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AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 12 Issue 3: Aug '22 - Sept '22



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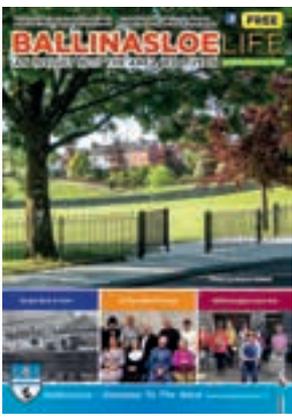


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REAMHRA

Welcome to Volume 12 issue 3

As we go to plate the air is full of the pre match All-Ireland hopes and tension. When the copies arrive we will know won or whether we have to do it all again, after 21 years of a wait.

Minister Heather Humphries – Social Protection and Community Affairs, was in town to see and meet first hand with many community organisations at the Marina.

A variety of public representatives are encouraging the new Croí Connaithe scheme, granting up to €30,000 to help first-time buyers with the cost of renovating vacant buildings in our towns and cities.

The Minister explained the new "Community Hall Renovation Scheme" with a €15 million budget had been oversubscribed to the tune of €105 million. She also expressly told us that the Government was in listening mode to the needs of Rural Communities and would work with the civic and voluntary leadership. Wonderful encouraging words.

The same Government which has a 63.5% taxpayer stake in Allied Irish Banks (after the Banks Bailout) apparently sat on its hands in the boardroom and we learned 24 hours after the Minister left town that the AIB Ballinasloe was to be one of the new 70 Cashless Branches. As one Social Media commentator put it – "a bit like a Butcher's Shop that won't handle meat"!

For nearly a quarter of century various shades of all Governments have been trying to decentralise services away from the choked cities and larger towns on the grounds of sustainability.

If you had joined up thinking at Government level – they would perhaps just give the communities, a bank branch in each town – allow an ATM in every Credit Union and finally make An Post a proper State Retail Bank -like Sparkasse in Germany; no need for a Community Hall Development fund at all – just a "do up your bank

branch" fund.

This is what drives Community Groups, Businesses, and citizens mad – all these schemes to breath life into towns to make them attractive places to live and the dead hand of the State keeps turning the screw with less and less services, stripping the momentum from our commercial hubs.

The reversal by AIB of the decision to reconfigure the 70 branches, is welcome but does not cover up the central flaw in the overall approach – a point forcefully made by the Farming leaders and many TDs in the Independent and Rural Alliance.

Eamonn Sweeney, who in a fabulous opinion piece in the Sports Supplement of the Irish Indo, examined the professionalism and success of the Irish Rugby Sector in Wellington and the Limerick GAA - got it bullseye.

He queried aloud how the smallest island with a very small playing population in the word and a sports mad city and country can be the very best in their field but yet we have public administration and a political process that is not fit for purpose.

He joined the dots from that analysis to the current political opinion polls and the surge of support for the non-mainstream parties.

Our politicians and civil servants would want to learn from our world class Sports Administrators fast!

Enjoy the read,

Le Gach De Ghui,
COLM CROFFY,
Editor.



It is now close to 10 years ago since we first met with representatives of the property department in the HSE with regard to St Brigid's Hospital.

At the time they said they had to offer other Government Departments the opportunity to take on all or some of the estate. However little has changed, they are still hiding behind the same hand off.

This is so disappointing when we have a group of investors waiting in the wings to develop the grounds into a retirement village / care centre.

In the intervening years, the hall has been closed, the pitches closed off and over grown, and more and more windows broken weekly, opening the buildings up to weather extremes as well as birds and animals making it their homes.

This iconic building is now a major eyesore on the entrance into our Town and we are calling on the decision makers in the HSE to urgently make arrangements to move the property onto someone who will do something with it. You will find further details of what was proposed to the HSE 3 years ago in the magazine this month.

On a very positive front it is great to see the town looking so well, decked out in Maroon and White with the vast majority of Buildings freshly painted and the beautiful flower arrangements in place by Galway Co Co and private individuals.

They are a few buildings left to be given a facelift in the next few weeks and I ask you, the public, to encourage the owners to get this done. We hope to have this project 100% complete by Summer end.

Enjoy your bi-monthly update in our Magazine on what has been happening and about to happen in the catchment area, which without the support of local advertisers would not be possible.

This is why it is so vital that you shop local as they are the investors in your Community.

SEAMUS DUFFY,
Chairman Ballinasloe Area Community Development Limited.



Articles and Photos Welcome

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Deadline Sept 14th

For submission of articles, please email:
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The new Cathaoirleach of Ballinasloe Municipal Council, Cllr Dr Evelyn Parsons, Independent was elected at the June AGM recently. She joined Galway County Council in July 2020, described this as a huge privilege to be elected to the role and an honour to be the first female Cathaoirleach of the Ballinasloe Municipal District Council.

"I thank my colleagues for their faith in me and am excited to represent the people of Ballinasloe Municipal District and county. I plan to progress the implementation of the County Development Plan and Local Area plan to improve Ballinasloe/East Galway" stated Cllr. Evelyn.

She continues to acknowledge the huge contribution of the voluntary and community sector during the ongoing COVID pandemic and Ukrainian crisis and now with more needs emerging through the cost-of-living pressures. Among important issues in the coming year for the Chair are Health, Housing, Climate Action, Tourism & Investment

Cllr Parsons is also a member of the Regional Health Forum West, a member of the Special Policy Committee Biodiversity and Climate Action, and a member of the Galway County Public Art Management Group.

When she joined the Council - the County Development Plan, and the Ballinasloe Local Area Plan Process plans were being formulated. These blueprints are crucial for funding applications, planning developments, and strategic objectives for the future of County Galway and Ballinasloe Town until 2028. She was pleased to have inserted into the plan a first-time recognition of the importance of Portiuncula University Hospital within the County.

She played a significant role in policy objectives for the remediation plan for Poolboy Landfill and adjacent lands, and other biodiversity projects. She plans to honour commitments

which have been given to Ballinasloe and mentioned in the GCDP 2022-2028.

Due to the work that Accessibility Ballinasloe have been doing she is adamant that Ballinasloe has a niche tourism market for the differently abled. "I believe that we need to exploit the Suck River as an asset to promote tourism and I have started by requesting Galway County Council to apply for funding to progress a feasibility study on the development of an Accessible Swim and Water Recreational Area along the river in the heart of the town" states Cllr Dr. Evelyn.



Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Parsons being congratulated as the first female Cathaoirleach by Mags Connerty - owner of Ruane Florists, St. Michael's Square

The wider tourism potential is massive there is the Aughrim Visitor Centre Battlefields, O'Kelly Trails, ecclesiastical abbeys, villages boglands and rural walks of East Galway such as Hymany Way, wonderful heritage groups and Agri-tourism, the progression of the Ballinasloe Greenway spur, Larry Reynolds and Dinny Delaney Festivals, newer festivals like Livestock, and a celebration of the unique cultural event which is the Ballinasloe Horse Fair.

The Council full term only lasts until May 2024 but Cllr Parsons states she finds it shocking that Galway County Council is the worst funded council in the country. "We are being failed by government in Galway County. In my opinion the funding gap which exists is grossly unfair. No one has been able to explain it

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to me in any satisfactory manner. I have raised this repeatedly in the Council at with national representatives” she notes.

While she was on the Special Policy Committee for Biodiversity and Climate Action, she organised a meeting with the Office of Public Works and Minister Patrick O’Donovan to raise concerns about flooding, the impact it would have on communities, the risks with waste industries on biodiversity areas such as River Suck Flood Plains. She also mentioned the risk of climate change and how the minor work on the Ballinasloe Flood relief scheme is still not near completion.

“I’m concerned about contaminated grounds and the effects of flooding and climate change. It’s important that GCC improve

the plan for the Poolboy Landfill and give full control to the High Court Order. I’ve contacted national representatives looking for their support on these issues.” said Cllr Parsons.

Cllr Parsons plans on making public representation on services such as Housing, Health and Active Travel projects, Domestic Violence, litter and environment issues, paths, and accessibility.

“I’m delighted to have been involved with committed groups and independent colleagues in attracting the largest capital funding of Sports Capital Grants ever to the Ballinasloe Area. I look forward to seeing Ballinasloe and East Galway area blossom in the coming years,” said Cathaoirleach Parsons.

OMNIPLEX CINEMA WORK RESTARTS



By Robbie Gately

In Mid-July cement trucks and the construction crews rolled back into the site near Aldi where the new Omniplex cinema is being built.

The cinema group confirmed that the project was progressing despite disruption to supply chains. Once built the cinema will be a single-story building with five screens. The building work is expected to be completed by the end of 2022. The cinema is being built alongside another one in Mullingar and the refurbishment of another cinema in Nenagh, as part of an €11 million investment.

The complex will be approximately 7.9m high with associated car parking and the gross floor space of the project is 1123m². Inside the complex will be an ‘OMNIPLEX MAXX’ auditorium complete with rocker seats and double sofa-beds, as well as 16-metre-wide screens and Dolby audio technology. The owners of the land, Limehill Esker Limited, have an agreement with Omniplex Holdings. Omniplex Director Mark Anderson stated: “We look forward to creating new movie memories in Ballinasloe, as well as Nenagh and Mullingar.” Mr Anderson also said: “The development of regional cinema in Ireland is our core strategy.”

The cinema group is owned by the Anderson family and has 260 screens at 34 locations. While building work is being carried out on the three projects more than 100 jobs during construction will be created and another 65 full- and part-time jobs when operational.



Cinema Building Under Construction

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Nearly 10 years after its formal closure, St. Brigid's Hospital Complex - a listed Monument and hallmark entry façade on the Eastern approaches to town-continues to crumble under the apparent indifference of the State.

BACD approached the HSE and Dept of Health nearly 10 years ago and were crudely told it would no be parcelled off but would all go as a block site - provided the State agencies had no requirement for it.

A Full day Seminar on the Re-Imagining of St. Brigid's under the Patronage of the then Minister Naughton was held in Summer 2018 with representatives of all the state agencies - a report was commissioned, agreed and circulated.

Various private buyers and consortia were met and many meetings were held with County Council, HSE, Dept of Health all agreeing in principle that they all wished the site to be developed.

Thirty six months after the Respite Hotel Group last met with the principals there has been frustratingly no progress and the private investors are both frustrated and puzzled as to why their proposals to buy and maintain the fabric of the iconic buildings and campus have met with such official indifference.

Cllr Dr. Eveyln Parsons is calling on the HSE to prioritize the appointment of a St Brigid's Project Team to urgently move on development.

Cllr Parsons motion passed at a Regional Health Forum recently on St Brigid's Hospital Campus "to make the HSE prioritize the appointment of a St Brigid's Project Team to formulate a Plan for the re-use, disposal and/or development of this state owned property including consideration of Multi-Agency Involvement and/or Public Private Partnerships taking cognizance of the cultural, visual, protected status and heritage sensitivities of some buildings and the central importance of St Brigid Hospital's history and legacy in the psychiatric, medico-social and economic lives of people throughout the West of Ireland over the past two centuries." She is also adamant that



the HSE must now regularly report regularly to the forum on the disposal.

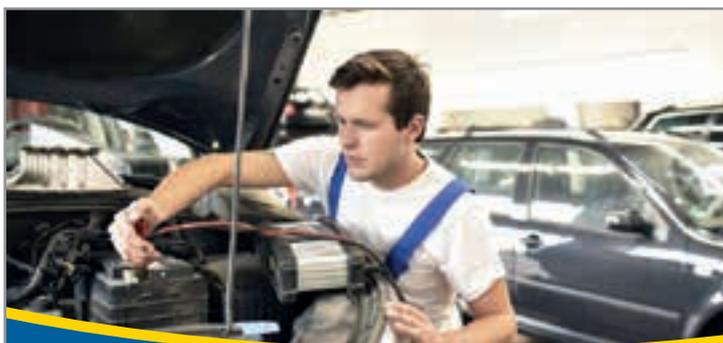
Breda Crehan-

Roche, Community Healthcare West HSE, confirmed in reply to the motion that the HSE has been approached by a private developer, the Respite Hotel Group, with regards to its development and that the HSE themselves have no plans to re-use or develop it but are in the process of moving the Maintenance department off-site in the next few months. When the Estates department decamps from St Brigid's Campus it will be listed for sale on the State Register following Dept of Public Expenditure and Reform procedures.

This will open full possibilities of acquisition for development. Cllr Parsons called on the HSE for IDA to be consulted also with regard to acquiring lands to the east of the Taughmaconnell road for future Industrial use and expansion close to the existing IDA Business Park, which is separate to the main campus and derelict hospital buildings.

The Respite Hotel Group are a consortium which promotes the design and development of bespoke retirement, healthcare and wellness facilities. Directors Sean Ruane and Maureen Lynch stated: "Our Vision is to create a multi-purpose Campus focused on the health and wellness needs of older people, providing independent and assisted living accommodation as well as respite programs and services promoting positive mental health and well-being. Yet we continue to be frustrated with the lack of clarity and co-operation from the HSE."

The group proposed a full redevelopment of the existing premises including a new Retirement Village, a Wellness Retreat Hotel, Housing for Dementia and Alzheimer patients, a hostel for visitors, and other amenities including a museum on the history of the complex, a café, pharmacy, a small shop, Chapel, Green Space for outdoor exercise and a Leisure Complex. The project which was provisionally due to be finished by 2028, can't even get to the starting blocks!!



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The town is awash with fresh concrete, as apart from the cranes over Portiuncula; there are 314 housing units being built or in the pipeline this Autumn.

In 2021 the housing stock within a 8km radius of the town (Roscommon and Galway side of the Suck) was approximately 3,100 units – this is a near 10 % of an increase.

With a combined 20km catchment radius of Ballinasloe Urban / Rural and South Roscommon of near 22,000 people – its anticipated from the national increase recorded by the CSO of 7.6% on census night and a whopping increase of 8.4% of Roscommon’s population, these figures are set to increase by 8 % - 1760 more persons living in the area since 2016.

Crownbell LTD is looking to develop 38 residential units in the existing Cuil na Canalach housing development. They have also submitted a second application to build another six residential units on the same site.

The two developments comprise 20 three-bed, semi-detached houses, and 24 three-bed townhouses”. Crownbell LTD have also included landscaping works, associated car parking, connection to existing surface water, foul sewer and watermain as part of the application. A Natural Impact Assessment was also to be submitted with the application. Final decision is due from Galway County Council on the two planning applications in early August.

Permission for a new housing development consisting of eight homes has been granted. Brian and Breda Conneely are leading this development of a current residential plan in Bachelors Walk. The eight houses will be six four bed units and two larger units and will finish the estate.

An Bord Pleanála granted permission for 38 new houses with Carbon Sole LTD doing the building in Creagh. The application was granted in November 2021 after the original application was reduced from 47 houses to 38 houses. Carbon Sole also plan to

build a playground for the children and a public green on the development.

The current access to the site is being replaced by a new junction onto the R466 Dublin Road. There was an appeal against the decision that there wouldn’t be enough facilities in the area for the extra houses. This appeal was rejected but one of the conditions required for Carbon Sole LTD is that they cannot sell any houses to an investment fund. Site clearance and groundwork preparation has begun.

Up to the left of the Tesco Store – between Beechlawn Heights and St. Brendan’s Terrace-work is very advanced on 40 Social housing Units which begun in January of this year and further 167 units was granted permission by Board Pleanála in May of this year for this site.

The Part 8 Application process is underway for 15 units from Dooleys Corner down to the Mount which are being prioritised for Social housing of those in need of town centre access, without cars.

The CSO average persons per dwelling figure is 2.75 so when all these builds are complete in the next 24 months or so – there could be close to 900 new residents living here locally.

It will certainly help those workers and families looking for housing which is in very short supply – with some 24 properties for sale on DAFT and just 2 to let !!



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The Holy Family Nursing Home in Killimor has been caring for the elderly since it first opened 22 years ago in 2000. Over the past two years, the Fahey family have invested millions of euros to develop a brand new home on the site of the old building which is now open and has been described by many as 'the best Nursing Home facility in the country'.

Located just opposite the GAA grounds in Killimor, stands the now 5-star rated facility which caters for 46 residents. Many

years of detailed planning and research has gone into the building which includes quality and spacious single en suite accommodation, dining, lounge and quiet rooms. They have high-speed broadband and Wi-Fi with multi-channel large Smart TVs throughout. As well as the beautiful landscaped and extensive garden and patio areas with superb views; a fabulous hair salon is located on site. The building is within walking distance of shops, post office, and a church in the town.

"We provide a very homely friendly environment delivered by a fantastic highly trained staff of 55, in truly state of the art facilities. Our ethos is one of open and friendly communication and the promotion of feedback and engagement with residents and their families. We have the newest and most advanced facilities in the country providing a unique blend of cutting edge clinical and care services in a homely yet modern living environment" stated manager Brian Fahey.

The home offers an extensive activities and entertainment programme including regular live music, stimulative group and individual events, religious services and visits. Popular activities include arts and craft classes by an outside professional artist, weekly sessions and sing-a-longs by local professional musicians and bingo. They have endless other options such as frequent movie nights and visits from the local librarian.

The home also often has visitors from outside retirement groups from nearby towns which are always full of great chat and laughter. In Spring and Summer, they also arrange regular outings to a wide variety of places of interest in the surrounding area such as Lough Derg, Terryglass, Pet Farms and other places the residents express a preference for.

Killimor Nursing Home welcomes visits and enquiries whether you are looking for a nursing home place now or planning for the future. You can contact the home at (090) 967 6044 or email info@killimorretirementhome.ie for further information. You can also visit their Facebook page Killimor Retirement Home for an overview of what they offer.



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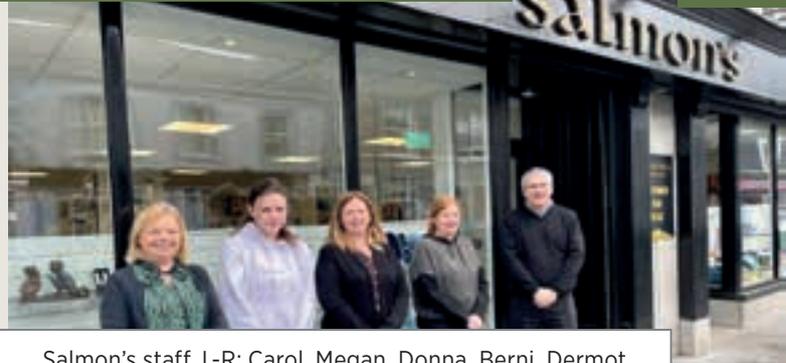
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This year marks Salmon's 60th year in business. In that time they have survived fire, floods, roadworks, pandemics, recessions and they're still here proudly serving the community of Ballinasloe and all the neighbouring villages and districts.

For decades Salmon's was the "go to store for Toys" and in recent years shifts in retailing patterns meant that independent stores need to partner with larger networks to access continuity of supply of the most up to date play things!

Earlier this year they became members of the Toymaster buying group. This gives the store access to bigger toy brands such as LEGO, LOL, TY, VTECH, MATTEL, HASBRO, SCHLEICH, GALT, RAVENSBERGER, WARHAMMER and many many more, thereby providing our customers with a wider and broader range of Toys.



