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Vol. 12 Issue 4: Oct '22 - Nov '22



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REAMHRA

Welcome to Volume 12 issue 4

Welcome to 68 pages of another bumper read – paper costs, paper weight and demands of our readers have brought us to this place – we'd ideally like to invest more space in Out and About Photos, expanding the memory lane section and doing more features and profiles but then sometimes .. events overtake us.

Lovely to see the fulsome return of so many of our ancient and newer events and festivals and we must salute and thank all those who toil to make them a reality from the volunteer positions.

12 years of publishing LIFE has seen flooding, economic austerity, pandemic and the looming energy crisis – I was not expecting to be at the helm for a world conflict. Many times I have had the odd barb thrown at me about the wonderful episode of the Editor of the Skibbereen Eagle - keeping an eye on Russia but alas it appears we all have arrived to that point again.

For those who need reminding: the Editor Potter had a particular interest in the movements of Czar Nicholas in China. And on September 5th 1899 he penned an editorial that would change his life forever, creating a reference point for all journalists to this very day, which became known as "keeping an eye on Russia".

The editorial claimed: "It [The Eagle] will still keep its eye on the Emperor of Russia and all such despotic enemies — whether at home or abroad — of human progression and man's natural rights which undoubtedly include a nation's right to self-government".

Having been on a working trip to Armenia a few short weeks ago, where the locals thought Putin was opening a second front and the hostilities were for real and not really what Reuters or the

Times of London were merrily reporting, I got that strange sense of Skibbereen foreboding.

In the fulcrum of the Caucasus, a minority of Christians have faced the wrath of Ottomans, Mongols, Tsars, Persians and all their modern state equivalents over 15 centuries. They personally know (as do we) the evil that Empires wreak.

All this counterpointed neatly with the wall-to-wall neighbouring isle grief for a Grandmother and noble Stateswoman but whose wealth, status and grandeur were built on Empire, not her smile.

Make no mistake about it, Putin's Empire is in trouble, as his regime. Calling up reservists' kids from the non-metropolitan areas is a folly along with Johnsons Draft for Vietnam.

When the UN and us all face down this one, as we must, there then follows China and goodness know what else but face these evil constellations we must – even if it means turning the thermostat in our public offices down a few degrees and suffering the gouging of energy prices.

Compare to wartime rationing and bodies being buried in foreign fields – it will eventually be seen as a small price to pay!

Enjoy the read,

Le Gach De Ghui,
COLM CROFFY,
Editor.



Articles and Photos Welcome

NEXT ISSUE
Deadline Nov 9th

For submission of articles, please email:
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It looks like we will all be keeping a close eye on how we manage our heating and electricity costs in the months ahead with many glad to still have the back up of our Turf stockpile.

At the same time we have all experienced many ups and downs over the years and are still here to tell the tale so let's look on the bright side and look forward to the many events up and coming over the next few months.

Firstly, the Agricultural Show is just over, back after a few years due to Covid. The Fair will celebrate 300 years this weekend and the following weekend we have our Country Fair day on Saturday with Vintage day and other activities on the Sunday of the same weekend.

As the magazine goes to print, tickets for the now annual Zombie walk will go on sale and it is expected this will be a sell out once again with people travelling from all the surrounding counties to attend.

You will also read in the magazine plans for the Christmas Lights and the annual festivities around the turning on of same.



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An initiative of Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd.

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Planning permission is being sought for the building of a large new residential development of 165 houses and apartments at Dunlo and Poolboy.

The planning application has been made by Limehill Esker to An Bord Pleanála for a Strategic Housing Development, on 6.6ha site is to the south of the town centre, and directly south of the Tesco supermarket.

The housing stock will comprise of 32 two-bed, semi-detached houses, 27 three-bed terraced units in blocks of three, along with 14 three-storey apartment buildings, with a mix of 106 apartments and duplexes.

Apartment Block A1 & A2 will each have 1 one-bed apartments, 6 two-bed apartments, 1 three-bed apartment, and 6 three-bed duplexes. Blocks B1 to B3 and B6 to B13 inclusive will each have 1 one-bed apartment, 1 two-bed apartment, 2 two-bed duplexes, and 2 three-bed duplexes. Blocks B4 & B4 will 1 one-bed apartment, 1 two-bed apartment, 1 two-bed duplex, and 2 three-bed duplexes.

The Design Statement for the master plan states that the estate has been laid out in a compact and sustainable urban design pattern, which respects the existing site features.

It also states that the layout has been designed to ensure that permeability is maintained across the site for people travelling through the area, and to ensure future connectivity with the town centre. The estate will have a total of 281 car parking spaces, with 163 spaces designated for the apartments, and 118 around the houses.

A response from Limehill to their initial consultation states that this land bank is one of the most significant in close proximity to the town centre, can be easily connected to existing services, and would be consistent with phased development.

The site layout sees the housing laid out in four main sectors, with public open space within each cluster. A larger landscaped park area will be located at the north east end of the site,

including a children's playground. The architectural statement indicates that the layout provides good interconnectivity with the main roadway, and the park to the east.

"The placement of all public open spaces at central locations of the development is proposed to achieve a balanced high-quality solution, they are interlinked within the development with the large public park and are designed to be accessible for all residents and the wider community." stated Denis O'Connell, Projects Director with Limehill.

It will be one of the largest private owned estates in the Town.

These homes and residential units will be aimed at the first-time buyers market with prices in the €250,000 to €310,000 range.

The first phase of the site's construction will see 78 Affordable and Social housing units be completed in staged phases with new families being on site from the Summer of 2023. These units will also be A2 rated for energy.

A creche for 50 children, green zones, playgrounds and cycleways will be included in the area to the left of the Tesco / Aldi roundabout. Currently there are some 100-crew working on the site but this should grow to 200 if Bord Pleanala gives the green light for a 24- 36 months build.

Limehill will be privately managing the Estate until such time as the Council takes it in hand.

Cian O'Connell Managing Director of Limehill stated "that the Costa Coffee House on the Tesco Carpark would commence work towards the end of this year and that the new 5 screen Multiplex cinema would be fully functional after with a blockbuster Movie launch in March 2023."

These developments will conclude the residential development of the lands at Dunlo over the next 40 months and will add some 243 housing units to the townscapes stock of 3,100 - an equivalent of some 8% increase or according to the CSO; some 668 additional persons living here.



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Members of the MDC were given a lengthy briefing for the planning behind the return of the largest Equestrian and Visitor event of the West in the Autumn season, at their September monthly meeting.

Clearly spurred by pandemic gap and apparent anniversary, the Council for the first time ever, have seen the Heritage and Arts Officers and their Departments significantly involved in the programming and production.

Ex Saw Doctors member and Events Production Consultant - Pearse Doherty has been contracted as the Event Co - Ordinator to effect a professional presentation of the event.

Speaking to the Councillors he praised the festival as a great unique event that is outside the normal tourist season. He noted how he had been working alongside the Fair and Festival Committee, Gardaí, and Civil Defence. After meeting with the Civil Defence, they both came to the conclusion that extra medics had to be engaged on the busy days 'Integrity Security' from Dublin will provide the necessary extra security and have worked at the fair in 2019.

Liam Hanrahan, Director of Services for GCC, has said "Galway County Council will cover events and activity on the Fair Green as part of their Equine Insurance, which is costing an additional €7,800, however they won't cover the festival or carnival element." He defended the situation by explaining that Council

would not have the budget to cover the insurances of every festival within the county.

He also said that GCC have contributed significantly by managing the Horse Fair such as the security, staff and medics.

The Fair and Festival it is believed will have their annual insurance bill of nearly €16,000 substantially reduced by the Council agreeing to undertake this - freeing up monies in their budget for entertainment and marketing.

Other good cheerful news from the Council was that they secured a new €20,000 in funding from the 'Live Performance Arts Scheme' promoted by the Arts Council to produce some of the music events. It is the first time that the Council is directly paying for some of Festival or entertainment costs of the event.

After the festival, the bronze sculpture of the City of Culture Urn, will be placed in the Slí Na hAbhainn Park, permanently. It will also have a lighting feature so it can turn different colours to support different causes.

There was no mention or discussion on trading arrangements for the Fair itself and as to stalls locations on the closed streets and squares. Parking charged for the Lorries; horseboxes was not discussed on this occasion. There was no information provided about the Non-Public Order Gardai Units or indeed the policing plan for the event.

When the Town Council ran the last Fair in 2014 - Recorded Trading income from the Street Stalls, Parking on the Green, Fun Fair income and Green accommodation charges was north of €110,000 which was utilised with spend on additional outdoor crew, the temporary fencings, toilets, security, non-public order gardai, litter disposal and depending on the rainfall, re-seeding and rolling of the Green.

It has been confirmed that the Annual Fairs Reception will take place on the eve of the Fair.

The Ballinasloe Lions club will be organising car parking for the event behind the Bank of Ireland, Salmons and Gullanes. The Show Society will be turning over their grounds for Carparking facilities.



Representatives from Galway County Council staff, elected representatives, an Garda Síochana, Sponsors & Committee members at the launch of the 2022 Horse Fair & Festival.

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At the September monthly municipal meeting, MDC Chair Cllr Parsons had asked for an update on the new bus stops down by the Marina.

Fergal Fahey the Senior Executive Engineer for Galway County Council explained that they were finalising contracts with Waterways Ireland and Transport Ireland. The project is then going to tender and the Councillors were told prices and contracts are expected to be agreed and finalised in quarter one of 2023.

Currently there are 27 buses daily to the town-eight come from Galway, twelve from Dublin, four from Portumna and three from Loughrea. There are plans to increase this level of services over the coming years and the total cost of the new stops (one on either side of Sli Na hAbhainn) is in the region of €200,000.

Accessibility Ballinasloe Committee along with Brothers of



Charity services Tope and SUAS, have been working with local representatives in highlighting the need for a new, properly lit, modern bus stop that will be located at the marina to ensure it will be accessible to all.

Cllr Evelyn Parson was one of the key supporters of the new location but in fairness all of the elected representative were unanimously behind the development when

it first came before Council on its part 8 process (L4606 and R446 vicinity of Marina). "I have always felt this area around the Marina and public carpark would have scope to facilitate and promote visible connectivity within the wider East Galway / Ireland's Hidden Heartlands area in line with tourism aspirations - beside the Marina, Suck Blueway, the Beara Breifne Walkway, the National Cycleway and any future heritage trails or tours arising from my proposal to develop Kellysgrove/Poolboy area into a Heartland Park for Ballinasloe-the Healing and Hosting Town" stated Cllr Parsons.

MUNICIPAL DISTRICT COUNCIL SNIPPETS

The Elizabethan bridge on River St is currently due to get funding to be refurbished and strengthened. While this work is going on they hope to upgrade the road markings on it as they have faded. A date in the new year will see the project begin.

ROAD MARKINGS

Cllr M Connolly proposed that Galway County Council (GCC) get the road markings on the Sli na hAbhainn and by the Shearwater Hotel upgraded as they have faded away. He would like it done as soon as possible but the Officials have said they will investigate it and won't give a time frame for completion.



TRAFFIC LIGHTS

Cllr Declan Geraghty wanted an update on the idle traffic lights at Creagh Junction. Senior Engineer Mr Fahey responded by saying he wasn't aware of any proposal to re-install these lights. GCC would have to investigate it but advised there would have to be a specific application to get this done.

SWIM FEASIBILITY

Cllr Parsons also asked for an update in the swim feasibility study on the River Suck for the town centre. The application was made earlier this year, but it came in too late. Mr. Liam Hanrahan Director of Services has made a commitment for the application to be submitted to the National 'Outdoor Recreation Scheme' in 2023. This will hopefully identify and cost the best location for an outdoor bathing and water recreation point on the River that runs through the precincts of the town.

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SHERIDAN TO RECEIVE CIVIC HONOUR

Cathaoirleach Cllr Evelyn Parsons proposed a motion to grant Aidan Sheridan a civic honour due to his accomplishment in swimming the River Shannon and fundraising more than €50,000 for Irish Cancer Society and East Galway and Midlands Cancer.



There was unanimous approval for the town's native from all the elected members present and the Executive will put in place an appropriate Civic Event over the coming weeks to honour and salute his noble efforts for those in the community who are touched by this disease.

Recently Bank of Ireland (BOI) have appointed Kilgarve native Gavin Kelly as interim group chief executive.

Gavin has fond memories of growing up here. He is still in touch with friends he made in Creagh National School and Garbally. "I feel lucky to have grown up in Ballinasloe, and love to get home whenever I can" he states.

Asked to reflect on who influenced him positively in his youth "I better say my Maths teacher Gerry Kelly who guided me through 6 years at Garbally (and several more years at home!). Also, my Uncle Tony who I worked with in the family business in Kelly's from age 13. Finally, I was the school bank manager in Transition Year! Clearly, given my subsequent career in financial services, that had more of an impact on me than I realised at the time!" he remarks.

He was a keen rugby player in school and doesn't get the chance to play much anymore but he tries to play a round of golf when he can. He is keen supporter of the four provinces in rugby and cheers on Galway as well in the GAA. He also supports his kids who play hockey for Monkstown Club in Dublin.

Married to wife Barbara with three kids, Eric is 15, Tom 14 and Holly 12, he joined the bank in 2007 and has worked as the head of direct channels, director of consumer banking, director of distribution channels, chief executive officer in retail Ireland and his current position.

He still gets home regularly to visit his parents, Esther and Gerry, and believes it has a positive future. "I know the town has had its ups and downs like every town across the country. However, the spirit remains strong and Ballinasloe has a lot going for it



in terms of its location, amenities and quality of life. I attended an Enterprise town event in the Emerald Ballroom a couple of years ago and was really impressed with what I saw. The variety of industry and, above all, the pride in the town was fantastic to see" he explains.

At his graduation from Garbally in the early 90s the guest speaker was Pat Molloy, a past-pupil and the Group CEO of Bank of Ireland at the time. "I was really struck by his message of respect for everyone you meet throughout your career. I've tried to live this as best as I can over the past 30 years. And as for those youngsters embarking on their college courses - enjoy the experience and take your time in making career choices. Sometimes it might feel like you need to make decisions very quickly, but you don't - try new and different things out, keep an open mind about your future, and that will help you find what you really love to do."

 By Oisín White



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B.A.C.D. are to launch details of the proposed new Pulse Hub and provide an update of their ambitious 10-year plan at their upcoming AGM, which will be held on November 10th @ 7.30 pm in Shearwater Hotel.

As we were unable to host a full in-person AGM since 2019, Chairman Seamus Duffy said “We are looking forward to welcoming everyone from the many different businesses, state agencies, societies, and community groups whom we have worked alongside over the past few years and to update everyone on what has been achieved by the company and the wider community. The focus of the event will be about sharing and discussing upcoming plans for the town and hinterland, and I would encourage anyone with an interest in the development and rise of the area to come along and see how they can get involved.”

Meanwhile the Development Company are seeking tenders for the renovation works to convert the existing Bank Chambers building on Society Street into a state-of-the-art remote working hub through the procurement website www.etenders.ie

Lyn Donnelly project manager stated “we are encouraging all local contractors to submit a tender. The works consist of minor



Pulse Hub Building (former Bank Chambers), Society Street which was recently repainted by BACD with the support of Galway County Council.

demolition work and construction works, full M&E fit out, installation of internal and external doors and windows, internal partitions, floor and ceiling finishes and full furniture fit outs.

Just Transition funds have been drawn down through the department of rural and community affairs for

this project, therefore the tender must be done through a main contractor who is procured through the national procurement website etenders.ie.

We recently repainted the building with the support of Galway County Council. There is a lot of interest in the building within the town and surrounding area, with many already enquiring about the office space. With the tenders due back mid-November it is hoped to commence the works in Q1 2023 with completion date expected Q4 2023” explained Lyn.

All enquiries can be sent directly to Lyn@bacd.ie or at 0909646516.

DIGITAL MEMORIAL

‘Digital Memorial’ is a new Irish website created by a local man that allows you to create and share the memory of your loved one online. People can add a biography, photos and can share with family and friends. They can leave a tribute. It is an alternative to visiting a loved ones grave when it is not possible to do so in person.



Darren Rafferty

The creator of the business, Darren Rafferty from Ard Mhuire, is in the stone



industry and erects stone memorials daily. During the Covid pandemic, he saw people’s frustrations when they couldn’t visit their loved ones’ graves because of restrictions. He sought to create an alternative way for people to visit their loved ones’ gravesides and pay their respects.

It’s another way of visiting the grave of a loved one if it’s not possible to do so in person, a space you can go regularly to visit a beautiful and lasting tribute to someone you cared for. It enables people living abroad to visit their loved ones’ memorials and leave a tribute from anywhere in the world.

You can create a memorial for your loved one in four simple steps. More information can be found at <https://digitalmemorial.ie/>



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Cahalan Jewellers on Main Street, has been at the heart of business in town for almost half a century. Founded in 1975 by Maureen and Andy Cahalan, they quickly became a valuable asset to retailing in Ballinasloe, offering fine jewellery and giftware at a wide range of prices to suit almost everyone's tastes and pocket.



But perhaps the key to their success has been their attention to detail and the desire to offer the best, not only in the quality of the jewellery and gifts that they stock, but on the level of service they provide to their customers.

From the beginning they concentrated on improving their knowledge of diamonds, precious gemstones, gold and silver and the wide range of watches and other gifts available. Regular attendances at Jewellery workshops and Conferences in London, New York, Europe and the Far East, not only increased their range of skills but enabled them to build a wide range of suppliers from all over the world. So, if the item you want is not in stock, it's

highly likely that they can source it for you.

Perhaps their most important service is the restoration and repair service which they offer to their customers. If a repair cannot be completed in their own workshop, they also have a number of trusted professional Goldsmiths, Silversmiths, Watchmakers and Engravers who will carry out the repairs to much loved items of value, or just of great sentimental value, and give them a new lease of life.

Sadly, Andy Cahalan passed away suddenly in 2001 but since then, Maureen has gathered around her a small team of assistants, who are as knowledgeable as Maureen. Kathleen and Caroline have over 40 years of experience of the Jewellery business between them, and in recent years, Maureen has been joined by her son Andrew. Between them, they give all of their customers the very best of advice, service and quality, in the giftware that they offer and the peace of mind they guarantee.

Find us on Facebook, visit our website at cahalanjewellers.ie or contact us at (090) 9642513.



