Library	Lib Hours 2.30-4pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm
Live Music	Lukers o S'Bridge	10pm
Acoustic ninjas	Brewery Lane	10pm
Dave Milles DJ Chris	Canal Bar Downey's Bar	10pm 10pm
Na Riadoiri	An Tain	10pm
Adrian Rabbitte	The Pillar House	10pm
Small Deal	Joe Kellys Bar	10pm
Wood Rush BOITHRIN	The Auld Sod Dunlo Tavern	10pm 10.30pm
Sunday 17th		10.50pm
Blue Ridge Country	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music Thunderslap duo	An Tain Brewery Lane	7pm 8pm
M. English sup. Stuart Moyles	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Usual	Canal Bar	10pm
Trad Session Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Dave Mills Monday 18th	The Auld Sod	10pm
UEFA 2010 - Irel v Denmark	Joe Kellys Bar	7.45pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Tuesday 19th	P'cloo Library	4 20 F 15mm
Lego Club Art Link Art Exhibition	B'sloe Library Church Gallery	4.30-5.15pm Lib Hours
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 20th Knitting & Crochet Group	B'sloo Library	11-1nm
Art Link Art Exhibition	B'sloe Library Church Gallery	11-1pm Lib Hours
Live Trad & Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Active Retirement meeting	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislim Thursday 21st	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Thursday 21st Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Live acoustic session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Live Music	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 22nd Bislog Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	0 20-1 2000
B'sloe Country Market Galway's Great Read Gala Finale	Town Hall Theatre Church Gallery	9.30-1.30pm 10-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
The goodfellas	Brewery Lane	10pm
Adrain Rabbit Trad session	Canal Bar Dunlo Tavern	10pm 10pm

Saturday 23rd		2.20.4
Kids Movie Club	B'sloe Library Kilconnel Town Hall	2.30-4pm
Bingo Live Music	Lukers o S'Bridge	8.30pm
Red Tape	Brewery Lane	10pm 10pm
Small Deal	Canal Bar	10pm
Live Music	Downey's Bar	10pm
Cold Porter	An Tain	10pm
Kevin Corry	The Pillar House	10pm
The Sharps	Joe Kellys Bar	10pm
Pacifica	The Auld Sod	10pm
Hickory WInds	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 24th		
John Molloy	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Brego	Brewery Lane	8pm
Derek Ryan sup John Molloy	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Usual	Canal Bar	10pm
Trad Session Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Ken Solo	The Auld Sod	10pm
Monday 25th	Cullenes Hatal	0.20
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Tuesday 26th	Picken Library	4 20 5 15 mm
Lego Club The Cables Art Exhibition	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
The Gables Art Exhibition The Gables Art Exhibit Launch	Church Gallery	Lib Hours
Ardscoil Mhuire Musical	Church Gallery Townhall Theatre	6-7.30pm 7.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	7.30pm 8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 27th	dunanes noter	
The Gables Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Lib Hours
Bumps & Babes Group	B'sloe Library	9.45-11.45am
Knitting & Crochet Group	B'sloe Library	11-1pm
Active Retirement meeting	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Ardscoil Mhuire Musical	Townhall Theatre	7.30pm
Live Trad & Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 28th		
The Gables Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Lib Hours
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Kevin Dundon Tynagh Abbey-	Shearwater Hotel	6.30pm fund-
Duniry GAA Club		raiser
Ardscoil Mhuire Musical	Townhall Theatre	7.30pm
Live acoustic session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Live Music	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 29th		
The Gables Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Lib Hours
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Christmas Show Laurencetown NS	Town Hall Theatre	7.30pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
The 2 Q's	Brewery Lane	10pm
Dollar Daly	Canal Bar	10pm
Small Idea	The Auld Sod	10pm
Ken Solo	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 30th	a	
The Gables Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Lib Hours
Kids Movie Club	B'sloe Library	2.30-4pm
Cambodia Fundraiser Concert		7.30pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm
	Lukers o S'Bridge	10pm
	Brewery Lane	10pm
Live music	· · ·	10
Live Music Live music Joe Hession	Canal Bar	10pm
Live music Joe Hession Crazy Chris	Canal Bar Downey's Bar	10pm
Live music Joe Hession Crazy Chris Shave or Dye	Canal Bar Downey's Bar An Tain	10pm 10pm
Live music Joe Hession Crazy Chris Shave or Dye DJ John Finnerty	Canal Bar Downey's Bar An Tain Joe Kellys Bar	10pm 10pm 10pm
Live music Joe Hession Crazy Chris Shave or Dye	Canal Bar Downey's Bar An Tain	10pm 10pm

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

### **CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS**



54 Years Married Huge Congrats to Mary and Liam Kelly Church Street, Creagh who celebrated their 54th Wedding Anniversary in September of this year.



Kathy Walsh, Brent Pope, June Hurley, Michael Keighery & Regina Divilly at Carry out Off Licence 10 year Celebrations in August.



Barbara Harte receiving cheque for €500 GAA Bingo Prize Money from Seamus McHugh, recently



New Tops sponsored by Gerry Barrett on left & Mike Coughlan on right (Mike's Bar) were presented to Mattie Curley (Team Captain) & Michael Ward (Captain) for the Jack O'Sullivan Ballinasloe Golf Team who were beaten in the Connacht Final.

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### MACRA SEEKS A RE-LAUNCH



Taken from Galway County Round of the Bowling Competition Front row, L to R: Aidan Donnelly, Martin Nee, Sean Lyons, Karen Costello, Kate Armstrong, Albert Dolan, Liam Curtain, Liam Coppinger. Middle row, L to R: Katie Donnellan, Linda Cunningham, Sarah Gordon Back row, L to R: John Mullins, David Costello, Roisin O'Driscoll, Mairead Longe, Robert Lally, James Gillick, Eoin Mc Loughlin, Sarah Jane Donoghue, Robbie Cunningham, Enda Armstrong.

A Macra na Feirme information evening took place in Broderick's Bar, Kilconnell recently with the aim of highlighting the many benefits of becoming a Macra member. The plan going forward is to relaunch a club in East Galway.

What is Macra? Macra can be thought of as an organisation that facilitates all people aged 17 to 35 to become connected and which provides a positive social outlet. Macra is for people interested in making new friends, travel, sports, community involvement, public speaking, performing arts, agriculture, and more. There are also financial benefits of becoming a member such as the 15% discount offered by FBD off car insurance.

#### **BY JEJE BEGRAOUI**

Members run their own clubs and these clubs can be found all over the country: from cities and villages, to towns and colleges. Members can attend and take part in Macra events and competitions such as bowling, quizzes, GAA, capers, farm skills, debating ,and personality competitions such as Mr Personality, Kings and Queens, and Queen of the Land to name but a few.

Currently, there are four active clubs in Galway: Mountbellew, Greylakes (Loughrea), South Galway, and GMIT, and they are hoping to increase these numbers. It does not matter which parish or profession you belong to – Macra is open to all.

Two current Galway members were co-opted earlier this year to the Agricultural Affairs and Rural Youth committees which is a welcome boost to the county. Galway also has a semi-finalist

> in the Young Farmer of the Year competition with interviews taking place later this year. Many of the clubs have been participating in the county round of the Bowling and Club

Question time competitions

in September. Macra also facilitated Club Training in

Athlone recently, with many of

the clubs from Galway being

ate

Macra na Feirme

From the information evening a new club has been formed called Ballinasloe District Macra na Feirme. This will replace the former Caltra and Aughrim clubs and encompasses and encourages membership from everyone in the area.

represented.

Further info can be found at www.macra.ie and from the training and development officer at 086 780 8987.

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### ACCESSIBILITY GROUP HOST AGM

Accessibility **Ballinasloe held their** 3rd AGM recently in **Ballinasloe** Social Services which had a good turnout, their first as a registered discussing Charity; the key projects they were involved in last vear such as Pride of Place, where they were runners up in the community health and wellbeing section.



Members of the Ballinasloe Special Olympics Group, promoting the Fit Town Asscessability Sports Day.

They also reviewed their first sports ability day with Fit Town and Galway Sports Partnership during the summer which was a huge success. They were delighted with the turn out from all key sporting groups from the community and how they made their sport accessible for all. The group look forward to continue working with the sporting groups in the area again in the future.

The charity continues to work with local businesses and is rolling out the accessible picture menus. If there are other cafes/ restaurants that are looking to get involved in this initiative, please get in touch with them.