Salmon's staff, L-R: Carol, Megan, Donna, Berni, Dermot

"We are delighted to partner with Toymaster in providing all these great toy brands to our clientele" states Store Director Dermot Salmon.

They hope to be able to help their customers choose the perfect birthday present or gift when they come into the store. They are interested in what their customers want in the new toy department. They would like people to come in and talk to them and see what toys are on offer. If the toy you are looking for isn't in stock, talk to them and they will speak to their suppliers to try and get the product for customers.

Salmon's have a lot of events planned for August and September in their new toy department. They are really excited to announce that LEGO is planning to run a SUPER MARIO demo event upstairs in the new dedicated LEGO department (one of only a handful in the Midlands or indeed West) in mid-August. This demo event will feature MARIO and LUIGI LEGO sets on a demo table with a LEGO expert on hand to demonstrate what can be made with these LEGO sets. In mid-September the new Christmas catalogue will be launched in conjunction with their partners Toymaster and Galway Bay Fm Broadcaster will be on hand to help them with the launch.

They will also be celebrating the opening of the new LEGO department which is located upstairs just to the left of their toy department at the back of the store (which can also be accessed from their car park).

There will be lots of prizes to be won on the day and Galway Bay Fm will be holding on air competitions and Facebook competitions leading up to the event. All details will be provided on Salmon's Facebook page; facebook.com/SalmonsDepartmentStore. They're delighted to be able to accept deposits on toys this year for the Christmas as they've always done throughout our 60 years in business.

This year they'll also be offering a savings club option for customers. So instead of putting a toy on deposit, customers can now put aside some money every week towards the cost of their chosen toys. This will give customers the ability to save up for their toys of choice for Christmas or for whatever important occasion is coming up throughout the year, birthdays, christenings, communions etc.

"We look forward to welcoming everyone into our new toy/LEGO department in the coming weeks" explains an excited Dermot.

 **By Oisín White**



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Padraig and Una Fahy celebrate the 20th Anniversary of their Organic Farm Enterprise in Beechlawn this Autumn. The reality though is that the Fahy Family have been tending this very same land for close to a 100 years.

Just a year after the state was founded, Padraig's Grandfather, Pat Fahy and his wife Mary Ellen Goode, bought the original farm. As well as running it as a mixed farm Pat was a master grower of vegetables. He was the Head Gardener in St. Brigid's Hospital before handing over the post to the late Tom Quinn in 1958 (a man who was still winning prizes for his vegetables in Shows up and into his 90s).

Little wonder then that the tradition of setting seeds and thinning, continued to the third generation. Padraig is aware of even earlier efforts. "I can recall him telling us stories of the Suck Callows being used for Garden Fillers and seed potatoes being shipped to the markets of Dublin back to Famine times till the first World War. The Mackney area in Gaelic times was famous for parsnip growing. There was also a tradition of cereal growing in the Beechlawn and Mackney areas with Bertie Walsh's Mill" explains Padraig.

After his education in Garbally College and a Humanities degree in Maynooth University in the mid-90s, like most 20-years-olds of the time he decided to travel and see the world. "I was backpacking and WOOFING (working on farms and in social enterprises) around the world. I was in Gandhi's house in India on St Patrick's Day 1997, surrounded by likeminded people enjoying quality lives on subsistence

farming when I had my EUREKA Moment" he recalls.

On return to Ireland, he enrolled on a Teagasc course in Horticulture in Drumcollogher, Co Limerick and this began his love affair with the production of quality organic food and farming.

His wife Una (Ni Bhroin) enters the story a year later, formally in the Teagasc course but they did encounter each other during the famous Glen of Downs Protest in 1998. "I was always a keen networker and many of the people I met on my travels and in supporting sustainable and Environmental issues are all still connected to GREEN sector enterprise or lifestyles today. We still to this day learn a lot from each other as well as formally" he notes.

On qualification from his course Padraig secured a field office post in Co. Roscommon in 2000. Advising and supervising in a Community Garden and quickly found himself as a Horticultural teacher in Castlerea Community Prison 2001-2005. This secured his first few seasons of off farm income, critical to the establishment of a new enterprise in Beechlawn.

"2001 was my first year to plant on ½ acre of my late parents'



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farm. The land was located just beside the cowsheds on the old farm. So, it was well manured land, and I planted my first crop of Potatoes. John Glynn was very helpful to us in the early days, and we would never have bought a tractor, delivery van or tunnel without the huge backing we received from our local Credit Union” explains Padraig.

Both he and Una chuckle looking back at the memorable week of 2003 when their first tractor, the estate car for delivering the veg boxes and the apple of their eye – eldest daughter Meabh all arrived at the same time!!

For both entrepreneurs the move from their rented home in the Pines back to the Padraig family farm, a new eco built home and the arrival of children Roisin, Tomas and Teegan. This combined with their first staff would never have happened without the huge support of Padraig’s late parents Tom and Margaret who massively helpful and encouraging to the couple.

In 2005/ 2006 they founded the Farmers Markets Network in East Galway-South Roscommon and were busy supplying 6 Markets locally on a weekly basis from 9 acres. Back then their core output was 20% wholesale and some 80% direct to customer, generating 20 tons of vegetable output per year.

With Leader support some 6 years in, they were able to engage key technical experts who supported in the development



Padraig & Una Fahy

of their business strategy. They also secured participation in Bord Bia Vantage programme in 2009. Teagasc have used the farm as a demonstration farm for good organic practice since 2008-2011 and 2020. They also won accolades with Supervalu under their “Local Organic Supplier Initiatives“ more recently.

From one staff member in 2005, they now have a fulltime staff exceeding 20 working full time all year round. They manage 50 acres of farmland and deliver nearly 150 tons of organic vegetables to more than 100 whole sales operators – restaurants, shops, co -ops – with just 20 % of output in direct sales to customers! Currently they are one of Tesco’s Main Organic Supplier of Leek, Kale and Sprouts.

Looking around the couple are not resting on their laurels, “the time has flown, the pandemic was a challenge with labour, with supplies but people were certainly more interested in locally grown food.

We will consolidate and expand our current model. We might look into other areas of education, training here on the farm there are huge possibilities for courses on site for a variety of ages and backgrounds. This combined with alternative medicine or healthy lifestyles are areas we are looking forward to exploring” states Una.

Location has been key for the enterprise “we have the

mighty Esker free draining soils here, the PH is strong, we are at the crossroads of Ireland for distribution with easy Motorway access. We have a loyal and hardworking staff, and we have a hugely loyal local customer base “offers Padraig. With added support from the Department of Agriculture also who are now putting a big emphasis on organic production as part of EU policy for climate change. Biodiversity is a key factor in the importance of Organic Farming for the future.

To celebrate the 20th Anniversary the Farm is hosting an Autumn Harvest Fair from 10.00 am to 4.00 pm on Sat 10th of September- promising a nice open day for families to come and see some of the demonstrations, talks and walks. See their website <https://beechlawnorganicfarm.ie/> for full programme details.



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Not many know that Ballinasloe saw a third Post Office open in the Ireland Pavillion during the Dubai Expo in October 2021 in the United Emirates. Since its opening in October 1996, The Irish Village has always been looked upon as a small piece of Ireland in the heart of Dubai.

The Irish designers were so adamant in replicating the true atmosphere of a rural Irish pub that they did not hesitate to ship and reassemble, on site, all props and décor items used, like the telephone box, the shop windows bric-a-brac, the cart, barrels, the lampposts-including the Ballinasloe Post Office-a nod to the birthplace of the man behind the creation of The Irish Village, Colm McLoughlin, the Executive Vice-chairman & CEO of Dubai Duty Free Airport.

In 2019, The Irish Village opened a second home at Studio One Hotel in Dubai Studio City which has quickly become a favourite for residents of Arabian Ranches and surrounding communities.

In October 2021, an Irish Village outlet opened at the Expo 2020 Dubai site, situated in Jubilee Park close to the Ireland Pavilion. The team have done a stellar job of replicating that iconic Irish Village, right down to the Ballinasloe post office signage. During the 6-month event, the Expo outlet saw more than 138,000 visitors who enjoyed the atmosphere and hospitality of a traditional Irish pub and got to learn a little of the Ballinasloe Post Office !

Colm's father Tadgh McLoughlin, a native of Killure, near Ballinasloe, was an Irish local historian who had a great love for poetry and song, and he wrote a book about our local history, called "Innu agus Inne." He also wrote a collection of 'Songs and Ballads' (1976) which includes the song 'Ballinasloe'.

Tadgh was also the founding member of the Ballinasloe Historical Society, who helped organise the erection of plaques on many of the town's sites of historical interest, and the Battle of Aughrim Memorial Cross. He campaigned successfully to

have bi-lingual signage on many of Ballinasloe's streets, the first town in Ireland to ever do such.

Colm, (who is still at his post in the Gulf and one of the leading Irish business leaders in the region), his brothers Ray (RIP) and Feidlim, all went to Garbally College and were honoured by their old school, with Alumni Awards in February 2012. The Alumni Awards ceremony, which was the first of its kind to be organised by the college, celebrated the huge contribution to Irish society made by Garbally students who had graduated from the years 1945-2005.

Sadly, Ray McLoughlin, a native of Ahascragh, who was one of the true legends of Irish rugby, passed away last year (November 2021) at the age of 82. Ray played a then record 40 times for Ireland over a period of 14 seasons, from 1962 to 1975, and was also a two-time British & Irish Lions tourist.

Colm's sister Mhuire, a retired bank manager, lives in Barna in Galway. Sadly, the youngest in the family, Enda, a former harpist, passed away some years ago.



Colm McLoughlin

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Aisling Hughes, Shannon Airport Duty Manager with Sean Fletcher, Modern Media



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This summer, holiday goers from Ballinasloe, Loughrea, and their surrounds, can enjoy the choice of flying to 27 destinations across 11 countries just an hour from your doorstep. Services including new additions such as Marseille, Barcelona Girona, Malta, Edinburgh, Corfu and Budapest are proving very popular with passengers. In May, the airport announced a brand-new route to Paris starting this September with new carrier Vueling Airlines.

For its transatlantic trips, Shannon has daily flights to New York/JFK and Boston with Aer Lingus, and a daily seasonal service to New York/Newark with United Airlines - offering a full US pre-clearance facility, so you arrive in the US as a domestic passenger.

Shannon also offers full pre-clearance for private aircraft and is also the only airport in the world to operate a combined European and US Transportation Security Administration (TSA) compliant checkpoint system, which means the passenger is screened once to both standards and cuts the added requirements which apply at other pre-clearance airports.

As well as a choice of sun, city and US destinations for all ages, the easy passenger journey through Shannon Airport has been enhanced by innovative initiatives such as the addition of a €2.5 million investment into a state-of-the-art screening system that eliminates the removal of laptops and liquids from cabin bags and halves the time you spend in security.

Shannon Airport is at the forefront of innovation while making it easy for passengers to travel through the airport. Five years ago, Shannon became the first airport in Europe to open an airport sensory room.

This room provides a safe and soothing space for children with additional needs, away from the unfamiliar airport environment. And this year, Shannon Airport has become one of the first airports in the world, along with Ireland West airport, to be recognised as Age Friendly Airports by the World Health Organisation.

There are other reasons to choose Shannon, not least the

sense of welcome you feel when you arrive. It's a welcome enhanced by the friendliest of airport staff, a spacious terminal and its historic duty-free shop - the birthplace of duty free. From designer range of bags, jewellery, sunglasses, perfumes and alcohol, passengers are spoiled for choice. The store also offers a FREE Shop & Collect service.

To add to the ease of travelling through the airport, you can pack more into your getaway with Shannon's online parking rates. The airport's Park4Less car park is only a 6-8-minute walk to the terminal and can be pre-booked online for the cheapest rates.

For freshly brewed coffee, carvery lunches and sweet treats you can find JJ Ruddles in the arrival's hall and The Sheridan Bar and Zest in departures will have mouths watering.

Whether travelling in or out, your journey is made easier when travelling through Shannon Airport.

For visitors travelling from Shannon Airport to the region and setting their sights on visiting East Galway's largest town, there is accommodation centrally located with Gullane's Hotel and the Shearwater Hotels as well as guest houses and B&B's, all served up with a warm greeting and charming hospitality. Guests can enjoy shopping, exploring and an assortment of restaurants to cater for all tastes by enjoying a stay Ballinasloe.

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M6 Motors in Ballinasloe featured in the Higher level Leaving Cert Business Studies paper last month, making it one of a few businesses in the country ever mentioned in the Leaving Cert.

Alan Naughton set up the business in 2011 and he has seen the business grow year on year, with them now selling cars to every corner of the country. The original team of two has now grown to 16 full-time staff with over 50 years of combined experience in the motor industry. Alan completed his leaving cert in 2006 in Garbally and went on to study Business in UL and completed his Honours degree in 2010.

Alan was jetting off to Malta for his wedding when he got the news: "I got the news of



the Leaving Cert paper on the day of the exam, one of the teachers called me just as the exam ended and I couldn't believe it. It's very rare for the state exam papers feature a specific small business like ours. We received over 100 calls/texts/online messages on the day after the news broke."

"Galway Bay FM covered the story on radio on the day of our wedding so to say to say I was heading off on a high was an understatement. It's great to get some national coverage for a business in Ballinasloe. I'd also like to say to students although the Leaving Cert is important, it certainly doesn't define you or your future," Alan concluded.



BALLINASLOE SAYS NO BACK IN HIGH COURT

By Robbie Gately

The local community group 'Ballinasloe Says No' have again initiated third Court proceedings against Galway County Council's decision to grant another waste facility permit for a waste transfer station at a site in Poolboy.

The first step in the process is to seek leave from the court to bring Judicial Review proceedings and this application is now before the High Court and will take place in October of this year.

Chairperson, Dr. Vincent Parsons stated: "We are committed on behalf of the people of Ballinasloe to fight for health,

safety and to protect our unique environment. It is shocking that Galway County Council have decided to grant this permit despite the unsuitability of this site and associated risks, showing total disregard for our people and the surrounding area."

The committee now require fundraising and they have organised a Golf classic taking place on Friday 2 and Saturday 3 September at Ballinasloe Golf Club. They are calling on everyone for their support on what promises to be a fun day out for all with lots of spot prizes! More information on how to take part will be posted closer to the event on their Facebook page @BallinasloeSaysNo.

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Ballinasloe Area Community Development (BACD) finally received planning permission to convert the Old National Bank Chambers on Society Street into a Co-working and Remote Hub working space.

The proposal will see the 6,000 square foot premises being converted into state of the art remote working hubs catering for more than 40 people, including six hot desks, 16 offices (with capacity for between one and seven people); three meeting spaces, one meeting room, canteen and toilet and shower facilities within the three-storey building.

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The design team which was appointed in quarter one of 2022 are currently finalising tender documentation with contractors to be sought over the coming weeks through the government tendering website "www.etenders.gov.ie" as per protocols set out in the funding received from the Just Transition Fund.

The works will include the installation of energy efficient lighting, heating, ventilation, installation on new internal and external doors and windows, internal partitions, floor and ceiling finishes, full furniture fit out and highspeed broadband installation.

Seamus Duffy, Chairman BACD, stated "once the building is renovated it will offer flexible, high quality serviced office space for local entrepreneurs to co-work, to meet and to collaborate with each other and will offer remote workers (currently working from home or in other locations) a long-term solution. It will attract people into the town centre which will have a positive spin off for our town centre businesses.

"This has been the result of hard work and prudent management of the last 20 years by successive boards of directors in managing all previous state grants for job creation and town development, through our charitable community development Company" explains Seamus.

Seamus also stated there is already huge interest by local businesses, entrepreneurs, and remote workers, who have all formally expressed an interest to being located in this innovative space when it is operational in quarter two of 2023.

BACD company manager Lyn Donnelly is currently managing the project in conjunction with the design team and all queries in relation to the project or the rental of the enterprise space can be directed to lyn@bacd.ie or (090) 964 6516.



Cllr. Michael Connolly (FF) Brian King, Anita Killeen, Noel Madden, Valerie Dolan, Lyn Donnelly, Manager, Joe Lyons

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Derek Crawley

A keen waterways enthusiast based in Banagher never took the plunge to chug his craft off the Shannon at Shannonbridge and up the Suck Callows, to our town, as he was advised by River gossip "Not To".

Derek Crawley took to Facebook to share his adventure on the Suck and his post received numerous likes, shares and further positive comment from Boating enthusiasts, Visitors and interested parties. A summary of his narrative is

printed with his permission here -

"Don't go to Ballinasloe" Is what they said to me. I have a boat and it is based in Banagher and over the years, with even rental boats, I never ventured up the river Suck. The reason, people put me off doing so was with comments like, you won't make it under the bridge, or there is nothing to see or do when you get to town".

In fantastic sunshine, I decided to go to Ballinasloe via the River Suck to stay over on Friday night. We set off at 4:30pm with a plan to make the Poolboy lock around 7:30-8pm. We got there at 7:45pm and the lock keeper was gone. I looked at the IWAI web site and it said it is open to 8:30pm weekdays. We called the number, no answer.

A fisherman on the bank made a phone call and within two minutes, the lock keeper came and without hesitation or moaning let us through. He did tell us that the times had changed and that there were notices, but I am not really on social platforms a lot to benefit from those updates. A nice guy, and a nice fisherman that went out of their way for which we are very thankful.

The keeper told us that it might be a bit late to get food by the time we got to the Marina and suggested giving Brewery Lane Pub a call, they were good and so we did. The girl who answered was asked if we could book dinner for three people, but she explained that the Kitchen was closing, as it was now nearly 8:50pm. We said that "we were coming up the river and know we are a bit late".

There was a slight silence and then she said "she would keep the kitchen open and ask the chef to stay." I consider myself lucky to be a well-travelled person and I am struggling to remember a place in Ireland or abroad with people that have been as accommodating.

We had a great night in Ballinasloe, food was fantastic, service was excellent and to top it off there was entertainment downstairs in the Brewery Lane Pub. What was to be a respectful early night went on until 1am.

Next morning, we walked up to the town (which is stunning during the day) and found a lovely little café to have breakfast which was nice, and the staff were too. We went to the market, had a look around, chatted with the local vendors who were all nice to visitors and had a great time.

"I think it's important to acknowledge and say thanks when someone, some group or a town makes such an effort. People are always quick to complain I find, but never take the time

to just recognise effort and you can see it when you go to Ballinasloe, how clean it is, how nice the people are, it has it all.

"Do go to Ballinasloe, is what I have already said to people, and I will be back to stay over and enjoy it again" stated Derek Crawley.

It's always nice to get a good review about our town Coyne responded, with 'Lock keeper Rory is a lovely guy and so helpful. It's a lesson to you to not listen to other people and have your own adventure.' Elizabeth Powell originally from Ballinasloe but now living in the UK echoed those views with her own comment "What lovely comments about Ballinasloe. A fresh pair of eyes and a lovely perspective."



Conor Ryan, his son and father Martin, of Ryan's Pub, helped out by Mike O'Brien of the Brewery Lane, Main St, and Joe Kelly Senior, Retired Publican Society St. with Tom Finn of River St., reconnecting with a scene of old - their ancestors did - unloading a collection of Guinness Barrels from the waters edge !