NO SHORTAGE OF OIL

The Oil industry has been on top of the news agenda since the beginning of the war in Ukraine. Prices have been volatile all summer. As the winter season approaches, people are more conscious than ever about the cost of heating their homes and workplaces. In this uncertain market, Garbally Oil, being the only depot in Ballinasloe, will be carrying high stock levels this winter to ensure continuity of supply to the local community

The Flaherty Family stated, "As we approach our 30th year in Poolboy, we take this opportunity to thank the people of Ballinasloe for their support and look forward to many more years with continued optimism."

Tom Keegan, Michaela Kenny and Enda Burns



TAX DEADLINE ADVICE



As the income tax deadline is now approaching, Darren Goode Chartered Accountant, on Dunlo Street, had advice in relation to some of the item's businesses and individuals should be aware of in advance of the income tax deadline.

Firstly, the deadline for submitting your income tax return is the 31st October; however the Revenue Commissioners have granted an extension to Wednesday 16th November to those who both pay and file their returns using the Revenue Online system. It is important to note that late filing of income tax returns will incur a late filing surcharge and can increase your risk of a Revenue audit.

Ways to reduce your income tax liability may include carrying out a comprehensive review of your tax credits to ensure that you are receiving the correct entitlement to tax credits and flat rate expenses and to claim tax relief in respect of expenses such as medical expenses and third level tuition fees. Less well-known items for which tax relief can be claimed include costs associated with having an assistance/guide dog, the stay and spend scheme and expenses associated with having to work from home for those who availed of this option, which was rolled out for many during the Covid pandemic.

Contributions made to a pension provider can also prove a

worthwhile method of both reducing your income tax liability and making provisions for your future retirement. Contributions made during 2022 and up to the tax return filing deadline date 31st October or 16th November 2022 for those filing their returns online can be set against your 2021 income tax liability. This is a widely used and effective method of tax planning.

For those self-employed sole traders, it might be worth considering transitioning their business to a company formation and availing of the benefits associated with trading under a limited company structure.

Practical points, such as informing the Revenue Commissioners that you have changed bank account might be relevant to those currently in the process of seeking a new bank, given the exodus of certain banks from the Irish banking market.

It's also worth noting that non-compliance with the payment deadlines for Local property taxes may lead to penalties being applied to your income tax liability and this further emphasises the importance of reviewing your income tax filing obligations, while being mindful of the Local Property tax requirements.

If you would like any assistance with preparing accounts or general tax advice, please feel free to contact Darren Goode at his office on Dunlo Street. Tel. 090 9644770 or email darren.goode@rgrpartners.ie.



Val Colleran, UTAH's Proprietor, has announced plans to open a third retail outlet-this time in Main Street-in the middle of October.

Val started his operations with the UTAH Department store in Marina Point in 2008 with just 3 staff, purchasing and moving to Swanwicks old cinema, Society St in 2011 and back to Marina Point with Regatta in 2021 and now employs 13 full and part time staff.

The arrival of the new "U-Curve Boutique" to the old ACC Bank Premises, beside Gullane's Hotel, will see the staff grow to 17 people. Val explains "We have been doing a lot of customer research from both outlets in the past few months and many ladies are struggling for the high street styling they require, that is designer lead but affordable for "curvey body styles".

The boutique is for women and ladies of all ages and will offer a wide range of clothing from activewear to occasion wear, day wear, smart attire and even pyjamas. A select range of accessories to go with these outfits will also be offered.

This Boutique will differ from regular retail and on-line shopping as they will offer bespoke personalised consultations to help customers with sizing, fit and style. These garments are made with eco-friendly fabrics and come in sizes 14-28 and will also be available online @ www.ucurve.ie

The new fashion store will be open from Monday to Saturday 9.30 am to 6.00 pm.

"We have no doubt that this gap in the fashion market can be filled by our range of garments in the up-to-date styling that is seeing local women travelling to the four corners of the country



for their needs" declared Val.

Coming into the busy Christmas period they will be offering deposits and saving schemes on all items.

Meanwhile the good news for those ladies who don't have enough shoes - is that Val is revamping his basement in UTAH, Society Street, during late October to include a complete new Ladies Footwear Department @ knockdown prices with sizes to suit all and styling from the casual everyday to the sophisticated.

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A new CT Scanner has been delivered to Portiuncula University Hospital and will be commissioned and installed in the coming weeks.

This represents great investment in our local hospital which employs over 800 staff and is a great step forward to improve patient experience but more importantly to maintain the high-quality standards of diagnoses. The machine replaces the one fundraised by the local community for the hospital when owned by the FMDM Nuns.

Chair of M.D.C. Cllr Parsons has stated "I'm delighted the replacement CT scanner has arrived, for the many patients from a wide catchment of over 400,000 attending Portiuncula University Hospital and for staff who will have new and reliable equipment to help diagnose and clinically manage patients in our area. It is a state of the art 128 Slice Siemens CT Scanner and I understand that it's expected to be up and running in October."

According to the INMO trolley watch there was no patients waiting on trolleys or in wards on the in mid-September for the first time in months which is testament to all the hard-working staff. Recently the outpatient's department has re-located, as part of building works to provide improved facilities. This work will result in reduced capacity in the outpatient waiting area. Only patients who require assistance should be accompanied.

A Medication Safety Initiative has been launched. David Walsh, Chief II Pharmacist in PUH said "Improving communications about medicines is so important to reduce harm and misuse, on World Patient Safety Day we want to encourage our patients to play an active role in managing their medication. "Know, Check, Ask" simply means, know what medications you are taking by keeping a list; check with your healthcare professional to see if you are using them correctly and ask if you are unsure."

The Hospital also re-launched the protected mealtimes. During the protected mealtimes all non-urgent work in the wards will stop. This enables staff to assist patients with their meals. Visiting is restricted unless prior arrangements is made with the

nursing staff to assist with feeding.

Another scheme that they have started is "This is me" to help patients with dementia. Its aim is to enhance patients experience at the hospital. Developed by the Occupational Therapy and Medical Social Work Departments it includes a dementia resource pack which has been designed to empower patients and families to make effective decisions and choices regarding their future care.

Finally during heritage week, Emma Laffey a member of the maternity unit, released an ebook called "An Bhean Ghlúine". It is about the work of local midwives during the 20th Century. She said "My project introduces the amazing work and lives of our local community midwives during the 20th century through photographs, stories, recorded interviews and film. These remarkable women supported our local women through one of the biggest life-changing events for any woman, from being pregnant to giving birth. Although a birth is generally a very happy occasion, it can also be tainted by poverty, sickness, miscarriage, mental health issues, life-changing disabilities and even death."



Protected Mealtimes

L-R: Dietitian Manager - Maeve Holmes, Senior HCA - Frances Cannon, PALS Coordinator - Sharon Donoghue, Medical DIV.N. Manager - Maura O'Connell, Senior Paediatric Dietitian - Eilish Barrett, General Manager James Keane and DON Mary Mahon.



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Called MyCU, the current account and debit card allows members to manage their day-to-day banking with their credit union. The debit card is part of the Mastercard network, which means it can be used around the world. They will also be able to access their account worldwide. An overdraft facility is also available as is contactless payments along with Apple Pay, Google Pay and Fitbit Pay

Account holders are charged a monthly maintenance fee of €4, which is below what banks charge.

Shane McNeill, Business Development Manager with Ballinasloe Credit Union, states “People in Ireland massively embraced debit cards and online banking and it makes sense that their local trusted credit union can now offer this level of convenience and access to their finances. We are seeing a lot of interest in the MyCU debit card and current account with Ulster Bank and KBC Bank pulling out. People like the personal touch you get with a credit union.”

John Hurley one of the thousands of account holder whose banks are ceasing trading in the country recently moved from KBC to the Credit Union explained “We pondered moving to another bank, but we decided to go with the Credit Union. The facilities they provide are the same as the national banks. We did some research and went and spoke to a member of their staff. The move was seamless and there were no problems at all.”

For customers of those other banks that are in the same position as he was and considering moving he has simple advice: “Write down questions and go and speak to a member of staff and they will be happy to help.”

He has the Debit MasterCard and will be going on holiday’s shortly and he has no worries about using ATM or making payments with the card as it has worked perfectly so far. He has access to the online banking features on the app and on the

web. He has been delighted with the new service.

Members of the Credit Union also have online access to their credit union account 24/7 via the credit union website and mobile app. All the features that people have come to expect from online banking are available. Users can also apply for a loan via the credit union website or app and have the funds transferred to a designated account without ever having called into the credit union.

Members will benefit from banking anywhere, anytime through online banking and the debit card allows members to access their account wherever, whenever, worldwide.

With the new card customers can pay bills, withdraw cash at ATMs and make purchases at point of sale where the Mastercard acceptance mark is displayed, or online from anywhere in the world. The card offers contactless capability and has 24/7 support for lost or stolen cards. The card also has an added feature, a semi-circular indent on one side to support members who may be visually impaired.

There is also a new youth account available to juvenile members aged 12 to 17. The card offers all the features of a debit card with reduced spending limits and daily thresholds for added protection against fraud and misuse. Extra security and age-related restrictions also apply to the card. These security features provide independence for the younger members and reassurance for parents and guardians. The Credit union will be rolling out this new service for juvenile members in October.



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On the 28th of August every year, Clontuskert celebrates the feast of St. Augustine, the patron saint of the parish. This year was different. Two hundred years ago, in the year 1820, a new church was opened, dedicated to St. Augustine. The occasion was fittingly marked with the joint celebration of Mass by Bishop Michael Duignan of Clonfert and Galway and our Parish Priest, Fr. Michael Finneran.

Toward the end of the 1700s, the most severe of the Penal Laws were eased or removed and Catholics could begin to practice their religion more openly. In Clontuskert, a small, thatched chapel was built on a ringfort where the ruin of the old school now stands. Then in the early 1800s, a Catholic landlord, James McDermott, granted the site where the present church now stands. Fr. James O'Donnell P.P. arranged the construction of a new church, and the opening ceremony took place in 1820. This fact is recorded on the stone tablet over the font in the side chapel: "O Lord have Mercy on those who contributed to erect this chapel under the inspection of the Revd. James O'Donnell PP 1820."

Three beautiful stained-glass windows were gifted to the church in 1908. Over the altar is the magnificent Resurrection window, crafted by Franz Mayer of Munich and presented by Peter Salmon Snr. of Gortnamona. The window beside the sacristy door, presented by Thomas Coen of Urrachree, depicts a delightful Christmas scene. The third window

is of the Crucifixion, was sponsored by James Barr of Rossgloss House, in honour of Fr. Mulkern, former P.P. Clontuskert.

After the Mass, the Clontuskert people continued their celebrations in the adjoining community sports field. The children participated in a variety of activities, such as races and face painting while the adults enjoyed dancing and music. The Heritage Group presented maps, photos, and videos of traditional life in bygone years.

The whole afternoon's activities were a credit to innovation and hard work of the recently formed Clontuskert Community Development Group.

 **By Joe Molloy**



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Kilkerrin native swung into Garbally through the support of his USA based aunts in 1957 – little did he think when he stepped down recently from the Board of Directors of the BCU he would have given over three decades of service to the Irish Credit Union Movement!

John McLoughlin, a long time serving Director and former Chair and Vice-chair of the Ballinasloe Credit Union reflects on over three decades of engagement since he was a Community Psychiatric

Nurse in Castlerea Hospital and founded with his wife Maura the Castlerea Branch in 1988.

“It was one of the last in the country and what drove us to set it up was the complete unavailability of credit for ordinary working people at the time“ explains the sprightly John.

The Kilkerrin small farmer's son met the UK trained nurse Maura when he was a student nurse in St. Brigid's in the early sixties. They got married in 1967 and set up home in Castlerea – Maura had to give up career with the marriage ban, but returned to nursing

after the family grew up when they came back to live in town in 1995.

A family of four duly emerged - Orla – who is a nurse in Kilkenny, Fiona who is a leading County Councillor in Kildare, Niamh who is the Business Lead with Medtronic in Galway and youngest Shane who works with the AIB in Corofin.

“Liam Kelly was a huge positive influence on me as young student nurse, we never lost touch and when we set up in Castlerea he was there every step of the way helping us. So when I returned as a Community Nurse to the Ballinasloe area in the mid-90s he was mad keen to co-opt me as a Director to the local Credit Union” explains John.

Looking back on the growth and development of the Credit Union he is well impressed “that we have come a long way from just quietly sorting out the wife with the price of washing machine – to doing all the windows of a house, the bathroom, the roof, the car, the business expansion – the kids to college and even now a mortgage.”

He was Chair during the millennium and the local branch had recently employed Noel Madden as their first full time Administrator and moved to their Main St, premises from River St.

“We had an unprecedented spell of growth during that time maybe from 10,000 members accounts to 18,000 all down to the hard work of Noel, the board, our new visibility and the new attitude of the Irish people to money and credit“ said John.

He strongly believes that for all its faults the Celtic Tiger era got Irish people to be more open about their finances. “No one in the 70s, 80s or 90s wanted anyone else to know that you had borrowed for a car, bailer or even a twin tub and folks were nervous of a having a local committee from your area knowing how much you were repaying each week but that all fell by the wayside from 2003 onwards“ he recalls.

His fondest memory though is not just of helping individuals but the umpteen community organisations that the Credit Union helped with sponsorship, grants and long terms loans to realise their ambition for facilities or social enterprise. “Since the turn of the century we were able to assist so many organisations put in place their finances to drawn down grant aid and deliver for the community, when the high street banks just did not want to know“, explains John

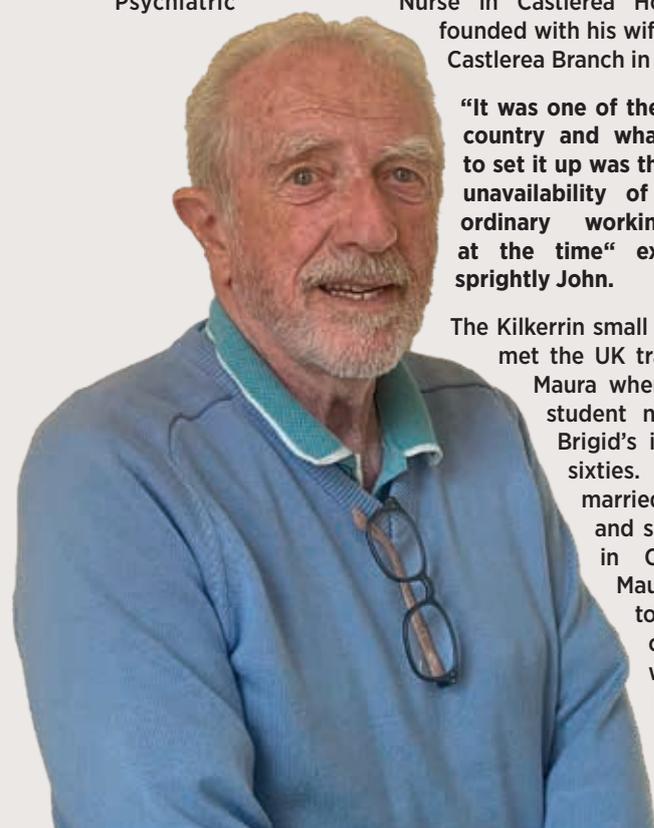
For him the overriding ethos of the movement was one of “come and see us, and talk to us the minute you have an issue or problem with your repayments”.

He knows that people think being on the board is a huge financial and time drain. “Look at it, this system was always about ordinary people in society being trained and supervised to manage competently the affairs of a lending cooperative- you could be a road sweeper or a stockbroker- you were offered the same programmes and support to help manage your members’ money“ he states.

9 -10 hours a week on average is all that it should take to be a Board member including your few hours on working groups or sub committees.

Frustratingly for John -the fussiness of the Central Bank Regulations since the financial collapse and the use of the market place language have served somewhat to alienate the next generation of local savers and borrowers.

“What should I care now – with 15 grandchildren while trying to reduce a bad Golf handicap and help out with Cancer Care Centre in Main St“ he laughs.



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In 1971, a group of like-minded people got together to provide Meals on Wheels and consequently in 1972, Ballinasloe Social Services Council was established.

The Meals on Wheels service continued under the guidance of Sr. John and based itself, with the kind co-operation of St Michael's Parish, still ongoing-in the Social Centre.

Dr Joe Tarpey was the first Chairperson and **Margaret Mansfield** first Secretary. Public Health Nurse, **Anne Fitzmaurice Kenny** was an early member of that original committee. She is still a member of the Management Committee. The late **Stevie Connell** from St Grellan's was a great advocate for his own community and was around too from the beginning.

Pre-school education was an early concern and a number of places for vulnerable children were funded in **Esther Kelly's** Preschool at Brackernagh. The Church of Ireland made its own contribution to this service.

In 1980, the current Social Services Centre in Brackernagh (formerly Jones' House) was purchased by the Social Services Council with support from the Western Health Board and renovated. **Éamon Lally** led the organisation through and beyond this major development. Down the years he has been on and off committee a sustaining presence. In 1981, the Day Centre opened its doors to the community.

Then, in 1982, the Mercy Order seconded **Sr. Alacoque Gleeson** from her nursing position in St Brendan's Loughrea to manage the Day Centre at no cost to the Council. Truly, Loughrea's loss was Ballinasloe's gain.

A minibus was donated to the Centre in 1983 by the Lions Club to enable more people from a wider area to attend the service.

Due to the demands, a significant extension was built and opened by **Eamon Hannan**, CEO of the Western Health Board in 1985. This building was designed by **Larry Duffy**, Moher and built as part of an AnCO-precursor of a FÁS- Community Training Project. The Foreman was **Seán Kenny** from Eyrecourt.

In 1985, at the request of the Community Care Team, the Social Services provided a pilot programme for children with additional needs called "The Therapeutic Playgroup". It was a multidisciplinary approach, and its teacher was **Maura Hughes**. **Maura** is still contributing and her poetry sessions with the clients in the Day Centre are very special.

A pre-school was established for the children in the local area in 1986 in a separate building.

In 1988, **Teresa Coughlan** was appointed as the first Administrator of Ballinasloe Social Services. This was a landmark decision, an inspired appointment which was transformative in its impact.

1989 saw the appointment of the gifted **Elaine Murphy** as Pre-School Leader.

In 1997 also, the Therapeutic Project for children with additional

needs was re-located from the Health Centre to the Social Services Centre and subsequently re-named the Therapeutic Learning Centre. Parents of children with additional needs will be aware of the exquisite teaching involved in the interventions made by **Elaine** and her team.