They will be linking in with local businesses in relation to their sticker campaign where businesses engage with them on being accessible and inclusive for all. Firms and Shops will be presented with an AB sticker to let the community know that they are accessible and will make reasonable accommodation to meet their customers' needs: from providing a seat to widening aisles so people using mobility aids can access their locality. Again those premises that don't have the sticker are asked to reach out. on footpaths and signs or bins in the middle of footpaths. This project will hopefully create awareness around the issues people with disabilities face when trying to access their local shops or amenities.

In addition, as part of social inclusion week, they will be hosting a lunchtime concert with local talent from young and old in the library on Wednesday 16th October.

Ken Campbell resigned as Chairperson after a long number of dedicated years in the role.

The new committee going forward is Deborah Brady (chairperson), Stephen Roache (secretary), Shane Mc Dermott (vice secretary), Teresa Coughlan (Treasurer), Marion Ruane (PRO) and Darragh Flynn (Social inclusion officer)

The charity is also looking for more volunteers to get involved in many upcoming projects. If interested please contact them on accessibilitybsloe@gmail.com or through their Facebook page.

The charity will continue to work with the local town engineer team

#### **BY JEJE BEGRAOUI**



Committee Members: Deborah Brady, Teresa Coughlan, Stephen Roache.

and Galway County Council to highlight access issues and work on solutions.

They recently took part in the Disability Federation of Ireland National Make Way Campaign to highlight access issues in towns such as cars parked
#### **3 BY KEN KELLY**

#### **AUGHRIM APPLE APPEAL**

Do you have more apples growing in your garden than you can eat? Would you like to see them put to good use? If so, then why not support the Aughrim Apple Appeal.



Following the success last year of Aughrim

Gerry Grainey (Aughrim Development) and Rev. John Godfrey with Bottles of Aughrim Apple Juice.

*Apple Juice*, an artisanal product produced from the apples in the rectory orchard, the local Church of Ireland community is inviting donations of local apples to **swell this year's crop**.

"Nothing tastes as good as apple juice made from local apples," said the Reverend John Godfrey. "But we simply can't grow enough apples here to meet demand. This year we want more people to enjoy our delicious local product. All proceeds will go to the parish, so if you do have spare apples, this is a way of supporting our churches which won't cost you anything."

For more details contact the Reverend John Godfrey, The Rectory, Aughrim, Ballinasloe. Mob: 087 9008085 / Email: reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com



# THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER...

**The Episcopal Ordination** of the new Bishop of Clonfert, Fr. Michael Duignan, will take place in St. Brendan's Cathedral, Loughrea on Sunday, 13th October. He will succeed retired Bishop John Kirby, who has now become Parish Priest in Cappataggle and Kilrickle.

**Mullagh's Sarah Dervan**, who captained Galway senior camogie team to All-Ireland success, is the daughter of former Kiltormer senior hurler Jackie Dervan. The sterling corner back also played minor and senior hurling with Galway.

**100-year-old Tom Quinn** of Brackernagh, Ballinasloe, captured the top three awards for his prize tomatoes at Tullamore Show. For over sixty years Tom has been exhibiting at the famous show and even was on the judging panel in 1993.

**The Town Hall Society** will hold its Annual General Meeting in Gullane's Hotel on Wednesday, 9th October at 8 pm.

Annie Walshe (nee Sowerby) of Tristane, Aughrim who passed away, in her 99th year, in the Hillside Nursing Home, Aughrim, was a native of Mullingar. She was predeceased by her husband Sam, and is the last member of the well-known family. The late Mrs. Walshe is survived by her daughters Heather and Georgina (Darling) grandchildren and great grandchildren.

**Overheard in a Ballinasloe Pub:** "We are the Boys from the Hill, we never worked and we never will!"

Aughrim Active Retirement Group head off to Salou, Spain on 12th October for their Autumn outing. The group meet on the first Tuesday of every month in the local hall, at 8 p.m. to plan their activities.

**Caltra's Community Playground** has been officially opened by Cllr. Tim Broderick which is alongside the local GAA Sports Complex and GAA grounds.

John Hurley Jnr. was winner of the Captain's (Dr. Ciaran Arnold) Prize at the Millennium Golf Society outing to Mount Juliet. Sixty members played. The final outing for the season is on 3rd October in Lutterellstown. Tristan McDonagh, Ballinasloe's European Power-lifting Champion, will attempt to win two World titles in the coming

**3 BY KEVIN KAVANAGH** 

Champion, will attempt to win two World titles in the coming months. On 25th October he will compete in the IPL championships in Limerick and in early December he travels to Russia to challenge for the WRPF version, both in the 75kg weight divisions.

Killimor Macra members over the years are invited to the 75th anniversary celebrations of the foundation of Macra na Feirme in Galway's Clayton Hotel on Saturday, 5th October. Further information from Sean Clasby at 087 6690070.





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#### ZOMBIE WALK MATURES TO TRAIL OF TERROR 3BY JEJE BEGRAOUI

Fresh after three seasons, the Town Team and the production crew behind The Zombie Walk are re-invigorating the annual Halloween Zombie Walk into a more fullsome "Trail of Terror" through Garbally woods.

Taking soundings from many parents and Zombie Walk users, the organisers have decided to liven things up a lot with a significant investment in props, costumes, coffins, skeletons, witches, wheezes, goblins, ghosts, installations and things that go bump in the night.



The dates have moved away from the Bank Holiday weekend to the Fri and Sat nights 1st and 2nd of November which seemed to cause issue for patrons but more especially for the 150 or so crew needed to animate the haunted highway.

The Town Team and Ballinasloe Musical Society Performers, Makeup Team and Backstage crew are being joined this year by Brendan Savage as Creative Director who will oversee the new build structures for the audience to enter, containing a different style of horror, ensuring all areas of terror are visited by the audience. Guides, Zombies, Witches, Painters, Actors and Volunteers are still being sought – please make contact with the Musical Society or members of the town team.

For the past few years the net proceeds from the event have gone towards Town Team events, principally the Xmas Lights project in town and this year to reflect the new costs and to bring the event more in line with other Spooktackular events; the ticket price is €10 per person plus booking fee. Tickets are only available on line through the Town Hall website.

Critically the walk is Not Recommended for U12's as they are usually

preyed upon by creatures lurking in the woods, However they will be permitted as long as their guardians are willing to accompany them. Under 6s will NOT be permitted even with Adults.

Tickets cannot be swapped or exchanged for other times. Patrons are asked to arrive within your given time slot, if you arrive before your allocated time all previous timeslots will be admitted first. Parking & Entrance through Ard Scoil Mhuire only. Located off Junction 15 M6 Motorway/Aughrim road from Ballinasloe. Eircode H53 CP40.

The organisers reserve the right to cancel the event particularly in the event of any red or orange weather warnings. (If show is to be cancelled decision to be made by 4.00pm the day before and all ticket holders informed and reimbursed).

Please make contact with the Musical Society or members of the town team: Seamus 087 250 6431, Lisa 086 878 2529, Frances 087 222 0282



#### **"BLITHE SPIRIT" RELAYS 60<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PRODUCTION**

The washout of three unique athletic meetings in the fifties, led to the establishment of the town's Relays Drama Group. Fr. Kevin Ryle, a professor of history in Garbally College a member of the World Athletic Coaches at the time, decided to introduce this new form of sports meetings to Ireland.

An emergency meeting of the athletic club was held after it became "financially embarrassed" because of the losses incurred annually. Fr. Ryle then came up with the solution. Being a townsman of John B. Keane, who had just written a play called "Sive" in which the priest's sister,



Pictured at a Reunion of the original Relays Drama Group in 1999 to mark their 40th anniversary, were: Front Row (L-R): Patrick Vaughan (representing his late father Billy), Margaret Geraghty (Horan), Fr. Kevin Ryle, Patty McGuire, Nora Relihan (Listowel), Joan McGuire (Nolan). Back Row, (L-R): Peter Weafer, Paddy Corban, Michael Cooke, Liam Keller and Ken Kelly.

Nora Relihan, had a leading role. The play had been rejected by the Abbey Theatre but had got widespread publicity as a result and he believed it would be a success. He would be able to acquire the performing rights but he hadn't a cast to stage it.

A few people locally, who had stage experience, were approached. The late Dermot Connolly and Margaret Geraghty had appeared in several productions and with their help a group was formed to stage "Sive" in the Town Hall, for three nights in 1959.

Fr. Ryle's sister from Listowel made a guest appearance in the role of Mena Glavin for the opening night. Little did the hastily-convened group realise then that they were to become an overnight success, leading to enquiries for them to stage the show in London and New York. Under the production of Fr. Ryle, the Keane play packed the Town Hall to the rafters and touring venues in the four provinces - to see only the second group in the country to stage the block-buster.