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we were only set up in March of this year. We have a fabulous marina here in the town and it has plenty to offer and events like this are a great opportunity to showcase the River Suck and the facilities we have here in our hometown marina. The River Suck is a wonderful resource on our doorstep so let's pull together to use it and make the most of it."

The Freeway Boats weekend followed shortly after and noticeable increase in overnighting craft is viewable from the berthage.

The next big event in the calendar for the River Suck Branch is the inaugural 'Float To The Fair 2022' in early October. This event encourages boat owners to visit Ballinasloe Harbour to celebrate the second Weekend of the Great October Fair in what would be the perfect way to end the 2022 boating season.

The River Suck branch are actively recruiting members, if you are interested in joining up you can email them on iwairiversuck@gmail.com or message them on their Facebook page 'River Suck IWAI Branch'.

The IWAI River Suck Branch enjoyed a very successful week in Ballinasloe for the Heritage Boat Association's 21st anniversary. Up to 30 Canal Barges were moored in the marina to celebrate the occasion in what was a thoroughly enjoyable week for all.

The event gave people the chance to see first-hand the machines which were once part of everyday life in the town and brought back memories for those who remembered the barges in action. Historical walking tours, music, arts and crafts exhibitions, and barbecues were just some of the events while a few kegs of porter we ceremoniously unloaded by the oldest Vintners in the town – the Finns and Ryans !

River Suck Branch Chairman Graham Bartlett stated "We were very lucky to have the Heritage Boat Association choose Ballinasloe to hold their 21st anniversary especially considering



obby Kilkenny & Friends playing music at the marina



Sean Tully gives visitors walking tour of the town



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Cruinniú na nÓg held a Traveller Traditions Art Exhibition in collaboration with the Galway Traveller Movement in the Study Centre recently, where children's artwork was on display which celebrated traveller heritage. Traveller children aged 6-12 attended the exhibition and created many wonderful and colourful illustrations showcasing what traveller culture and identity meant to them.

The idea came around when traveller author Nora Corcoran acknowledged that there was very little literature for the younger generation about Traveller heritage and culture, and she wanted to have these topics explored in the children's curriculum. Nora took it upon herself and decided she was going to compile a book which would be one in a series of colourful children's books about Traveller Culture and Traditions aimed at the early years genre. Nora hopes to bring her project to fruition and get her book published for use as an educational resource for children in schools and libraries.

Nora Corcoran stated: "Thank you so much to everyone for attending our exhibition displaying artwork on Traveller Traditions. The need for more inclusive learning is pivotal to all young children on their educational journey and this is why I created the first book in a series about Traveller traditions and culture, that will show how diverse children's literature opens the minds of the reader to the positive realisation, that being

from a different culture does not make one any less equal than their peers."

Cllr. Evelyn Parsons who was also in attendance on the night added: "A clear love of colour was displayed in the children's artwork. I would also like to see production of children's colouring books reflecting traveller identity, heritage and culture-basic simple and valuable resources for children which help connect them to community and make sense of their world. I commend the great thematic & creative work done so far and welcome collaboration between other agencies in sourcing practical supports for this necessary project and in bringing it to fruition."



L-R: Nora Corcoran, Author; Cllr. Dr Evelyn Parsons, Karyn Gavin, GRD Development Officer; Teresa Lavin, Nova Productions; Ruth, Gordon Creative Ireland

FAREWELL AND WELCOME TO SCRIBES



After four editions since the New Year we say thanks to the man from Knocknacrogghery - Robbie Gately- who is heading off to sunny Portugal on Erasmus and hope that as he views Ballinasloe and his posting from the rear-view mirror - most of his memories will be good ones.

Huge welcome then for 20-year-old Oisin White, Journalism and digital communications student at the



University of Limerick, hailing from Quigley's Point in north Co. Donegal. He pretends to be a quiet shy lad, as an only boy, but really does enjoy having the craic with others - as the man that has come the farthest on the island to the posting - 4 hours nearly a trip home, he has taken to his role as Reporter with gusto.

A keen soccer player in his teenage years, with some coaching under his belt - he is now more of a fan than participant but likes the sport of badminton in his spare time and an odd visit to the driving range!

We wish them both well!

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Galway Rural Development has announced that it will be taking over the management and delivery of the ParentChild+ Programme in Ballinasloe from September of this year.

It is a non-profit organisation providing a free educational programme to toddlers and their families in their own homes in the Ballinasloe area. The early numeracy and literacy home visiting programme has been running since 2015, employing local staff and serving over two dozen families from the locale every year. Debra Grennan is the co-ordinator of the ParentChild+ programme for the area.

“We welcome the support and management from GRD and look forward to the continued growth of this fabulous programme throughout Ballinasloe, our home visiting team welcomed the opportunity to support families and be part of an educational initiative that is supporting and educating parents to be their child’s first and best teacher” Debra stated.

“Parent Child + is a fun learning opportunity for both parent and child. All Parent Child + home visitors are trained and from the local community with we are proud to report many previously been parents of children on the programme themselves, they truly have a great understanding of the importance of been part of children’s education from early years and to support learning through play and story time to families” she added.

This programme is free to participating families with approximately 46 books and toys provided to families throughout the programme. Home visits take place in the family’s home twice-weekly each session lasting 30-minutes during the school term. Home Visitors willingly participate in continuous professional development, most recently they spent time with Elaine Quinn (GRD Education officer) who delivered an intensive 10-week training period in Elkan communication and language. This supports home visitors in bettering their

communication skills verbally or non-verbally with families through play and book time.

The group recently held a graduation ceremony in the library for all the children who graduated from the programme from 2020-2022. “Congratulations to all the parents who made the commitment to their child’s education which now sees them moving on to their next educational journey of pre-school or primary school. And a big thank you to the Home Visitors who worked in partnership with the families to ensure the children get the best possible start in life and are ready to succeed academically” concluded Debra.

If you have a toddler aged between 16 months to 4 years old and are interested in the programme, please contact (086) 060 6002 for more information and they will respond upon returning for the school term in September. You can also visit their Facebook page ParentChildplus Ballinasloe for further updates.



Home Visitors with Elaine Quinn (GRD Education officer) upon completion of their Elkan Training course

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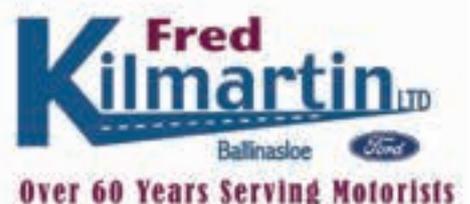
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Ballinasloe student Dylan Donnelly recently won first place in a prestigious CPA national accounting competition. Moore native Dylan, who is in his first year of a BA in Accounting at the Technological University of the Shannon, Athlone was up against first to final year accounting students as well as Masters students.

During the ten weeks of the competition, 17 colleges across Ireland and Northern Ireland took part. Each week a range of theory-based accounting questions were released to participants on Quitch. Participants could monitor their progress under their avatar name and see their score on a leader board along with the other participants.

Dylan was justifiably delighted with his achievement: "I feel very proud of myself for achieving this accolade, it was a great achievement for myself and for my college TUS. I only discovered afterwards that I was competing against other students who are in their final year of Master programmes. As I have just finished my first year of studies in BA Accounting I was honoured to have won the competition against my peers who are at such a high level in accounting."

Trevor Prendergast, Head of Department, Accounting and Business Computing at TUS Athlone Campus said: "We are absolutely thrilled at Dylan's achievement. We are delighted that Dylan availed of this opportunity with CPA Ireland and Quitch to showcase his accounting abilities on the national stage. On behalf of the lecturing team, I would like to say a massive congratulations to him."

A past pupil of Garbally, Dylan added it's where his love for the subject came about: "My time in Garbally was a big influence on me especially my accounting teacher Mr. Tom Burke who helped and encouraged me, as well as all the other teachers. They were always there to guide me; if I ever had any questions, they would do their best to help me 100%. My time at Garbally College has impacted my love for mathematics and accountancy quite significantly. I have learned so much from the teachers there, that they have inspired me to pursue a career in accountancy."

"Hopefully, in 5 years, I will have graduated from TUS with my degree and be working as a trainee accountant with a well-regarded accounting firm. From this, I hope to further my career by getting my qualifications from an accounting body such as ACCA or ACA or CPA. When I complete this I hope to be a fully qualified chartered accountant, and hopefully move to Dublin. My dream would be to work with one of the big 4 accounting firms as this would be my end goal career-wise" Dylan added.

"I would recommend anyone who has a love for numbers and problem solving to pursue a career in accountancy. It is a trusted profession, and the salary is at a high end when you are fully qualified. This career is very flexible and there are excellent job opportunities for graduates" Dylan concluded.



L-R: Adam O'Reilly, Student Recruitment CPA Ireland and Dylan Donnelly



Xin Gin has won another prestigious International Award, picking up a gold medal at The Gin Masters 2022. The announcement follows recent wins for the Ahascragh-based Xin Gin at the World Gin Awards, International Wine and Spirits Competition and The Gin Guide Awards where it was named "Best in Ireland".

Michelle McAllister, Xin Gin's creator said "I am delighted that Xin Gin continues to be recognised in such prestigious International competitions. The feedback on the design and taste of Xin Gin has been incredible from both judging panels and our customers. We're looking forward to sharing our creation with fellow gin drinkers across Ireland and the world."



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The Aughrim Active Retirement Group were recently honoured at a special event in NUI Galway to acknowledge their contribution during the pandemic. Both the President of NUI Galway, Professor Ciaran O hOghartaigh and National President of Active Retirement Ireland, Anne Drury, praised the East Galway group for their voluntary contribution and fund-raising events.

The group made over 3,000 face masks, which were sold all over the world, raising more than €4,000 for the Jack and Jill Foundation as well as spending over 90 painstaking hours

completing a square metre patchwork quilt, featuring 25 individual coloured patterns on both sides and trimmed with the Galway colours-maroon and white.

The latter project was launched by Active Retirement Ireland, to highlight the resilience of their members in the 550 branches throughout the country during the period of lockdown. The Aughrim group was established in 2007 where its ethos has been dignity, independence and self-help. Chairperson Helen Mannion said her group were thrilled to be honoured by the National Association and thanked her colleagues who were so supportive at all times when called on to give a helping hand.



Pictured at the ceremony in NUI Galway, proudly displaying their patchwork quilt, were:
 Front row, l-r: Helen Mannion, Chairperson Aughrim ARG; Maureen Kavanagh, CEO Active Retirement Ireland; Dr. Ciaran O hOghartaigh, President NUI Galway; Mary Hynes, Theresa Loughrey, Anne Drury, President ARI; Carmel Murray.
 Back row, l-r: Dr. Siobhan Smyth, PRO; Angela Dwyer, Margaret Cullinane, Theresa Cleary, Maureen Kenny, Maisie Manning, Terri Reynolds, Marie Donohue, Galway Co. Cl.

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According to a recent ILCU study the costs of sending your children back to school or on to third level education are the highest they've ever been. The cost of sending a child to primary school this coming year is €1,195, up €9 on last year, while parents of secondary school children can expect to pay an average of €1,518, up from €27 on last year.

The increased costs of living are evidently having an impact on school items with the most expensive secondary school item this year being transport at €213, up from €195 last year, reflecting rising fuel costs. School books and uniforms are also

high at €210 and €195 respectively. After-school care is the top expense for primary school parents at €184, up €27 on last year, followed by extracurricular activities at €167.

Grainne Murphy, CEO of Ballinasloe of Credit Union said the credit union is aware that covering the costs of your child's education can be a big struggle for parents. "We are aware that back to school costs can place huge financial pressure on families and the increasing costs of living are adding even more stress to this. We want to reassure families that the Credit Union is here to help, we understand that the costs associated with back to school can be a financial burden. We want to reassure that are here for anyone who needs help."

Third level education costs also continue to take their toll on students in Ireland and with finance being such a huge aspect of third level life, a large number of students, or their parents, look to borrow to meet costs. Speaking to life Grainne advised "We are keenly aware of the huge financial burden that third level education places on students and their families in the Ballinasloe area. We understand that because of the significant costs involved, many have no option but to borrow. We ensure that if they borrow from us, it is a stress-free loan. We are always happy to work with students to ensure loan repayments are structured in the best way possible for their circumstances.

"We would like to get the message out to members that our doors are open and they are welcome to come and have a face to face conversation with us here at Ballinasloe credit union. We are here to lend a helping hand to cover the education costs."

For more information about Ballinasloe Credit Union education loans check out their website www.ballinasloecreditunion.ie

Cancer Charity Fundraiser Extraordinaire Aiden Sheridan with Linda Feeny - Operations Manager - Ballinasloe Credit Union, sponsors of Aiden's Swim the Shannon.





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The popular Shrine in Clonfert which is regarded as a special place for so many people, was recently awarded a formal designation in the Catholic Church as a Diocesan Marian Shrine.

The new status has made it the only other Diocesan Marian Shrine in Ireland, apart from Knock. Located in the Church of Saint Brendan, the shrine features a statue of Our Lady of Clonfert, which dates from the late 13th or early 14th century.

The Shrine was packed to capacity for the historic occasion as Bishop Michael Duignan travelled to bless

the newly-renovated church and to consecrate its new altar. In the same act, Fr Declan McInerney, Parish Priest of Eyrecourt, Clonfert and Meelick, was appointed as the shrine's first Rector.

Fr McInerney said: " The shrine is a special place for so many people. I am thrilled that we are officially recognising its importance in so many people's spiritual lives for so long. Visitors come from the local area but also from throughout the country and abroad. Many come with their own worries and fears - illness or difficulties in their relationships, at work or in their spiritual lives. Over and over again, I meet people returning to the shrine to give thanks for favours received, nerves calmed, and a new perspective they have been given on a difficult situation in their life."



FR. NIALL FOLEY'S GOLDEN JUBILEE

Father Niall Foley, Parish Priest of Mullagh and Killoran, recently celebrated 50 Years of Priesthood at a special ceremony in Mullagh Community Centre.

Fr Niall joined the priesthood in 1972, serving on the teaching staff and as Vice-principal of Garbally College before his appointment as Parish Priest of Mullagh and Killoran in 2010. Many of Fr. Foley's friends, family, familiar faces and parishioners attended on the night where a presentation of a plaque was made by Bishop Michael Duignan to the highly respected priest. On the Clonfert Diocese Social Media posting, many people commented to pass on their heartiest congratulations and best wishes to Fr Niall.

Bishop Michael stated: "What joy to join the Parishioners of Mullagh and Killoran to celebrate Fr Niall's fifty years of dedicated service as a priest. We give thanks for his ministry and ask God to bless him into the future. Sincere thanks to all who organised such a wonderful faith filled evening of celebration. Ad multos annos Father Niall!"



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The son of a Ballinasloe woman has signed a long-term contract with English football club Burnley, following an impressive season with their under-23's in which he emerged as their top scorer.

Dara Costelloe is the 19-year-old former Galway United soccer player who joined Burnley in February last year. He is the eldest son of Ballinasloe woman, Grainne (Cahill), formerly of Society Street and her husband, David, who now live in Castleconnell, Limerick, As a member of

their under-23 team last season he emerged as their top scorer with 12 goals while he also on the senior panel for over twelve months. Now under newly-appointed manager, Vincent Kompany, Dara hopes to help the Turf Moor side back to the premiership.

"I'm delighted with my new contract. I have been very happy here in Burnley since I arrived and have good friends here. I joined Galway United when I was 15, came over here only eighteen months ago and had a great run with the under-23s as a striker. I just hope I can become a regular first team member now" said an excited Dara.

FUNDING FOR ACCESSIBILITY BALLINASLOE

Accessibility Ballinasloe secured funding from Galway County Council recently for the supply of communication boards in 2 preschools and 4 national school playgrounds in the locality.

The boards open up a "communication opportunity" for children with speech and language difficulties in the schoolyard. It is also a useful communication tool for children whose first language is not English. The team presented the boards to the local schools recently and students were delighted to demonstrate how useful the boards will be to help them communicate within the

school community.

"A very sincere thank you to Galway County Council for their support in this very welcome initiative. The boards will be a big help in enhancing students abilities to communicate in the playground if they have language delay or where English may not be their first language. They were greatly received by all schools" added Accessibility Ballinasloe's Pro Marion Ruane.

If you would like to find out more about the boards and see some of the other work the group gets up to you can get in touch with them at accessibilitybsloe@gmail.com or visit their Facebook page [@AccessibilityBallinasloe](https://www.facebook.com/AccessibilityBallinasloe).



Newtown National School
L-R: Doreen McGowan, Marion Ruane Accessibility Ballinasloe, Mary Parker with students from Newtown NS.



St. Teresa's Special School
L-R: Anita Reilly being presented with communication board by Accessibility Ballinasloe team.



Accessibility Ballinasloe team presenting Communication Board to pupils and staff of Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh – pictured here with pupils from Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh and Principal Ruairí Ó hAnluain.

Eglis National School in Ahascragh welcomed 25 children and their teachers from Croatia, France, Germany and Italy as part of an ERASMUS+ exchange programme. Erasmus+ is the EU’s programme to support education, training, youth and sport in Europe.

During their week-long visit to Eglis, the visiting pupils and teachers took part in various activities, such as sharing recipes to create an international cookery book, presenting powerpoints and videos of each school, acting out local myths and legends from each country, and a photography competition where pupils take photos of nature. While in school the group learned about Irish Myths and legends.

In what was a very eventful week just some of the activities they took part in included a storyteller’s visit to the school as part of the Heritage in Schools programme and told stories of fairies and Fionn MacCumhaill. Students watched video presentations about saving turf, and learned how to foot turf, and visited Dún na Sí, the bog in Lough Boora. The students learned how to play hurling and Gaelic football and local

musicians played Irish music for them in Gallaghers of Ballyfa. The visitors were also given a guided tour of Ballinasloe with Sean Tully and Galway city with Marteen Lane.

Liz Mulry, project coordinator said: “The visit to Eglis National School marks the culmination of a project called ‘Storytelling in Nature’ where pupils and teachers from Eglis visited Croatia in October 2019 and Sicily in May 2022, visiting schools and taking part in workshops and cultural events. This is a fantastic opportunity for our pupils and teachers to work with our EU partners and share knowledge and good practice. The visitors were really well looked after by Moycarn Lodge and Marina and Coleran Coach and Bus Hire, and by local restaurants, and we’re very grateful to the communities of Ballinasloe and Ahascragh.”



ERASMUS+ group taking part in activities



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Kate Murray Clontuskert NS Principal, Fergal Ahern Head of Business Development, SSE Airtricity and Richard Ryan Community Development Programme Manager, Microsoft Ireland with Clontuskert NS students at the prize-giving ceremony.

awarded to the school, with each participating student also receiving a computer Tablet worth €100.

Speaking on the day, Principal Kate Murray said: "The Solar for Schools Education Programme and Sustainability Project Competition have given Clontuskert students and staff the opportunity to become sustainability champions. Through the focused learning opportunities in the program, our community has collectively become climate changemakers and leaders. Using

a growth mindset to focus on our own carbon footprint, along with renewable

energy and conservation, empowered us to take action and make positive changes."

Following the prizegiving, Fergal Ahern, Head of Business Development, SSE Airtricity stated: "The students of St Augustine's National School, Clontuskert have demonstrated great intent and passion for sustainability, showing us first-hand how sustainability and renewable energy can combine to help fight climate change while also benefitting their school and community on a daily basis."