The Sisters of Mercy involvement in Meals on Wheels ceased in 1999 after 26 years, having been provided by **Sr. John**, **Sr. Dympna** and **Sr. Helena**. **Kay Cunningham** was appointed as Meals on Wheels Co-Ordinator.

In 2006, in a fitting endorsement - **President Mary McAleese** and her husband, **Martin**, visited the Centre to mark the 25th anniversary of the Day Care Centre.

Sr. Alacoque retired from her post in 2009 and the position was filled by HSE's **St. Brendan's Nursing Unit, Loughrea**. 2010 saw a new Care and Repair service being set up locally, which was based originally in the Social Services Centre. While it is now housed in the Enterprise Centre, they continue to work closely together for the care of our elderly citizens.

2012 also saw celebrations for the 40th anniversary of the Social Services, with the late RTE reporter, **Jim Fahy**, speaking at the AGM. Annual Budget for all services was approximately €370,000 with some €61,000 from fundraising, donations and small grants.

In 2018, the former Therapy Room was transformed into a Dining Room and officially opened by **Senator Maura Hopkins**.

In 2020, the day centre closed in March due to COVID and did not re-open until October 2021. The refurbishment of the kitchen through a **Maureen O'Connell Fund** grant, courtesy of the Ballinasloe Conference of the **Vincent de Paul**, was carried out. The Annual Budget in 2021 was close to €480,000 with some €49,000 being raised locally to support the work.

2022, the 50th anniversary, saw **Mandy Lloyd** being appointed as Day Centre Manager and a new bus being delivered. The pre-school garden is getting another make-over this year, thanks to a grant from the **Late Late Show Toy Appeal**.

Tusla, the Child Protection Agency recently provided significant funding to undertake research on an appropriate prevention and early intervention place-based model for families and youth services in town.

"There are a number of factors which have contributed to the growth and success of this organisation. Among these are the integrity of its stewardship down through the years, that is its committee and board. That stewardship has been vigilant, giving and always focused on what is best for the services and the people in the community that are served. Money is managed tightly and accounted for meticulously. I am 45 years attending those stewardship monthly meetings and the most remarkable thing about them is the lack of ego in the room. Secondly, the organisation has been blessed by the quality of the individual service managers, their commitment, expertise, and professionalism. Then there are the foot soldiers, those who



Committee L-R Back Row: Declan Quinn, Catherine Colleran, Una Hernon Grenham, Margaret Oliver, Stephen Kerr.
 Front Row: Annette Lynagh, Ann Kenny, Regina Power (Chairperson), Pdraig O'Ceithearnaigh, Jenny O' Sullivan (Missing from Photo: Michael Lally, Janice O'Grady).



Pre-School staff L-R: Caroline Costello, Elaine Murphy, Jessica Curley, Arlene Treacy.



Day Centre Staff: L-R, Back Row: Liz Guinan, Janet Mulligan, Diana Walsh, Nora Callaghy, Anne Marie Moran
 Front Row: Mandy Lloyd, Teresa Coughlan, Barbara Connolly.



Meals on Wheels Staff in action L-R: Kay Cunningham, Martina Fallon, Mary Corcoran.

come to work day in day out to classroom, day room, kitchens; those in charge of the sacred work of transporting clients to the centre and who keep the meals on the wheels bringing much more than physical nourishment to those who receive them. And then there are the volunteers who give with such grace and to such effect that most precious of gifts, their time and who bring to that giving such kindness and compassion. All of these parties are custodians of great values" noted Michael Lally a key activist and Board member of some 45 years.

Any account of its history through the last fifty years must record its indebtedness to the Mercy Sisters, firstly through seconded personnel-the aforementioned Sisters John and Dymna were succeeded by Sr Helena in the Meals on Wheels. The Day Care Centre at Brackneragh in its current form and ethos of warmth, professionalism and best practice is based on the model established by Sr Alacoque Gleeson, who laid a foundation of care which has been sustained and developed by the current personnel. Down the years too, and up to the present day, the Mercy Sisters have been constant financial supporters of the services. They have given generously and quietly without any requirement of credit or public acknowledgement. Like their Foundress Mother Catherine McCauley they never get weary of doing what is good.

One of the solid foundations of BSS is the respect and support it receives from the people of Ballinasloe and its environs. From businesses, to organisations, to schools to individuals, it has taken the cause to its heart and the financial support it provides is astonishing through thick and thin. It is an organisation that people trust and are prepared to back.

While the HSE is now the main funder, it is a fact that the services could not survive at their present level without this substantial support, which is of course saving the State services money in the medium to long term - in allowing folks to reside independently in their own home with strong support.

Annually 12 staff, allied with 45 volunteers deliver weekly and sometimes daily support to over 200 families with a variety of services.

New challenges are imminent with the crisis in energy costs and the cost of living generally. Many older people and families will struggle to cope with all of this. Hopefully with the help of experience and the continued support of the people of Ballinasloe and its environs the Social Services will continue to be able to be of assistance.

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In recent weeks, the first thing that Ballinasloe grandparents Michael and Ann McCullagh do in the morning is to check where their grandson Boru is in the world. On 27th August, 23-year-old Boru set off from London, where he lives, to cycle around the world to raise money for mental health.

In the eight-month journey, Boru – one of 10 grandchildren – expects to cover 34,000 kilometres, cross 25 countries and pass through two antipodal points. Three weeks into the trip, Boru had reached Croatia, clocking up over 2,000 kilometres, or 6% of the journey, says Michael, who points out that Boru's parents, Mark and Lorrae, first heard about the trip on a visit to Ballinasloe last Easter.

"I think I'd like to cycle around the work, literally, pinged a message from Boru to Mark and Lorrae" recalls Michael.

And how did his parents react? "They had nothing but encouraging words to say from the start, advising him that if it is something he really wants to do then he should take advantage of his young age and few life commitments to go and explore."

Ann adds: "More importantly they were incredibly amazed and proud that Boru would take on such a challenge given the difficult mental health challenges he has faced in the past."

In his late teens Boru spiralled into a depression which changed



Boru McCullagh. Photo courtesy of Finley Newmark and Dan King.

the way both he and his life looked for a number of years. He had to drop out of school before his final exams and got lost in the world, struggling to see how he could fit in with any of it. The depression led to an eating disorder, drug use and being too anxious to be comfortable anywhere resulted in admissions to psychiatric units several times over the course of his late teens.

Boru, who is proud to say that he's "cycling on an Irish passport" wants to use this ride as a positive force to help a charity who helps people going through difficulties. He is fundraising for Mind, a mental health charity. Three weeks into his journey, he was already over halfway to reaching his fundraising target of £10,000.

Before setting out on his adventure, Boru was head coach at the Herne Hill Velodrome, a very popular and thriving cycling venue in south London. The venue has been a special place for Boru as he's been riding and racing here from a young age. When he was 15 he started working there as a volunteer before taking a permanent role four years ago.

Boru is no stranger to long distance bike riding but a solo "bike-packing" adventure of this magnitude and duration will be new territory. He participated in the Race Around Rwanda in March 2022 and he rode from Lands' End to John O'Groats in Britain in July 2021.

To catch up on where Boru is in the world, or to donate to his chosen charity, please visit: <https://linktr.ee/marlboru>



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CIRCLE K



Local Rector John Godfrey of the Aughrim, and Creagh Parish Union, is leading plans for a community 'climate action park' on church land in Aughrim, which RTE Countrywide featured him and the project in a recent piece.

He was inspired to create the biodiversity park as he has a big campus on his doorstep. Historically the rectors that lived on the land would have farmed it. It makes sense to have the park in that location as they already have a garden which is used for growing vegetables and an orchard.

The Community Employment Scheme has helped make the site an educational amenity while the school children from

Glebe NS planted the trees donated by the local community. All the produce that is grown on the land is given back into the community. The juice from the apples in the orchard is bottled and sold in Burke's shop.

The local people maintain the garden and by doing this they learn new skills. The schoolchildren would sometimes have lessons in the garden about planting, the cycles of nature, biodiversity, and sustainable living.

In 2019 the 'Friday's For Future' movement helped inspire the Reverend to plan the park, when children around the world went on strike on Fridays to protest about climate change. "On the 15th of March 2019 10,000 Irish children had protested outside Dáil Éireann, and I realised we had to respond. The scripture reading for that week was about the need for urgent change" states Rev John.

The original plan was just to plant trees to take the harmful carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere. As they were planning the park, they thought the most impactful way to utilise the space was to open it up to the public rather than just plant trees, hopefully inspiring the public to make a positive difference in their lives.

In 2019 'Holy Trinity Church' had its 200th anniversary and they had a big service. They used the service to show their vision for the biodiversity park and at the end, the whole community down to the park and they symbolically planted the first tree which was blessed by Fr. Geraghty PP. Afterwards they then planted more apple trees.

A landscape firm Radharc landscaping from Moycullen, developed plans for the project, Fingelton-White engineering helped submit the planning application. Planning was approved in February this year and they are just waiting on the final archaeological sign-off before they can start properly planting and laying down pathways.

They also have a river running along the bottom of the site and working with Irish waterways will improve the quality of the water. They will rake the gravel at the bottom of the riverbed to allow the trout to spawn and loosen the gravel with their tails.

The hope is that the project would fall into the requirements for leader funding from the EU.

Within the site there is ruins of two ancient Abbey's both of which pre-date the reformation. One is from the twelfth or thirteenth century and the other goes all the way back to the sixth. They are attributed to St. Catherine who is the patron saint of Aughrim. This is the birthplace of Christianity in the area which is significant to both churches. It means they can go back to their shared origin and unite to help shape the future.

"If you want to take care to fix the environment, then you need to take time to notice it first" states Rev. John.





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A Ballinasloe man, born on Harbour Road, has been appointed a new Foreign Correspondent at Channel 4 TV News in London. Paraic O'Brien is son of the late Larry O'Brien, a former postmaster in the town while his mother Catherine, who now lives in Portarlington was a teacher in St. Grellan's Boys' NS.

Though working with Channel 4 news for ten years, Paraic said his promotion to Foreign Correspondent, was a great honour. "I used to watch the likes of Jonathan Rugman and Jonathan Miller, who previously held this role, reporting from around the world. Both masters at what they do." He is also sitting next to the journalistic titan that is Lindsay Hilsum.

Paraic only realised he wanted to be a journalist when he was a teenager but never really thought of it as a viable career option first. He had never met a journalist, had no connections in that world. It wasn't until he moved to London in his early 20's that he started seriously thinking about it. He studied journalism part time while working as a youth worker near Brixton in South London. His big break came when he got an apprenticeship reporter post at BBC Radio 4. He also ended up meeting his wife there, so it was a very important few years!

According to Paraic there are two English teachers from Garbally that he'll never forget: Mick Lally and Joe Molloy. They were both passionate about the power of great writing and impactful story telling. "It was infectious. The walls of Mick Lally's classroom were covered in posters of great plays from all around the world - Hamlet in New York, Macbeth in London". He remembers thinking to himself as a young fella: "I want to go see these plays and I want to go see them in the world's great cities."

He also believes his parents Larry and Catherine O'Brien are the ones who influenced his journalism. His family are devout evangelical Christians, which was unusual at the time. His

folks had a very practical idea of what Christianity involved. For one thing, they used to invite all sorts of waifs and strays into their home. They'd regularly have people around for dinner in Harbour Road who were struggling in life or were marginalised or outsiders in some way. That was normal for him as a kid and has stayed with him. Whether it's a refugee camp in Syria or a drug rehabilitation centre in Romania, he understands the perspective of the outsider and he tries to communicate that in his reportage.

While his Mum was a schoolteacher in St Grellan's, she taught him in first class. So as not to show any favouritism she was extra strict with him. After national school it was Garbally. He has very happy memories of the town. Playing on top of a mountain of fertiliser bags in the yard of Joe and Noreen Murray's shop, River St. with his best friend Jack; down at the October Horse Fair with his cousins from Clare with a couple of ponies; running wild along the canal with the next-door neighbours and his mates Kevin White, Aidan and Declan Kenny.

He is only back in town the odd time these days. The last time



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was in 2020 on the Irish General Election campaign trail. Leo Varadkar was speaking at the Shearwater Hotel. He found it strange being back in the town on a story. He remembers doing a piece to camera with a few lads from school looking on in the foyer of the hotel. He doesn't normally get nervous anymore when on the TV, but he was that day!

It's difficult to put his finger on one story that was his "big break". It was more a case of working hard on every story and gradually moving up. He thinks one of the stories he became quite well known for was a special report he did in the sewage system underneath Bucharest many years ago. He spent a couple of days underground interviewing the drug addicts who lived there. That particular report won a lot of awards.

His advice to young people who are interested in getting into journalism "Read as much news and analysis as you can and go out of your way to expose yourself to different opinions, not just the ones you feel safe with or agree with. Nothing beats "shoe leather journalism. Yes, research stuff online, study data-based journalism but at the end of the day many stories involve knocking on doors, picking up the phone, the analogue stuff. If you've no contacts in journalism, make them for yourself. Journalists love giving advice to people setting out, so email a few and ask them for help. If you're reading this and are from Ballinasloe, start with me: paraic.o'brien@itn.co.uk" states Paraic.

 By Oisín White

Following consultation with the business people, the Christmas Lights Committee (as part of the Ballinasloe Town Team) are proceeding with the lighting of the Christmas lights with the "Switch On Ceremony" now confirmed for Sunday 27th November at 6.00 pm.

"In 2020, a massive investment was made by the community for the purchase of the new LED energy efficient Christmas Lights. Because of this, we feel it's important to continue to light up our town and celebrate. We want to give everyone in the area as bright a Christmas as possible, it's a magical time and without the lights it really will be a lot duller. There are many diasporas travelling home for holiday time- many for the first time in a few years because of Covid, and they deserve a warm festive welcome home" stated Town Team Co-ordinator Anita Killeen.

Every year there are reoccurring costs involved for the installation, repairs, storage, insurance, and electricity which has been covered by a combination of fundraising (Christmas raffle etc) generous business contributions, grant aid and donations.

This year the required funds (circa €25k) will be raised once again from both business contributions and community donations. James Burke has been re-appointed Business Coordinator and the community will be able contribute to the Christmas lights by going on-line and donating through a portal opened on www.shopballinasloe.ie.

A recent survey of businesses in the town resulted in over 85% of respondents urging the Christmas lights to proceed with the same number also committing to financially backing the. Some businesses did express some worry with the increase in the cost of living and electricity.



Therefore, in line with other towns across the county, the running time of the lights each day will be reduced. Switching them on from 4:00pm until 12:00 midnight from November 27th until January 6th, with the times to be reviewed for Christmas Week (19th -25th December)

The "Christmas Lights Switch On" festivities in the town has not taken place since 2018 (because of the Big Dig & Covid) but plans are in place to have music and entertainment at the top of the town square on Sunday November 27th with special guests invited to light up the town. More details on line to follow.

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Aidan Sheridan swam approximately 254 kms (the length of the River Shannon) and raised a whopping €50,000 for charity – supported from locals and friends this summer.

Raising funds for the Irish Cancer Society and East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support was an obvious choice after his brother Mark passed away from cancer in 2017.

He began training last November, as he wasn't a particularly strong swimmer, he had to build his training up gradually going to his local pool 6-8 am to practice. He only started his open water swimming in April of this year!

Aidan swam 220,000 strokes, 95,000 breaths of air and 10,000 laps of a swimming pool. He had some shoulder trouble on the second day of the swim but other than that it couldn't have really gone better.

"It was an amazing evening when they handed over the cheque for €41,000 to East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre. The same night I was told there was going to be a plaque for one of the benches in the garden centre for Mark that was already made out. That made the evening more special for us as a family as we know they can go up and sit on the bench and have a chat with Mark" states Aidan.

"It was a very proud moment to say we raised enough money to purchase a bus for them, allowing patients who need help with travel to go to Galway and other adjoining hospitals for treatment" he explained.

They received amazing support from the public. In the lead up to the swim, they had lots of fundraisers, with some people coming to all the events and donating three or four times. He was overwhelmed by the support he received from everyone in the town, as if it wasn't for residents and businesses, they wouldn't have got anywhere near the figure they received.

He thanked his wife, Elaine and two kids Summer and Alex. A special mention must go to Ruth and Julien for driving the campervan for him for the two weeks. He also thanked his

sponsors Mike Dolan at the Moycarn Lodge, CarryOut Office License, Tiny Tots, Supermac's, Kids Corner, Credit Union, The Study Centre, Joe Naughton Auctioneers, Signs and Systems, Fred Kilmartin and Hogarty's Carpet and Flooring. Their sponsorship provided the campervan and food, happily a lot of these businesses came forward asking to sponsor him rather than him having to go looking for it.

He concludes by saying "People around town were knocking on our door looking to give us stuff, which shows how the people of Ballinasloe pull together."

This wasn't a solo effort from Aidan as he was supported by members of the local Civil Defence force, primarily because he is known for his feats of fitness. In 2016 for example he completed 52 Marathons in 52 weeks.

Critically one of the main charities which he was raising money for locally has also been supported by the Civil Defence in the past at various events and would have close ties with them. They also have members who are trained in operating Rescue Boats near swimmers and who have good knowledge of the local waterways, so it made sense for them to help.

They took over the role of support/rescue boat for him from Roscommon Civil Defence early on the morning of July 22nd at the Athlone weir after launching from Coreen Ford.

Over the course of the three days, they had seven of their members take turns crewing the rescue boat. These varied in clinical levels from first aid responder, through emergency medical technician up to paramedic. They also carried food and drinks for him and made sure he received his breaks on time. They handed over the relief duties at Banagher to the Meelick/Eyrecourt kayakers.



The Sheridan family on their brother Mark's bench

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Three community and voluntary groups in the locale secured €112,167 in funding from the €412,486 total allocation to the County, as announced by Minister for Rural and Community Development, Heather Humphreys TD, and Minister of State, Joe O'Brien TD under the recent Clár Programme.

Ballinasloe Rugby Club was successful with Sports Capital funding to upgrade the pitch area and success builds on success with another round of funding here of €32,400 to build a walking track around the two pitches.

There is plenty of space for parking so this could be the go-to place for that evening walk away from the busy road – and for all the mums and dads bringing kids to training, they can enjoy a sprint around the pitches in between roaring on Ballinasloe when matches are playing.



Club President Pearse Keller stated “Any funding for a voluntary club such as ours is very welcome and appreciated as it affords us the opportunity to enhance our facilities for our members and the whole community within hinterland of the town – we are very much an inclusive club open to all.