Members of the original group included Dermot Connolly, Margaret Geraghty, Michael Cooke, Liam Keller, Patty and Joan McGuire, Liam Keller, Billy Vaughan, Paddy Corban, Martin Greally with a stage crew of Peter Weafer, Seamus Darcy, Jack Quinn, Michael Cullen, Ken Kelly and Declan Rankin. The faces may have changed but the Relays Drama Group is still performing and sometimes touring with plays by different authors, continuing a tradition set up over sixty years ago.

The cast are currently rehearsing for their upcoming production of Noel Coward's comic play Blithe Spirit, being performed in the Town Hall Theatre Wednesday & Thursday October 16th & 17th

The play concerns the novelist Charles Condomine, who invites the eccentric medium and clairvoyant Madame Arcati to his home to perform a séance, hoping to gather information for his next book. The scheme backfires with the materialisation of his first wife Elvira, who attempts to disrupt his marriage to his second wife Ruth, who cannot see or hear the ghost.

The piece was first performed in London in 1941 and continues to be performed by both amateur and professional groups to this day. It is directed by Mary O'Connell and Mary Rose Finland and includes the actors Brendan Boland, Lucy Dolan. Emily Lohan, Dean Flanagan, and Zara Little-Campbell.

Tickets are €15, €13 concessions available on the door, or at the online box office at www.ballinasloetownhall.com



The Dinny Delaney Festival - The first piper session, opening up the festival at Gullane's Hotel. Full Review on Festival in Next Edition.



Zara Little-Campbell.

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#### BY JEJE BEGRAOUI



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## **ALL SHOOK UP - NEW SPRING SHOW**

Ballinasloe Musical Society have confirmed next year's new show All Shook Up be staged in the Town Hall Theatre as the group's 97th production. It will be performed nightly from Tuesday 24 to Saturday 28 March. The production team



remains the same as the one from the last few years, with Paul Norton as the Director, Shane Farrell, Musical Director and Aoife McClafferty, Choreographer.

All Shook Up is a story based on a midwestern town that is thrown into a frenzy by the arrival of Chad, a good looking, motor-cycling roustabout who rides from town to town with a guitar on his back, black suede shoes on his feet, and a song in his heart.

Having been repressed by their conservative mayor, the town begins to come alive under Chad's influence and help it discover the magic of romance and the power of Rock'n'Roll. Among the 24 songs featured in the musical are classics like *Heartbreak Hotel*, Love Me Tender, Don't Be Cruel, Can't Help Falling in Love, and of course the title tune, All Shook Up.

**BY JEJE BEGRAOU** 

The production is a lively and funfilled musical comedy, packed with well-known songs from the King of Rock'n'Roll himself (Elvis Presley) and builds on the recording breaking success of "Sister Act" last season which saw local and regional crowds flock to the newer modern musical opera.

Auditions for the production take place on November 24 in Gullane's Hotel, anyone from Transition Year Students to adults of all ages are welcome to join. Anyone interested in auditioning for the main roles will be invited to sing and act out a short excerpt from the script and can email Lisa Whyte at ballinasloems@gmail. com – they will then receive an audition pack with all information needed before the auditions; rehearsals will start in December or early January.

The Auditions also function as a Meet & Greet opportunity for anyone interested to come along and meet the production team and committee.

#### TOWN HALL THEATRE AUTUMN PREVIEW

#### **BY JEJE BEGRAOUI**



Ria Purcell Choreographer to Upcomming Shows Footloose and Rapuenzel this November and December at the Town Hall Theatre.

For additional fundraising, the Town Hall Theatre is hosting a tea/coffee morning on the opening Sunday of the October Fair and on the Country Fair Day. Saturday to assist with the new works to boiler and toilets funded by Leader.

Following Relays Drama

Group's 60th Anniversary production of Blithe Spirit on 16th, 17th and 18th October, The Symphonic Waves Youth Orchestra make a return visit for an afternoon concert on Sunday, October 20 after their successful midsummer concert in June. Symphonic Waves is in its third year based in the West of Ireland and is a collaboration project between Galway European Capital of Culture 2020 and Music Generation Galway.

At the end of November, Ardscoil Mhuire stage their annual performance.on Tuesday 26th,, Wed 27th and Thur. 28th This year will find them performing the musical Footloose. Ren McCormack, a teenage boy from Chicago. He and his mother move to the small town of Bomont after his father abandons them. Upon arriving, Ren finds himself at odds with most of the town, including the Reverend Bomont. The Reverend has convinced the town to outlaw dancing, which Ren finds unbelievable.

The production team consists of Louise McEvoy (Producer), Ria Purcell (Choreographer), Caroline Jackson (Musical Director) and Maeve Higgins (Musical Director).

Tickets are available at Ardscoil Mhuire throughout November under 090 964 2206.

Other events confirmed for the season include the Laurencetown National School Christmas Show on Friday Nov 29th and a fundraising concert in aid of A Special School in Cambodia, organised by Eamon Conway. on the Sat 30th Nov.

A more complete programme detailing , showtimes and ticket prices can be found on the The Town Hall Theatre website www. ballinasloetownhall.com or by calling 0909646540.



## ART GROUP CONTRIBUTING LOCALLY

#### **BY JEJE BEGRAOUI**

Lily Kelly, owner of Lily Kelly's Art Studio, contributes greatly to the ecology of the town, both in a cultural and economical way. She works together with local businesses, supporting them and the local economy.

She first started her business about 6 years ago, when she opened her own studio. Back then, she was based in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre in Creagh, where the

Development Company offered her a small, but very affordable, studio space so she could set up shop. Since then, she has moved to her own Art House in Liscappul, feeling like it was the right time for it.

In 2017, Lily organised a project as part of Culture Night called "Happy Faces from Different Places", mainly focussing on old derelict buildings in town. 28 artists, children, adults, teens, a group from the Brothers of Charity, and families from Syria who had just moved to the town got involved, painting faces on the buildings, to some acclaim.

With her shop, she closely works together with other local businesses, proving that keeping business local can have a knock-on effect. Her art supplies for example are purchased in Salmon's - keeping business in town rather than going to Athlone, as well as generally hiring Downey's as a catering company for different events.

Another firm impacted by Lily's Art Studio would be the Oat Gallery. They supply all the frames for the art works, having been in the picture framing business for 30 years. Lily gets advice in regards to frames from the owner, Michael, who runs a secondhand bookshop in the Gallery as well, featuring some good old art books.

J & S Photos on Society St also works closely with Lily, as she uses the shop for all photos, printing, and cards for the art studio.

L-R: Rosemary Carty, Nuala Murray, Kathleen Frehill, Nicola Bowes, Helena Divilly Sweeney, Mary Barber, Marita Murphy and Lily Kelly

Furthermore, the artists featured in the studio now print and sell their work at J & S photos, with the shop having even hosted an exhibition of the artists' work in the shop.

Through the exposure being given to the artists through the studio, and now J & S Photos, opportunities open up for them as well. Emel, one of the featured artists, has had a commission for a window for the Angel shop this Autumn.

Lily also gets involved in the community in a variety of other ways. Every Wednesday, she hosts adult art classes in the morning and evening, children's art classes take place on Wednesday afternoons and she offers drop in classes for kids on Saturday mornings.

Lily also helps out junior and leaving cert students if they need assistance with their work, especially when it comes to drawing, which she loves to do. She has been working as a tutor with a group of artists at the Brothers of Charity Service in Clarenbridge who held their first group at the Art House earlier in the year.

# TOM RAFTERY CAR SALES

Emel Osman besides the

window she designed.

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## 6<sup>TH</sup> LARRY REYNOLDS FESTIVAL

This year's Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds once again

celebrated his life, who, originally from Ahascragh, emigrated to Boston and spread the East Galway style of music there, welcoming any Irish with open arms and sharing his love for music.

Activities of the weekend include a fiddle competition, music workshops (bodhran, banjo, fiddle, box, etc.), Trisco (a Trad Disco), a historic walking tour, photo exhibition, crafters village, and more - all celebrating Irish music and culture.

The arts competition, which took place at the Library, announcing the following winners:

For the ages 4-7, the first place was won by Karina Stonyte (Creagh NS), followed by Abbie Guinn (Kiltormer NS) and Eve McCourt (Newtown NS). The age group 8-10 years found the winners Gerard Dolen (Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh), followed by Alan Mularski (Creagh NS) and Kate Kilkenny (Kiltormer NS). Eva Flynn (Newtown NS) won the category 11 – 13 years, followed by Aoibhiín Coughlan (Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh) and Nina

Stehelova (Newtown NS). Ellen O'Gorman (Waterford) won fiddle this year's Mac competition, Aodha (Dublin) was the runner up.