St. Augustine's National School in Clontuskert have been named as the winning primary school in the SSE Airtricity and Microsoft Ireland Solar Schools Sustainability Competition.

Launched in 2020, the renewable energy programme enables schools to power classrooms using energy generated from their own roof, helping them to reduce their carbon footprint, and their energy costs. As part of the Schools Sustainability competition, schools from all over the country took part in a three-module course on renewable energy, sustainability, biodiversity, technology and innovation.

Following these modules, project submissions were made demonstrating the efforts of the schools to improve the environment. Clontuskert N.S. took first place for its environmental efforts, which saw students install a bug hotel to increase biodiversity, install an environmentally friendly sewage treatment plant, successfully petition to change waste management symbols in Ireland and become the first school in Ireland to receive the Climate Action School of Excellence Award.

A prize-giving ceremony was held at the school recently where a sustainability grant of €2,500 from Microsoft Ireland was



Rhys Kenny with the new drum set at the launch of Ballinasloe Library's new outdoor musical instruments in the library courtyard. The instruments are currently accessible to groups and classes by booking in advance. The instruments are suitable for all age ranges and mobilities.



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A massive €2.5million investment at KPW Print in the Poolboy Industrial Estate in Ballinasloe is expected to create at least twenty new jobs over the next five years.

The first phase was the installation of a €1.5million five colour printing press while work is now proceeding on the completion of a 5,000 sq. ft. extension to the 30,000 sq. ft. plant. The extension is to cater for the growing number of Pharmaceutical and Medical Device companies who have chosen to partner with KPW, the additional space will create an additional new cell to specialise in the folding of Lifescience leaflets and booklets.



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GARBALLY PARENTS' GOLF CLASSIC SUCCESS



By Robbie Gately

The Inaugural Garbally College Parents' Association Golf Classic was an incredibly tight competition with just six points separating first and eighth place. The winning team was from Connemara and scored 108 points. The team consisted of Colum O'Meara, Declan Grimes, Mike Keay and Dave McDermott. The second placed team: Mike Mislone, Thomas Tunnerty, Mickie Moore, Dean Gurkan and the third placed team: Sean Brennan, Kevin Tunneffe, Bernard Donnellan and Gerry Bullivan, both finished on 106 points. In fourth place Colum Browne, Frank Canning, Paul McGinn, and David Canning ended their round with 105 points. The fourth team placed also finished fifth when they played a second round and finished with 104 points.

In sixth place Vincent Cleary, Brendan Cleary, Sean Gilligan, and Gerry Fitzgerald ended with a score of 103. The seventh placed team: Kevin Curaiffe, Declan Finney, Frank Donoghue, Bernard Donnellan and the eighth placed team: Stolley Caffery, Rita Moore, Maureen Dolphin and Rosie Finneran both ended the day with a score of 102 points.

The winning ladies team: Enda Jennings, Tracey Smyth, Mary Goode and Aideen Beagun scored 103 points. There was also a nearest to the pin competition which was won by Carol McCarthy in the ladies' competition and Kevin Cunniffe won the men's competition.

The final competition held in late April, was the longest drive competition which was won by Mary Goode in the ladies and Emmett Mullen in the men's. The proceeds raised all went towards the current and capital requirements of the young pupils.





Creagh Training Centre continued its participation in the social farming programme in Brideswell recently. Participants in the programme spent one day per week, over an eight week period, helping out with all aspects of running and maintaining the nearby farm.

Creagh Training Centre is a HSE-run centre in Creagh, Ballinasloe, which provides community-based services for clients with mental health needs and those with an intellectual disability. The Social farming programme is just one of the initiatives they participate in each year. "Social farming provides a planned and supported placement for our trainees in which many of their individual care needs can be met through valuable and meaningful farm-related activities" explains Philip O'Connor, one of the instructors at Creagh Training Centre and co-ordinator for social farming activities at the centre.

"We only recently have had three trainees finish their placement at Hillside Organic & Holistic Farm run by Seán and Helen Butler in nearby Brideswell. "Seán and Helen's farm is affiliated with Social Farming Ireland. Social Farming Ireland connects organisations like Creagh Training Centre with local participating farms. This was the second time the Centre

has successfully partnered with this farm in delivering the programme.

"I really enjoyed the whole experience" said Damien Naughton, one of the recent participants. "We did a lot of walking through the fields - it was good exercise! We got to look after the animals (cattle, donkeys and a pig), plant trees and cut up timber for firewood. I will miss the whole routine now that it is finished." Tomás Brennan and Noreen Mannion, the other two participants, echoed Damien's sentiments with Noreen adding that "it was great to have been given the opportunity."

Seán Butler, the host farmer, was delighted with how well the recent participants partook in the programme. "Damien, Tomás and Noreen came every Friday. We worked together, had lunch together and shared stories while we worked. I've enjoyed our time together and I think they did too." Sean goes on to explain, "I joined the Social Farming Programme a number of years ago because its ethos very much mirrors my own belief that connection with the land, physical activity and fresh air can have a very positive impact on peoples' physical health and mental wellbeing."

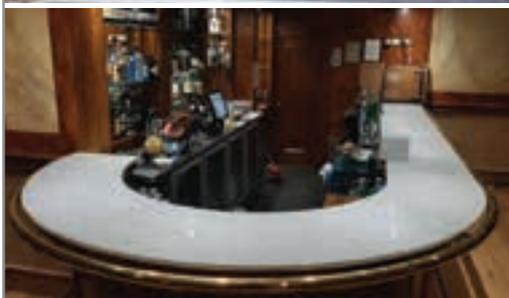
"The whole social farming concept has huge potential and Creagh Training Centre hopes to offer this programme to more of its trainees in the near future," Phillip concluded.



Damien Naughton (participant), Tomás Brennan (participant) and Noreen Mannion (participant) tending to the donkeys on Hillside.



Sean Butler (host farmer) with Damien Naughton, Noreen Mannion and Tomas Brennan (participants) standing beside the trees they helped to plant while on social farming.



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The Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys, visited the town at the request of Senator Aisling Dolan to meet local community groups.

Over thirty committee members and volunteers joined the Minister at the Marina for an outdoor breakfast at 8.00 am in sunny conditions, down by the Marina in the balmy late July.

Minister Humphries stated: "That communities should keep working away and to keep doing what they are doing. You have a lot of community groups in Ballinasloe, a fantastic BACD, one full enterprise centre, building a new enterprise centre that's amazing. What that is doing is creating real jobs in the area and is supporting start up businesses and sustain remote working. I think remote working is a game changer for rural Ireland.

"The community groups here have been working very hard." She noted - using the Tidy Towns as an example, that group is

a great organisation that are always continuing to improve. She then advised other groups to look at what's available under the outdoor recreation scheme because even though we are coming into Winter, people can still have nice walks or if upgrades have to be made, they can apply for funding. "I was very interested to talk to community groups this morning because they are coming up with good ideas and they're telling me how to make it easier and make better" noted the Minister.

She concluded "I was very impressed by the community groups here and right across Galway. In my department we want to help you in the community to realise your ambition and vision for your area because you know what you want, Keep in touch with Senator Aishling because she really does keep in touch with me."

Senator Dolan thanked the volunteers as they are the heartbeat of communities and towns. The Minister also spent time exploring the Marina and taking photos as she is involved in a Canal restoration project in her own community - that would link the Shannon Erne to the Ulster Canal in Clones and on to Lough Neagh.

CYCLEWAY UPDATE

The Galway to Athlone Cycleway project team have confirmed the options selection report confirming the preferred Route Selection 5 corridor will issue shortly.

It will outline the benefits and advantages of the Route 5 corridor from Athlone to Shannonbridge via Ballinasloe to Portumna, Gort, Kinvara, Oranmore and Galway. And so many communities outside of the main route are also looking at regional cycleway options to connect with the national route. The Cycleway to Ballinasloe will come from Kylemore along the towpath of the Grand Canal and potentially under the motorway bridge, beside the lock and through the village of Poolboy following the Grand Canal to arrive in Ballinasloe at the Marina.

This option 5 selection report brings Phase 2 to an end and the project team are already working on Phase 3 of preliminary design and environmental evaluations. Public Liaison Officers are engaging with landowners to finalise the precise route and hope to have an initial update in roughly 3 months' time.

The officers are committed to work with the farmers and landowners to identify a route that minimises any impacts on farming activities.

Senator Aisling Dolan stated "There is a lot of anticipation for the Galway to Athlone cycleway coming into Ballinasloe and a phenomenal level of support through submissions and petitions at each stage of the consultation. Families will now have places to walk & cycle off-road and it will bring so many opportunities for our town. We can see the construction of the cycleway bridge across the Shannon in Athlone at the Radisson Hotel - bringing it one step closer into the West."

"Phase 3 will take roughly 18 months with detailed environmental assessments on the route and an application to be prepared for submission to An Bord Pléanala in early 2024 with construction anticipated in 2025. This is a priority national cycleway project - even international as people can cycle to Dublin & all the way to Moscow under the Eurovélo route" Senator Dolan concluded.

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The winning team of the Ballinasloe RFC Golf Classic and a Golf Trip to France are Ollie Kilkenny; Pearse Keller, President, Ballinasloe RFC; Peter Campbell and Noel Dillon.



Kiltormer's Frank Rafferty and his main sponsor Maurice Doherty (VMS hire) all set to compete in the Stonethrowers rally in Tipperary. Photo credit Eye To Eye Photography.



Graduation For Happy Days Preschool

Top left to right: Kendra Pophiwa, Aashvie Chembanoor, Zeena Diaaldeen, Antoni Lyszczyński

Middle left to right: Sam Hurley, Adrina Shiju, Méabh Butler, Méabh O'Sullivan

Bottom left to right: Emily Jordan, Louise Abreu Borges, Karly Mae Pender, Annamarie O'Neill



Paramedic Graduation Class 2022



Pupils of 5th and 6th Class Newtown N.S. Confirmation in St. Michael's Church in June. Celebrant Bishop Michael Duignan, Father John Garvey and Father Charles, Class Teacher Joanne Jordan.



Hot off the Press at KPW. KPW Printer Paul Creavan presents a June-July Issue of Ballinasloe Life Magazine to Thomas Dillon



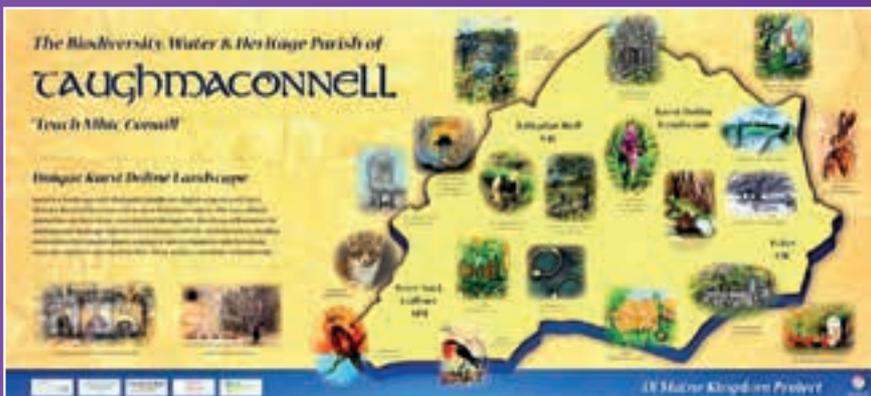
Our BARA singers were back on stage and in full voice after the pandemic delay. They returned to a full capacity audience in Gullane's Hotel Ballroom in early June, joined on stage by the Ballinasloe Town Band. At 'Songfest 8' the singers raised nearly €3000. All the proceeds raised on the night are being distributed to local voluntary community service providers. This years beneficiaries are the Midlands and East Galway Cancer Support Centre and the Residents Comfort & Recreational Fund, Deerpark . The event was supported by a Bealtaine Age and Opportunity Grant received from Galway County Council; covering the expenses & production costs on the night. The group are currently taking a break from rehearsals but will be singing in nursing homes occasionally if COVID allows. Marie Power - the Powerhouse behind the Singers thanked all volunteers who made 'Songfest' a worthwhile contribution to the community again!



Laura Blighe, National Marketing Manager Mr Price and Cllr Evelyn Parsons, Cathaoirleach Ballinasloe Municipal District - Opening the largest Mr Price Store in Ireland at Sarsfield Road, one of 12 nationwide and employing some 30 people.



Ballinasloe Active Retirement walking group on their Summer outing to Meelick/ Banagher



Celtic Eye Art Group alongside the Karst farming Group have unveiled a new "Biodiversity, Water and Heritage" sign, designed by themselves and given as a present to the Parish of Taughmaconnell as part of the project on highlighting the importance of protecting the unique karst landscape of South Roscommon. Conor Ruane funded the sign which six months to complete along with the help of graphic designer Stephanie from 'Temple Printing Athlone.' Members of the Taughmaconnell Hall Committee and locals from the parish could attend.

AUGUST 1, MONDAY

Men's 18H.S. S'ford	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Summer camp: 7-13 years old kids	Morning time	Bsloe Soccer C(Curragh)
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club

AUGUST 2, TUESDAY

Lion's Club Charity Day	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Ladies 18 H.S. Stroke Medal 6	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Open Club Sessions	6pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Club

AUGUST 3, WEDNESDAY

Junior Coaching -5-7 years old	5.15pm-6pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 8-11 years old	6pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music	9pm	An Tain Bar

AUGUST 4, THURSDAY

Lady Captain's Mixed	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Traditional Music Night	9.30pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Jukebox Gypsy	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Richard Moore Piano Bar	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge

AUGUST 5, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Cntr, Society St.
Lions Club Charity Golf Scramble	12pm-4pm	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Open Club Sessions	6pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Nial Rutledge	9.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Robbie & Brian	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Find the Joker	9pm	An Tain Bar

AUGUST 6, SATURDAY

Lady Capt. Prize, Med.7, Goy 5	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Junior Coaching 1-15 years old	12noon-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Amy Brennan	9.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
3 men and a bass	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Chris Nash	10pm	The Pillar House
Live Music	10pm	Dunlo Tavern
DJ	10pm	Joe's Bar

AUGUST 7, SUNDAY

Men's 18H.S. S'ford	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Open Club Sessions	10am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Shane Moore	7pm	Joe's Bar
Live Music Night	10pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Traditional Music	6pm	An Tain Bar

AUGUST 8, MONDAY

Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
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AUGUST 9, TUESDAY

Open Club Sessions	6pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
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AUGUST 10, WEDNESDAY

Senior Captain's Prize (Sean Kelly)	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 5-7 years old	5.15pm-6pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 8-11 years old	6pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music	9pm	An Tain Bar

AUGUST 11, THURSDAY

Ladies 18 H.S.S'ford (D.Goode)	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music Night	9.30pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Richard Moore Piano Bar	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge

AUGUST 12, FRIDAY

Kiltormer GAA Clasic	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Cntr, Society St.
Eamonn O'Neill	9.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Brego	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Find the Joker	9pm	An Tain Bar

AUGUST 13, SATURDAY

Kiltormer GAA Clasic	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Free Exhibition by Michael Riddell	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Junior Coaching 11-15 years old	12noon-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Bsloe Town Band Outdoor recital	1pm-2pm	St. Michael's Square,
Sean Dowling	9.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Beggars Velvet	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Live Music	10pm	Dunlo Tavern
Dave Mills	10pm	Joe's Bar

AUGUST 14, SUNDAY

Mens 18 H.S. S'ford	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Free Exhibition by Michael Riddell	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Open Club Sessions	10am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Finnegans Fury	7pm	Joe's Bar
Live Music Night	10pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Traditional Music	6pm	An Tain Bar

AUGUST 15, MONDAY

Free Exhibition by Michael Riddell	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club

AUGUST 16, TUESDAY

Ladies 18 H.S.Stroke GOY 6	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Free Exhibition by Michael Riddell	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Steve Dolan 1951 & 1925 Champions 5.45pm		Bllinasloe Library

AUGUST 17, WEDNESDAY

Exhibition by Michael Riddell	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching (age: 5-7 years old)	5.15pm-6pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 8-11 years old	6pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music	9pm	An Tain Bar

AUGUST 18, THURSDAY

Free Exhibition by Michael Riddell	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music Night	9.30pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Richard Moore Piano Bar	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge

AUGUST 19, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Cntr, Society St.
Free Exhibition by Michael Riddell	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
'Happy Bar Stars'	9pm	Shearwater Hotel
Down The Road	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Find the Joker	9pm	An Tain Bar

AUGUST 20, SATURDAY

Junior Coaching 11-15 years old	12noon-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Talk About & Walk About	12.15pm	Battle of Aughrim VC
Ballinasloe Town Band Camp	1pm-3pm	Town Band Hall
Sean Crehan	9.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
The Conjure men	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Live Music	10pm	Dunlo Tavern
Small Deal	10pm	Joe's Bar

AUGUST 21, SUNDAY

Mens 18H.S. S'ford	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Open Club Sessions	10am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Cruiscin	7pm	The Pillar House
A One	7pm	Joe's Bar
Live Music Night	10pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Traditional Music	6pm	An Tain Bar

AUGUST 22, MONDAY

Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
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AUGUST 23, TUESDAY

Ladies Connacht Trophy Qualifier	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
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AUGUST 24, WEDNESDAY

Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 5-7 years old	5.15pm-6pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 8-11 years old	6pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music	9pm	An Tain Bar

AUGUST 25, THURSDAY

President's Mixed	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music Night	9.30pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Richard Moore Piano Bar	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge

AUGUST 26, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Cntr, Society St.
Open Club Sessions	6pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
'Happy Bar Stars'	9pm	Shearwater Hotel
Live Music	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Find the Joker	9pm	An Tain Bar

AUGUST 27, SATURDAY

Junior Coaching 11-15 years old	12noon-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Sean Crehan	9.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Acoustic Ninjas	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
High Reel	10pm	The Pillar House
Live Music	10pm	Dunlo Tavern
John Finnerty	10pm	Joe's Bar

AUGUST 28, SUNDAY

Presidents Prize	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Clontuskert Com. Dev. Fun Day	Daytime	Clontuskert Pitch
Open Club Sessions	10am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Ken solo	7pm	Joe's Bar
Live Music Night	10pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Traditional Music	6pm	An Tain Bar

AUGUST 29, MONDAY

Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
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AUGUST 30, TUESDAY

Ladies 18 H.S.S'ford (Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Open Club Sessions	6pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Club

AUGUST 31, WEDNESDAY

Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 5-7 years old	5.15pm-6pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 8-11 years old	6pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music	9pm	An Tain Bar

To Advertise Your Events here please contact
ballinasloelifereporter@gmail.com or call 085 7648377 and leave a
 voice message. We will be back to confirm by 13th September

SEPTEMBER 1, THURSDAY

Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music Night	9.30pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Richard Moore Piano Bar	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge

SEPTEMBER 2, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Cntr, Society St.
Open Club Sessions	6pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Niall Rutledge	9.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Brego	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Find the Joker	9pm	An Táin Bar

SEPTEMBER 3, SATURDAY

Junior Coaching 11-15 years old	12noon-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Amy Brennan	9.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Red Tape	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Ollie Rocks	10pm	The Pillar House
Live Music	10pm	Dunlo Tavern
Boogiemen	10pm	Joe's Bar