“Fortunately for us, our club grounds fell within the Clár area which allowed us to apply for grant aid – we came through a rigorous process, firstly making the ‘cut’ in Galway before being

UNEARTHING OUR TOWN’S PAST

 By Oisín White

Ballinasloe Library are presenting a talk on “The Archaeology of Ballinasloe’s “Big Dig” on Saturday, November 26th at 2.30pm.

In this fascinating talk, archaeologist, and Ballinasloe native Fiona Maguire MIAI (Member of Irish Archaeologists Institute) will describe the history of the area from the point of view of the archaeological discoveries, the painstaking process of uncovering the past.

In 2018, as part of the Ballinasloe Water Services Infrastructure Upgrade and Town Enhancement Scheme, Fiona discovered the remains of the old Market House in St Michael’s Square and a well that would have been used by the people in the 1800s.

The unprecedented access that the infrastructural scheme gave to the town’s past led to further discoveries during the two-year project, including a rare, almost-complete set of rosary beads

estimated to be 500 years old, two cemeteries separated by a thousand years of time, a possible medieval well, and evidence for the great fort of Dún Leo, all just centimetres below the modern street level.

The discovery of several human skeletons on Society Street led to a short feature on RTE news in September 2021. Residents will now have to opportunity to hear for the first time in detail about the discoveries, and their localities past.



Fiona Maguire during the 2018 dig

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put forward nationally – our application was for a walkway around the perimeter of our pitches and this is what the money will be spent on – this walkway will be open not just to members but to all those living and working within the Ballinasloe area – any groups, societies, individuals will be welcome to use it” noted Pearse.

Clontúskert Community Development group also received over €30,000, to upgrade parking, lighting the pitch grounds and maintenance of the clubhouse. Damian Curley and Patsy Cormican were both heavily involved in the recent Community Consultation events (March-May 2022) with people in Clontuskert

and surrounding areas.

Indeed, Patsy’s work goes right back to the pitch development itself in the 1980’s. They are the pitch trustees who heard the feedback at the consultation, about the immediate need for an indoor meeting space.

When they realised the Clár Funding 2022 has a specific support for refurbishing buildings (providing they can be used by the whole community) they decided it was a good option. Damian

said: ‘To be honest, it was our first application, and we weren’t sure what to expect-we are delighted!’ Patsy explained; ‘Our focus is to upgrade the dressing rooms -so they are also suitable for various groups meetings throughout the year.’ This included installing a heat source and refurbishing inside, as well as installing outdoor lighting and improving access.

Chairperson Maria Brennan stated, ‘While we sought this support as trustees of the community pitch, we are working with the wider Clontuskert Community Development Group to further all 70+ideas which people have put forward for the area in the Community Consultation.’

The community Pitch and dressing rooms were a major achievement for the Development group in the 80’s and they want to protect, enhance and have it for use for people in the community. They know that the area is asking for more, in terms of building connections as a community socially and in terms of creating needed community infrastructure.

Fohenagh Ahascragh Club also received a grant for improvements to community facilities and are working out the details with the Dept as we go to print.

 By Oisín White

UPCOMING LIBRARY EVENTS

“Rewilding” an Artlink Collective Exhibition is launching Tuesday 11th Oct 5-6.30pm. It will be opened by Rev. John Godfrey from the Glebe Rewilding Project in Aughrim. It is Free of charge.

Gerry Devlin’s 300 Years Ballinasloe Fair Photography Exhibition is ending Saturday 15th Oct. and free to view during the library’s opening hours.

The Annual Gables Art Exhibition returns - Saturday November 12th 2.30-5.30pm for a few days.

Innocent Smoothies have launched their Big Knit campaign for 2022. They first started putting little hats on their smoothies back in 2010, and donated 30c to Age Action for every behatted bottle sold.



Ger Wolfe Master Songsmith and some participants at a Ballad and Songwriting Workshop in the Library recently.

Ballinasloe Library is very proud to be one of this year’s little hat collection points, along with other libraries all over the country.

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Richard Moore grew up at 1 Brackernagh. The Moore family are listed in the 1901 Census as living in Dunlo Hill and in the 1911 Census, at Brackernagh.

Richard's grandfather and great-grandfather were bakers, at Rourke's Bakery. They were part of the musical fabric of town, performing in the Ballinasloe Choral and Orchestral Society and the St. Michael's Church Choir, under the direction of the highly esteemed Ms Lavinia (Breezy) Sheridan (1888-1972), who was the Director of Music for the Diocese of Clonfert.

Richard began tinkering at the piano from a young age and listened to his Aunt Evie

(Moore) Brennan, ALCM, play piano hits by Winifred Atwell, Scott Joplin, Charlie Kunz; Classical music and music from the Musicals and all the popular hits of the day.

Evie became a well-known accompanist and piano teacher locally. His Aunt Ita was a gifted singer and violinist and his cousin Fr. Noel Colahan, had leading roles as a boy-soprano, in the Garbally musicals. His cousin Bernie Larkin played accordion with the Kiltormer Céilí Band and the Aughrim Slopes.

Formal Piano lessons, with graded exams, began at age 6, with Ms Lavinia Sheridan. Playing trombone as a youngster with the Town Band under the batons of Timmy Kelleher and Noel Madden, was to provide a love of brass playing.

While attending Garbally, singing in the annual musical was a highly anticipated event. As a first year in Garbally, fifty years ago in 1972, Richard was part of the chorus in the Pirates of Penzance, by Gilbert and Sullivan. Coincidentally, in his day as a student, his cousin Fr. Noel Colahan played the lead role of Mabel in the Pirates, and this year, Richard's daughter Esther won a Performer of the Year award, for her role of Ruth in the Loughrea Youth Theatre's production of the Pirates of Penzance.

Richard is amazed at the rich vein of talent in the once famous "all to once side like" part of town - Brackernagh through the years has spawned a wealth of musicians, including: Tommy Derrane, John Clayton, Tom Keogh, Paddy Greally, Martin Greally, Gerard Farrell, Bernie Larkin, Johnny Whelan, Aidan Judge, Gerard O'Connor, Paddy Daly, Noel Madden, Martina (Madden) Doherty, Austin Madden, Chris Doherty, Amie Doherty, Rachel Doherty, Noel Doherty, Gerry Seale, Cecil O'Grady, Brendan Loughnane, Gerry Loughnane, Pat Vaughan, Johnny Furey, Paddy Burke, Michael Ryan, Nellie Hurley, Margaret, Mary & Theresa Cusack, Tom Quinn. This list doesn't even include all the singers from Brackernagh!!

Studying for a Bachelor of Music Degree at U.C.C. provided a love and appreciation of Classical Music. Following four years of study in Boston, Richard graduated with honours from the world famous Berklee College of Music. While there, he had the opportunity to study Jazz and Popular Music and to perform in a very wide range of top-class music ensembles.

Richard is still unpacking all the information he learned at Berklee! In the early 80s, he travelled to North America and Australia, playing piano with the Irish-music group Ceoltóirí Maghlocha, from Moylough.



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Having spent five years in London, where he worked in the Music Department of the Performing Rights Society (IMRO in Ireland), and playing with a variety of groups, Richard returned to Ballinasloe and spent twenty-five years playing keyboards with the popular band, Heatwave. The local band also included Louie Burgoyne and Jack Mannion from Ballinasloe, and Mick Slattery from Athlone.

Richard obtained his Piano Teaching Diploma from the Associated Boards of the Royal Schools of Music and spent twenty-five years teaching piano until he relocated to Doha in Qatar for six months, where he taught music in a Primary School. He is also a qualified Secondary School music teacher and has taught in schools in Galway and the Midlands.

The benefits of learning music are very well documented; learning music stimulates, challenges and enriches young people during their formative school years and indeed into adulthood and senior years. "I'm delighted to

see that the town band is thriving and that the young musicians are getting an excellent music education and expert tuition, thanks to the dedication of Noel and Martina Madden, Keith Kelly and the band committee. Ballinasloe has always had very dedicated instrumental and singing teachers, and the fruits of their labour are borne out by the multitude of local musicians who are playing in Ballinasloe and afar" he states.

Following the cessation of music teaching and performing as a result of Covid, Richard is delighted to be returning to teaching and performing. He now teaches in Gurty Madden, which is central to Ballinasloe, Loughrea and Portumna. Richard is looking forward to passing on his considerable music knowledge to his students; his goal is to set the student on a path of lifelong learning and enjoyment.

He has also recently begun a residency at the Moycarn Lodge and Marina every Thursday evening, where the proprietors Mike and Miriam Dolan, are providing a wonderful opportunity for up-and-coming musicians and singers to perform in public. He also plays keyboards with the exciting function band, 'The Heebie Jeebies' from Roscommon.

Richard Moore can be contacted at 087 9657939 for Piano/Theory/Junior & Leaving Cert Music grinds.

Ballinasloe Choral and Orchestral Society's 1944 production of 'Maritana',. Conducted by the indomitable Miss Lavinia Sheridan. Grandfather Bertie, is in the back row, 3rd from right. Micky Colahan, father of Michael F Colahan and Fr. Noel Colahan, third row on the right.

 By Oisín White

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Dunlo Street native, Dominic Divilly, will be taking on the mammoth task this October when he climbs Island Peak in the Himalayas—a mountain that is 6,187 meters tall. Dominic has a sister Regina, who currently operates the Carry Out Off-Licence in the premises on Dunlo Street and had previously worked in the family business.

He is Himalayan bound to raise money for Croí, which is the West of Ireland Heart Foundation. “My dad died in 1984 from heart issues when I was only 24 and I lost my rock that day” stated Dominic. His father Wille was only 60 years old. All the money he raises from donations will go straight back into the charity.

A fresh and youthful 62 year-old but when Dominic was 58, he had to get three stents put in his arteries, however he feels fit and ready for this expedition.

He has been climbing for almost 20 years and has been to the Himalayas twice before. Dominic has climbed all over the world including Scotland, Wales, Spain, Corsica, Slovenia, Montenegro, Borneo, Africa, and Nepal. He has climbed the highest mountain in Africa-Kilimanjaro, highest mountain in Slovenia-Triglav and has a great passion for mountains and climbing in general.

To train for this he regularly hikes the mountains of Ireland most weekends. He has climbed the highest mountain in Ireland, Corran Tuathail in the Magillacuddy Reeks over 200 times and leads hikers to its summit many times a year.

Dominic is a trained rock climber but will have a team of five people climbing this peak with him. Currently he works

for a medical device company in Galway-Medtronic and the stents in his arteries were manufactured in the factory. As a matter of fact, he was the person who printed all the paperwork for those batches of stents to be made.

He has three children who are all very supportive of his passion for climbing. His main goal is trying to get the fundraiser out to as many people as possible to maximise the fundraising for charity.

“One could say Croí is very close to my heart” stated Dominic.

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Newtown N.S. is looking great this September after a wonderful renovation of the existing building and addition of a superb new classroom for our senior pupils. Everyone was very excited and couldn't wait to return to school.

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By Oisín White

Scoil an Chroí Naofa have finally applied to Galway County Council for their new school build in the heart of Society Street, which will cost roughly €11.5 million.

The design had to be adapted because of the increase in students, with 290 pupils on the rolls, the new design will accommodate at least another 40 children.

The school have been waiting over 25 years for this new project, were promised this work when they applied in 2011, and again in 2016 once the first application expired. The new development will see the demolition of the existing school building, (Old St. Josephs Infants' School); construction of a new building and Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) unit. Once finished there will be 16 general classrooms, nine specialist or resource rooms, a library, staff room, office toilets, stores, plant room, general purpose hall and ancillary spaces.

The total floor area will be 3,546 m2. The senior play area is

due to be 585 m2. The car park will have 23 spaces, additional grounds were acquired from Galway County council to allow for new sports pitches and the new entrance driveway is provided for at the Library laneway.

In time the main carpark and drop off zone to the new school at the rear of the street can provide the terminus area to the new street linking up the River Blueway and new back of Main Street to roadway at back of Gullanes Hotel.

The 1930's Greallain's block will have rooms reconfigured for a pre-school library, drop-in room, pre and post school & counselling facilities, homework programme, a bereavement programme, breakfast club, shower room and assisted sanitary facilities.

According to Senator Dolan "The children in the ASD Unit will be waiting another four years, even if we move this to Stage three without any delay."

Ballinasloe's

ZOMBIE WALK

Garbally Woods

Saturday 29th & Sunday 30th October

Early bookings recommended

PARKING AND MEETING POINT at Ard Scoil Mhuire H53 CP40

TIME SLOTS - Sat: 6.45pm, 7.45pm & 8.45pm, Sun: 5.45pm 6.45pm & 7.45pm

Book online now

www.ballinasloetownhall.com

Tickets: €12 per person + booking fee

Enquiries 090 9646516

(All subject to suitable weather conditions)

ALL UNDER 12'S MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT

BEC Ballinasloe Musical Society



Adam McGreal, Best Leaving Cert results (625) with Mr. Paul Walsh, Principal, Mr. Iomor Daniels (representing the sponsor) and Ms. Collette Quinn, Vice Principal.



Caelum Dunne, Mr. Paul Walsh Principal.



Eoin Coleman with Mr. Walsh, Principal and Ms. Roisin McSharry, Career Guidance Counsellor.



Some of the Ard Scoil Mhuire Graduation Class of 2022, pictured at their Debs in the Shearwater Hotel. L-R: Catherine, Isabella, Emma, Mia, Evan, Rosa, Emily, Katelyn and Aliyah (all part time staff at the Shearwater Hotel).



John Devine, Leaving Cert student 2022 pictured receiving the CAXTON ADVANTAGE Award for Sporting Achievement 2022. Pictured with Mr. Paul Walsh, Principal, Mr. Iomar Barrett on behalf of sponsors Caxton and Ms. Collette Quinn, Vice Principal.



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Sister Kathleen Murphy from the sisters of Mercy Convent in London launched her book recently -

'The Splendour of Caring'

She is originally from Claremadden, Kiltormer. The book is available from all good Catholic book shops and costs €12.50.



CREDIT UNION HONOURS RETIRING VOLUNTEERS

At a recent function held in the Moycarn Lodge BCU acknowledged the contribution of four long serving volunteers who retired from their committees this year. Between them they have clocked up over 40 years of voluntary service to the credit union in Ballinasloe.

L-R: Grainne Murphy, CEO Ballinasloe CU, William Duthie, John McLoughlin, Kathleen Burke, Michael Mannion & Marian Brady Chairperson of Ballinasloe. CU.



Sive with her coaching team

BRASSIL TOP-8 FINISH IN EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Sive Brassil signalled her intent with an impressive eight place finish in the European Pentathlon Championships in Hungary recently. The events she took part in were fencing, horse riding, swimming, athletics, and the laser run which combines running with shooting. The Paris Olympic Games are very much front of mind for her with this performance providing a great springboard forward. Afterwards she said "I'm over the moon with a top eight finish in the Europeans. It was a really solid week of competition for me. I knew I had a big result coming, it was just about putting all the pieces together on the same day."



Christine Curran winner of €500 at GAA bingo



Jonathan Glynn with his kids Emma and John

Jonathan Glynn of Lawrencetown Ballinasloe took part in iron man Youghal in Cork recently. He had put in six long months of training six days per week and smashed it finishing in 15 hours and 38minutes. It has been his ambition to complete one before his 40th birthday, which is in October.



Four year old Aidan Kenny from Creagh, Ballinasloe with his mum Deirdre, two year old brother Darren, dad Séan and cousins Sadhbh Gorey, Luke Mulvey and Cillian Mulvey at the Laura Lynn 'Oscars' recently.



Some celebration pictures from our most Sustainable and Green business locally - Padraig, Una Fahy and the team at Beechlawn Organic Farm, opened their gates to all last month to celebrate their 20th year in business. "The support from Ballinasloe people over the years has just been fantastic and it has been a foundation to enable us to grow from a small local business to a national success" says Una.



Former Businessman and distinguished resident Jim Burke turned 90 years of age earlier this summer with a GALA fundraising event for two local charities very close to his heart - Ballinasloe Social Services and The Galway Hospice. In total his Birthday bash raised some €1500 each for them. Jim was hospitalised shortly after with Covid and is only making it back to better health now - so it was only recently he got around to making the presentations.

Pic 1: Caroline, Frances, Jim Burke, his sister Teda, James, John and Rita.

Pic2: Mary Madden and Kay Cunningham of Ballinasloe Social Services receiving their proceeds from Big Jim's Party.

Pic 3: Charlene Bloe Fundraising Manager with Galway Hospice being presented with Jim Burke's Birthday 90th Party.



Children enjoying art and tug o' war at the Family Fun Day in Clonstuskert.