Wags 'n' Tails Pet Shop on Society Street won the inaugural window competition, the voter winner was Miranda Glynn.

All in all, the festival



Row, L-R: Eva Flynn, Kate Kilkenn Nina Stehelova, Aoibhín Coughlan, Alan Mularski, Sheila Reynolds Front Row, L-R: Karina Stonyte, Eve McCourt, Abbie Guinan, Gerard Dolan



Committee: Billy Reynolds, Alec Farrell, Anna Guider, Corina Dolan, Mary Feeney, Aisling Feeney, Helena Coughlan, Chris Feeney, Claire Gibbons, Martina Flanagan

#### aims

at celebrating music. One of the attendees Juliette Enubele said: "Music is something that cheers you up. It's something that makes you forget a lot of things that bother you. It keeps your life exciting." Alec Farrell commented: "It's more than a music festival. It's now turning into a traditional Irish festival."

Plans are already afoot for the 7th edition from the 3rd to the 6th of Sept 2020.

Larry Reynolds Perpetual Trophy Winner 2019 -Ellen O'Gorman, Waterford, Pictured here with Sheila Rourke Reynolds (Larry Reynolds' daughter-in-law) and Dylan Carlos (Adjudicator).





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CULTURE 43

#### LIBRARY'S ACTION PACKED AUTUMN DAYS

**BY JEJE BEGRAOUI** 

Hugely busy Library for young people this summer between Teddy Bears and Bees! All those who completed the Reading Challenge and Lego competition winners were invited to a special prize-giving with the Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Cllr. Jimmy McClearn.

The challenge consisted of reading eight books in the months of July and August to avoid a learning dip over the summer months.

In total, 180 children completed the challenge in the town. The library continues hosting fun activities for all ages in the Autumn season for both young and old, such as PC classes, the Lego club, knitting and crochet club, kids movie club, Active Retirement book club, Kids Friday Fun, Bumps and Babes, and more.

The Church Gallery will also play host to a number of events, including Galway's Great Read Series and several art exhibitions such as Momoiro by Deirdre Carr, Illumination by the Artlink Collective, and Gables Art Group's annual exhibition.

Illumination is interpreted by ten artists (Ness Porter Kelly, Rosemarie Langtry, Anne Towers, Jackie Eastwood,

Catherine Patrickson, Lucy Desmond Kelly, Christine Conevey, Noreen O'Sullivan, Martin McDonnell and Kate Desmond Kelly) in their own personal way. It will include artwork in paint, wax, mixed media and ceramics and will run from Tuesday, 5th November until Wednesday, 20th November during normal library opening hours.

An opportunity to meet the artists will take place Saturday, 9th November from 2.30pm to 4pm when they will chat to visitors about their work over a cup of tea. As part of this event, Christine is planning a short talk and an interactive exhibit based on the labyrinth.

Ballinasloe's Gables Art Group host their eagerly awaited annual exhibition from Tuesday, November 26 to Wednesday, December 11 during normal opening hours. With over 40 local artists from the town and surrounds showing their work it promises to be another exciting display of around 100 paintings featuring various mediums and subjects. Acrylic, watercolour, oils and mixed media will all be



Gables Art Group: Marirose Cullinane, Rose Hillary, Mary Carey, Margaret Dooley Burnell, Mary Lyons, Jackie Eastwood, Annette Carey, Maura Warde and Carmel Dillon.

on display, each piece being styled individually.

Chairperson, Geraldine Kelly said "We are very much looking forward to another great exhibition and it is an ideal opportunity to purchase a Christmas gift of a painting. We are very grateful to the Library staff for all their support and hopefully it will be a good year for our local artists and hope to see as many at the launch on Tue 26th at 6.00 pm."

On top of all these activities, Galway Arts Centre and dancer Bernadette Divilly are looking for people over 50 to participate in free afternoon dance and movement workshops. A Ballinasloe native, Bernadette wishes to work with people of all abilities and experiences and anyone who wishes to try something new and different.

The workshops will focus on mindful movement and restoring energy through rest. There will also be an outing towards the end of the free course, which will be decided by the group. The sessions will take place every Thursday in October and November (apart from November 14). For more information contact Maeve in Galway Arts Centre 091 565886 / 0983713588 or email maeve@ galwayartscentre.ie

For further information on the library and their events, visit their Facebook page – Europe Direct Ballinasloe Library.



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#### SUMMERTIME KIDS ACTIVITES IN LIBRARY



SEE www.kellertravel.ie or

# RAPUNZEL CONFIRMED AS 11<sup>th</sup> PANTO PRODUCTION

Ballinasloe Panto are back again! Following their acclaimed 10th anniversary production of "Aladdin" last year they started this panto season with a bang by holding auditions for their upcoming production of "Rapunzel" recently in the Town Hall Theatre.

100's of kids and young people from the ages of 6-18 auditioned to take part in this year's hair-raising tale – making it their biggest turn out to date.

Rehearsals for the show are set to get underway as soon as the October Fair finishes up. The extremely talented and capable Choreographer Ria Purcell will be looking after 5 different chorus groups! B'sloe Panto are keeping the main cast under wraps for now but announcements will be made on their facebook page over the coming week to see who taking to the stage as the lass with the luscious locks and her outlaw hero, amongst others.

With sets to source, top of the line lighting and special effects to import, artwork designers in different time zones to liaise with, not to mention meters and meters of hair to grow they will have their hands full! Helpers, Volunteers, with sets, production, costuming are all needed – even if you can't sing a note or step in time !

"Rapunzel" will run from the 9th to the 15th of December in the Town Hall Theatre, Tickets will be available to purchase from J&S Photos on Society Street and online at www.ballinasloepanto. com when they go on sale at the end of November. They would



make a nice Xmas Pressie for any family.

Keep an eye on their Facebook page for more information.

Two Regular Local Panto Stalwarts - Dave Hardiman and Pat Vaughan in his customary Bottler style attire

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CULTURE 45

# CRAGGY ISLAND COMES TO LAWRENCETOWN

The Lawrencetown Community and surrounds have been working tirelessly behind the scenes of their next fundraising event – The Craggy Island OsKaRs which promises to be an epic night of fun, belly laughing and just good craic!

The Craggy Island OsKaRs Fundraiser will see the great and the good of Lawrencetown strut their stuff down the red carpet for the unique premiere, where each of the episodes of the classic programme will be screened at a gala premier night in the Shearwater Hotel in Ballinasloe on Saturday 30th November.

There will be hotly contested OsKaRs up for grabs on the night with categories such as Best Actor, Best Actress and supporting roles. Each episode has been professionally casted, filmed and will be directed by Kevin Rowe Events.

On the 6th September casting began for the event and there was overwhelming support from all areas. Over 70 locals star in seven iconic Fr Ted episodes

will be recorded on location in Lawrencetown over the coming week.

The event is a critical part of an ongoing effort to generate funds which will be allocated to the development of an exceptional new Multi Use Games for area,

use by the entire



community of Lawrencetown and the surrounding areas.

You can follow all the updates on the fun and frolics behind the scenes on the facebook page - https://www.facebook.com/Lawrencetown-Community-Development-Group-

There are still a limited number of tickets available and they can be bought from the actors or any committee member and tickets are €25 each or you can contact Suzie on 0877977189.

#### BY JEJE BEGRAOUI





Society Street, Ballinasloe. T: 090 9645059

#### WALKS & TRAILS PLAN AUTUMN OUTINGS

#### **BY JEJE BEGRAOUI**

Members of Ballinasloe Walks & Trails meet up twice a month to discover the area we live in and to get some exercise in while doing so. Most recently, one of their trips took them from Aughrim all the way to Killure, with chats, laughter, and small challenges accompanying them on the way there.

The walk was followed by the club's end of summer lunch in Gibbon's, where they celebrated and acknowledged their gratitude for all walkers making it home safely, as well as thanking mother nature for never disappointing and making it possible to view new scenes on each walk. They also acknowledged the landowners who give access, the guardians of the Hymany Way, and those who maintain it. app from biodiversity.ie which allows them to be part of collecting data and recording of all species of protected bees, butterflies, dragonflies, buzzards, and many more that inhabit the local area and the places members come across on their walks.

Some of the upcoming walks include a local one in Poolboy, as well as the Pilgrim Walk of Clonbonny going from Athlone to Clonmacnoise on October 20. For local walks, members usually meet up at the intersection of the M6 Slip Road and the Grand Canal in Poolboy, for other walks they meet up at the place where the walks set out from.