SEPTEMBER 4, SUNDAY

Mens 18 H.S.F'ford	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Open Club Sessions	10am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Shane Moore	7pm	Joe's Bar
Live Music Night	10pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin Bar

SEPTEMBER 5, MONDAY

Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
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SEPTEMBER 6, TUESDAY

Ladies 18H.S. Stroke Medal 8	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Open Club Sessions	6pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Club

SEPTEMBER 7, WEDNESDAY

Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 5-7 years old	5.15pm-6pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 8-11 years old	6pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Soccer Club Bingo	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin Bar

SEPTEMBER 8, THURSDAY

Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music Night	9.30pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Richard Moore Piano Bar	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge
Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds	All Weekend	Pillar House

SEPTEMBER 9, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Cntr, Society St.
Open Club Sessions	6pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
'Happy Bar Stars'	9pm	Shearwater Hotel
Keith & Liam	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Find the Joker	9pm	An Táin Bar
Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds	All Weekend	Pillar House
Danny O'Mahony	8.30pm	Pillar House

SEPTEMBER 10, SATURDAY

Nat. Irish Draft of Ireland Cship	All day	Bsloe Showgrounds
Junior Coaching 1-15 years ol	12noon-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Sean Dowling	9.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Acoustic Ninjas	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Sean O'Sullivan	10pm	The Pillar House
Live Music	10pm	Dunlo Tavern
Miranda	10pm	Joe's Bar
Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds	All Weekend	Pillar House

SEPTEMBER 11, SUNDAY

Mens 18 H.S. S'ford	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Open Club Sessions	10am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Tongue & Grove	7pm	Joe's Bar
Live Music Night	10pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin Bar
Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds	All Weekend	Pillar House

SEPTEMBER 12, MONDAY

Bsloe town Band open Rehearsal	Daytime	Town Band Hall
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club

SEPTEMBER 13, TUESDAY

Ladies 18 H.S. S'ford.	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Open Club Sessions	6pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Club

SEPTEMBER 14, WEDNESDAY

Free Bsloe Horse Fair Exhibition	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 5-7 years old	5.15pm-6pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 8-11 years old	6pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Soccer Club Bingo	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin Bar

SEPTEMBER 15, THURSDAY

Free Bsloe Horse Fair Exhibition	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music Night	9.30pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Richard Moore Piano Bar	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge

SEPTEMBER 16, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Cntr, Society St.
Free Bsloe Horse Fair Exhibition	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Open Club Sessions	6pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Eamonn O'Neill	9.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Robbie & Brian	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Find the Joker	9pm	An Táin Bar

SEPTEMBER 17, SATURDAY

Free Bsloe Horse Fair Exhibition	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Junior Coaching 11-15 years old	12noon-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Nicola Bowes Art Exhibition Launch	2.30pm-4.30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Sean Crehan	9.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Live Music	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Live Music	10pm	Dunlo Tavern
Small Deal	10pm	Joe's Bar

SEPTEMBER 18, SUNDAY

Open Club Sessions	10am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Mens 18 H.S.S'ford (Gullanes Hotel)	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Balinasloe Panto Auditions	12noon-3pm	Bsloe Town Hall Theat
Night Owl	7pm	Joe's Bar
Bsloe T. Band, Higashikawa Band	7.30pm-9pm	Galway Cathedral
Live Music Night	10pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin Bar

SEPTEMBER 19, MONDAY

Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
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SEPTEMBER 20, TUESDAY

Ladies 18 H.S. S'ford	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Free Bsloe Horse Fair Exhibition	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Open Club Sessions	6pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Club

SEPTEMBER 21, WEDNESDAY

Free Bsloe Horse Fair Exhibition	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 5-7 years old	5.15pm-6pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 8-11 years old	6pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Soccer Club Bingo	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin Bar



For daily updates on news, events, death announcements and traffic updates - tune into our Local Radio Partner

SEPTEMBER 22, THURSDAY

Free Bsloe Horse Fair Exhibition	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music Night	9.30pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Richard Moore Piano Bar	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge

SEPTEMBER 23, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Cntr, Society St.
Free Bsloe Horse Fair Exhibition	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Group 8 Culture Night Exhibit	Daytime	Artisan Alley, T Hall T
Culture Night at the Library (TBC)	Eveningtime	Ballinasloe Library
Open Club Sessions	6pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Amy Brennan	9.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Live Music	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Find the Joker	9pm	An Táin Bar

SEPTEMBER 24, SATURDAY

Summer Stars Certificate Present	11am-12pm	Ballinasloe Library
Junior Coaching 1-15 years old	12noon-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Free Bsloe Horse Fair Exhibition	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Group 8 Open Exhibition	Daytime	Artisan Alley, T. Hall T
Summer Stars CertPresentation	3pm-4pm	Ballinasloe Library
'Happy Bar Stars'	9pm	Shearwater Hotel
3 men & a bass	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Kevin Corry Duo	10pm	The Pillar House
Live Music	10pm	Dunlo Tavern
John Finnerty	10pm	Joe's Bar

SEPTEMBER 25, SUNDAY

Ballinasloe Agricultural Show	All Day	Bsloe Showgrounds
Open Club Sessions	10am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Mens 18 H.S.Stroke GOY 6	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Dave Mills	7pm	Joe's Bar
Live Music Night	10pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin Bar

SEPTEMBER 26, MONDAY

Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
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SEPTEMBER 27, TUESDAY

Ladies 18 H.S.Stroke GOY 7	Daytime	Ballinasloe Golf Club
Free Bsloe Horse Fair Exhibition	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Open Club Sessions	6pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Club

SEPTEMBER 28, WEDNESDAY

Free Bsloe Horse Fair Exhibition	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 5-7 years old	5.15pm-6pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Junior Coaching 8-11 years old	6pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Soccer Club Bingo	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin Bar

SEPTEMBER 29, THURSDAY

Free Bsloe Horse Fair Exhibition	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Inter firms/groups league	Eveningtime	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music Night	9.30pm	Fallons Bar (Sbridge)
Richard Moore Piano Bar	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge

SEPTEMBER 30, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Cntr, Society St.
Free Bsloe Horse Fair Exhibition	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Open Club Sessions	6pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Sean Crehan	9.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Find the Joker	9pm	An Táin Bar



Ballinasloe Women's Group and the Knitting and Crochet group are bringing colour, vitality, and personality to some of Ballinasloe's public spaces this Autumn.

Yarnbombing is a type of temporary street art where public structures are covered with knitted or crocheted creations. Over the past few months, the two groups as well as friends in the Apree nursing home have been working away crocheting the designs which will bring a ray of sunshine into all our lives!

The Ballinasloe Women's group meet every Thursday in the Library for chats, activities, and lots of fun. The group is delighted to have members not only locally, but also from across the globe and recently welcomed some new Ukrainian

shout-out to all the women who have contributed and who had so much fun along the way. With a very special nod to Patsi and Carol who everyone agrees are our yarnbombing heroes" added Executive Librarian of Ballinasloe Library, Una Kelly.

For more information on group meeting times and information on how to join groups contact the library on ballinasloe@galwaylibrary.ie or check out their Facebook page @ EDBallinasloe.



SUMMER STARS LIBRARY PROGRAMME

The Library's Summer Stars Reading Programme is also in full swing with children of all ages invited to take part.

The programme which is free of charge runs from now until the end of August and it encourages children to read as many books as they can in that period. Each child who signs up is given a bag containing assorted bookmarks and wristbands, and they will also receive a reading card which will be held at the library. For each book they read, they receive a stamp on their reading card, and all participants are invited to the presentation on September 24 where there will be two times for attendees to choose from, one at 11am-12pm, and 3-4pm in the library to collect their certificate of completion.

The library's opening hours remain from Wednesday to Sunday from 11:00 - 1:00 PM and 2:00pm and 5:00pm. If you have any questions on how to get involved in any of the activities, or what events are coming up you can email the library on ballinasloe@galwaylibrary.ie and follow their Facebook and Twitter pages @ EDBallinasloe for updates.



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Fresh from her successes as a Finalist with TG4's Ceol Tire, and indeed the Irish Heat for Eurovision local chanteuse Rachel Goode has released her latest single "Climb That Mountain High".

Not only is the Birchgrove lady a talented singer but she also has a keen love for fashion and has a certification in Personal Shopping and Fashion styling. As well as this she also has a bachelor Music degree from DIT and a Masters of Arts in Opera Performance from Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama. She has a love for all genres of music, but she is known for singing of Irish Folk, Country and Opera.

It is a Reba Mcintyre cover and was released at the end June following up from her debut single "Coal Miner's Daughter, and Tennessee Waltz. It is a lively jive, and it would slightly remind you of "Past The Point of Rescue" with its minor tonality. The song talks about climbing a mountain, but she believes it is a metaphor for reaching your dreams. She just recently shot the promotional video for the song in Coreen Ford and had the loan of Des Harneys' Triumph Spitfire Vintage Vehicle for the occasion.

The Video is redolent of country vintage vibes and the video should be out on her YouTube channel in the coming weeks. The song itself is available to download on all music platforms and request from all local radio stations, so she would love if people would get requests in on all the various country radio shows. She



will also have hard copy CDs so if anyone would like to purchase one, please get in touch with Rachel via Facebook or they will be for sale in some local shops.

Rachel currently has other music being arranged at the moment so there is lots more to come on the recording front. She had a very successful concert recently in Moore Hall as well as playing in the Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre and she is looking forward to organising more concerts in the future.

She is also looking forward to singing on the "All Star Irish Gertrude Byrne" cruise in Alaska next year among a star-studded line up including Daniel O'Donnell, Jimmy Buckley and Michael English (just to name a few). The cruise is due to set sail on May 28th and return June 4th, 2023, with still some tickets available.





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- Aaron McDermott - Chartered Physiotherapist
- Robbie Fox - Sport Masseur Connacht Rugby

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NOW
OPEN





With Fletchers of Ballinasloe now firmly in the rear view mirror, after 40 years now, retired from Retail - Sean Fletcher is concentrating on the London music scene with his company Modern Media.

The company began in 2009 and is now firmly established in London.

It has promoted sold out gigs over the past 14 years and has established Sean Fletcher with artistes like Leah Weller, Clem Burke from Blondie, Bootleg Blondie, The Vapor's and newest name to the portfolio Latin Quarter.

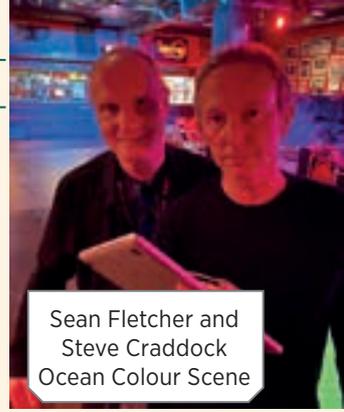
The highly political band from the 80's, who's many hits including 'Radio Africa' topped the UK and worldwide charts. Modern media promote from the '100 Club London' and soon 'The Cavern Club' Liverpool.

The Cavern Club is a thriving live music destination and one of Liverpool's top tourist attractions. The three venues - the Cavern Club, Cavern Live Lounge, and the Cavern Pub - showcase not only the incredible legacy of The Beatles, but

also new up and coming bands and established artists.

Sean's company organise and promote live music events in the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Spain. They pride themselves on lively, intimate gigs with crowds ranging from 250 to 500. Since 2009, they have worked with a multitude of bands and artists featuring both original acts and top tier tribute bands. As of July 18, all their upcoming shows are on in London or Liverpool.

They are also partnered with the 2FM roadcoaster which brings different shows from the radio station to produce them live from a different location other than the studio. They also organise celebrity meet and greets with Alison King and Samia Ghadie who are best known for playing Carla Connor and Maria Connor on the British soap drama Coronation Street. More information on upcoming events can be found at Modern Media - Specialist Music Promotion.



Sean Fletcher and Steve Craddock
Ocean Colour Scene

BALLINASLOE PANTO IS BACK!

After two Christmases without a show, the Panto is back. After Rapunzel in 2019, this year's panto promises to be bigger and better than ever!

The production is set to run from the 5th to the 11th of December in the Town Hall Theatre. The search is now on to find the cast. Auditions will be taking place in the Theatre on Sunday, September 18th from 12 noon to 3pm. Producers will be looking to fill several roles. If you're aged over six, enjoy acting, singing, dancing, having fun, and making new friends all while taking part in a magical show then this is the production for you.

Participants don't need to have anything prepared-just turn up to auditions ready to showcase your singing and dancing. All ages (6+) and all levels of experience are welcome to



audition. If you're over 18 and are looking to audition for a leading role it's recommended, you attend after 1:30pm. The final registration is at 2:30pm.

Make sure to keep an eye on their Facebook page for the big reveal. If you have any questions or would like extra information on the auditions process the easiest way to get in touch is by sending a message to the Facebook page @ballinasloetownhalltheatre.

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The Band's first summer public event was at the Inland Waterways Big Boats Heritage Boat Association week of activities at the Marina. With a great crowd present, the band were well able to keep everyone in a celebratory mood. The group also held a recital at the top of St. Michaels Square recently, as they treated shoppers to a lively performance of film and 80's favourites.

Their next outing was for The Irish Marching Bands Associations first summer festival event in Ballinasloe. Poor weather conditions forced the outdoor event indoors, with the Emerald Ballroom providing safe refuge from the inclement weather. Mullingar Town Band, along with Inbhear Mor Performance Ensemble from Arklow, joined Ballinasloe Town Band for an action-packed afternoon of marching workshops and competitive Marching Band performances, culminating with a combined Bands rehearsal and performance.

The band intend to play at local Nursing Homes, and in the Town Square over the summer months. They will also perform at Ballygar Carnival.

Monday September 12th sees the arrival of The Higashikawa High School Band from Japan to Ballinasloe. They had intended travelling for the Galway 2020 cultural event before Covid intervened. They will perform for students at a local secondary school before their public evening performance.

The AGM of the Town Band took place in their renovated Band Hall on Friday 9th June. Chairman Damien O Neachtain reported that 2021 had continued as a difficult year for the band with COVID, and the necessary restrictions, limiting the ability of the band to deliver on it's potential. The Band overcame these difficulties and lessons continued virtually, over Zoom, with in person rehearsals, when possible. This enabled the band to prepare for the public recitals conducted either in the local nursing homes or at the top of St. Michael's Square all of which were very well received.

Treasurer Carmel Carrick noted that it cost €25,000 to "run the band" during the financial year end 12.2021. Income from subscriptions, band fees and Ballinasloe Credit Union Social

Fund came to €38,000. This left a surplus of €13,000 at year end. The Town Band has a mortgage of €38,000 outstanding on the Band Hall - this is being repaid at €1,500 per month. Carmel noted that grant aid from Galway Rural Development over the past three years of refurbishment of the hall totalled €105,000. Fundraising by the Band Committee during the 3 year period exceeded €75,000 which included the massive raise the roof campaign.

The band now have a strong dedicated junior membership and their musical proficiency has improved significantly in the last couple of years. Thanks were extended to all the tutors who had supported their development.

The hall is now in active use with other groups utilising the space. The running costs of the band are significant with the opportunities to fundraise hampered by COVID. However, the band have been extremely fortunate to have the continued support from Galway Rural Development, Galway County Council, Ballinasloe Credit Union supplemented by the generosity of local businesses and the community, responding very generously to fundraising initiatives.

In conclusion the chairman thanked the outgoing committee for all their hard work. He also complimented Noel Madden and Keith Kelly for their musical stewardship of the band. The outgoing committee were re-elected as follows Chair: Damien O Neachtain, Secretary: Katja Connolly Treasurer: Carmel Carrig, Committee Members Noel Madden, Martina Doherty, Chris Doherty, and Brian Derrane.

The Ballinasloe Town Band has been providing music education in East Galway for generations giving expert tuition, a safe and fun environment, along with the instruments to be part of the band. The junior band is now enrolling children aged 8 - 12 years of age for this coming September. If interested, then sign up via the following link:

<https://ballinasloetownband.com/join>. The band also hopes to attract new teenage and adult members.



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The Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre recently held a very successful Open Night, which was well attended by all in the locale. The night started in the newly refurbished foyer, where people were given the opportunity to take in all the work that had been done while enjoying some refreshments and a chat.

In the auditorium, Chairperson Máire Hughes took to the stage where she highlighted all the work that had been done by them to date in the Theatre, including the new bathrooms, the upgrade of the foyer, and the refurbishment of the dressing rooms and front office spaces. She praised the commitment and dedication shown to the Theatre by not only the Committee and Board, but also by the slews of volunteers and members of the community who regularly show their support.

Alan Harney then spoke about the work the Committee is currently undertaking and what they have planned in the near future, such as the rental of the office spaces to the front of the building and the installation of a new cyclorama wall at the back of the stage. This upgrade will provide a much smoother background for light and projection effects during live performances. Alan also spoke of their wish to get more

people involved in the Theatre, both as Society Members and Volunteers.

Attendees were then given the opportunity to be brought on a tour of the entire building. Many of whom had only ever been in the Theatre as part of the audience, and so it was their first time to see beyond the stage. Every room was explored, from the front to the back of the building, and some of the dressing rooms had been decorated with photos of past productions for all to enjoy. The night ended back in the foyer, with many sharing stories and reminiscing about previous experiences in the Theatre.

If you would like to sign up to become a member of the Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre Society you can do so on their website www.ballinasloetownhall.com/booking.com. Membership is €25, and by signing up you are helping to support the Theatre and The Arts in the community, and you would also get early access to tickets sold through BTHT Box Office.

For further information on upcoming events and to stay up to date with the latest news from the Theatre you can follow them on Facebook and Instagram. To get in touch with the committee or to make a booking enquiry you can send a private message on social media or email ballinasloetownhalltheatre@gmail.com



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After a hiatus in 2020 and 2021, the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre reopened with a new look, improved layout, and more exhibits last month. Eagerly anticipating the reopening of the centre were local group Cath Eachroma 1691, who are counting down the days until August 20th, when their annual Heritage Week Event - the "Talk About and Walk About"- begins.

The members of Cath Eachroma 1691 worked in conjunction with Dr Padraig Lenihan and Galway Co. Council to produce the schools activity pack which is available in the centre, and is a valuable asset for school visits. They also worked to improve the exhibits, display boards, and signage within the centre itself.

"The break during covid helped in a way, as it meant that we could take stock of where the group was at, and also allowed for time to research and gather information for the display boards. During the lockdowns we were also able to produce a photo booklet about the landscape of Aughrim, which is available to buy in the village, and we were also able to look at ways to improve and expand our event" explained group Chairperson Michael Riddell.

Michael, along with the group's secretary Abbie McGowan, were also delighted to give a tour of the Battlefield to pupils at St Catherine's NS in Aughrim. "Demand for battlefield tours are high. We get a large amount of queries through social media from people looking for tours and we are very happy to oblige. We can tailor the tour to suit any mobility issues or specific interests, and we have a range of replica weapons which we invite adults and children to handle during the tour for a hands-on experience" stated Abbie. Tours for individuals and groups can be booked by messaging the Facebook and Twitter pages, or contacting catheachroma1691@gmail.com

Founding member George Geraghty added: "Over 90 people attended our event in 2019, which was a huge achievement, and we are hoping to be able to build on that attendance figure year by year. We're very grateful to Ballinasloe Credit Union whose generosity has allowed us to avail of our own



Cath Eachroma Founding Member George Geraghty with Cath Eachroma Chairperson Michael Riddell

customised jackets. Galway County Council also granted us funding which allowed us to produce the photo booklet, along with banners and pop-up that contain information on the battle. We were also able to add to our stock of replica props, flags, and weapons. All of these go a long way to contributing to the quality of our event, and I think anyone who attends this year will be able to see the improvements, not just in the centre but for our group as well."