OCTOBER 1, SATURDAY

Horse Fair Exhibition (free event)	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Music	10pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Tennis Junior Sessions	11am-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Music	10.30pm	Dunlo Tavern
Dave Fitz	8pm	Joe's Bar

OCTOBER 2, SUNDAY

Ballinasloe Horse Fair 2022	All day	Fair Green
Food and craft market	All day	Town streets
Official Opening	2pm	Sound Stage T. Centre
Mike Denver Concert	2.30pm	Sound Stage T. Centre
Mens 18 H.S.F'ford	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Coffee Shop	8am-4pm	Town Hall Theatre
Cycling Club	8am, 8.30am,	Barry's Cycle,
cycling and joining the club	9am	Society Street
Open Club Sessions	11am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin
Ken Solo	7pm	Joe's Bar

OCTOBER 3, MONDAY

Ballinasloe Horse Fair 2022	All day	Fair Green
Food and craft market	All day	Town streets
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Learn to Ballroom Dance	8.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
John Shannon	7pm	Joe's Bar
Bridge Sessions Beginners	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

OCTOBER 4, TUESDAY

Horse Fair Exhibition (free event)	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Ladies 18H.S. S'ford	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Exhibition by Dominic Daly	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Speech & Drama Classes. 3-7yrs	4pm-5pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Speech & Drama Classes. 8-12yrs	5pm-6pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

OCTOBER 5, WEDNESDAY

Horse Fair Exhibition (free event)	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe breastfeeding sup. group	11 - 12.30am	Bsloe Library, 1st flr
Bsloe Soccer Club Bingo Night	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Exhibition by Dominic Daly	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Cycling Club cycling and joining	7pm	Barry's Cycle
French Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullane'ss Hotel
Set Dancing Class	8.30-10.30pm	Scoil an Chroi Naofa
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin

OCTOBER 6, THURSDAY

Horse Fair Exhibition (free event)	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Gerry Devlin Charity Quiz	7.30pm	Gullanes Hotel
Piano Bar/Open Mic	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Exhibition by Dominic Daly	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Irish Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullanne's Hotel
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

OCTOBER 7, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Ctre, Society St.
Horse Fair Exhibition (free event)	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Exhibition by Dominic Daly	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Fair Living Competition	9pm	St Michael's Square
Festival Fireworks display	8.30pm	Ballinasloe Marina
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live music. Toxic twins	9.30pm	Brewery lane
Small Deal	9.30pm	Joe's Bar
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Emerald Bar

OCTOBER 8, SATURDAY

Ballinasloe Horse Fair 2022	All Day	Fair Green
Food and craft market	All day	Town streets
Horse Fair Exhibition (free event)	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Coffee Shop	8am-4pm	Town Hall Theatre
Music	10pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Tennis Junior Sessions	11am-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Music	10.30pm	Dunlo Tavern
Live music. Acoustic ninjas	9.30pm	Brewery lane
Music. Na Riadoiri	10pm	An Táin
Boogie Men	8pm	Joe's Bar

OCTOBER 9, SUNDAY

Mens 18 H. Fourball	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Country music. Michael Collins	5pm-7.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Derek Ryan / sup Stuart Moyles	9pm-12	Shearwater Hotel
Ballinasloe Fair	1.30, 2.30,	Main Street
Motorbike Stunt Show	3.30	Ballinasloe
Cycling Club cycling and joining	8am, 8.30am,	Barry's Cycle,
the club	9am	Society Street
Festival Dog Show	1pm	St. Michael's Sq
Open Club Sessions	11am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin
A1	7pm	Joe's Bar

OCTOBER 10, MONDAY

Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Learn to Ballroom Dance	8.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Bridge Sessions Beginners	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

OCTOBER 11, TUESDAY

Horse Fair Exhibition (free event)	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Ladies 18H.S. S'ford	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Artlink Collective Exhibit Launch	TBC	Ballinasloe Library
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Speech & Drama Classes. 3-7 yrs	4pm-5pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Speech & Drama Classes. 8-12 yrs	5pm-6pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

OCTOBER 12, WEDNESDAY

Horse Fair Exhibition (free event)	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Soccer Club Bingo Night	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Cycling Club cycling and joining	7pm	Barry's Cycles
French Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullane'ss Hotel
Set Dancing Class	8.30-10.30pm	Scoil an Chroi Naofa
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin

OCTOBER 13, THURSDAY

Horse Fair Exhibition (free event)	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Piano Bar/Open Mic	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Irish Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullanne's Hotel
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

OCTOBER 14, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Ctre, Society St.
Horse Fair Exhibition (free event)	Daytime	Ballinasloe Library
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live music. Robbie & Brian	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Emerald Bar

OCTOBER 15, SATURDAY

300 Years Fair Exhibition ending	TBC	Ballinasloe Library
Music	10pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Tennis Junior Sessions	11am-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Music	10.30pm	Dunlo Tavern
Live music. Beggars velvet	9.30pm	Brewery lane
Music. Chris Nash	10pm	The Pillar House
Music. Boogie men.	10pm	An Táin
Two Book Tom	10pm	Joe's Bar

OCTOBER 16, SUNDAY

Mens 18 H.S.F'ford	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Country Music. Liam Mannering	5pm-7.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Robert Mizzel / Brendan Jermyrn	9pm-12	Shearwater Hotel
Cycling Club	8am, 8.30am,	Barry's Cycle,
cycling and joining the club	9am	Society Street
Open Club Sessions	11am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin

OCTOBER 17, MONDAY

Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Learn to Ballroom Dance (waitz, quickstep, tango, foxtrot)	8.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Bridge Sessions Beginners	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

OCTOBER 18, TUESDAY

Ladies 18H.S. S'ford	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Speech & Drama Classes 3-7 yrs	4pm-5pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Speech & Drama Classes 8-12 yrs	5pm-6pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

OCTOBER 19, WEDNESDAY

Bsloe Soccer Club Bingo Night	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Cycling Club cycling and joining	7pm	Barry's Cycles
French Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullane's Hotel
Set Dancing Class	8.30-10.30pm	Scoil an Chroi Naofa
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin

OCTOBER 20, THURSDAY

Piano Bar/Open Mic	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Irish Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullanne's Hotel
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

OCTOBER 21, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Cntr, Society St.
Registration for Rossway Walkers	8pm-9pm	Gullane's Hotel
Haloween Cinema "Scream"	10pm	Town Hall Theatre
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe RFC Rugby Quiz	8pm	Bsloe RFC Club
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live music.	9.30pm	Brewery lane
Texas Holdem	9pm	Joe's Bar
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Emerald Bar

OCTOBER 22, SATURDAY

Music	10pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Tennis Junior Sessions	8pm-9pm	Gullane's Hotel
Live Music	10.30pm	Dunlo Tavern
Live music - 3 Men & a Bass	9.30pm	Brewery lane
Music. Kevin Corry	10pm	The Pillar House
Dave Mills	10pm	Joe's Bar

OCTOBER 23, SUNDAY

Mens 18 H.S.F'ford	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Country M. Teddy & Cathel Barry	5pm-7.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Gerry Guthrie / John Molloy	9pm-12	Shearwater Hotel
Cycling Club	8am, 8.30am,	Barry's Cycle,
cycling and joining the club	9am	Society Street
Open Club Sessions	11am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin

OCTOBER 24, MONDAY

Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Learn to Ballroom Dance	8.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Bridge Sessions Beginners	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

OCTOBER 25, TUESDAY

Ladies 18H.S. S'ford	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Speech & Drama Classes 3-7 yrs	4pm-5pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Speech & Drama Classes 8-12 yrs	5pm-6pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

OCTOBER 26, WEDNESDAY

Bsloe Soccer Club Bingo Night	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Cycling Club cycling and joining	7pm	Barry's Cycle
French Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullane'ss Hotel
Set Dancing Class	8.30-10.30pm	Scoil an Chroi Naofa
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin

OCTOBER 27, THURSDAY

Piano Bar/Open Mic	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Irish Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullanne's Hotel
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

OCTOBER 28, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Ctre, Society St.
Mens Competition	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Music	9.30pm	Brewery lane
Texas Holdem	10pm	Joe's Bar
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Emerald Bar

OCTOBER 29, SATURDAY

Zombi walk		
Halow Cinema "Hocus Pocus"	4pm	Town Hall Theatre
Music	10pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Tennis Junior Sessions	11am-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Music	10.30pm	Dunlo Tavern
Red tape	9.30pm	Brewery lane
Zombi walk	6.45pm	Garbally Woods
Music. Ollie Rocks	10pm	The Pillar House
Shark	10pm	Joe's Bar

OCTOBER 30, SUNDAY

Country Music. Checkers	5pm-7.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Country Music Patrick Feeney	9pm-12	Shearwater Hotel
Cycling Club	8am, 8.30am,	Barry's Cycle,
cycling and joining the club	9am	Society Street
Open Club Sessions	11am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Retro Groove	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin
Music. Ollie Rocks	10pm	The Pillar House
Zombi walk	5.45pm	Garbally Woods
DJ John	10pm	Joe's Bar

OCTOBER 31, MONDAY

Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Learn to Ballroom Dance	8.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Bridge Sessions Beginners	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club



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

NOVEMBER 1, TUESDAY

Ladies Competitions	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Speech & Drama Classes 3-7 yrs	4pm-5pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Speech & Drama Classes 8-12 yrs	5pm-6pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

NOVEMBER 2, WEDNESDAY

Bsloe breastfeeding support	11 - 12.30am	Bsloe Library, 1st flr
Bsloe Soccer Club Bingo Night	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Cycling Club cycling and joining	7pm	Barry's Cycles
French Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullane'ss Hotel
Set Dancing Class	8.30-10.30pm	Scoil an Chroi Naofa
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin

NOVEMBER 3, THURSDAY

Piano Bar/Open Mic	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Irish Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullane'ss Hotel
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

NOVEMBER 4, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Ctre, Society St.
Mens Competition	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Sean Dowling	Evening	Shearwater Hotel
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Down the Road	9.30pm	Brewery lane
Texas Holdem	10pm	Joe's Bar
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Emerald Bar

NOVEMBER 5, SATURDAY

Mens Competitions	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ladies Competitions	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Gerry Flynn	Evening	Shearwater Hotel
Music	10pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Tennis Junior Sessions	11am-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Music	10.30pm	Dunlo Tavern
Live music	9.30pm	Brewery lane
Music. Boogie Men	10pm	An Táin
Music. Ian Deery	10pm	The Pillar House
Ken Solo	10pm	Joe's Bar

NOVEMBER 6, SUNDAY

Mens Competition	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ladies Competitions	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Country Music. Limelite	5pm-7.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Country Music. Mike Denver	9pm-12	Shearwater Hotel
Cycling Club	8am, 8.30am,	Barry's Cycle,
cycling and joining the club	9am	Society Street
Open Club Sessions	11am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin

NOVEMBER 7, MONDAY

Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Learn to Ballroom Dance	8.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Bridge Sessions Beginners	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

NOVEMBER 8, TUESDAY

Ladies Competitions	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Speech and Drama Classes 3-7 years old	4pm-5pm	Lawrencetown Community Hall
Speech & Drama Classes 8-12 yrs	5pm-6pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

NOVEMBER 9, WEDNESDAY

Bsloe Soccer Club Bingo Night	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Cycling Club cycling and joining	7pm	Barry's Cycle
French Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullane'ss Hotel
Set Dancing Class	8.30-10.30pm	Scoil an Chroi Naofa
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin

NOVEMBER 10, THURSDAY

Piano Bar/Open Mic	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Irish Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullane'ss Hotel
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

NOVEMBER 11, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Ctre, Society St.
Mens Competition	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Niall Rattledge	Evening	Shearwater Hotel
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live music	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Texas Holdem	9pm	Joe's Bar
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Emerald Bar

NOVEMBER 12, SATURDAY

Mens Competition	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ladies Competitions	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
TBC	Evening time	Shearwater Hotel
The Gables Art Exhibition	2.30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Music	10pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Tennis Junior Sessions	11am-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Music	10.30pm	Dunlo Tavern
Live music. 3 men&a bass	9.30pm	Brewery lane
Finnegan Furey	10pm	Joe's Bar

NOVEMBER 13, SUNDAY

Mens Competition	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ladies Competitions	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Pat Mckenna & Glenshane Band	5pm-7.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Country Music. Robert Mizzell	9pm12	Shearwater Hotel
Cycling Club cycling and joining the club	8am, 8.30am,	Barry's Cycle,
	9am	Society Street
Open Club Sessions	11am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin

NOVEMBER 14, MONDAY

Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Learn to Ballroom Dance	8.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Bridge Sessions Beginners	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

NOVEMBER 15, TUESDAY

Ladies Competitions	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Speech & Drama Classes 3-7 yrs	4pm-5pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Speech & Drama Classes 8-12 yrs	5pm-6pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

NOVEMBER 16, WEDNESDAY

Bsloe Soccer Club Bingo Night	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Cycling Club cycling and joining	7pm	Barry's Cycles
French Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullane'ss Hotel
Set Dancing Class	8.30-10.30pm	Scoil an Chroi Naofa
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin

NOVEMBER 17, THURSDAY

Piano Bar/Open Mic	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Irish Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullane'ss Hotel
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

NOVEMBER 18, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Ctre, Society St.
Mens Competition	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Mal Regan	Evening time	Shearwater Hotel
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live music. Robbie & Brian	9.30pm	Brewery lane
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Emerald Bar

NOVEMBER 19, SATURDAY

Mens Competition	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ladies Competitions	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Niall Rattledge	Evening time	Shearwater Hotel
Cathy Hopkins Dance Recital	7pm	Town Hall Theatre
Music	10pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Tennis Junior Sessions	11am-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Music	10.30pm	Dunlo Tavern
Live music. Beggars velvet	9.30pm	Brewery lane
Music. Adrian Rabbitte	10pm	The Pillar House
Music. Na Riadoiri	10pm	An Táin

NOVEMBER 20, SUNDAY

Mens Competition	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ladies Competitions	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Country Music. John Molloy	5pm-7.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Jimmy Buckley / John Molloy	9pm-12	Shearwater Hotel
Cycling Club	8am, 8.30am,	Barry's Cycle,
cycling and joining the club	9am	Society Street
Open Club Sessions	11am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin

NOVEMBER 21, MONDAY

Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Learn to Ballroom Dance	8.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Bridge Sessions Beginners	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

NOVEMBER 22, TUESDAY

Ladies Competitions	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Speech & Drama Classes 3-7 yrs	4pm-5pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Speech & Drama Classes 8-12 yrs	5pm-6pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

NOVEMBER 23, WEDNESDAY

Bsloe Soccer Club Bingo Night	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Cycling Club cycling and joining	7pm	Barry's Cycles
French Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullane'ss Hotel
Set Dancing Class	8.30-10.30pm	Scoil an Chroi Naofa
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin

NOVEMBER 24, THURSDAY

Piano Bar/Open Mic	9.30pm	Moycarn Lodge
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Irish Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullane'ss Hotel
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

NOVEMBER 25, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Ctre, Society St.
Mens Competition	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Sean Grehan	Evening time	Shearwater Hotel
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live music. Keith & Liam	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Music. Boogie Men	10pm	An Táin
Texas Holdem	9pm	Joe's Bar
Traditional Music	9.30pm	Emerald Bar

NOVEMBER 26, SATURDAY

Mens Competition	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Golf. Ladies Competitions	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Gerry Flynn	Evening time	Shearwater Hotel
"Big Dig" talk Fiona Maguire, MIAI	2.30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Music	10pm	Fallon's Sbridge
Tennis Junior Sessions	11am-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Music	9.30pm	Brewery Lane
Music Sean O'Sullivan	10pm	The Pillar House
Boogie Men	10pm	Joe's Bar

NOVEMBER 27, SUNDAY

Christmas Lights		
Mens Competition	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Golf. Ladies Competitions	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Country Music. Liam Mantering	5pm-7.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Robert Mizzell/ Andy Feery	9pm-12	Shearwater Hotel
Cycling Club	8am, 8.30am,	Barry's Cycle,
cycling and joining the club	9am	Society Street
Open Club Sessions	11am-2pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin

NOVEMBER 28, MONDAY

Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Learn to Ballroom Dance	8.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Bridge Sessions Beginners	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

NOVEMBER 29, TUESDAY

Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Open Club Sessions	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Speech & Drama Classes 3-7 yrs	4pm-5pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Speech & Drama Classes 8-12 yrs	5pm-6pm	Lawrencetown Hall
Golf. Ladies Competitions	Daytime	Bsloe Golf Club
Bridge Sessions played	7.45pm	Bsloe Bridge Club

NOVEMBER 30, WEDNESDAY

Bsloe Soccer Club Bingo Night	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Ballinasloe Snooker Club	5pm-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Cycling Club cycling and joining	7pm	Barry's Cycles
French Conversation Class	11-12noon	Gullane'ss Hotel
Set Dancing Class	8.30-10.30pm	Scoil an Chroi Naofa
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin

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GOLF CLASSIC SUCCESS FOR BALLINASLOE SAYS NO GROUP

The local community group 'Ballinasloe Says No' organised a golf classic fundraiser at the Golf Club and hundreds of people enjoyed playing golf for a good cause.

Chairperson Dr Vincent Parsons stated "We are currently in a High Court case challenging the decision of Galway County Council to

grant a permit for a waste transfer station despite our second High Court win in January 2022. We are grateful to all our volunteers as well as Ballinasloe Rugby Club's help in providing tee box boards".

"Our last fundraising events took place in 2018 & 2019 and with the funds collected, we were able to employ expert engineering, ecology and hydrology reports which were needed for our actions in the High Court to date. We are challenging Galway County Council on the location of a waste transfer facility. We have a strong committee who are fighting for the health, safety, and environment of Ballinasloe" stated Co-founder Senator Aisling Dolan.



1st Prize - Sponsored by Keyang - Aisling Dolan, Colum O'Meara - winner 1st, Vincent Parsons, Brian Conneely.



4th Prize - Caroline Layng, Marion Ruane, Mary O'Neill, Aisling Dolan, Vincent Parsons, Enda Jennings. Sponsored by Chadwicks and Birr Golf Club.



7th Prize - Vincent Parsons, Cian Dooley, Sarah Prendergast, Jack Parsons. Sponsored by Druids Golf Gear.



2nd Prize - Bernard Naughton, Alan Naughton, Aisling Dolan, Vincent Parsons, Brendan Naughton. Sponsored by Joe Ward Menswear and Castlebar Golf Club.



5th Prize - & Mens Longest Drive Tom Cafferky and Vincent Parsons Sponsored by Modern Media - Sean Fletcher and Young Persons Team Sponsored by MEP Maria Walsh.



8th Prize - Aisling Dolan, Sean Kenny, Vincent Parsons, Tom Horkan, Ronan Lally (Cooper). Sponsored by Cooper.



3rd Prize - Cecil O'Grady & Vincent Parsons Sponsored by Brodericks Pub Kilconnell and Connemara Golf Club.



6th Prize - Bernard Donnellan, Kevin Cunniffe, Mattie Croffy, Johnny Rodgers. Sponsored by Utah Department Store.



9th Prize - Pat O'Sullivan, Stephen Kerr, Pat Quinn, Willie Nevin. Sponsored by Pro Golf Athlone.



Sean Kelly, Seniors Captain, Ballinasloe Golf Club (left) congratulates Johnny Farrell the overall winner of his Captain's Prize.



Ullan Shine (on behalf of the Shine Family) pictured presenting Mike Coughlan (on left) winner of the "Colm Shine Memorial Trophy", Seniors Competition at Ballinasloe Golf Club.



Bernie Larkin (front) Aughrim Slopes Ceili Band, John Raftery, Tommy Devine and Dave Dooley were some of the many musicians who played at the "Colm Shine Remembered Night" in Ballinasloe Golf club.



Mattie Curley President, Ballinasloe Golf congratulates Vincent Costelloe the overall winner of his president's Prize Competition. Margaret Creaven had the Best Lady score in the competition.



The Kazmierczak Family

Allan, Nicola, and Nathan.

Nathan on the Podium

The County Galway Community Games under 12 handwriting winner is a young boy from Town, Nathan Kazmierczak. The Kazmierczaks bought a lovely house in Cúil na Canálach, moving from Athlone town over four years ago. They're a Polish family of five, and all the youngsters were born in the town. Nathan has a twin brother Allan (10) and sister Nicola (15). His father Nikodem with his wife Ilona originally moved to Ireland in 2004.