The members of the club can be seen exploring the local region, like walking through the Poolboy Bog, as well as the Culliagh Bog. Previous walks, usually ranging between 5 to 21 kilometres,



From L to R, Back Row: Valerie Dolan, John Kelly, Aidan Dooley, Paddy Creaven, Anita O'Reilly, Siobhan Loughrey, Grainne Gavin, Noeleen Mulkerrins, Marie Doyle, Fiachra Boyle, David Doyle, Yvonne Kenny, Carmel Rohan, Bernie Gillespie, Tina Warde. From L to R, Front Row: Paddy Costello, Alan Naughton, Sheila Gavin, Teresa Kenny, Deirdre Crosby, Patrica Conlon, Mairead Burke.

On one of the walks through the Poolboy Bog, a member came across a protected species, the Marsh Fritillary butterfly, in its larva form. The club encourages walkers to download the record



with a duration of one to five hours, have seen walkers go all the way from Meelick to Portumna; Aughrim to Killure; Ballinasloe to Shannonbridge, Shannon Harbour or Kilconnell, where they visited the Aughrim

battlefield on the way. To participate in the walks, it is recommended to wear comfortable clothes, as well

comfortable clothes, as well as comfortable and waterresistant walking shoes. A backpack with water and a light lunch should also be taken along, and rain gear just in case the weather changes.



Marsh Fritillary Butterfly, found June 2019 in our local Poolboy Bog, protected by Irish and EU law.

#### There is no membership fee

associated with the club as the walks are run on a voluntary basis and walkers are responsible for their own safety, however there is a charge for transportation (usually in the form of a bus) when members embark on non-local walks together. Registration for local walks is not necessary, however for non-local trips it is required for the numbers for the bus.

To join, you can check out Ballinasloe Walks & Trails on Facebook where walks are communicated – you will be invited to join a What's App group on your first walk and can leave your details.

So for more information, go to www.facebook.com/ ballinasloewalksandtrails.

# **CAMOGIE CLUB SPONSORSHIPS**

# BILLY KING PHARMACY

Adults: Lisa Casey, Greg Cunningham, Billy King (Proprietor Billy's Pharmacy), Ailish Coughlan, Aine Hall, Emer Delaney, Aoife Clarke. Back row: Lilly Mae Coughlan, Sarah Loughane, Maggie Friel, Kellie Sheanon, Caoimhe Cox, Tyler Garvey, Maeve Campbell, Sarah Ward, Eimear Flynn, Ashlin Coughlan, Siofra Naughton Cara Cox. Front row: Katelyn Caulfield, Emily Clarke, Kallie Garvey, Paige Stephens, Molly Casey, Aine Campbell, Emilia Noone, Tegan Fahy, Saoirse Johnston, Ayla Howley, Aine Clarke, Abbey Flannery.



Adults: Lisa Casey, Aine Hall, Ailish Coughlan, Emer Delaney, William Burke (GM Shearwater), Aoife Clarke, Greg Cunningham. Back row: Katelyn Caulfield, Eimear Flynn, Ashlin Coughlan, Cara Cox, Siofra Naughton, Caoimhe Cox, Emily Clarke, Maggie Friel, Tyler Garvey, Sarah Ward, Maeve Campbell, Sarah Loughane. Front Row: Kellie Sheanon, Saoirse Johnston, Molly Casey, Abbey Flannery, Kallie Garvey, Emilia Noone, Ayla Howley, Tegan Fahy, Lilly Mae Coughlan, Paige Stephens, Aine Clarke, Aine Campbell, Zohra Konsar, Zara Konsar.

#### 🖥 BY JEJE BEGRAOUI

Members of the Ballinasloe Camogie Club, which included the management team of the U6 and U8 age group along with many of the U6 and U8 players, recently met with the General Manager of the Shearwater Hotel, William Burke and the Proprietor of Billy's Pharmacy, Billy King for a photo-shoot to showcase the clubs new U6 and U8 Jerseys.

50 jerseys in total were purchased and both the Shearwater Hotel and Billy's Pharmacy made a very generous contribution towards the cost of these - sponsorships like these are possible due to the community continuing to shop locally and supporting local businesses.

U6 and U8 training continues every Tuesday evening at 6pm and new players are most welcome. For more details on training please contact the following: U6s Ailish Coughlan 086 0567894 U8s Greg Flynn - 087 9337918

The Club had a historic day following their heroes to success when the Senior Galway Camogie Team became the All-Ireland Senior Camogie Champions, defeating Kilkenny 3-14 to 0-17. Over 160 people, in three buses, were organised and subsidised by the Club which consisted of the U6s right through to the Juniors and their families, headed to Dublin in what turned out to be a memorable day for Galway and the Ballinasloe Club.

Some of the members also managed to get photographs with the winning team and the O'Duffy Cup at the homecoming in both Mullagh and the Loughrea Hotel and Spa.

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# GAA UNDERAGE STARS OF THE FUTURE 3 BY JEJE BEGRAOUI

For the last couple of months, there has been a welcome strong representation from the club on Under Age County Teams.

Ronan Riddell and Jason Cunningham were on the North Galway U15 football team who defeated Longford in the Damien Reid Cup Final; Adam Coyne and Shane Fitzpatrick both made it onto the Galway U15 hurling team. Cian Poland and Eoin Coleman represented the club playing for the Galway Maroons in the Ted Webb Cup and Danny Killeen made it onto the Galway North U14 development team that beat both Mayo and Roscommon in a blitz at the Connacht Centre of Excellence in Bekan.

Leah Dolan represented the club playing with Galway Development Squad in the U17 National Development Blitz in Dublin, topping their group but unfortunately losing to Dublin in the semi-final. The U15 Galway Development

squad includes Emma Keane, Emma Mitchell, Shauna Mitchell, Katie Galvin and Maeve Reynold.

Proud days for the young club members, their families, their coaches and the club and hopefully they and more club players will continue to feature on County Teams in the future.

The U12 Hurlers won the Seamus O'Dubhghaill Cup in Oranmore. Participating teams were Killimor, Oranmore/Maree, Michael Cusacks, Ballinasloe and Salthill/Knocknacarra. Ballinasloe topped their group with wins over Killimor, Oranmore/Maree and Michael Cusacks. The final was between Ballinasloe and Michael Cusacks with the town coming out on top in a very exciting match.

The boys then had the opportunity to reach a County Final as The U12 Hurling Group 3 semi-final took place recently in their own club grounds at 11am against Killimordaly. The U12s didn't pass up this



U12 Easy Fix Shield Winners

Back, L-R: Cormac Murphy, Evan McKeon, Lorcan Higgins, Oliver Burns, Tanvir Patwary, Josh Bradley (Captain), Rhys Horan, Cillian Ó Tuairisg, Ryan Dowd, Daire Clarke, Odhrán Sheanon

Front, L-R: Oisin Fallon, Dylan Kelly, Dylan Caulfield, Cillian McPhillips, Louis Markhem, Brian Fitzpatrick, Keith Coughlan, Matthew Tully, Feidhlim Curran, Callum O'Connor.

#### opportunity and they

beat Killimordaly in the County semi-final with a score-line of 4-10 to 3-4 They will now play the County Final against Tommy Larkins and will hopefully bring home some more silverware.

The Boys U12 Team have been competing the EasyFix League and made it to the Shield Semi-Final which was played recently, coming away as Shield winners.

The U12 Girls won the Four Club Shield Final in Padraig Pearse's against Loughrea. This was a great little tournament giving the girls lots of game time during the summer between the league and the championship which has just started with the girls in a very tough Division 1 Group. They were mentored by Damien Clarke, Michelle Creaven, Marie Gibbons, Marion Ruane, and Mark Ward.

GAA bingo continues on Tuesday nights in The Emerald Ballroom at 8pm.



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## TOWN AFC SUMMER CAMPS

Ballinasloe Town A.F.C.'s annual summer soccer camp was once again an outstanding success this year and attracted 192 participants for the action packed, fun filled week. It now goes down on record as the largest summer camp of its kind in Ireland. The camp catered for ages from 5 years up to 13 years and the clubs 2 full size grass playing pitches, 2 astro turf pitches and the new state of the art clubhouse were most definitely utilised to their maximum potential during the 5 days.

Club Chairperson Joby Kelly paid tribute to all the club coaching staff, committee members, parents, club groundstaff and the Community Employment participants who all played an important part in ensuring that the camp participants had an enjoyable and safe week of top class coaching at the very well presented and top class facilities at the Club's Curragh Grounds.

The new season will shortly begin at youth level and the club as per usual have an extensive array of youth teams ranging from under 7,8, 9,10,11,12, 13, 13/14, 14, 14/15, 16 and 18.