The Talk About and Walk About will see members Hannah Daly, Abbie McGowan, Joe Treacy, and Joe Tully take centre stage in describing the momentous events of July 12th 1691. A guided tour of the Battlefield will then follow, after refreshments, led by Michael Riddell and James Treacy. There is no booking required and entry is free on the day.

For more information, you can contact the group via Facebook, Twitter and Instagram at @1691Aughrim.



Distinguished Brackernagh Musician Richard Moore has begun a new exciting series of Thursday Nights Piano Bar at the Moycarn Lodge Inn and Marina from about 10.00 pm. Berkley, Boston College Music Graduate is no stranger to the Ivories and he is happily playing special requests along with his Moore's Melodies back catalogue from Sondheim to Schubert!

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After a long-awaited break, Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds returns this September for its ninth year of ceol, cultúr, and craic. The weekend was originally established to commemorate the life and music of local man, Larry Reynolds, and his contribution to traditional Irish music but since grown to celebrate and promote all things Irish music, arts, heritage and culture.



Opening the weekend, Kerry accordion player, Danny O'Mahony, will deliver an up close and personal concert in Gibbons' Pillar House, Society Street. Entry costs €15. A limited number of tickets are available on the festival's website. The Friday night will also see the beginning of the weekend's session trail. All musicians are welcome!

On the Saturday morning, traditional music workshops will take place in Scoil an Chroí Naofa, Society Street. Workshops are offered in flute, button accordion, fiddle, banjo, and bodhrán, with tutors Céin Sweeney, Danny O'Mahony, Dylan Carlos, George McAdam, and Martin Gavin respectively.

The Larry Reynolds All-Ireland Under 18 fiddle competition returns on Saturday the 10th of September. The Larry Reynolds Perpetual Trophy, as well as a monetary prize, is awarded to first place. The competition takes place at 3 pm in Scoil an Chroí Naofa, Society Street.

The schools' art competition will return this year with medals awarded on the Saturday of the festival. More information is available from participating schools. This year also sees the launch of our first

photography competition, where visitors to the festival are encouraged to send in their best photo of the weekend.

As in previous years, an interactive display of traditional crafters will take place from 11 am Saturday in St. Michael's Square. There will also be a historical walk of Ballinasloe leaving at 12 pm from the Ballinasloe Library, Society Street. The session trail will continue throughout Saturday in participating pubs around the town.

Sunday begins with a remembrance mass in St. Michael's Church at 12 noon followed by more music sessions around the town. The weekend Céilí will start at 3 pm in Gullane's Hotel, Main Street with music provided by Uí Bhriain Céilí Band, all the way from County Kerry!

The very popular singers' circle will kick off at 3 pm in Clarke's Dunlo Tavern, led by the legendary Johnny Johnston and Eleanor Shanley. The festival will come to a close at 6 pm Sunday evening with a final Slán Abhaile session in The Pillar House.



Action from the festival

To celebrate Galway Pride check out our #LGBTQIA+ reads here in Ballinasloe Library Europe Direct

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Keep an eye on the social media channels and website for more information over the next two months. "The festival would like to thank all our sponsors, supporters, and friends over the last nine years. We look forward to seeing you all in September, All musicians, singers, dancers, storytellers, hand clappers, and foot stompers are welcome" states Festival Chair Bernie Feeny.

www.larryreynoldswkend.com



FCLR, Committee, L-R: Billy Reynolds, Alec Farrell, Anna Guider, Corina Guider, Mary Feeny, Aisling Feeny, Helena Coughlan, Christopher Feeny, Claire Gibbons, Martina Flanagan.



For its twelfth outing, Ballinasloe-based artist collective - Group 8 will hold the opening of its annual exhibition, 'EIGHT', for Culture Night this year.

The exhibition gets underway on Friday September 23, at 7pm, in Artisan Alley at the Town Hall Theatre. The exhibition will run all day Friday 23 and Saturday 24, and will feature writing, paintings, wood turning, textiles, photography, ceramics, mixed media, and sculpture.

Group 8 is a non-profit, professional arts group whose aim is to foster awareness, imagination and co-operative learning between the artist and the community. The group was founded in 2009 when a number of artists saw a gap for a group of professional artists in the town, their view was to come together and create a cultural offering for the town. Every year they hold an annual exhibition where they showcase their work and gives people an opportunity to talk to the artists and writers regarding their practice.

The group has since expanded from its original cohort of eight members, and they are now comprised of nine visual artists and two writers. The group consists of Joyce Little - visual and multimedia artist; Tommy Campbell - sculptor and woodturner; Lily Kelly - visual artist; Grellan Ganly - visual artist; Úna Spain - visual artist; Nuala O'Connor - writer; Zara Little-Campbell - writer; John Soden - painter; Walter Coughlan - ceramicist; Fiona Ormsby - textile designer; and Fiona Moore - painter.

Members of the group have been busy of late designing awards for the winners at the recent Cathaoirleach Community Awards. Finalist winners on the night received a specially commissioned award designed and hand-crafted by Zara Little Campbell and Tommy Campbell, the wonderfully crafted awards were made using local bog oak, resin and Ballinasloe Limestone.

This year's exhibition 'EIGHT' is the result of collaborative work the members undertook, taking inspiration from the figure 8

itself; from the idea of the number eight as representing infinity; and/or from working within the parameters of producing eight pieces of work. As always, each artist or writer was free to interpret the theme whatever way they chose. with a view to add to the cultural interest of the town.

All are welcome to attend over the exhibition over the two days, admission is free and there will be refreshments served. The group hosts other exhibitions, literary events, artist talks, readings, workshops, and book launches, you can keep up to date with all their latest events by checking their blog thegroup8.blogspot.com and their Facebook page @group8ballinasloe where they post regularly.



Front row: Grellan Ganly & Lily Kelly with Brendan Harding, who launched last year's exhibition.

Middle: Fiona Ormsby, Nuala O'Connor, John Soden.

Back: Tommy Campbell, Zara Little-Campbell, Joyce Little, Úna Spain.

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Ballinasloe's very own Amie Doherty has been invited to join The Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences, which is best known for its annual Academy Awards, or Oscars.

The local Brackernagh woman, who is a prolific composer of music for film and TV, was among a group of just under 400 "distinguished artists and executives" who were recently invited to join the organisation in 2022. Doherty said she was "gobsmacked" and "incredibly honoured" after the invitation to join. Amie was one of twelve invitees to the Academy in the music category along with some household names in the industry including Billie Eilish.

It's the latest milestone in the career of the extremely talented artist, after she made history last year when her score for 'Spirit Untamed' made her the first female composer ever to score a DreamWorks animated feature. Amie's glittering career to date has also seen her work on the soundtracks for 'Star Trek: Discovery', 'The Umbrella Academy' and ' Fargo' as well as working on projects with Lady Gaga and rapper 50 Cent!

Amie has always said her career path

had been shaped by growing up in a very musical household in Ballinasloe. Daughter of Martina and niece of Noel Madden, two prestigious Ballinasloe Town Band members, music was always a big part of Amie's life from an early age. "My Mam is from a big family and they all live in and around Ballinasloe. Everyone is just really musical. All of our cousins play instruments and every party we had was centred around music" she said.

"I started playing the piano from a young age, and my teachers, Nellie Hurley and Marie Power, had a huge influence on my career. Everyone in the area is just very involved in music in the community, and Ballinasloe, in general, is a great place for music" concluded Amie.



NUIG HONOURS ÉIMEAR NOONE

Award-winning composer, conductor and Kilconnell native Éimear Noone was conferred with an honorary Doctor of Music by NUI Galway recently.

Growing up, Éimear always had a keen interest in music where she regularly practiced tin whistle during her time in Kilconnell NS. As a secondary school student at Scoil Mhuire in Ballinasloe, Éimear studied piano with Marie Power, someone she describes as "an extraordinarily musical person" who had a "major influence" on her career. Her first experience of conducting came whilst at the school when an army band, who were playing a concert at the school, gave her the opportunity to conduct an orchestra for the first time!

The world-renowned conductor has also composed extensively for film and video games with her portfolio of some 26 film and video-game titles having reached more than 100 million people worldwide. Éimear has won multiple industry accolades including the Hollywood Music in Media Award for Best Video Game Score. And she made history in 2020 when she became the first woman to conduct the orchestra at the Oscars.

Éimear stated: "I am delighted to be conferred with the honorary doctorate, it's particularly poignant that it's

the same year that the first students of the University's Bachelor of Music are graduating from NUI Galway. I'm from Kilconnell, so to be honoured in my own home county, in Galway, is so meaningful and overwhelming. If I was to offer any advice to the graduates of today, it's this - take the 'don't be bold' that we are told as kids, and turn it on its head, and go out there and be bold."

President of NUI Galway, Professor Ciarán Ó hÓgartaigh, congratulated Eimear for her hard work and her achievement in challenging times: "I would like to extend my congratulations to Eimear Noone. We are delighted to be able to recognise her outstanding contribution to the world of music and gaming."



The new European Youth Boxing Gold Medallist, Clíona D'Arcy, has a direct link to Ballinasloe. Her father Ritchie Darcy is from Poolboy Cottages and is of course himself a former Irish Boxing Champion.



Clíona with her European gold medal

The family are now based in Gort, Co. Galway where Dad Ritchie runs a famous Bar – “Dicey Reilleys” in the Square.

Speaking to Ballinasloe Life former Mayor of Ballinasloe Johnny Walsh, who is Ritchie's first cousin stated that the Community “are incredibly proud of Clíona's fantastic achievement in becoming European Champion in the Heavyweight Division”.

This achievement is more extraordinary considering that on her way to the gold medal Clíona defeated a Hungarian in the quarter

finals, a Polish girl who was the reigning European Champion in the semi-final and in the final, itself defeated the reigning World Champion from the Ukraine. Add to this the fact that Clíona is still only 17 years of age and underage for the next 2 years for the European Championships only highlights the enormous achievement this has proved to be. As well as Clíona's European gold medal she has also won six Irish titles during her teens.

There is of course a proud record of boxing success in the family with father Ritchie winning three Irish Youth Titles and won a gold medal at the Celtic Youth Games which included boxers from France, Scotland, Canada, Wales, and England.

Clíona's next big goal is the World Championships which will be held this year in Alicante in November, and she is currently very busy training hard for this.

“All Clíona's relations in the D'Arcy, Walsh, Donnellan, Gavin, and extended families locally wish to warmly congratulate Clíona on her European Gold medal and are eagerly looking forward to the Forthcoming World Championships” states Johnny.

KARATE CLUBS DENMARK BOUND

Itosu-Kai Karatedo Ireland (IKKI), which was founded in Ballinasloe, are gearing up to head to Kolding, Denmark to compete in their International Federation karate tournament, hosted by the Denmark branch of Itosu-Ryu Karatedo International Federation (IKIF) under the auspices of the Japanese HQ, Yokohama, Japan.

There are 50 competitors travelling to compete this August, which is a great response from the clubs. The IKKI has its headquarters in the Emerald Ballroom, and the association consists of nine clubs. The IKKI has competed internationally since the early eighties and coaches have been working hard with the team all year and relish the team's prospects in Denmark.

The Team consists of both male and female competitors ranging in ages from the youngest in the under 8's category to the over 55's categories and all age categories in between. Team manager Leo Mulvany stated: “These and other events that the IKKI take part in give a fantastic opportunity for all its members to represent Ireland on the mat against and with the best in the world.”

The club are always looking for new members to come and have a go at Karate, classes for beginners will commence on Wednesday, 7th September at 7pm. You can also call into the Emerald Ballroom any Monday or Wednesday to view a class or talk to an instructor. If you are interested in joining the club you can contact Sensei Leo Mulvany on (087) 415 9858 or email him at leotmulvany@gmail.com. For more information on the IKKI Karate Association about venues and class times in your locality check out their website www.ikki.ie.

 By Robbie Gately



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A group of over 100 parents & players returned from Somerset in England where three of the club's underage teams competed in the prestigious Somerset Trophy Soccer Tournament. Ballinasloe were in fact the only Irish Club competing and managed to win it for the first time ever !

After a series of games over a few days, their under-13 side put in some brilliant team and individual performances to emerge victorious Former Southampton and England International Soccer Legend Matt Le Tissier was on hand to present the trophies to the victorious under 13 side and also to the Ballinasloe under 12 teams.

The Town's under 12s Red team performed extremely well to finish Runners Up in their section of the Tournament while the Clubs under 12 Orange team completed their section with a very credible high-ranking place after some excellent performances from both under 12 teams.

The under 12 team carried on their momentum and a week later topped off their 1st season in the Galway league by securing a magnificent victory in the Galway FA Premier Division Cup Final on a 4-3 score line over Salthill Devon FC to add to the ever-growing amount of underage success for 'the Town'.

The Club can be very optimistic heading into the next season. With the club's Senior team reaching the final of the Connacht Junior Cup and the reserve team finishing as Champions of the Roscommon and District Soccer First Division League just some of many highlights, there has been no shortage of success to build on for next year.

Two of the club's underage female players have been representing the club in the Galway League Representative Sides. Aoife Berrigan starred as the



Ballinasloe Town U13s winners of the competition



U12A and Runners up at the Somerset Tournament



Ballinasloe Town U12B at the Somerset Tournament

Galway under 13 team beat the Dublin North League while Keela Donnelly Meehan captained the Galway under 12 team to victory over the Dublin South League to secure the under 12 National Interleague Title.

The Club are now looking forward to their Annual Summer Soccer Camp will take place at the Curragh Grounds from Monday August 1 to Friday August 5. A large group of girls and boys ranging from ages 6 to 13 years have already registered but late registration is possible on the first day of the Camp. The cost for one child is €70 while every subsequent child is €55.

The Club also announced they have agreed a new deal with the Shearwater Hotel whereby the Shearwater will continue as the Club's Principle Sponsor. "The Club are absolutely delighted with this major sponsorship Renewal and know it will be mutually beneficial to both the top class 4 Star Hotel that is the Shearwater and to Ballinasloe Town AFC which is widely regarded as one of the most successful Community Soccer Clubs in Connacht" concluded Club Development Co-Ordinator Johnny Walsh.

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The U14 Girls Footballers had a very active few months and with the great interest and numbers at this age grade, for the first time ever Ballinasloe are fielding two teams at U14 level, the Eagles and the Falcons. The Falcons reached the County Shield Final against Tuam Cortoon and they had a very comprehensive win with a final score of 5-13 to 5-04.

The club welcomed the Delco Gaels, a Girls U15 Football Team from Pennsylvania, USA, to the town last month. They were competing in the National U15 Feile competition and they played a challenge game against a Ballinasloe U15 selection as well as a visiting team from Caltra.

Ladies football is on a high for the club and over the next few weeks over 20 girls from Ballinasloe at U13 & U15 level will be participating in the Galway LGFA development programme which will involve playing for a Galway selection against other Counties at the end of the season.

The Boys U13 Hurlers had a successful run of late as they finished top of their group in their Championship competition in which there were 8 teams. They won all their games in their group beating Liam Mellows, Salthill, Knocknacara and Sylane along the way. They reached the Cup Final where they had to play Sylane again but unfortunately they were narrowly beaten on the night.

The annual Cul Camps took place in the club last month and great numbers turned up for the two weeks. In total over 170

boys and girls between the ages of 6 to 13 participated in the Football, Hurling and Camogie camps and the camp was a resounding success yet again. Club PRO Damien Clarke added: "Well done to all the Children who took part and a special thanks to all the coaches and organisers who put a lot of hard work in to make it happen."

The Ballinasloe GAA Bingo continues every Tuesday night at 8.00 in The Emerald Ballroom. Michelle Ward was one of the big winners last month when she scooped the €1,000 jackpot.



Ballinasloe U14 Falcons County Shield Winners



Seamus McHugh presenting Cheque for €1000 to Bingo winner Michelle Ward



Girls U15 Ballinasloe, Caltra and Delco Gaels from USA

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The Ballinasloe Athletics Club members continued their fine performances this year at the Galway county championships held in Dangan recently.

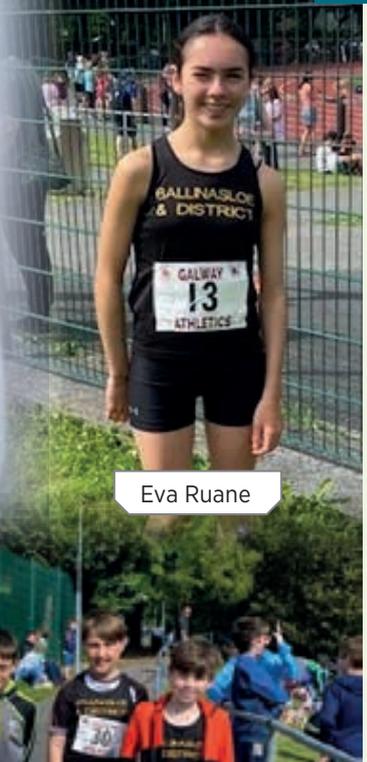
The club has had some great showings in the various competitions this season and there was more success to ring home about with Caoimhe Kilkenny winning gold in both the girls u17 100m and 200m races. There was another great performance from Eva Ruane who placed 4th in the girls u16 800m.

Lillie Browne and Alice Moloney both competed in the Turbo Javelin with Lillie winning bronze and in the team event, both girls worked together to take home the Silver medal. Club PRO Marian Ruane thanked Galway City Harriers for hosting the event and all the competitors, coaches, and parents who helped out over the weekend.

If you are interested in joining the athletics club, you would have to pay a yearly fee no matter what time of year you join. There is training every Tuesday and Thursday at the Dunlo Recreational Track from 6-7pm. For more information on joining the club contact club secretary Antoinette Stephenson on (087) 285 9167 or email ballinasloeanddistrictac@gmail.com. You can check out their Facebook page Ballinasloe Athletic Club for updates on training and upcoming events.



Caoimhe Kilkenny



Eva Ruane



Harry Hyde U12, Christopher Glynn U11, Ava Glynn U9, Lillie Brown U10, Freddie Browne U10, Eoin Mannion U11 & Shane Feehily U9.

Lillie Brown U10, Alice Moloney U10

Erin Winters, Dara Winters U10, Freddie Drowne U10, Eoin Mannion U11, Harry Hyde U12, Front row - Alice Moloney U10, Lillie Browne U10

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The Ballinasloe Golfing scene is on the crest of a wave at the moment with some wonderful success for its members at a nationwide and Europe-wide level.

Local golfer Aidan Grenham was part of the Irish Team that won the 2022 European Team Championship for Golfers with a Disability in Belgium. This is the first year that Ireland entered

a team in the event. The team consisted of Aidan, Sligo's Alan Gaynor, Dundalk's Brendan Lawlor and Carton House's Conor Stone. Team Ireland cruised to a massive 25-shot victory at the lovely venue, Koksijde Golf Ter Hille.