They accept that whilst our town is small it does have a wide range of activities. Every child can find an activity for themselves. Nathan joined the Town Band for a few months and the Ballinasloe and District Tennis club, where he is a member. His brother Allan is a member of Ballinasloe Athletic club for almost two years.

The boys are enrolled in Newtown NS, and Nicola is in third year in Ardscoil Mhuire. His parents were informed by Nathan's teacher, Mrs. Sarah Dolan, that they had a class competition in

handwriting and Nathan did well and his work was recognized.

They were very pleasantly surprised, especially as it was the first time that his work had been noticed and appreciated. On the other hand, they were also surprised because they thought that Nathan didn't have such a neat writing skill, seeing when he did his homework!

Mrs. Dolan announced that there was going to be another contest on June 18th in Mountbellew, and Nathan would represent the school. He is a very friendly and happy kid but also shy. He was stressed and bit panicked a bit that he couldn't handle it.

The competition was divided into several age groups. He was in the under 12 group and decided to write his answer in cursive writing. His father said while "waiting for results we didn't think that he would be on the podium, but the moment when his name was read out for first place, we were extremely happy and very proud, that our son, who will represent County Galway at the National Finals in Carlow late in summer" says his Dad.



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There are currently five separate burial areas within the confines of Creagh Cemetery, two of which do not have records available. Thanks to Creagh Community Development Council over the years all five have been maintained very well with restorations taking place in 2000 and again in 2013 to ensure accessibility for families to visit their loved ones.

While CCDC are no longer involved, there is ongoing maintenance happening in all of the burial areas. During the last Covid restrictions, Evelyn & Oliver Donellan took on the task of photographing both old graveyards.

Close to two hundred and seventy graves with almost four hundred burials have been transcribed and are available to view on findagrave.com in Creagh Old Graveyard South, located nearest the current Creagh Church at the junction of the R357 Roscommon Road and the Old Athlone Road, with entrance through the main gates of Creagh Cemetery.

Many people have offered their expertise, knowledge and advice including Fr John Garvey Adm., Galway County Archaeologist, Bernie Doherty; Cllr Declan Kelly, Aisling Sheehy, Damian Mac Con Uladh and Gerry Devlin.

On a recent trip home to Ballinasloe, Damian spent time with Evelyn & Oliver transcribing many of the old gravestones. While he resides and works in Greece, thanks to modern technology, he continues to help with information on those interred there.

The survey of Creagh Old Graveyard North, located below the railings in Creagh

(Municipal) New Cemetery, is also well underway and will be uploaded to Findagrave.com in the near future. To date almost three hundred and fifty graves have been documented in this burial ground.

Both Creagh South and North burial grounds are steeped in history where the remains of churches from the 1700 and 1800s can be found. The information recorded on each person will include birth, marriage and death records where available. Many of the burials are going back to the 1700s, therefore records are non-existent.

Working back from age recorded at time of death the earliest birth found was c. 1682. If anyone has photographs of the old graves in either location, please email them to evelynd1691@gmail.com or contact Evelyn on 090 9642459.



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TOWN BAND BUSY AUTUMN

The Town Band's summer programme comprised of Nursing Home visitations and performances in the Town Square. The band also took to the roads as they travelled to Ballygar to play for the crowds flocking to the Annual Ballygar Festival. This was followed with a performance at Clontuskert GAA pitch for the Family Day event surrounding the



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Japanese & Irish conductors lead Joint Rehearsal between Higashikawa High School from Japan and Ballinasloe Town Band.

Clontuskert Church Bicentary celebrations.

Senior members of the Band travelled to participate in The Hands Across the Sea" concert in Galway Cathedral featuring the Higashikawa High School Band, Athenry Music School and St. Patrick's Brass Band, Galway.

This proved to be a veritable feast of traditional, folk and popular music from the Japanese and Irish cultures. The Athenry Music School String Orchestra opened the event passing the baton to St. Patrick's Brass Band with members of Ballinasloe Band before the Higashikawa High school took centre stage to entertain the crowd that included the Japanese Ambassador and Mayor of Galway with each group giving breathtaking performances. In conclusion the whole group of musicians amalgamated under the Japanese Baton wielding conductor to play a beautiful and powerful rendition of Danny Boy receiving a deserved tumultuous standing ovation from the packed cathedral.

Earlier in their visit, the Town Band had hosted the touring Japanese High School in Ard Scoil Mhuire where they played a concert for the Transition Years students and music students. Later in the evening there was a joint rehearsal as both bands amalgamated and both musical directors leading the rehearsal of each other's cultural pieces.

The band are currently rehearsing towards public performances for October Fair on Saturday 8th and Sunday 9th for the Vintage Family Day before settling into rehearsals for the Christmas Carol Season.

New beginner classes are commencing now as the band recruit new members.

A Christmas Craft fair will take place on Saturday December 3rd in the Band Hall. A FUN-draising Table quiz in the coming months is also being planned - watch the fbook page for updates !

 By Oisín White



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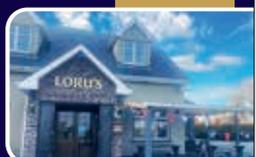
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Melissa Glynn was crowned the 2022 Queen of the Fair in Gullane's Hotel – as the precursor to the first full post pandemic Fair Week.

She decided to enter this year as she had come to the fair over a number of years as a youngster, and it was extra special this year being the 300th. "Seeing the wonderful opportunities to the previous queens, I decided to enter and get involved with it," said Oranmore native Melissa.

NEW NIGHT OF FOOD AND FASHION

Fair and Festival are hosting on Thursday 6th of Oct with pre-event reception at 7.00 pm - Fashion and Food Stalls, Galway's Tenors, and some local complimentary Gin with **Celebrity Chef Rachel Allen** taking to the floor at 8.00pm. Tickets from Shearwater Hotel Reception at €25 each.



She feels very privileged to be the Queen "There was a group of fabulous women here tonight and to be picked is just a wonderful feeling" states Melissa. A daughter of PJ and Majella Glynn, she has a younger brother Lorcan. During the show her family and her aunty Teresa supported her in the ballroom.

Melissa is working as a primary school teacher in St Comán's Wood, in Roscommon Town.

'Celtic Healing' based in Croffy's Yard, Main St were her sponsors. "I would know John Bracken, who is the owner through the equine industry. We both have Irish draft horses. I was privileged to have Irish Celtic Healing here tonight as my sponsor for the selection" states Melissa.

She is looking forward to the week of the festival. She'll be attending most days but is especially excited for Friday - to see the tug of war and the jiving competition in the Square.

Coincidentally she was born on Country Fair Day. So, she'll come up on October 2nd to celebrate her birthday. She has done this all her life and it is one of her oldest and fondest memories of the fair.

She also can't wait to get involved in voluntary work throughout the year.

The new Queen concluded by thanking the Committee for organising a great night, she thanked the adjudicators and MC on the night. "A special thanks has to go to my sponsor Irish Celtic Healing and my family for always supporting me." noted Melissa.



Melissa with her family- Majella, PJ, Melissa, Lorcan and Teresa Glynn.



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The 2022 edition of the annual horse fair and festival begins on Sunday the 2nd of October with visitors attending from near and far, continuing an ancient tradition that predates the formation of the town. The week-long festival incorporates three horse sale dates the 2nd, 3rd, and 8th. Its importance to the local economy cannot be underestimated. There is also an extra buzz this year as it will be the 300th edition of Ireland's oldest and biggest horse fair.

Festival Chairman, Mal Croffy said: "Our fair is the oldest in Europe, and the greatest celebration of the horse and equine culture in Ireland. The committee have worked tirelessly to put together a programme of events to ensure visitors to town have an enjoyable and memorable experience."

The festival programme is packed with activities for all the family-from the Queen of the fair to fireworks. Mike Denver will officially open the Fair at 2pm on Sunday the 2nd and this will be followed by an open-air concert at 2.30pm. Misleór will also be coming on Monday 3rd, two wooden horses built from recycled materials will be on display in St Michael's Square, accompanied by Tinsmith Tom McDonnell, who will run an interactive tin smithing workshop. Misleór Illuminated will also take place that evening from 8pm at St Michael's Church.

Renowned chef Rachel Allen will headline with her culinary



Pictured at the Ballinasloe Fair & Festival launch are committee members Ciara Croffey, Mal Croffey & Willie Glynn with sponsors Una McDonagh, Supermacs; Pat Fox, Fox & McFadens Funfair; Brendan Kelly, KPW; Gareth & Michelle McAllister, Ahascragh Distillery; Grainne Murph, Credit Union; Thomas Gullane, Gullanes Hotel; Michael Janusz, Shearwater Hotel; Martina Reynolds, Breda Basket with members of the Galway Sheep Breeders- Dermot Connolly, Tom Murphy, Kevin Harney & Ailbhe Ni Conghaile.

Photo Hanny Marzouk.

skills at a cooking, fashion and fun night in the Shearwater on Thursday 6th, doors open at 7pm with the event starting at 8pm. The Supermac's Fireworks show starts at 7.00pm on Friday the 7th. The Don King dancing troupe will commence their show at 7.30pm in the marina car park, followed by the festival jiving competition at 9pm in St Michael's Square and the tarmac tug-o-war taking place on Main Street at the same time.

Saturday the 8th sees the return of the mare and foal fair in the green with stalls in the square and street entertainment in the town centre. There will be a special concert headlined by Abbaesque at 8pm on Saturday night on main street.

On Sunday 9th the festival dog show, food and craft market, children's bakery competitions, children's tractor race and iconic vintage display will take place in the town centre. Due to popular demand the motorbike stunt show returns for three shows on Dunlo Street at 1.30pm.

"Our diaspora return home in huge numbers every year to celebrate and rekindle old friendships resulting in country fair day now being recognised as the biggest and busiest day on the streets of our town annually" concluded Mal.

As any visitor or fair goer will tell you all the events are free, so the bulk of the revenue needed to pay for the attractions, entertainment and competitions comes from sponsorship and support from the town business and commercial sector.

The lifeblood of the festival is its sponsors and they are indebted to the local business's that contribute towards the running costs, which are more than €50,000.

The Committee are deeply indebted to all of their main sponsors, Ballinasloe Credit Union, Supermacs, Jim Derwin, Gullanes Hotel, Ballinasloe Vintners, Galway County Council, KPW Print, Ahascragh Distillery, Shearwater Hotel, Department of Tourism & Culture, Dubarry Ireland, Barna Waste & The Bread Basket.

For more information log-on to <http://ballinasloeoctoberfair.com>, email info@ballinasloeoctoberfair.com. or call the fair committee on 087 427 1200.

Follow the festival activities on Facebook/[ballinasloefair](https://www.facebook.com/ballinasloefair)

 By Oisín White

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FÉILE CHEOIL LARRY REYNOLDS GREAT TURNOUT

The cream of Ireland's traditional musicians and their followers from all four provinces of Ireland and beyond, arrived in the town to join in the festival atmosphere of the ninth Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds.

All events staged on the festival programme were very well supported, some selling out long before D-day. Word on the street, and the feedback from locals and visitors was all positive, complimenting, not only the quality of music, and a very well-run event, but the welcome visitors received, and how colourful the town looked.

The festival not only celebrates the musical life of Larry Reynolds, but also promotes the East Galway Style of Music and Playing coupled with developing Irish Music, Heritage & Culture in the Region. This has been a unique selling point and part of the festival branding since inception which was evident all weekend.

Building on the success, the focus now is on the 10th Anniversary. Beds have already been booked from September 8th – 10th 2023 !



SCARY ZOMBIE WALK RETURNS TO GARBALLY

The infamous Garbally Zombie walk is taking place on Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th October in Garbally Woods.

Set in the parkland of the historic Clancarty Mansion, Groups of 15-20 will be taken by Zombie guides around the haunted woods, bedecked with a cast of witches, zombies, goblins, pixies and Garbally House staff from the eighteenth Century, who had left their tombs to haunt the 25 minute route.

Tickets are €12+booking fee with time slots of 6.45pm, 7.45pm & 8.45pm on Saturday and 5.45pm, 6.45pm and 7.45pm on the Sunday, only available through the Town Hall Theatre website. www.ballinasloetownhall.com.

The event is being organised by Ballinasloe Area Community Development (BACD) and the Ballinasloe Musical Society (BMS) with the support of many community organisations. All funds raised will go directly towards further promoting the online image of Ballinasloe & Surrounding Areas (including Ballinasloe.ie & Ballinasloe Life Social Media channels) and towards the Ballinasloe Musical Society.

The Walk is suitable for all ages, is not appropriate for persons with mobility issues as access is unsuitable for buggies or wheelchairs. And although there are no age restrictions the organisers ask guardians to be mindful of younger children that may find it too spooky.

B.A.C.D. Chairperson Seamus Duffy said: "on previous occasions, we had over 80 volunteer stewards and performers and this year we are appealing to anyone who wishes to get involved to reach out to us, it is a great community event." Anyone interested in volunteering is asked to contact Seamus on 0872506431 or Lisa Whyte (BMS) on 0868782529.

For ticket sales go to www.ballinasloetownhall.com. Or contact Lyn or Martina in Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre @ 0909646516.

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Cath Eachroma 1691 was set up to inform and educate the public about the events and significance of the 1691 battle in the most accessible way possible. They examine the impact that the battle had on culture, and explore the art, music, and literature that has arisen from it.

The significance of the battle meant after Aughrim the Jacobites capitulated at Limerick, and the terms of the Treaty negotiated there meant that the vast majority of the Irish Upper Class and essentially all the fighting men left the country in what became known as the “Flight of the Wild Geese”. This huge exodus led to a power vacuum in the country, which was quickly filled by protestant gentry and the penal laws.

In terms of wider European significance, the defeat at Aughrim put a stop to Louis XIV’s plans of European domination and meant that the English monarchy was now aligned to the protestant cause.

The idea for the group came about in 2016 when the founding members George Geraghty and Joe Treacy approached Michael Riddell and Abbie McGowan to speak at an event for Heritage Week. Hannah Daly was asked to give a talk during her tenure as manager of the Visitor Centre along with James Treacy, and the group has expanded since then to include the Tully family who have supplemented the traditional music aspect that Valerie Seale also brings to the event.

For heritage week this year the group had a talk and walk. It was a huge success with over 100 people in attendance. “We were staggered by the support we received, particularly from Ballinasloe town. We are already planning something for next year and hope to improve our offering” states Chair Michael.

Previously the organisation has worked with Marian Donohue from Galway County Council to improve the overall visitor experience in 2019, and she was a dream to work alongside. Working in conjunction with herself and Dr. Pdraig Lenihan of NUIG they produced an activity pack which consists of a booklet containing information and activities about the 1691 Battle

aimed at primary and secondary school students – improving the offering for school visits.

The group were also involved in the refurbishment of the centre, which was again spearheaded by Marian with display information researched by Michael and Abbie McGowan. The props, mannequins and flags sourced by Abbie from Lynn Williams of Irish Arms.

They were also involved in the production of a short promotion video for the centre which was produced by Fiona Ashe with funding from Failte Ireland. During the lockdowns they produced a photo booklet comprising of aerial photos of key locations on the battlefield alongside a short piece of text which explained the events that occurred there.

In the future they wish to see their group expanded to include more members, particularly those local to Aughrim. They would also love to collaborate with the communities on the outskirts of the Battlefield-Clontuskert and Kilconnell both have a wealth of heritage relative to the battle and they feel that there is certainly scope for a much larger project.

For next Heritage Week, they would love to see their current programme expanded to include weapon and uniform displays, and they would also like to inform the public about the second battle that took place in Aughrim-the March of O’Sullivan Beare.



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Ballinasloe Musical Society have unveiled details of their 100th Centenary Show "The Sound of Music" at their Annual General Meeting in Gullanes Hotel recently. This was its first AGM since rehearsals for Fiddler on the Roof were halted in March 2020 due to the onset of the COVID-19.

Since then, the Musical Society had to make the decision to postpone the show on two further occasions. The AGM, the Committee and members agreed that the time had come to leave Fiddler on the Roof in the past, and to proceed with a new show for 2023.

Outgoing Chairperson, Lisa Whyte, thanked everyone, including the production team, the cast, and the stage crew, who gave their time and efforts into producing Fiddler, bringing it to a point where it was almost ready to perform in front of an audience in the Town Hall Theatre. She also thanked their Patrons and Sponsors, whose continued support has been vital to the continuance of the Society.

"I need to say a special word of thanks to Paul Norton, who has been Ballinasloe Musical Society's show Director since 2011. He has made the decision to step down as director, and the Society are very grateful for all of his contributions and indeed the many awards the Society was shortlisted for and won during the decade" stated Lisa.

Sympathy was also expressed for Society members and friends of the Society who have passed away since Ballinasloe Musical Society last brought a show to the stage in March 2019. In particular, the contributions of Pat McGovern, Pat Joe Guinnessy and Claire Curley were acknowledged and deeply appreciated by all present.

A new committee was formed for the coming show season, with long-time committee member, Frances Leahy, taking on the role of Chairperson, and Lisa Whyte as Vice-Chairperson. Gregory Blackwell continues in

the role of Secretary, as do Ellen Egan and Gerry Sweeney as Treasurer and Asst. Treasurer. Ordinary committee members include Jacinta Keane and Robin Newton. Maureen Donoghue remains as Society President.

In 2023, Ballinasloe Musical Society will celebrate 100 years since its formation in 1923. The Society looks forward to bringing the family favourite, The Sound of Music, to the Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre stage during the week of 21st - 25th March 2023.

The Society are delighted to welcome Ballinasloe native, Declan Kelly, on board as Show Director. He will work alongside Shane Farrell as Musical Director and Aoife McClafferty as Choreographer. Auditions will take place on Sun October 16th at 7pm (kids at 6pm) in Gullane's Hotel and all (young and old) are welcome to attend.

Keep an eye on Ballinasloe Musical Society's social media pages for more information on auditions over the coming weeks.



Back Row L-R: Robbie Newton, Gregory Blackwell, Anne Blackwell, Gerry Sweeney, Jacinta Keane.
Front Row L-R: Ellen Egan, Maureen O'Donoghue, Frances Leahy, Lisa Whyte.

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Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre are organising a special 90's themed Hallowe'en celebration this October. They will be screening two classic Hallowe'en movies from the 1990's over the Bank Holiday Weekend.