Club youth Secretary Sonya Dowd stated that the club are looking forward to a very busy and enjoyable season ahead at youth level. The clubs 2 adult teams, the A and B teams have just recently commenced their season and the team management of Petie Keighrey and Mark Duffy are very hopeful of more success. The B team have actually got their season off to a flying start when they recently won the newly created Roscommon and District Football League SHIELD Pre Season tournament beating St. Cuans by 4 goals to 3 in the final.

As part of the clubs ongoing Development Plan, the club are currently in the process of drawing down a €48,000 Sports Capital Grant to purchase a new drive on mower to help maintain the clubs pitches and for upgrading of the main grass pitch floodlights.

The club are also hopeful of securing a grant under the 2019 scheme which is due to be announced very soon and if successful will use this grant for additional upgrading of floodlights on the astro turf pitches and a full upgrading of the fencing at the astro turf pitches.



**BY JEJE BEGRAOUI** 

#### **MIKE LYNCH REPRESENTS IRELAND**

Club stalwart Mike Lynch has just recently returned from the Ukraine where he represented Ireland with great distinction at the 2019 Diabetes Euro Futsal Championship.

In preparation for the Finals Mike had trained monthly with the Irish squad in the National Indoor Arena in Abbotstown since October of last year. Mike started all 5 games for Ireland in the Finals and scored both in the 1-1 draw against the U.K. and in the 4-níl win over Bulgaria which secured 7th place for the Irish team. This was a tremendous achievement by the Irish team as it was their first time competing in the Finals.

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#### **BY JEJE BEGRAOUI**

## **31 LOCAL RUNNERS FOR MARATHON**

Passing through the town any Tuesday or Thursday evening, it is very likely you'll come across a bunch, all decked out in reflective gear, chatting as they go about their training, they make it look so effortless!

Some are running 5km, some are running as much as 14km, the age group varies greatly and everyone is at different paces, but they all have one thing in common: They are all Ballinasloe Road Runners! Indeed, most of the members accredit the club for their love of running as well as the fun & friendships they have made while achieving their running goals.

This year sees the largest ever number of Ballinasloe Runners participating in the Dublin City Marathon. 31 brave and determined members, ranging in age from 26 to 65, will tackle the 26-mile route, no doubt doing Ballinasloe proud in their yellow and black club colours.

Marion Ruane, who is planning to run her first ever trip states "Running has always been part of my life having been a member

> of Ballinasloe & District Running Club for a number of years and enjoyed many events from 5ks, 10ks, to half marathons. A special mention to Brian Dolan and Denise Boland who work away in the background to ensure everyone is kept informed and on track. I look forward to and enjoy each and every run and despite how my day might have gone I turn up at that track at 7.30 with a smile on my face. I look forward to taking on Dublin City Marathon 2019 with my new Marathon Family, believing that we will all cross that finish line and importantly that we will continue to share many more miles and laughs together."

The Dublin City Marathon takes place on Sunday, October 27.

The Road Runners meet every Tuesday and Thursday at 7.30pm at the Dunlo Recreational Park, Brackernagh and always welcome new members. Runners of all levels are catered for, find them on facebook 'Ballinasloe (& district) Road Runners' for more details under www. facebook.com/groups/1499542633659301/

Back Row (L-R): Vicky Costello (2nd), Antoinette Beegan-Gallagher (5th), Éilis Treacy (2nd), Caroline Kennedy (3rd), Gerry Bruen (2nd), Helen Leyden (2nd), Noel Kenny (32nd), Brian Dolan (3rd). Middle Row (L-R): Karol Fitzgerald (2nd), Breda Arru (2nd), Carol Pender (1st) Margaret Connaughton (2nd), Elaine Daly (1st), Aidan Fallon (1st), Richard Bruen (1st), Sorina Nutu (2nd), Gerry Blake (3rd), Mark Dunne (3rd).

Front Row (L-R): Kim Connaughton (1st), Marion Ruana (1st), Ciara Mulkerns (1st), Tracey Moore (1st), Clare Madden (1st), Gabrielle Fallon (1st), Martina Keighery (1st). Headshots (L-R): Phyllis Moran (1st), Eric Naughton (2nd), Ollie Grenham (18th), Pearse Keller (5th), Paul Flynn (2nd).

# **DENIS NAUGHTEN T.D.**



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#### ATHLETIC CLUB'S NEWEST SENIOR



The Ballinasloe & District Athletic Club's newest senior member, Paddy Birch of Ahascragh and Toronto, won the Caltra & District AC 5km Road at the end of the summer, in a new course record of 15 minutes 42 seconds.

He returned back to his base in Canada and finished 26th place in the Philly Half Marathon in September.

Aoife Berrigan finished 5th in the U10 60mts Hurdles Final in the All Ireland Community Games Finals in Limerick. The club also competed with the mixed u10 Relay Team (Lisa Herrity, Calum Manning, Tadgh Casey, Aoife Berrigan and Lauren Loughrey).

Athletic training takes place Tuesdays at 5.45pm and Fridays at 5.00pm at the Dunlo Recreational Track.



Outgoing rugby club president Tom Horkan (third left) with tennis club committee members I-r Garry Zancanaro, Sarah Doherty, Joe Staunton, Ellie Finn and Declan McKeon at the official handover of the tennis courts to the rugby club. The courts were used as the base for the new all weather rugby pitch and compensation settlement for the savings made by the rugby club is pending.

#### CLUB WELCOMES A NEW SWIM YEAR

Ballinasloe Swimming Club is a great option for children who have completed their swimming lessons and who would like to continue swimming. Swimmers can improve their technique, strength, keeping a fun atmosphere in training, three times a week. Monday, Wednesday and Friday are the training afternoons and have two squads - A and B. There is the added flexibility of

and endurance, as well as keep fit and have fun. The club caters for children as young as seven, right up to those in their teens.

Fiona Flynn, the head coach, brings great experience and enthusiasm to the club. She encourages the swimmers to do their best and maximise their efforts while always



Back row: Kayla McKeon, Jenny Murray, Liam Martin, Emily Gillespie, Leon McKeon, Evan McKeon, Conor Costello. Front Row: Lea Stehelova, Laura Costello, Cian McKeon, Philip Costello.

allowing members to choose how frequently they would like to swim. Some members train two or three days each week and may be more involved in entering competitions and galas. Others may choose to swim once week.

**BY JEJE BEGRAOUI** 

The Club is fully affiliated to Swim Ireland. As part of this, many of their swimmers will take place in regional day.

For further information, contact club Secretary, Sinead on 0879109909 for details.



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#### RUGBY U14 ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS

The Ballinasloe under 14 Mixed Tag Rugby Team won the All Ireland Community Games at the National Finals held in the University of Limerick.

This was the first time the club entered a team in this event held in August. Following on from their success at the Connacht Community Games, which have been hosted in Ballinasloe itself, the team defeated Munster Champions Limerick Regional 9 tries to 5 in a thrilling semi-final. In the final, the team played splendidly and defeated Spa Fennit Barrow from Kerry 15 tries to 9.

The management and coaching team of Tom Waters, Enda Jennings and David Mc Keigue worked diligently over the past number of months in preparing the team which comprised of Niall Jennings, Luke Manning, Corey Waters, Ciara Lohan, Sean Power, Jack Flynn, Alana McKeigue, Aoibheann Fitzpatrick, Tomas McCann, Joseph Smith, Cillian O Tuairisg and Fionn Ryan.

The team kit was sponsored by the Ballinasloe Credit Union and Arrabawn Dairies, while Community Games stalwart Carmel Greally assisted throughout the season.

The ALDI Community Games takes place at the University of Limerick twice a year with about 7,000 children competing each year. To qualify, individuals first need to compete at Area, then at County and sometimes at Provincial level.

The main objective of the games is to provide young people with the means and the opportunity to use their free time in a healthy and productive way, with the focus being on participating rather than on winning. Children take part in a friendly rivalry - in a fun and healthy way.





## COWBOYS AND COWGIRLS PEARSES G.A.A. TO **BARN DANCE**



The Rugby Club & Musical Society come together in organising a Fund Raising Barn Dance event in the last few days of the holidays.

Many months of organising went

into this event with both organisations bringing their many strengths and experience to ensure that the Barn Dance as a success.

The stage was set with some very clever and innovative decoration which created a fantastic Western Themed atmosphere. With the night staying dry over 350 people enjoyed a sumptuous BBQ, live music to the No Show Band followed by DJ Brendan Loughnane.

The Musical Society put on their own 'little party piece' especially created for the Barn Dance. A super night was had by all in attendance with a great mix of people dancing the night away with Cowboys and Cowgirls from all over the county and even further afield having the Craic- this event highlighted the workings of two Voluntary Organisations coming together for a common goal and also showcased the Rugby Club and its modern facilities as a memory making venue.