Irish Team captain Gareth McNeilly was full of praise for Aidan and his teammates: "Aidan and his teammates have come on leaps and bounds this year. This country produces brilliant golfers. The four lads gelled well together. There has been a strong bond between the four and their families. They played their best this week, and thankfully their best was more than good enough."

Golf is etched into Grenham's family history, Aidan's parents Oliver and Joan Grenham are both locals and Aidan's grandmother, Maureen Quinn, is a former Lady Captain (1998) of the Golf Club. His grandfather Stephen Quinn is a former Club President (1991) and his uncle Mark Quinn was Connaught Boys Open Champion in 1991, so it comes as no surprise at Aidan's success given the strong golf pedigree in his family.

The good form didn't stop there for Grenham as he backed up the win by finishing second in the inaugural Irish Open for Golfers with a Disability at Roganstown Golf Club, narrowly losing out by one shot to England's Bradley Smith. During his second round Aidan



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Mick O'Hehir, John Hurley Sr.
and Francis Hurley during Captain's Week

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recorded a hole-in-one on the 17th hole. He finished as the leading Irish golfer at the event.

Further success followed for the club with Charlie Mooney and Tom Cafferky excelling at the Irish Boys Amateur Championship at Killeel Golf Club, Co Down. Tom went on to win the event and joined some illustrious winners in doing so including Michael McHugh, Rory McIlroy, Michael Hoey and Paul Dunne.

Tom overcame Athlone's Charlie Kelly in the final. "I knew what I was doing. I just hit fairways and greens and tried to make pars because Charlie is good and will make a few birdies, but you'll win holes with pars as well," explained Cafferkey.

Tom took up the game just 4 years ago and is completely self-taught. "I don't really have a coach. I just do it myself and plug away at it. If I'm not playing well then, I just go to the range and figure it out. It's a bit ridiculous to be honest to think I'm Irish Boys' Champion, even making the top 16 would have been an achievement, I didn't think I was good enough to get this far," he stated.

Niall Conneely also had a marvellous win at the Irish Kids Connacht Open Boys 12s in Galway Bay Golf Club. His round included 5 birdies and an eagle. Committee Member Barry O'Keefe added: "Everyone at Ballinasloe Golf Club is very proud of Niall's, Aidan's and Tom's achievements."

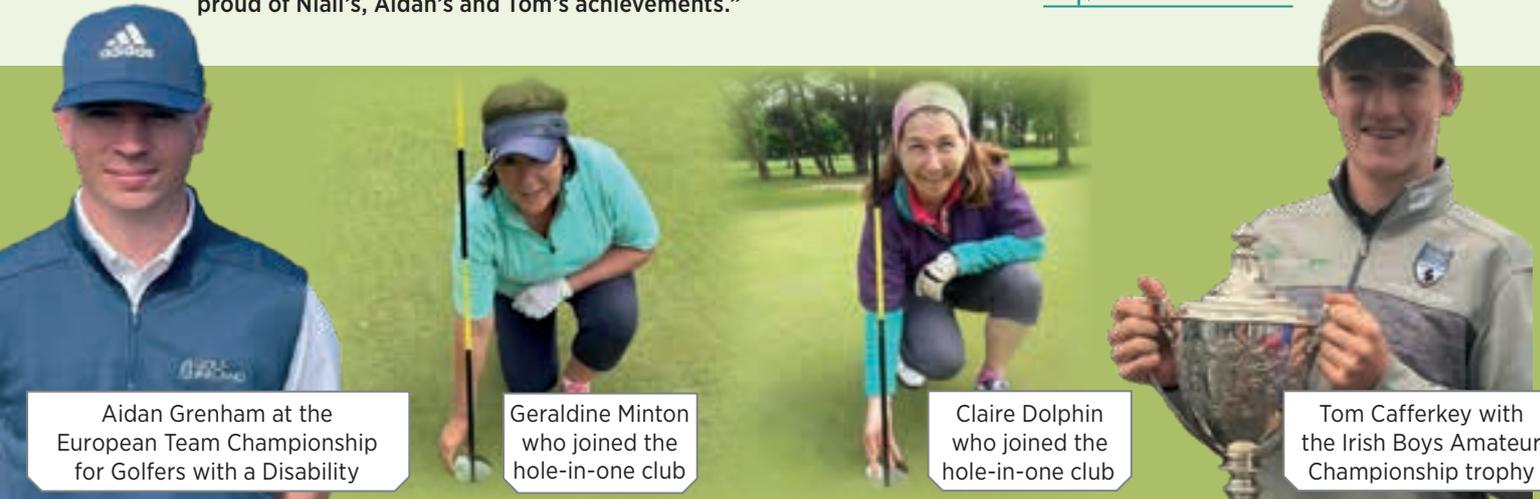
The clubs Men's Captain, Mick O'Hehir, enjoyed a very successful Captain's week. John Hurley Snr played two outstanding rounds of golf over two weekends in testing conditions to see off all challengers and was crowned Men's Champion Golfer for 2022. John captured Mick O'Hehir's Captain's Prize with a pair of net 67s at the age of 81. Lilly Spellman and John Rafferty also played some lovely golf to secure the Captain's Mixed title.

The clubs under 18s had some outstanding results and qualified for the Connacht Final against Co. Sligo in Ballina. The panel of Ben Bleahen, Tom Cafferky, Niall Conneely, Hugh Killeen, Isaac Oliver, Charlie Mooney, Liam Tully, continue to bring success to the club and the future looks extremely bright for these young stars.

August sees the other two major club golfing events scheduled with Peggy Wong's Ladies Captains and Mattie Curley's President's Prizes scheduled for the first and fourth weeks in August respectively. Barry O'Keefe added: "I'm sure both events will be very well supported and we wish Peggy and Mattie the best for those events."

If you are interested in joining the golf club, please phone the office - (090) 964 2126 or email ballinasloegolfclub@hotmail.com to talk through options for beginners, improvers and returning members.

 *By Robbie Gately*



Aidan Grenham at the European Team Championship for Golfers with a Disability

Geraldine Minton who joined the hole-in-one club

Claire Dolphin who joined the hole-in-one club

Tom Cafferkey with the Irish Boys Amateur Championship trophy

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The ongoing success of the Ballinasloe RFC women players continues with Meabh Deely being capped for Ireland in the recent 7s Rugby Europe Championship to add to the ever growing number of the club's graduates to wear the green jersey.

The Club welcomed both Maebh and Irish International and Connacht women's rugby player, Beibhinn Parsons to the 'Girls Give it a Try' rugby session, currently running every Sunday morning. Both girls who started their playing careers locally, took the girls for a very enjoyable skills session and spoke of their careers to date. "Never would I have thought when I started playing with the boys u10 team that I would have ended up getting the opportunity of playing for Ireland and travelling the world. And it all started here in Ballinasloe" said Beibhinn. The sessions continue at 10 am every Sunday morning. The new season training will be kicking off shortly and all players are welcome to give rugby a try.

The talented duo of Shane Fitzpatrick and Conor Ryan were selected on the Irish u18 boys 7s Rugby squad for the Rugby Europe U18 7s Championships in Zabki, Poland recently. They were the only two players to represent Connacht on the 21-man panel.



Shane Fitzpatrick and Conor Ryan

There was a large attendance at the club's AGM recently held in the clubhouse. Outgoing President Tom Waters who has completed a three term, welcomed the attendance and gave a comprehensive review of the years activities both on the field and off.

He expressed his pride in the number of young former players representing both Connacht and Ireland in both Women's and Men's Rugby who were a great credit to themselves, the Club and its Coaches.

He also outlined the agreed three-year capital and development programme to continue the improvement of the Club facilities as it builds towards the 125th anniversary of its formation, in 2025. Incoming President Pearse Keller thanked the outgoing President and Committee for their outstanding work and leadership in overcoming difficult challenges in recent years and looked forward to working with the incoming Committee.

Officers elected on the night were - President Pearse Keller, Hon. Secretary Jacinta Divilly, Treasurer Matt Keary, Assistant Treasurer Anne Marie McCann, Director of Rugby Noel Mannion, Player Welfare Officer Declan Quinn, Youth's Co-ordinator Paul Burns, Mini's coordinator Steve Goode, Women's rugby coordinator David McKeigue, Media/PR Coordinator Tom Finn. Committee - Orla Dolan, Tom Waters, Luke Feehily, Tom Horkan.

The club hosted their annual memorial Golf Classic last weekend in Ballinasloe Golf Club. 50 teams competing for the valuable prizes on offer, with first prize of a Golf holiday to France for four people went to the winning team of Ollie Kilkenny, John Greaney, Noel Dillon and Peter Campbell. The second prize of overnight accommodation and four tickets to the Autumn International between Ireland v South Africa, went to Declan Murphy's team, with third prize going to Jim Killeen's team, fourth prize to Paul Madden and Ballinasloe GAA, fifth to Tony Dolphin's team and sixth to the team of Gavin Hynes.



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Following many years of effort from dedicated members, a substantial Sports Capital Grant, and a development grant from Texaco, Ballinasloe Tennis club recently announced the welcome news that work had commenced on the next expansion phase of their tennis facilities.

In addition to the two new courts built last year, a third court, artificial surfaces on all courts, floodlights and a small clubhouse are all scheduled to be completed by the end of August. This will accommodate the club's ever-growing number of players and also means they will now be able to offer top-quality sports facilities for its members, the town and visiting clubs. The club, however, still needs to raise significant funds to cover the portion of the overall development cost they are required to pay by Sports Capital. Their recent Wimbledon Draw was a success and they expect to hold further fundraising later this year.

In the meantime, there's been plenty of tennis played at the new courts and elsewhere. Members were recently invited to play in a friendly tournament against Claremorris. Club members will be competing in further tournaments as the year continues, including the Midland League.

Club member Rachel Staunton was selected to represent

Connacht in the prestigious interprovincial championships in Malahide. "It was a great feeling to represent Ballinasloe tennis club on the Connacht provincial team. I had the opportunity to play two doubles matches and one singles match over the weekend. The singles match was a great learning curve for me. It was a fantastic experience and my love of tennis has grown even more" Rachel noted.

The open club sessions continue to be held on Tuesdays and Fridays 6-9pm and Sundays 10am - 2pm catering for new players for the first hour. The ladies and men's ladder competition are currently ongoing while the junior coaching sessions schedule is - Wednesday 5.15-6pm ages 5-7, and 6-7pm ages 8-11, Saturdays 12 noon-1pm for ages 11-15.

The club are very active at the moment and with the addition of the new facilities, new members of all standards are welcome to join the club, or to come along to one of the open sessions. Annual membership is only €50 for adults, €30 for juniors and €90 for families which allows unlimited access to the courts (subject to availability) and all the above activities.

For more information on membership and future fundraisers see the new club website <https://ti.clubspark.com/Bsloetennisclub/> email bsloetennis@gmail.com or call Joe (087) 252 1424, Garry (085) 112 4197 or Sarah (089) 262 8425 (juniors and coaching).



Club members with Claremorris Club members after recent challenge match

Aerial pic of ongoing works on new courts



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Boys under 12, 100 meters, L-R: Marian Brady BCU, Carmel Creally, Oscar O'Hanlon, Bryson O'Leary, and Josua Galvin.

Under 10 girls, 100 meters, L-R: Marian Brady BCU, Mary Tumulty, Rory O'Hanlan, Aoife Goode, Breege Clarke and Teegan Fahey.



Under 10 boys, 60 meters hurdles, L-R: Tommy Egan, Igor Sadecki, and Tommy Corcoran.

Under 10 girls at 2022 Credit Union Community Games.

Under 12 girls, 100 meters, L-R: Tyler Garvey, Katelyn Caulfield, and Aislinn Coughlan.



Under eight girls 80 meters, L-R: Darren Kelly, Marian Brady, Ele Hogan, Leja Sdaire, and Amelia Noone.

Under eight girls at the 2022 Credit Union Community Games.



Under eight boys 80 meters, L-R: Seamus Kelly, Marian Brady, Jack Duffy, Luke Mongan and Danny Brady.

Under eight boys at 2022 Credit Union Community Games.



Ballinasloe members prize draw winner, Yvonne Hoary receiving her cheque from Linda Feeney, Ballinasloe Credit Union.

Under 12 boys and girls at the 2022 Credit Union Community Games.

The Camogie Junior Ladies side won the 2022 Connacht Ventilation Supplies Junior B 12 Aside League Final.

In tough warm weather conditions, they came out on top in what was a close fought tight match against a strong Oranmore-Maree Camogie Club, winning by four points on a score of 3.11 to 3.7. The last time Béal Átha na Slua won the competition was 24 years ago in 1998! So it was great to see that almost quarter of century gap bridged.

Club Chairperson Niamh Prendergast said “Days like these don’t come out of nowhere. Plenty of hard work goes on behind the scenes. Well done to the panel, along with the management team of Alan Murphy and Michelle



Kelly for this victory.”

For any girls looking to try out training for the under six, eight and ten ages - groups will be Tuesdays at 6:30pm. Under 12 is Tuesday s at 7:30pm. Under 14 training is Wednesdays at 5:30pm. The training takes place at Ard Scoil Mhuire school pitch.

Helmets and hurls can be provided for complete beginners. For further information check out the Cumann Camógaíochta Béal Átha na Slua Facebook page or indeed contact chairperson Niamh Prendergast on (086) 267 7397 or at niamhprender@gmail.com.

Ann Kearney County Secretary,
Niamh Prendergast Captain and
Pat Morrissey Junior B Cup Coordinator



Back row (L-R): Emma Keane, Lorraine Canavan, Roisin Coleman, Lisa O’Neill, Callie Moir, Siobhan Carey, Niamh Kelly, Shauna Mitchell, Rhona Black, Alan Murphy, Michelle Kelly.
Front Row (L-R): Rachel Mannion (Vice Captain), Cliodhna Ni Annluain, Aisling Brannely, Eilish Kerr, Niamh Prendergast (Captain), Niamh Loughnane, Olivia Walsh, Sinead Kennedy.
Missing from photo: Xiege Kennedy, Ellen Curran, Emma Mitchell, Neola O’Neill and members of the backroom team: Kevin Keane, Stephen Kerr, Enda Kelly, and John Mitchell.

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Back row, l-r: Johnny Geraghty, Paddy Grealy, Noel McCann, Liam McCann,
Sean Mullins, Sean O'Dwyer, Vince Regan, Martin Clarke.

Middle row, l-r: Martin Beckett, Michael Grealy, Sean Grealy,
John Finn, Eric Rankin (capt), Georgie Geraghty, Tom Rankin, Frankie Walshe.

In front: Michael O'Connor and Cyril Dunne.



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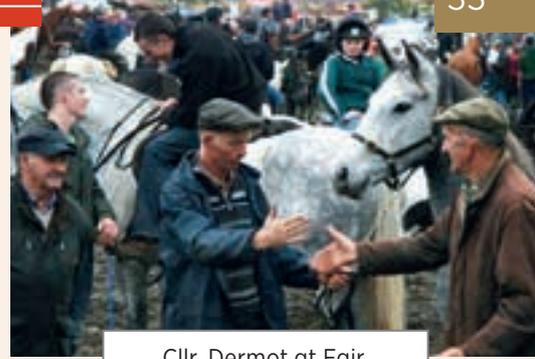
The 2022 edition of Ireland's oldest Horse Fair takes place in Ballinasloe on Sunday 2nd, Monday 3rd & Saturday 8th October. Visitors have been coming to town for centuries, its legacy is known worldwide, it is a traditional Irish Horse Fair which has remained steadfast in its origins into the 21st century. The way horses will be sold on the Green in 2022 remains as it was centuries ago, which is what makes the event so unique.

The hosting of the horse fair on the green, market stalls in the town centre and the funfair is the responsibility of the local Municipal Authority-the local Festival Committee has absolutely no remit whatsoever with any of these activities. As they have done so for centuries, equine enthusiasts, local, national and international horse traders come to Ballinasloe for a fair, regardless of any festival activities.

The primary focus of the festival committee is to provide the community with a memorable and enjoyable experience while the horse fair takes place and to give the town a festival type atmosphere with free entertainment.

This includes the pageantry of crowning a Festival Queen,

music, and street entertainment on the festival sound stage, inviting celebrities / dignitaries to officially open the fair, host a heritage evening to illustrate the history of this great event, fireworks & family entertainment, children's art, bakery & craft competitions, festival dog show, vintage display, motorcycle stunt show and much much more.



Cllr. Dermot at Fair

The voluntary festival committee has no direct source of income and are indebted to the many sponsors and contributors, without their support there would be no festival. Committee meetings are held every Monday evening in Gullane's Hotel in the 10 weeks leading up to the fair and if you would like to get involved, please contact the festival secretary @ 0872071869.

Volunteers are always welcome to give a hand and share ideas that could be used to enhance the festival element.

GERRY DEVLIN ART EXHIBITION

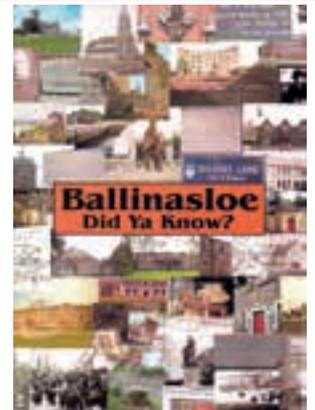
Popular writer and craftsman Gerry Devlin will be holding an Art Exhibition during the Ballinasloe Fair this year.

Featuring memorable photos from the fair down through the years, right back to the very first year of the Carnival or Festival in 1958 and folders, including the Kings and Queens from every fair. The open exhibition will run from September 14 to October 16 in the Library.

Gerry's very popular publication 'Ballinasloe Did Ya Know'

is back on shelves across the town once again. The book which brings the reader on a journey back through time to see how life was in the town years ago, has been reprinted and is available in Salmon's, Gullane's, Kariba's and all the other usual outlets at a price of €12.

Gerry has also helped organise a Table Quiz which will take place in Gullane's on the Thursday 6th of Oct for Ballinasloe Community Hearts.



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*“Come Sleep, O Sleep, the certain knot of peace,
The baiting- place of wit, the balm of woe,
The poor man’s wealth, the prisoner’s release,
Th’ indifferent judge between the high and low;
With shield of proof, shield me from out the prease
Of those fierce darts Despair at me doth throw:
O make in me those civil wars to cease;
I will good tribute pay if thou do so.”*

What have the above lines to do with the structure that spans the Suck near the junction of Bridge Street and Main Street? Nothing, except that their author was a son of the man who built the bridge.

A Londoner born in 1529, Sir Henry Sidney was three times Lord Deputy of Ireland, an office equivalent in later times to that of Lord Lieutenant or Viceroy. Generally regarded as the ablest statesman charged with the government of this country in the 16th century, Sidney was closely associated with the Tudor policy of “surrender and regrant” whereby the Anglo-Norman and Gaelic warlords were to be induced to abandon Brehon law and embrace the English legal system, including primogeniture, in return for recognition of their property rights by the Crown.. He was also noted for his account of his political career in Ireland. Written in 1582, it is one of the earliest political memoirs in the English language.