First up on Friday 28th Oct at 10pm they will be screening 1996's slasher horror "Scream" (rated 18). This cult classic is credited with revitalising the slasher genre and has spawned an entire franchise of movies. The film follows high school student Sidney Prescott and her group of friends who become the targets of a mysterious killer in a Hallowe'en costume known as Ghostface.

Then on Saturday 29th at 4pm they will be showing Disney's **f a n t a s y**



comedy "Hocus Pocus" (rated PG). The film follows a villainous comedic trio of witches, the Sanderson sisters, who are inadvertently resurrected by a teenage boy (Max) on Hallowe'en night. The breadth of its subsequent success was made clear this year with the release of the long-awaited sequel "Hocus Pocus 2" after 29 years!

Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre encourages you to get into the Hallowe'en spirit by dressing up and enjoying this unique Hallowe'en movie experience. Tickets for the screenings are €5 and will be available to purchase online at www.ballinasloetownhall.com. Please note: Children must be accompanied by a parent/guardian at all times, and proof of age may be required before being granted admission.

NEW FIDDLE SCHOOL



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Aggie Whyte of Ballinakill famed grandson Michael Harrison All-Ireland U15 Fiddle Champion from few years back and one of the star pupils. He has won three All-Ireland's in total including Senior.

Brendan Larrisey is starting up an East Galway fiddle school to try and preserve this style of music. It is both nationally and internationally recognised as having bred some of Ireland's finest fiddle players and composers like Eddie Kelly, Paddy Kelly, Mairtin Byrnes, Paddy Fahey, Aggie White, Tom Quinn, Tommy Coen amongst others.

Brendan is a Senior All-Ireland Fiddle Champion, multi award winning fiddle teacher and Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann adjudicator and is recognised as one of Ireland's foremost professional musicians. He is based in Galway for over 30 years and is extremely keen to build upon this rich musical legacy and keeping it alive and well in this unique part of East Galway.

For more information contact Brendan on 083 360 2072 or at larriseyb@gmail.com. His school is in the Band Hall on Dunlo Hill.

TOWN HALL SEEKS OLD PHOTOS

The Committee of Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre are seeking copies of old photos of the interior or exterior of the building that you might have, of the building before the renovations were completed in the 1980's.

As the committee continue to invest in the building they want to focus on restoring the historical features of the building wherever possible.

If you have any photos that may be of assistance please contact Alan Harney at alan@ballinasloetownhall.com

Photo of early 1900s courtesy of Pauline Colohan, Mackney.



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The late Edmond Watters passed away in 2015. He was better known as Eddie. He made his home in Fohenagh, Ahascragh. Known for his charm, banter and storytelling but he also had a compassionate side and was willing to lend an ear and help people in times of trouble.

Eddie had many passions; he was a carpenter by trade and could turn his hand to antique restoration. He wasn't known for his poetry, but he loved writing poems for his daughter when she was a child. He wrote all types of poetry but some of his best work is light-hearted pieces and solemn poems. Before he died, he aimed to publish a book of children poems, but he became too ill and couldn't accomplish this.

While living in the neighbourhood Eddie was elected on to the local community council. While on the council he always tried his best to improve the town. We publish a piece he penned for the Fair -

The Ould Horse Fair

I looked on the green, at sights yearly seen,
In that place they call Ballinasloe.
There were lorries and trucks, buses, and cars,
And I'm almost sure, a few mobile bars.
There were ponies and mules, ducks, and asses,
And horses I tell you of all different classes.
The gentry were there from Cork and Clare,
And the farmers from Donegal.
All trying to find a place to stand,
When there was no room at all.
I was up to my neck in muck and mire,
Been constantly asked, "are you a buyer?"
Come look at my horse, I tell he's sound,
Just take him out there and walk him around.
The money was passing from hand to hand,
Sometimes a few quid, but more often a few grand.

The flags were flying all maroon and white,
On top of the poles from dawn till night.
The town was full of market stalls,
Selling lots of gadgets and of course, the football.
I met Tommy from Cork and Paddy from Clare,
And I even met some Americans there.
The ponies and gigs went charging past,
It's hard to believe they could trot so fast.
Alas! The fun fair is gone, the horses are sold,
I'm standing here in the freezing cold.
I look at the green, not a blade of grass,
But when I look back it was really class.
Please God next year when the time comes around,
We'll have another horse fair on Ballinasloe ground.

Edmond Watters



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Ballygortha native Marie Lyons moved to Louth as a young seventeen-year-old. She is a member of Drogheda Creative Writers, who only made their debut on the Droichead Arts Stage last February and is dipping her toe in the waters of poetry.

She has self-published her first book *“Between the Lines.”* Inspiration coming chiefly from her journey through life and her verse deals with the impact of loss, the power of love, friendship, and hope.



Marie Lyons

Not many people get into poetry by happenstance but that is what happened to her as she says herself *“More by accident than anything else! I have always had my head stuck in a book for as long as I can remember, and I can thank my Mum for encouraging me to read as a child”* states Marie.

Later in Ard Scoil Mhuire, her English teacher Mrs. Mary Molloy,

encouraged her youthful writing endeavours, and she has never forgotten that. *“There is that saying that we all have a book in us, and it is true – everyone has a story. I recently completed a four-year degree course in Counselling and Psychotherapy during which time my class was all encouraged to write about themselves”* Marie explains.

Lockdown arrived and one day while she was gazing at a bunch of roses that were gently dying, they gave her a stirring for a poem ‘Corona Roses’. Once penned she began to write daily. She didn’t know what to call it as she hadn’t been a particular fan of poetry and did not feel she was entitled to call it such – but in the end, no other word fitted better. And so began the poetic journey through her life as memories flooded her head.

Some of her favourite memories from her childhood include being part of the musical ‘The Sound of Music’ during fifth year under the guidance of the late great Kay Purcell. She was really hoping to get a part as one of the children but to her surprise, which she admits– and slight dismay. She was cast as Captain Von Trapp!

“We really bonded so much as a group – and when Ann Murray Fraser and Catherine Gunvalsen Burke who were instrumental in organising a school reunion – it was evident how much that musical meant to us all as we sang songs from it during the night, and unfortunately, she can’t finish on this without mentioning Helen Salmon, the most beautiful Maria, who sadly passed away last year. When Edelweiss was sung acapella in the church at her funeral, we were all moved to tears as memories of those sweet innocent days floated in on the notes” she fondly recalls.

Sharing her story with others so publicly has been such a powerful and humbling experience and she has been so well supported by family, friends and even strangers in getting this book out.

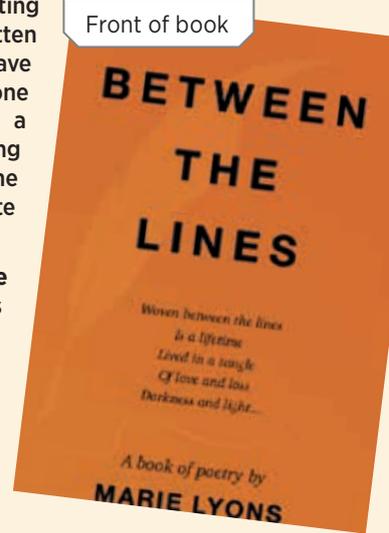
“People respond to honesty and vulnerability, and this is how we break down barriers. We are after all, more similar than we are different, we all feel pain and loss and fear and hope” she notes.

Not a follower of any particular Poet - she believes that words can move, connect and inspire, change, and define us and it is so important that they are used well. She believes that being a mother has been the most rewarding experience during her life and this has helped shape her writing.

“I got lucky, I found a way to shape words into sentences that tell stories that seem to resonate with people, and I am so grateful for that. It has opened a whole new world to me, and it is quite simply amazing!” states Marie.

She believes young poets should continue to write and find out what inspires them, youth shouldn’t be too critical of themselves, editing later on will assist with this. Her most important piece of advice is to write about something that is relevant to you. She would like to thank Geraldine Moran Barrett and Dermot at Salmons and all their local support.

“Between the Lines” is available to buy in Salmons Shop Main Street and online at <https://www.buythebook.ie/>



Front of book

Senator AISLING DOLAN

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Itosu-Kai Karatedo Ireland (IKKI) competed in Kolding, Denmark in the IKIF International Karate Championships recently.

The team finished second in the tournament, collecting six gold, six silver and 16 bronze. The club have their headquarters in the Emerald Ballroom and the association has eight clubs.

There were 49 competitors from the clubs representing Ireland at the championships which took place over two days. This is the largest IKKI group to compete internationally especially at junior level. Competing for your country and experiencing karate at this level not only is a marvellous opportunity, but it also allows coaches to build on that experience into the future.

For more information, go to www.ikki.ie



L-R: David Feury, Pamela Nee, Leo Mulvany (Team Manager), Kevin Casey, Karen Dolphin, Claire Harte, Sean Casey, Tony Dolphin, Sadaaki Sakagami (IKIF President), Jade Goldbey, Eimear Reilly, Caitlin Clarke, Ross Banks, Roisin McCauley, Eoin Gilchrist, Niall Sugrue, Meibhdhinn Isaac, Eimear Porter, Anna Harney, Sean Naughton, Oisín Keighery, Jack Scannell, Rian O'Connell, Ciaran O'Hara, Sean Keighery, Caoimhe Naughton, Conor Naughton, Ivan Stehel, Ashling Keighery, Ivan Stehel Jnr., Nina Stekelova, Wayne Reilly, Siofra Naughton, Ladka Stehelova, John Dolphin, Ava Shanley, Colin O'Connell, Marie Dolphin, Mia Shanley, Eoin Reilly, Lea Stehelova, Una Flynn and Mariam Melaadi.

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Aoife Dudgeon from Garbally Drive, recently competed in the largest female Strongwoman competition in Ireland, in Enfield, Co. Meath. Strongman/Strongwoman is a weightlifting, strength-based sport. Competitors must complete a variety of strength-based events over their round.

Aoife was always sporty and played both football and rugby for Ballinasloe for a long time. When the pandemic began, she invested in a barbell and some plates to train in her kitchen for the last three years, getting stronger whilst looking for an opportunity to put the training into practice.

Her boyfriend, Sean Revill, is very interested in Strongman as he had done a placement in an incredible gym known as GSP (Galway Strength and Performance). That gym was opened by Matty Costello, and he now runs it alongside Ayshea Ullah who a five-time winner of Ireland's Strongest Woman.

"I got involved when they began advertising a competition for women who had never competed before, and I knew this was my chance to get involved. I knew one of the lovely women on the committee Kayla Mann and she had been encouraging me too" states Aoife.

The competition ended up officially being the largest female Strongwoman event that had ever taken place in Ireland, and it was incredible to see over 40 women out there participating on the day.

She thinks her journey into strength training was a massive part of what helped her in her recovery from anorexia. It helped her to shift her perspective into wanting to grow and get stronger. Rather than focusing on weight, she was focused on the weight on the bar. She developed a healthier relationship with food and realised the importance of food as our body's fuel. Secondly, the community in Strongman/Strongwoman in Ireland is incredible. Everyone she has met who is involved in the sport have been nothing but welcoming and supportive.



Aoife with her aunt and uncle Seamus Peppard and Edel Peppard



Aoife with her boyfriend Sean Revill

"I loved the atmosphere at the competition so much and I can't wait to get stuck in all over again" says Aoife.

She was placed first in the under 82kg category. On the morning of the competition, she weighed just under 69kg so was concerned that she was going to be too light to hold her own. The events in her competition were the deadlift for as many reps as possible in a minute, an overhead press medley for time, the farmers walk for time, a sandbag carry for as many lengths as possible in a minute and a front hold for time.

She has a lot of achievements that she is proud of. "This wasn't a team sport, and that's why I would consider it my biggest achievement. In a sport like this, you are competing on your own and you must have confidence in your own ability. Sometimes it was difficult to push herself out of my comfort zone, and not only that, but to win her first competition, was an experience I will never forget".

Boyfriend Sean Revill is the person who introduced her to this sport. Recently she started working with online coach Jade Hoare, who works specifically with women. She is a friend and a coach all in one. "I'm only 22 years old and I'm so lucky that I am starting in this sport at a time when there are women driving this sport forward and creating opportunities for women like me to start something new, all involved deserve our thanks" states Aoife.

Follow Strongwomen Ireland on Facebook or @strongwoman_ireland on Instagram to learn more!

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There were 14 Ballinasloe swimmers represented at the Galway County Community Games finals in Tuam and all put in great performances. For many, this was their first taste of competition, and they won six gold medal winners, four silver and three bronze.

Head Coach Fiona Monaghan was delighted with the performances of everyone who took part. All those who won gold will be entered into the National Finals at the University of Limerick later in the month- Jack Connaughton, Abigail Monaghan, Laura Costello, Philip Costello, Kayla McKeon and Evan McKeon.

Members of the swimming club were treated to a great event earlier in the summer when Olympic Swimmer and National record holder Darragh Greene, attended Coral Leisure for a morning. He gave a gym and pool coaching session to over 40 members, young and old.

In July, Leon and Evan McKeon, represented the Club in the National Division Two Championships which were held in Limerick over five days. This was a great opportunity to race with top swimmers from all around the country and both put in great performances. Evan came away with a bronze medal in the 50m freestyle, a great achievement.



Darragh Greene with swimmers from Ballinasloe Swimming Club

CYCLING CLUB UPDATE

Some activities that members took part in over the summer were Tour De Connemara, Ring of Kerry, 3 Provinces Charity Cycle, Tour of Beara in Cork, Atlantic Coast Cycle in Clare, South Roscommon Charity Cycle, Lynx Charity Cycle in Offaly.

They raised over €800 for Jigsaw Galway, which provides mental health support to young people in the Ballinasloe area. Hilly scenic loops of 95kms and 50km were completed by 30 Members - all over Tipperary heartlands, finishing with lunch in De Roiste's Bar and Restaurant.

Slieve Bloom Mountain Bike Centre Kinnitty, Co Offaly hosted a beginners and advanced members day for mountain cycling with guides provided.

Deirdre Dillon and Clare Dillon took part in the Donegal Atlantic Way 555., a gruelling course over 555km taking in the hills in

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Donegal and the club is delighted to report that they were the first ladies team home in just under 22 hours!

Members of the group showed their support for fellow cyclist Joe Mullin from Woodford who unfortunately was involved in a serious accident on 31 January 2022 while out training. They participated in the Portumna Cycling Club Bikes and Buns fundraiser.



Bikes and Buns fundraiser in Portumna. Pat, Michael, Kieran, Claire, Philip, Gary, Padraig, Helen, Gerry, James, Helen, Alan, Max.

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Clontúskert native Sarah Lyons was part of the Intermediate Galway team that recently won the Intermediate All-Ireland Camogie final. To get to play in Croke Park is a massive achievement but to win an All-Ireland is another thing all together. The result was a testament to the work the players put in throughout the year.

The perfect end to the perfect day for Sarah was having her whole family including her grandmother Eileen in the stands cheering her on.

For many playing in a game of that magnitude could be daunting, so preparation is key. The team continued with the same trainings getting their body and touch work right for the match. Their main focus being the game and producing the best performance possible. For many it was, their first time playing in Croker, and they were encouraged to enjoy the experience. "Our final session before the final was our best all year so that really gave us confidence that we could win the game" explains Sarah.

In the last 10 years Galway has won three Senior All-Ireland Camogie titles. This intermediate side is still a young team, and the girls have time to improve and there is hope that a few members of the team can win a senior title.

The celebrations continued long into the night after the match. The team returned to Galway on the Monday where they were greeted by an enthusiastic crowd at the Shearwater Hotel. However, for Sarah her highlight was the celebrations that were going on in Kiltomer, there was so many people out with their bonfires. "Walking off the bus with the cup to greet them was surreal" she stated.

Being a leaving cert student is always tough - trying to find extra time to study and Sarah was no exception. She was doing lots of homework and studying in the car. The teachers in Ard-Scoil Mhuire were very helpful and understanding. As the Leaving Cert became closer the management were also considerate to

Sarah and allowed her to cut back on the amount of training she was doing.

She believes that her father Tommy was the most influential person on her sporting journey. When she was younger, she was brought to her brother's hurling training as well as her own camogie training. When he was her coach, he wasn't afraid to tell her what she did wrong so that allowed her to improve. Her mother Catherine also deserves recognition as she took her around the county and country for matches and training.

"I have been very lucky to have been taught something beneficial both on and off the field by every coach. Every coach has helped me become the player I am today. I would advise parents or young girls to try camogie as it is a great way to make friends and to teach them life skills" explains Sarah.

"I have to thank all our management for a wonderful year, and also everyone in my club Kiltormer, for all their support," she concludes.



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After a very successful summer at the local GAA Club, it's now down to the business end of the season as Autumn approaches with lots of teams preparing for county semi-finals and finals.

U16 girls will play St James in their Division 2 shield semi-final on Thursday 6th October in the club grounds at 7.00pm. The minor girls also reached the semi-final of their competition and they'll play Loughrea in early October.

The junior ladies have had a great season and they'll play Michael Breathnach's in the 'Junior B Championship' Semi-final in early October.

The 'Mothers and Others team' travelled to Dublin in early September to participate in the national blitz and everyone had a great day.

Having had a very impressive season the boys U15 footballers reached the county final but despite playing some fantastic football they were beaten by a strong Cortoon team.

The U17 and U19 boys Footballers are currently playing in their respective group games and are hopeful of reaching the semi-final stages.

The junior hurlers reached the quarter final of their division and were beaten by Kilimor in extra time.

All other age groups in hurling and football are continuing to train until the end of October and at that stage some of the younger age groups will move indoors and the older players will have fitness, strength and conditioning programs to attend over the winter months.

The Ballinasloe GAA Bingo continues every Tuesday in the Emerald Ballroom at 8pm.



U14 Girls County Semi-finalists.



Boys U15 County Finalists.



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What a busy summer it has been at Ballinasloe Golf Club where they have seen some fantastic team and individuals' accolades for their members. Their u18 Fred Daly team ended their 25 years wait and had a historic victory over County Sligo GC in the Connacht Final and then represented the club proudly in the All-Irelands in Ballina. A tremendous quarter final victory over Roganstown saw the team progress to the semi-final but following a closely fought games, Massereene GC progressed.

Notable individual performances over the summer saw Tom Cafferky selected to represent Ireland at the Home Internationals matches in Scotland. Charlie Mooney won the u17 Connacht boys close in Castlebar. In doing so Charlie posted a remarkable score and set a new course record. Niall Conneely headed south to Cork and recorded a win in the Fota Island Resort "Irish Kids Munster Open Boys 12s". This was then followed by Niall winning the u13 Connacht Close.