The proceeds raised are to help the Musical Society with their new Spring Production and the Rugby Club with underage team development.

Ann Conlon from the Rugby Club and Lisa Whyte of the BMS jointly thanked all those who attended, who bought tickets in support but were unable to attend and a BIG BIG thank you to all our sponsors, Supermacs, Credit Union, local publicans and many more who kindly gave of their time and donated many necessary items.

Following its success – both clubs have vowed to do it again in the future.

# **ENHANCE FACILITIES**

Due to the fundraising and support Padraig Pearses G.A.A. get from their club members and beyond they have made a number of significant enhancements.

Since their latest update, they have installed flood lighting on their main pitch which will give them more opportunities to facilitate their players by hosting evening games and they can also work with other clubs who would like to use the facilities. Next up, they plan to build dug outs on their second pitch.

The club recently launched their annual Heifer fundraiser @ €5 per ticket, or a book of 5 tickets for €20. If you win first prize, you can take home the Heifer! There are also a number of other prizes to be won. All monies go towards their underage and adult teams across hurling, camogie and football and also the continuous development of the club. Tickets can be purchased on their website www.padraigpearses.ie - the fundraiser takes place on October 19 at Pearses Club House with the draw happening at

Ella Greene, Charlotte Blackweir, Mia Walsh, Aiveen Curley, Arlene Cunningham, Emma Mc Greal, Ava Mulry, Katie Mulry, Ciara Lohan, Amelia Halpin, Blaithnaid Kelly, Jennifer Downey, Chloe Costelloe, Marianne Monaghan, Lorna Cruise, Katie Murray, Amy Costelloe, Hannah Farrell, Alana Ryan, Lisa Dolan, Katie Curley, Hana Kelly, Kate Moore, Laoise Costelloe, Sarah Killeen, Jessica O'Brien, Clodagh Grehan.



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10pm on the night.

Pearses' U14 girls' football team, an exceptional group of players, won the division one county final for the third year in a row, beating a very tough Boyle team. The victorious panel are as follows: Ella Greene, Charlotte Blackweir, Mia Walsh, Aiveen Curley, Arlene Cunningham, Emma McGreal, Ava Mulry, Katie Mulry, Ciara Lohan, Amelia Halpin, Blaithnaid Kelly, Jennifer Downey, Chloe Costelloe, Marianne Monaghan, Lorna Cruise, Katie Murray, Amy Costelloe, Hannah Farrell, Alana Ryan, Lisa Dolan, Katie Curley, Hana Kelly, Kate Moore, Laoise Costelloe, Sarah Killeen, Jessica O'Brien, Clodagh Grehan, Sarah Costelloe.

The U16 Roscommon County Camogie team, and in particular the club's own Padraig Pearses players Aoife Keogh, Ruth Doyle, Jane Creavin won the All Ireland Final recently.

During September, members Katie Murray, Katie Mulry and Aiveen Curley represented Roscommon in reaching the All-Ireland final in the U14 All Ireland Camogie Blitz.

Follow Padraig Pearses on Facebook for the latest updates, or visit the website www.padraigpearses.ie. Alternatively, you can contact their Public Relations Officer Sarah Dolan on 087 2988834.

#### **BY JEJE BEGRAOUI**



## GOLF



From Left: Tony Dolphin, President of the Millennium Golf Society, congratulates Shane Grady on winning his prize at Glasson Golf Club.

Right: Darren Egan, winner of the Longest Drive and John Hurley Snr., winner of the Nearest the Pin competition.





Ballinasloe Golf Club Presidents Prize Presentation (I-r) Carol McCarthy (President), John Donnellan (Overall Winner), Rita Staunton (Ladies Winner) and Dermot Salmon (Sponsor).





## **GALWAY'S ALL-IRELAND ONE HUNDRED YEARS AGO**

One hundred this years ago Galway month, senior footballers contested their first ever All-Ireland final but thev were hammered by Kildare on a scoreline of 2-5 to 0-1. A record Croke Park crowd of over 32,000 saw the mighty Larry Stanley lead the Lilywhites to victory 28th September 1919.



Sunday,

on

St. Grellan's Club in Ballinasloe had won seven Galway senior football championship titles in a row from 1913 to 1919 (a record still unbeaten), so it was no wonder that ten Ballinasloe players lined out in the maroon and white in Croke Park. They were captained by Tom Egan of Derrymullen, while the other team members were Denis Egan, John Egan, Peter Higgins and Mick "Knacker" Walsh (all Derrymullen), Paddy Roche, Jubilee; Jack Hanniffy, Creagh; Gilby Jennings, Town; Larry Raftery, Town and goalkeeper Tom McDonnell, Poolboy. The remainder of the team

comprised Harry Burke and Gerald Feeney (Tuam), Martin Cawley and Michael Walsh (Athenry) and Matt Flannery (Galway City).

On the way to Croke Park, Galway had beaten Mayo and Roscommon in the Connacht championship but it took a replay win over Kerry (4-2 to 2-2) to reach the decider. Galway's solitary score against



high ball as Paddy Roche looks on.

time before the Sam Maguire returns to Suckside again, pointing out there is a dearth of footballing talent in the East Galway town.

#### **BY WILLIE TULLY**

Kildare came from John Egan.

However six members of that 1919 team played а major role in Galway's first All-Ireland title success, against Mayo, in 1925. They were captained that day by Mick "Knacker" Walsh-one of eleven Ballinasloe players on the winning panel.

Football was strong

in Ballinasloe at that time and records show that thirty junior players were registered by the St. Grellan's Club in 1919, many of who went on to represent the county in later years. Ballinasloe footballers featured on every Galway All-Ireland senior success except in 1998. With wins in 1925, 1934, 1938, 1956, 1964, 1965, 1966, 1998 and 2001.

f o o t b a l l fans now fear it may be some



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# HALCYON HEROES PLAYING IN DUGGAN PARK 3 BY KEN KELLY

GAA fans in many parts of the country are wondering why Ballinasloe's Duggan Park has failed to cater for major inter county matches over the last few decades. Once described by the doyen of Sports Reporters, the late John D. Hickey of the "Irish Independent" as the "best winter playing surface in Ireland" its failure to be selected for big games has had a major effect on the commercial life of the town and the hinterland.

Duggan Park regularly staged the Railway Cup semi-finals in February each year, in both hurling and football, while the local derby involving Galway and Roscommon, in any code, attracted a bumper attendance. Connacht championship, National League and Goode Cup competitions saw the cream of inter-county GAA play in the grounds that were first opened in 1934. One man that was the driving force in the development of the stadium was the late John "Tull" Dunne whose influence in attracting top games to Ballinasloe was legendary.

From an early age I was fortunate to see and report on the talents of some of Ireland's greatest GAA players, in both codes, playing in the Duggan Park. In my opinion the following were the best teams I would select from a multitude of sportsmen I saw in action over the past sixty plus years.

HURLING. All Galway: 1-Seanie Duggan; 2-Niall McInerney, 3-Conor

Hayes, 4-M.J. "Inky" Flaherty; 5-Jimmy Duggan, 6-Sean Silke, 7-Gerry McInerney; 8-Joe Salmon, 9-John Connolly; 10-Joe Cooney, 11-Joe Canning, 12-Josie Gallagher; 13-Bernie Forde, 14-P.J. Qualter, 15-Tim Sweenev.

Rest of Ireland: 1-Damian Martin (Offaly); 2-Fran Larkin (Kilkenny), 3-Noel Drumgoole (Dublin), 4-John Horgan (Cork); 5-Bobby Rackard (Wexford), 6-Tony Wall (Tipperary), 7-Len Gaynor (Tipperary); 8-Frank Cummins (Kilkenny), 9-Theo English (Tipperary); 10-Jimmy Doyle (Tipperary), 11-Pat Delaney (Kilkenny), 12-Eddie Keher (Kilkenny); 13-Jimmy Barry-Murphy(Cork), 14-Tony Doran (Wexford), 15-Eamon Grimes (Limerick).

FOOTBALL. Galway: 1-Johnny Geraghty; 2-Enda Colleran, 3-Noel Tierney, 4-Tom "Pook" Dillon; 5-John Donnellan, 6-Jack Mahon, 7-Martin Newell; 8-Frank Eivers, 9-Mattie McDonagh; 10-Cyril Dunne, 11-Sean Purcell, 12-Seamus Leyden; 13-Joe Young, 14-Frank Stockwell, 15-John Keenan.