As part of her plan to establish the administrative headquarters of the province of Connacht at Ballinasloe Castle and to facilitate the deployment of troops, Elizabeth I commissioned Sidney to build bridges linking the Castle with the west bank

of the Suck, the Queen undertaking to personally defray the costs of construction. Deemed unsafe three centuries later, the bridge nearest the Castle was replaced by the present structure in 1887. The other bridge was widened on its downstream side in 1745, supposedly to accommodate the stage-coaches that had hitherto been obliged to ford the river near the site of what is now St. Michael’s Church. Features of the bridge’s upstream original structure are the cutwaters on the left of our photograph. Those wedge-shaped protrusions attached to the piers (sections of masonry between the arches) help to prevent scour (erosion of the river bed with the consequent weakening of the bridge’s foundations), and they also protect against the accumulation of debris around the piers, obstructing the flow of the water. The arches differ slightly from each other, suggesting separate stages of construction by a variety of masons. On the parapet can be seen a crow’s foot sapper’s mark surmounted by a blue-painted metal stud. Its purpose



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was to indicate an elevation above sea level, and is a memento of the Ordnance Survey, a country-wide mapping project conducted by the British Army during the 1830s/40s. It also marks the midstream point in the river that once constituted part of the Galway-Roscommon border. As well, it designates the boundary between Kilclooney and Creagh, which were separate parishes up to the early 1700s.

passing that Frances' third husband was Richard Burke, Earl of Clanrickarde, whom she married in 1603, and in the 1620s the couple came to reside at Portumna Castle.

Though none of his work was published during his lifetime, in the opinion of critics Philip Sidney was the greatest sonneteer after Shakespeare, his finest achievement being a sequence of 108 love sonnets. A prose work, his "Defence of Poetry" has taken its place amongst the major critical essays in English. Summing up his character, the 19th-century historian J.R. Green wrote: "Sidney was the idol of his time, and perhaps no figure reflects the age more fully and more beautifully. Fair as he was brave, quick of wit as of affection, noble and generous in temper, dear to Elizabeth as to Spencer, the darling of the court and of the camp, his learning and his genius made him the centre of the literary world which was springing into birth on English soil. He had travelled in France and Italy, he was master alike of the older learning and of the new discoveries of astronomy. He combined the wisdom of a grave councillor with the romantic chivalry of a knight-errant." In 1586 Sir Philip Sidney was mortally wounded at the Battle of Zutphen in the Netherlands.

Next summer, when the flow of water reduces to a trickle, a whim will perhaps draw you down under one the arches of the bridge to view the difference in masonry and workmanship between the original structure and its 18th-century expansion. While there you may happen to encounter a proudly smiling bearded gentleman in doublet and hose, reliably identified as the ghost of old Sir Henry come back to quietly contemplate his creation still in daily use after four hundred years or more.

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Seventy years ago Galway won their first All-Ireland minor football title when they defeated Cavan by 2-9 to 2-6 in Croke Park, in September 1952. For many of these young footballers it was a first night away from home, staying in the famous Barry's Hotel, so close to the city centre.

Three Ballinasloe players, Brian Naughton, Mick Ryan (RIP) and Gerry Kirwan along with Fohenagh's Liam Manning (RIP) were billeted in the one room. They couldn't sleep, partly because of the excitement on the streets outside, thinking of the following day's performance and not in their own cosy beds. A pillow fight ensued, it developed into a "free-for-all" with pillows flying out the windows onto Gardiner Street.

Brian Naughton, who wore the No. 2 jersey on all-Ireland day and now lives in Abbeypark, Clontuskert, recalls the weekend vividly. "We were all so excited. Some of the panel had never been away from home for two nights before. We were all waiting for the game to start and then we were OK. It was a great win, giving Galway their first All-Ireland minor football title.

"Afterwards we were entertained to a great meal and then brought to a Ceili in the Mansion House. Heading westwards on Monday was an unforgettable experience. There were maroon and white flags everywhere and when we arrived in Ballinasloe there were thousands out to meet us in St. Michael's Square. Then it was off to Hayden's Hotel where we were feted by the Football Board. I felt so proud to be a member of the historic team. My friends, Mick Ryan from Duggan Avenue played in goal; Gerry Kirwan from Dunlo Street was full-forward and Liam Manning from Fohenagh was a speedy forward" said the star corner back.

Brian Naughton grew up in Ruane, Creagh, and played in the town street league with Jubilee before being selected on the Ballinasloe Town teams. In 1958 he was a member of the Galway Junior team that beat Lancashire by 4-5 to 3-1 in the All-Ireland

final played in the Duggan Park, Ballinasloe. Wearing the No. 4 shirt for Galway that day was Sean Meade from Creagh, who went on to be a member of the great three-in-a-row Galway senior teams of the 60's.

Proudly displaying Brian's collected of All-Ireland, county and town medals, his wife of over fifty years, Dolores (Cahill) revealed she had never seen her husband play football. "Our family were really not into sport, except shooting and fishing. I just didn't bother going to the games in Duggan Park, so I didn't know Brian at all. It was years later before we met up and now football is part of our lives" she added.

Looking back over the last seventy years, Brian feels the game is no longer entertaining. "It's not football anymore-the traditional catch and kick is gone-too much hand-passing. It's no wonder that hurling has surpassed it in popularity" he concluded.



Brian Naughton with his 1952 All-Ireland medal.



GALWAY MINOR ALL-IRELAND CHAMPIONS 1952

Back row, l-r: Paddy Coady (Abbeyknockmoy), Jimmy Staunton (Dunmore), Tom O'Toole (St. Mary's), Brendan O'Donohue (Galway), Seamus Kyne (Clonbur), Gerry Kirwan (Ballinasloe), Johnny Joyce (Headford), Liam Manning (Fohenagh), Brian Naughton (Ballinasloe), Brian Waldron (Tuam), Kevin Cummins (Moylough), Seamus Mitchell (Newbridge).

Front row, l-r: Lowry Cunningham (Newbridge), Mark Lohan (Newbridge), Albert Kelly (Dunmore), Martin Kelly (Williamstown), Eugene Dunleavy (St. Mary's), Sean Hoban (St. Jarlath's), Brian Mahon (Dunmore), Mick Ryan (Ballinasloe), Tom Brosnan (Tuam), Mick Geraghty (Glenamaddy).

Forty years ago this August, one of the town's greatest bilingual literary greats Eoghan Ó Tuairisc passed away.

Described by Eoghan O hAnluain the then Head of Modern Irish Literature in UCD as: "The first writer who managed to achieve in Irish what people like Hemingway had done in English, to put words on every moment of human existence while at the same time achieving what Aodh De Blacann termed 'the taming of the Irish sentence.'"

'City of a thousand suns' or 'Cathair na Mílte Grian' is a new film that was loosely based on the acclaimed poem 'Aifreann na Marbh' or 'Mass of the dead' by Ó Tuairisc. The film premiered at the Galway Film Fleadh last month and is described as an immersive cinematic pilgrimage. Part poem, part elegy. In a haunting way it forges connections between the inhabitants of two distant cities, Dublin, and Hiroshima. The film was produced with support from Saoi Media supported by Ildána (TG4, the Arts Council, BAI), with additional support from the EU Japan-Fest.

Born three doors down from Dooleys in Dunlo Hill, Tuairisc was educated locally in Garbally College. He entered St. Patrick's Teacher Training College, Drumcondra in 1939, graduating with a Diploma in 1945. He worked as a national schoolteacher from 1945 until 1962 when he decided to give up his permanent and pensionable job as a primary school teacher to become a writer full time. Irish was his first language, but he knew the importance of the English language and he didn't mind what language he wrote in.

He wrote novels, verse, drama, and criticism in both Irish and English. Within a year he had completed his first book 'L'Attaque', a fictional account of the French landing in Killary Harbour. This book won an Irish book club award. Winning this award meant that a certain number of copies would be sold, and he earned IRE400. His next book was a volume of verse entitled 'Week-End'. His narrative poem 'Dermot and Grace'



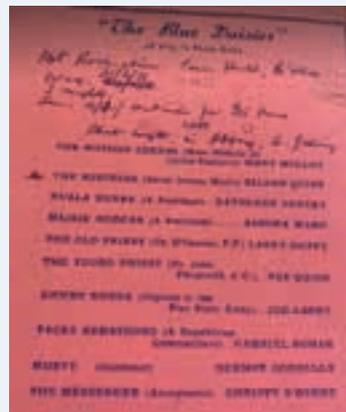
is an Irish version of 'Venus and Adonis', and it is considered his finest work. The success of 'L'Attaque' helped Eoghan as he became editor for the monthly magazine 'Feasta'. He was critical to the State's commemoration of the 1916 50th in 1966 with his short story Dé Luain, released in Easter week 1966 and had been adapted into a short series on 'RTE Radio 1'.

He wrote a number of plays in both languages and many were produced by the Relays Drama Group in the Town Hal Theatre, Ballinasloe.

Eoghan Ó Tuairisc was an inaugural member of Aosdána, when it was founded in 1981, and the first of its members to die. He was a recipient of an Arts Council of Ireland prize. A bibliography of Ó Tuairisc's work, together with biographical information, was published in Irish in 1988.

In November of 1991 the local branch of the Conradh na Gaelgíe - led by the then National President Padraig O Ceithernigh organised and hosted an Eigse Uí Tuairisc to coincide with the 850 celebration of the towns formation.

The author Eoghan is interred in Creagh Cemetery.



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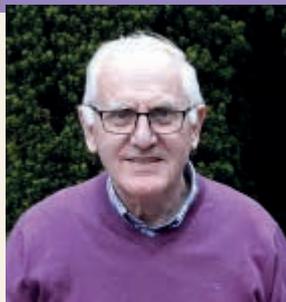
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One of a family of eight from Ardcar, on the Shannonbridge Road in Ballinasloe, Gerry was born to James and Margaret Craughwell. As a child he attended Creagh National School and then St. Michael's Vocational School, after which he chose to serve his time as a plumber. He started out with the late Kevin Ward in Atlas Industries in River St and travelled all around the country working on schools, churches and parish halls installing heating and plumbing systems in the 1960s. He also joined the maintenance team in St. Brigid's hospital. Gerry gained even more experience with Rotary Engineering, a mechanical services company, working on the RTCs in Athlone, Galway and Sligo.

It was in 1973 that an enterprising Gerry, in his mid-20s, set off on his own path and established his own heating and plumbing business working in both the domestic and commercial areas. The following year he married his wife Chrissie, settled in Creagh and had four children.

When the two eldest sons finished their Leaving Certs, they started their apprenticeships

under their father and gradually the business grew carrying out major projects around Ireland. Gerry was delighted when his grandson, Ciarán, recently signed up to be the third generation of Craughwell & Sons plumbers.

A quiet and unassuming man, Gerry took a great personal interest in all his work and set a high standard in his beloved trade. Even through his failing health in recent times, he continued to impart his vast knowledge and expertise to his successors. He was a man of few words but a trustworthy and honest businessman.

Gerry will be missed by his wife Chrissie, sons Eamon, Oliver and Alan, daughter Yvonne, daughters-in-laws, son-in-law, grandchildren and extended family.

CHEF SURVIVES ENNISKILLEN BOMB BLAST



Gregory Dunne, who passed away recently in Enniskillen, Co. Fermanagh, was lucky to escape serious injury when the 1972 bomb in the town, which killed 3 people and injured 50, destroyed his hotel work kitchen. Born in Brackernagh, Ballinasloe, the youngest son of John "Tull" and Rosaleen Dunne. He had two other brothers, Cyril and Jackie as well as his sister Anne.

Coming from a noted footballing nursery, the young Gregory quickly established himself on the local football teams and also excelled as a cueist on the billiards table, capturing a major event at a very young age. Despite moving far away from home, he was immensely proud of his roots and the achievements of his dad and brother Cyril on the football fields of Ireland.

Greg's great passion was cookery and after training in Galway, Kerry and Switzerland, he was appointed chef in the Imperial Hotel in Enniskillen in 1965. It was there he met his late wife, Veronica Fitzpatrick, they married on New Year's Eve in 1966 and had four children. However, the young chef had a miraculous escape from serious injury in 1987 when the massive bomb exploded in Enniskillen and destroyed the kitchen of the Imperial Hotel in which he was working at the time.

For almost 25 years, the Ballinasloe man was head chef in the Killyhevlin Hotel where he trained many of today's local chefs, setting high standards in the workplace. When he retired, Greg became a member of the Blacklion and Murvagh Golf Club where he proved

to be a serious competitor, winning many trophies in his adopted sport.

Sadly, he lost his beloved wife, Veronica at the age of 52 while in 2018 his son John passed away. But with determination, his strong faith and the support of his family and friends, Greg battled on and found great solace in the company of his grandchildren, who he adored and loved. In his adopted town, he was loved, respected and highly popular among his peers and the community. His sense of humour, wit and loyalty were foremost in the minds of many who knew him.

Gregory Dunne, who was 78, is survived by his sons Cyril and Kieran, daughter Annette, grandchildren, brothers Cyril (Ballinasloe), Jackie (Westport), sister Anne (Portlaoise) as well as many other relatives and friends.

AN EMERGING AREA EVENTS CALENDAR 2022

Each edition we will try and list the forthcoming HEADLINE events in our town and locale some 12 months out to give families, relations, visitors and other clubs and societies a chance to see where events are now being scheduled. Please contact us with your Key event dates as early as possible.

Ballinasloe Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds	8 - 11 September
Ballinasloe Agricultural Show	25 September
Ballinasloe Horse Fair and Festival	2 - 9 October
Ballinasloe Vintage and Heritage Day	9 October
Zombie Walk	28 - 29 October
ComicCon	4, 5, 6 November*
Christmas Lights	27 November*

*Provisional

Ballinasloe has lost one its greatest sporting great-grand mothers in the person of Helen Caulfield, Harbour Road. Born into the football stronghold of Deerpark, Helen (nee Cregg) with her brothers and sisters spent most of their youth playing sport in the Model Farm field, right across the road from their home.

Like the rest of her siblings she found employment in Dubarry Shoe Factory, where she would subsequently met her future husband, Kevin (Toddy) Caulfield. Both loved table tennis and the sessions in the Whigham Hall resulted in the pair being selected as the Dubarry mixed doubles team to compete in the town league in the late fifties.

Helen was an avid Galway supporter, in all codes, and attended most of the inter-county games with Toddy, while he himself was a member of the Social Club teams in both billiards and snooker, for home and away games.

Both Helen and Toddy got great joy supporting their grandchildren in hurling, football and camogie matches over the years. What a proud grandmother Helen was, in 2017, when grandson Conor won an All-Ireland minor title with Galway hurlers in Croke Park. There was great emotion and pride in Harbour when both the Liam McCarthy and the Irish Press Cups were brought into her house following their double All-Ireland success.

Married for over 64 years, Helen's love of her family and their offsprings was always foremost in her life. Despite the Covid pandemic and seeing her beloved husband going into care four years ago, she showed strength and character in coping with the isolation during those depressing times.

Always very proud of her garden, being blessed with green fingers, friends often gave her house plants to save and she would bring them back to life! Helen was a talented dressmaker and knitter, who could produce a wonderful Aran jumper without a pattern. A long-time member of the Active Retirement Club, she enjoyed the weekly Knitting



Group sessions every Monday morning.

Like most mothers of her era, she never had a day off, so in later years she decided to set aside Saturday as her "day off" to get her hair done, have a cuppa and chat up with friends. A cheerful and obliging neighbour that was always on hand in hour of need, Helen Caulfield will be sadly missed in her community.

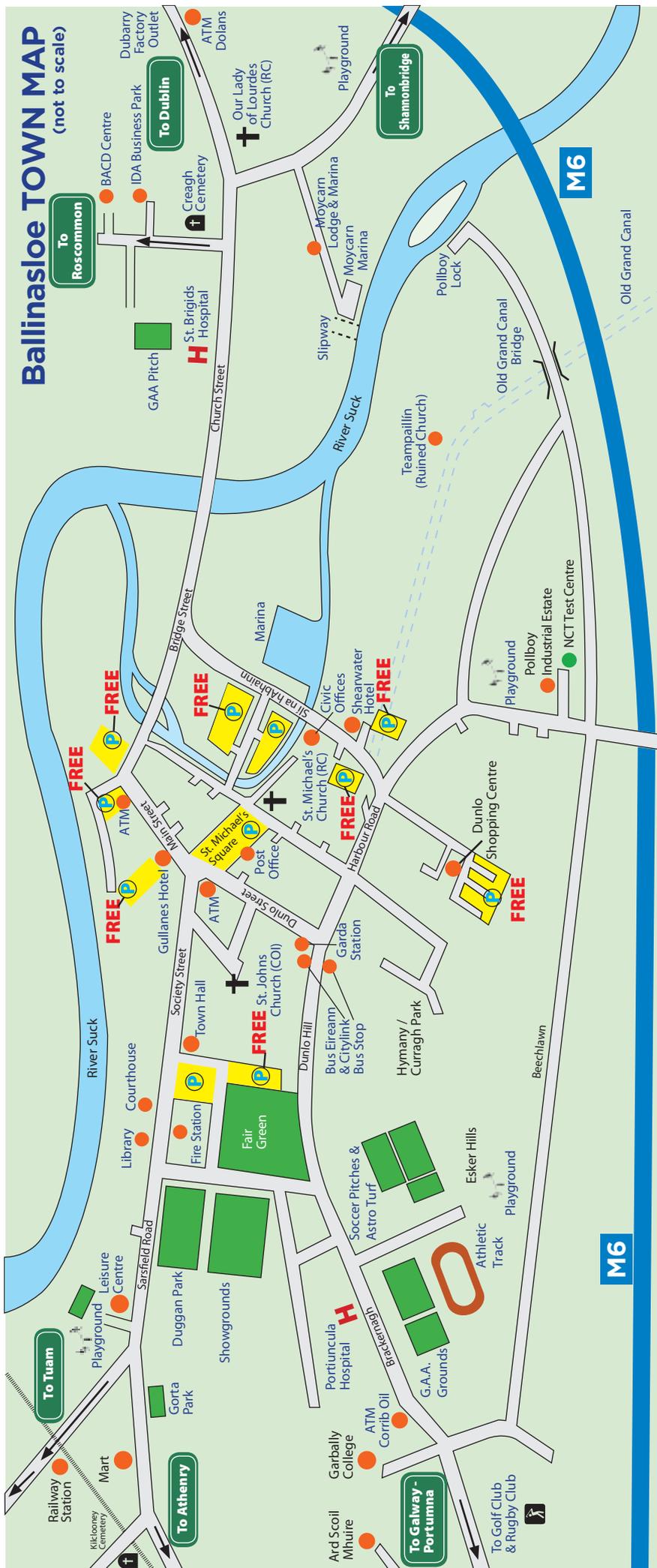
Once again, Helen's sporting friends were on hand in her final hours as members of the local Camogie Club formed a guard of honour at her funeral. Survived by her husband Toddy, six children, 17 grandchildren and 4 great-grandchildren, brothers, sisters, in-laws, nieces, nephews and many more, Helen's beloved maroon and white flag will be sorely missed on Harbour Road.

ALL- IRELAND FOOTBALL FEVER GRIPS BALLINASLOE



Ballinasloe TOWN MAP

(not to scale)



Ballinasloe History Walk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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