Rest of Ireland: 1-Andy Phillips (Wicklow); 2-Willie Casey (Mayo), 3-Ray Prendergast (Mayo), 4-Paddy McCormack (Offaly); 5-Kevin Mussen (Down), 6-Gerry O'Malley (Roscommon), 7-Stephen White (Louth); 8-Mick Carley (Westmeath), Des Foley (Dublin); 10-Sean O'Neill (Down), 11-Matt Connor (Offaly), 12-Pakie McGarty (Leitrim); 13-Paddy Doherty (Down), 14-Kevin Heffernan (Dublin), 15-Cathal Flynn (Leitrim).

Many of the above have gone to their Eternal Reward but will we ever see their likes again in action in Duggan Park? Let's hope so.





John "Tull" Dunne



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# **OUR PLACE IN TELECOMMUNICATIONS HISTORY**

In 1885, long before we got our first Telephone Exchange which was in 1914, a telephone line was erected along the Canal bank from Pollok's farm at Sycamore Hill, Lismany to the Hardware and Seed premises of Mr. P.M. Scanlon at Main Street, (near Kellers Hardware) in Ballinasloe.

The purpose of the line was to facilitate ordering the many items needed by Pollok and his Farmsteads which would subsequently be delivered to their own private Canal Depot. As such, the telephone would have been among the very first rural telephone lines anywhere in the country.

This however was not the basis for a claim made to The Guinness Book of Records, or

even the fact that Pollok's farm was arguably the most modern in Europe, a farm which earlier in the century caused one of the most powerful men in Europe, His Highness Prince Joseph Charles Napoleon, to visit. That event and the fact that His Highness was actually in Ballinasloe twice is an interesting story for another time.

I believe, and the Guinness people agree with me insofar as we can be sure, this particular private telephone line played a unique part in legal history. An extract from The Freemans Journal of Monday 30th of March 1885 and similar from The Westmeath Independent of April 4th recorded: *"The use of the telephone was manifested in a striking manner the other day in the neighbourhood of Ballinasloe. Our local correspondent informs us that a tramp was charged at the Petty Sessions on Saturday with having stolen a coat and a five pound note belonging to Patrick Holland, in the employment of Mr. John Pollok, Sycamore Hill, Lismany".* 

It seems Mr. Holland left the coat which contained a five pound

# **BRIAN LYNCH**





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John and Ray Jordan

note in the stables while he went

to his dinner. The fact that a working man could afford to have a five pound note in his pocket is indicative of the standard of living available to those in the employment of Pollok, perhaps it was Pay Day.

When Mr. Holland returned to the stables he found his coat and money had gone! He immediately told the lady in the house of the theft and she 'phoned' the message through to the Hardware Store in Ballinasloe owned by Mr. P.M. Scanlon.

Mr. Scanlon lost no time in reporting the matter to Head Constable Henay. Men were subsequently set to watching the approaches to the town from Lismany. That evening Constable Deacon observed a man coming along the canal bank. He arrested him and found the stolen coat and the five pound note on his person.

The prisoner, John Murray of Abbeyleix, was charged - 'at the suit of The Queen' - with having on 27th March stolen the coat and money and other objects, the property of one Patrick Holland. He was sent forward to Loughrea Quarter Sessions on June 6th 1885 where he was found guilty and sentenced to Seven Years Penal Servitude. It was noted that Murray who was described as a Tramp had already served a similar sentence.

The reason I submitted the case to The Guinness Book of Records was that I felt it could well have been the first case of an arrest being made as a direct result of a telephone call.

Bringing the story up to date, I spent my entire working life in telecommunications. I have seen matters progress from our purchase of U.S. Army surplus equipment after the War right up to the introduction of Fibre Optic Systems.

My nephew John continues the tradition and is an engineer with Eir.

**BY RAY JORDAN, (DUN LEODHA, DROGHEDA)** 

# **EILEEN GOULD**

#### BY BARRY LALLY

This year during which Ballinasloe's Ardscoil Mhuire celebrates its centenary it seems appropriate to recall the life of one of the school's lay teachers from its earlier days. The daughter of a boilerman at Cork Lunatic Asylum, Eileen Gould was born in Sunday's Well on 10th June 1900.

Eileen was described as a wilful, high-spirited, outdoors-loving extrovert with a classical profile, and deep brown eyes under a cloud of dark hair. She enrolled at University College Cork, but her studies were interrupted by the War of Independence when she joined Cumann na mBan. Taking the anti-Treaty side in 1922, she was arrested and jailed the following February. By now she had become totally disillusioned with her comrades-in-arms, judging them to be destitute of any genuine idealism. On her release she resumed her studies at UCC, graduating with a degree in economics.

While attending an Irish language summer school at Cork's Presentation College in 1918 she had met her future husband, Seán Ó Faoláin, who would go on to become a world-renowned short story writer as well as the founder and editor of "The Bell" literary magazine. He became a frequent visitor to Ballinasloe after Eileen had secured a teaching post at the Sisters of Mercy girls' secondary school (known colloquially at the time as "The Intermediate"). From his autobiography, published in 1963, it's evident that his impressions of the town were anything but favourable: "The last time I had seen Eileen before my return to Cork in January of 1924 was in Dublin, when she was returning from Cork after the Christmas holidays to her job as a teacher in Ballinasloe, a country town lobbed from a parachute into that flat, wind-swept and rainswept land known as East Galway, as often flooded as drained by the River Suck and other lesser tributaries of the Shannon. She had been there since the previous September. In her letters from this Irish middle west she had already evoked the town for me with a brilliant and hideous vividness born of a growing terror that she might never escape from it, or that if she did it would only be to another, identical Ballinasloe. In her talk she now evoked it again,

as if warning me of what lay in store for me as a teacher in a similar country town.

"Through her eyes I saw the long, wide street, lined by undistinguished houses mostly with shops on the ground floor, climbing the slight ridge that alone seemed to



keep the whole place

from sinking into the bog to its chimney tops. She lived in a lodging house that catered to the town's bank clerks, a class that at that time was the nadir of depressed gentility. They dined together in a long room 'carpeted' with chilly linoleum, heated by a central stove, and they shared one small fire in one small parlour. She was the only airl in the house and found no interest in any of them, so she had to retreat every evening at seven o'clock to her bedroom after the usual supper of 'tea and something', meaning tea, bread, butter, jam, and an egg or two. When she closed her bedroom door, and thought of the damp, dark land all around her from the Shannon to Galway Bay, and the long, damp, empty street below her window, and the long, empty evening ahead of her, she confessed that she often used to feel within an inch of Ophelian dottiness, sitting there alone, thinking, in fury, of all that was happening elsewhere in Europe. Outside, the Irish wind came blowing down the slope of Main Street." (I suspect that the Main Street he refers to is in fact Dunlo Street.)

It is, however, reassuring to learn that the town had at least one redeeming feature: "When that summer ended Eileen went back to the full life of her Main Street and I set off for mine. On our last night together before that parting she said that she was looking forward to Ballinasloe's one picturesque week, when the most unlikely of all things happened to the town – an invasion of buyers





from continental Europe for its famous October horse fair, after which, she sighed, the town would sink back into the silence of its bog grave for the rest of the year."

For Eileen, escape from Ballinasloe was effected in 1925 by an appointment to a technical school in Naas, County Kildare. In 1927 she travelled to Boston to join her fiancé, a post-graduate student at Harvard. There she found secretarial work that kept her gainfully employed up to her wedding with Seán in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston, on 3rd June 1928. Four years later she gave birth to their first child, Julia, who inherited her parents' talents by carving out a successful career as a well-regarded novelist. Subsequently a son was born, Stephen, who grew up a troubled young man, eventually becoming estranged from his family.

By the 1940s the Ó Faoláins were domiciled in Dublin. Seán was secure in his reputation as an acclaimed author and Eileen had begun to blossom as a writer of children's fiction. Amongst her prolific output may be mentioned such titles as "The Shadowy Man", "The Children of the Crooked Castle", "High Sang the Sword", and "Children of the Salmon", together with what is generally considered her masterpiece, "Irish Sagas and Folk Tales".

An avid and artistic gardener, she was shrewd in financial matters

and regarded as a hospitable host. Unfortunately, the decade of her literary success coincided with the onset of near-chronic illness. She was afflicted with stomach ulcers and osteoarthritis, and became a prey to hypochondria, her mental equilibrium probably not at all helped by her husband's repeated infidelities.

In her eighty-ninth year Eileen was admitted with a recurrence of internal bleeding to St. Vincent's Hospital, Dublin, where she died of a stroke on 20th September 1988. Though Seán survived her by over two years, he soon developed dementia and was made a ward of court prior to his death on 20th April 1991.







#### **Ballinasloe History Walk**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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