Peggy Wong enjoyed her Lady Captain's events at the beginning of August. Pauline Mullen took the spoils and claimed first place, followed by Maureen Dolphin and Mary O'Neill. Claire Staunton won the gross prize. Katie Connolly and Niall Conneely proved a formidable partnership in the Mixed Captain's Prize in recording a narrow win.

Mattie Curley's Presiden'ts Prize also took place recently and Vinny

Costello secured victory this time having narrowly missed out on the Captain's Prize earlier in the summer. Mike Coughlan, Frank Hannon and Margaret Creaven were hot on the heels of Vinny in the standings. The Mixed Prize was won by Mary Goode and Jack Coughlan.

Sean Kelly's Senior Captain's prize was won by Johnny Farrell. Mick O'Neill and William Duthie finished close behind and Michael Corbett played well to win the gross prize.

Rebecca Bleahen, who has been a fantastic junior ambassador for our club, celebrated her Junior Girls Captain's Prize over two different formats - nine-hole singles and six-hole scramble. Holly Cafferky who won the nine-hole competition with one point to spare over Caoimhe Flanagan. Aoife Burns, Cailin Naughton and Molly Casey won the scramble format.

Our Golf4All programme with the Ballinasloe Brothers of Charity members ran over six sessions during the summer. The conclusion of this wonderful programme saw participants receive their well-earned Golf Ireland Certificates of Completion. All participants showed great commitment and determination to learn and most importantly to enjoy themselves while doing so during the sessions. A special thanks to Carol Pender, the participants and the people who support them in the Brothers of Charity, Accessibility Ballinasloe, our own BGC volunteers, Aideen Bergin, Meadow & Green for providing the refreshments and Golf Ireland. As ever, we express sincere gratitude to Mark Staunton for his coaching skills and the way he delivers the lessons.

Our Summer Junior Camp ran over the summer where we had nearly 40 young golfers starting out. Thanks to Rita Moore, their girl's junior convener, for organizing the camp.

On the course, they were delighted to take delivery of a new mower and are seeing its benefits.

Such purchases are funded by the Club Lotto. The lotto is used to help fund course equipment expenditure and to maintain the course to a high standard. Draws take place monthly and are open to all club members for €8 per month.

Thanks to all members already contributing to the lotto and we encourage others to join so we can continue to invest in and improve the course.

Congratulations to Keelan O'Neill on recording a hole-in-one on the par three, third hole over the summer.

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.

The Club offers its deepest sympathy to the families of three former members and officers of the Club, who passed away recently, namely Michael Hynes, Michael Connolly and Val Martin. Their contribution to the Club over the years is greatly appreciated. (See Obituaries in this issue).



Charlie Mooney and Niall Conneely

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Members of Brothers of Charity receiving their certificates



Ladies Team

Four of the club players also had the distinction of representing the Galway League recently in Belfast. Matthew Blair was a member of the 2009 squad and Fionn Duffy, Adam McLoughlin and Adam Lloyd were members of the 2010 squad.

The under 18 team recently reached the final of the Roscommon and District Soccer league Cup Final but unfortunately it was not to be their day and they were beaten by Cloonfad on the day.

The Club Committee passed a vote of congratulations and thanks to local soccer stalwart and long serving referee Séamus Fogarty on his retirement from refereeing after 32 years.

They also passed a vote of sympathy at the recent sad passing of another long serving local referee and former player Seánin Caulfield.

The club hosted one of the largest Summer Soccer Schools in the Country a few weeks ago that attracted 190 participants - all budding players for the next few seasons. All the youths in attendance received top class coaching in a safe, fun filled environment over the week, and it concluded with a fun day with bouncy castles and refreshments for all participants.

The ladies' soccer team are just after completing a brilliant run of form. Recently they reached the Final of the Roscommon and District Soccer Shield Final versus Colmanstown. They took the lead with a brilliant free kick by former Irish International player Kaylie Koentopp and maintained this lead until two minutes from the end of normal time when the opponents broke away and equalised. The game went into extra time, and it was Colmanstown who scored their second and the winning goal.

The team under the guidance of player / manager Breda Cleary and coach Noel Lyons are now preparing the 23 strong squad for the forthcoming Roscommon and District Soccer League campaign which commences in a few weeks.

Youth players Adam Lloyd and Éanna Colleran have both been selected for the 2010 National Academy Training Sessions to be held at the Football Association of Ireland Headquarters in Abbotts Town to be held later this month.



Fionn Duffy, Adam Lloyd and Adam McLoughlin who represented the Galway League in the 2010 squad in Belfast.



L-R: The late Seánin Caulfield, Séamus Fogarty and the late Johnny Riddell.

Matthew Blair who represented the Galway League in the 2009 squad in Belfast.

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Meabh Deely from Knocknagreena, recently made her Irish International rugby debut in the test match against Japan. It has been quite the rise for her as she only made her rugby seven's debut green jersey in July this year and only began playing rugby when she was 12 years old.

Stephen Reilly and Declan Murphy established the first girls' rugby team in Ballinasloe town. Meabh was friendly with both their daughters Aoibheann Reilly and Aisling Murphy and got asked to come up and try it one Sunday morning. She had played Gaelic and camogie and loved sport, so she was eager to try something new.

Once they landed in Japan, they trained for the week in Hamamatsu to prepare for the first test match. The weather was something she had never experienced before; it was very hot and humid. Once the team was announced and she found out she was starting at 15 she started to focus in more on the game. "I was nervous, but I felt much more excited to play than nervous. I knew there was nothing to lose and Greg, Niamh and the more experienced players really backed all of us new girls and gave us so much confidence" she explains.

She was lucky enough to score a try on her competitive debut and it felt amazing.

Unfortunately for the squad, they didn't qualify for the World

cup this year but there is a belief that in 2025 things can be different. "There is a lot of young blood in the squad including myself and we still have so much to learn but this is only the beginning" states Maebh.

She is lucky to say she has had a lot of brilliant coaches over the years. One of her first coaches in underage was Dermot Tierney. He coached her with Ballinasloe and Connacht. He taught her a lot about tactical rugby at a young age and is still someone she goes to about rugby advice. Aiden McNulty in the Irish sevens programme as well as Ben Martin in Blackrock are two other coaches, she has learned an extensive amount from once she made the step up to senior rugby.

Her advice for young girls thinking about trying the sport is to immerse yourself in it and enjoy it. Some of her best friends have come through the different teams she has played with. "The experiences you will have with rugby are unbeatable, it really is a sport that will open so many doors for you whether that's sporting, socially or even just learning more about yourself. Rugby and the people I have met on my journey have shaped me in so many ways" she said.

The international full-back has had many people influence her sporting journey so far. "I would say the two people that have had the biggest influence are Beibhinn Parsons and Aoibheann Reilly. They have been through a large amount of my rugby journey with me" says Maebh.

They were both on that first girls u15 Ballinasloe team with her in 2013. Even though they have had slightly different journeys in the green jersey since, they have always been by each other's sides, and she thinks they constantly make each other better.

She expresses her thanks to her mam Ann Conlon Deely and her dad Des Deely. "Sometimes I don't say it to them enough for how grateful I am to them and their support for me. They have been there for the really low lows and the really high highs of my rugby journey. I know how proud they are of me and I'm lucky to have them as parents" she concludes.





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Ballinasloe RFC rugby graduates continue to excel on the highest stage with Meabh Deely scoring on her Irish debut on the Ireland Women's tour of Japan. Additionally, Beibhinn Parsons returned to action with the Irish Women's Sevens in the World Cup Sevens in South Africa, scoring some outstanding tries on their way to the quarter final. So, girls join Ballinasloe RFC and end up travelling the world playing Rugby!

Also, Club graduates on the men's side - Oisín McCormack, Shane Jennings, Colm Reilly and John Devine played for Connacht 'A' in that series of games.

BRONCOS

The next generation of players known as the 'Ballinasloe Broncos' train every Saturday from 10 to 11:30 am and all boys and girls from six to 12 are welcome. All mini's coaches are trained and vetted and offer an inclusive, fun environment, with excellent facilities for all children. Further details on the Broncos can be had from Steve Goode at 085 2662142.

The club fields in all ages in the boys - from minis, 13s to senior in men's and at girls, minis (six to 12) and at U14, U16 and U18 in women.

ADULT RUGBY

The senior men led by Captain Andrew Manion, currently compete at Connacht Junior C level with the League commencing in October. Following the completion of Curley Cup where they won their first fixture 41-7 v Claremorris, lost 21 to 24 against NUIG in an entertaining game and defeated Ballina in their final Group game. The Management team of Noel Manion, Tom Finn, Kevin Hogarty, Conor Higgins were



Colm Reilly, Shane Jennings, John Devine, Oisín McCormack and Adam O'Carroll.

impressed with the squad.

TABLE QUIZ

Like all Clubs fundraising is an ongoing necessity and support is asked for their

Table Quiz on Friday 21st October in Clubhouse at 8pm with loads of spot prizes and a fun night guaranteed. There is also an ongoing pre-worn clothes collection facility in the Club and donations are always welcome. And the ongoing 'Half the pot' monthly draw continues.

FACILITIES

The improvement of the club facilities is continued with ongoing upgrading of the pitch lighting, and dressing rooms for women. Plans are also afoot to build a storage shed and construct a walkway on the periphery of the playing pitches to allow parents and members exercise while their children train and play.

 By Oisín White

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Emma Mitchell was a key member of the Galway ladies' football team this year. Daughter of Mairead and John, the Kilclooney native had to train hard while combining studying in Ardscoil Mhuire.

Emma began playing GAA when she was six years old. A stalwart centre back she was extremely excited to play for the maroon and white of Galway and felt very privileged to represent the Ballinasloe GAA Club on the squad.

As we all know now, this year the Galway minors were beaten by Cork in the All-Ireland final. However, the game wasn't played in Croke Park but instead in McDonagh Park, Nenagh, Co. Tipperary. She doesn't feel like she missed out by not playing in Croke-she enjoyed Nenagh. "I preferred the match being in Nenagh as there was a great atmosphere and I was able to meet all my friends and family after the game."

Preparation is key and the team had their normal routine. The girls trained three times a week. On the Monday before the match, they had a players' meeting. Then they treated the match like any other game. They got on the bus together which helped relax them.

Unfortunately for Emma she won't be able to play on the minor team next year, but she has confidence that with the talent coming through that Galway can win an All-Ireland title. She has been inspired by all amazing club and county players who have pushed her on to be the best player she can be.

Unsurprisingly the coach she learned the most from would be her father, John Mitchell. He began coaching her at under 10 level and still continues to coach her now. "I think all girls should try GAA as it has given me friends for life that will always be there for me" stated Emma.

She thanked all associated with Ballinasloe GAA Club and the local community for the support they have given her and for coming out to matches to cheer on the team. However she concludes by thanking her mam Mairead, for all the long hard nights taking her to training.



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The Dublin Horse Show is a celebration of Ireland's affinity with the horse. The event is known nationally and internationally and Ballinasloe's rising horse-riding star and Garbally student Godfrey Gibbons Junior scooped Top prize.

Godfrey Junior, whose grandfather owned the Pillar House Pub on Society St, won the Young Rider Class with strong performances in the show jumping element – which tests the horse's ability to jump over a course of fences at a pre-determined pace.

2022 has been a great year for the young rider. Before the Horse



show, in the previous 10 eventing competitions, he only failed to finish in the top six once and won three of them.

He's just turned 18 this year. He got into horse riding because his mum Marie rode horses and he picked up the interest from there – "I got a little pony called Dots when I was 4, joined East Galway Pony Club when I was 7 and have been riding horses ever since – I enjoyed hunting with East Galway Hunt and competing at various pony club competitions around the country before starting eventing" states Godfrey.

Winning this competition was a huge achievement for him but his highlight from this year is when he represented Ireland at the European Championships in Hartpury in the UK and won a silver medal in eventing.

Eventing is a discipline, where the horse and rider have to complete three tests, in the following order: a dressage test, a cross country test and a show jumping test. He will be able to compete again next year in the same discipline in the Dublin Horse Show, but he will have to do it on a different horse. He hopes to find a horse with the same qualities as Milchem

Miami.

Since he began horse riding Godfrey has had a lot of great coaches probably too many to name and he doesn't want to leave anyone out. "My mum's sister Sinead McGrath helped me in the early days with dressage. Since I started eventing, I have been coached by Ralph Conroy from Milchem Equestrian Centre who has been a great help in all three disciplines – dressage, show jumping and cross country. This summer I also worked with Damien Griffin and got lots of show jumping practise in" he explains.

He would have this advice for any young person considering taking up the sport "Have fun and enjoy it – there will be lots of ups and downs – everyone has bad days – you have to park them and move on – but keep working hard, be open to learning and the good days will come."

"My parents I have to thank for the huge work they do behind the scenes, with special thanks to my mum as she does all the driving and grooming. I am also very appreciative to Ralph Conroy for all the great coaching and his sister Katie for all the help she gives me" he concludes.




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For almost twenty-five years, the Emerald Ballroom in Ballinasloe was the mecca for dancers from all over the country as they arrived to see Ireland's biggest showbands perform.

Built by local contractor, Michael Kenny, as part of the Parochial owned Social Centre, the ballroom opened its doors on Easter Sunday night 1960 with Galway's own Des Fretwell and his Orchestra on stage. The admission price was ten old shillings and there were long queues waiting for the doors to open at 9 pm.

To thunderous applause, Andrew Jennings and his wife Annie were first to "trip the light fantastic" on the shining floor, followed by Dick Rothwell and his wife Nora. Then there



Stars of the Showband Era

Despite the arrival of "The Land Ballrooms" founded by the late Albert and Jim Reynolds, in nearby Moate and Roscommon, the Emerald was still "the place" on a Sunday night for fans. It was the bedrock where so many romances started, leading to many happy marriages. And to this day there are so many couples that proudly say "we met in the Emerald."

By the 1980's there was a huge shift in the desire for entertainment. The marquees were providing stiff opposition, hotels and bars had now musical attractions and providing alcohol to patrons. The Emerald had only a mineral bar and their refusal to install an extra bar selling alcohol, contributed to its demise. These all led to the venue ending as a dancehall about 1984 and today it caters for a number of community group.

was a mad surge of revellers from the packed audience onto the floor to herald the opening of one of the country's top dancing venues.

All the big bands wanted to play the Emerald, and dancing fans from all over the country came in their thousands to see them. There queues forming from 8 o'clock for the doors to open because in those early years the bands were on stage from 9 pm to 1 am.

The dancehall was operated by a voluntary committee, headed initially by Fr. Peter Dunne Adm., Pat Galvin NT, Eamon Carroll Solr., Sean Naughton, Dermot Connolly, Tommy Goggins, Fred Jennings and Willie Tully among others. Early finance was accrued from a Silver Circle draw, which was originally initiated to raise funds for the local indoor swimming pool. The Emerald was a part of the £100,000 Social Centre, which was officially opened, two years later, in 1962 by the Taoiseach, Jack Lynch TD.

Initially dances were held on Sunday nights but later regular Wednesday nights were introduced and there was the occasional Friday night. For the October Fairweek, there were dances held on all of the eight nights, some of which were allocated to local clubs or organisations.

An attendance of less than 1,000 patrons was considered small in the early days as the likes of the Royal Showband, The Capitol, Royal Blues, Dickie Rock, Joe Dolan, Brendan Shine, The Dixies, Maurice Mulcahy, The Premier Aces, The Freshmen and many more strutted their stuff to a heaving, sweltering, packed dance floor. Leo Smith and the Rhythm Boys from Buncrana, in Co. Donegal were the furthestmost band to feature while the renowned Clipper Carlton nearly always drew a full house. But the record attendance at the Emerald was when over 2,500 patrons paid at the door to dance to the famous Indians Showband. Not even Chubby Checker, the inventor of "The Twist" could break that figure when he appeared on the Ballinasloe stage in 1964.

The nostalgic building still stands on the Fairgreen, a reminder of the "Swinging Sixties" and of the great artistes that played there. It witnessed romances and heartbreaks, sweat and tears, top-class entertainment and the "odd disagreement" during its life. But it will be remembered mostly for the enormous memories it provided for almost a quarter of a century when nearly all the menfolk proudly wore their Pioneer pins on their lapels and the ladies were always "dressed to the nines" for their nights of waltzing, jiving or "hucklebucking."

Many of the voluntary committee that helped to cater for the thousands of fans who thronged to the venue have gone to their eternal reward but the Emerald stands as a monument to their foresight and endeavour to provide a top-class social outlet, not alone for the locals but also for the very many that came to enjoy its facility.



He was the only casualty of the War of Independence to be given a funeral in Ballinasloe. His name was Thomas Craddock, a sergeant in the Royal Irish Constabulary, a single man aged 43, engaged to a woman named Fox. Craddock was born in Co. Donegal, and his father, a native of Ballinasloe, was a head constable in the RIC. As an 18-year-old, Craddock had joined the force in 1895 and had seen service with the British Army during the Boer War. Head of the special crimes department in Athlone, he was regarded as the IRA's most determined foe in the area, principally because of his intelligence-gathering activities.

Unknown to himself, Craddock had already survived six abortive attempts on his life when he left the barracks in Athlone's Fry Place at a quarter past eleven on the night of 22nd August 1920 in the company of Constable Denis Mahon. They headed for the Comrades of the Great War Club on King (now Pearse) Street to watch a billiards match. An hour later, as they emerged from the building, they were ambushed by a four-man IRA squad. Craddock fell to the pavement amid a hail of bullets. Though mortally wounded, he managed to draw his revolver and return fire on his assailants. Some passing soldiers carried him to the infirmary in the nearby Victoria (now Custume) Barracks where within the hour he succumbed to shock and haemorrhage. Constable Mahon survived the attack unscathed. (One of the sergeant's assassins, James Tormey, was himself short dead on 2nd February 1921 in the course of an engagement with Crown forces at Cornafulla on the Athlone-Ballinasloe road).

Craddock's funeral in Ballinasloe was accorded full military honours. As the cortege made its way to Kilclooney cemetery it was preceded by the band of the Leicestershire Regiment. Business premises in town closed as a mark of respect. At the time, Craddock's mother and sister were living in the Cleaghmore gate lodge opposite the Ash Tree. A card pinned to the black crepe attached to the front door bore the words "SHOT BY COWARDS".

Thomas Craddock was the first Athlone fatality in the IRA's ongoing campaign against the RIC. But who were the RIC and what role did they play in Irish history? Since this year marks the bicentenary of the establishment of the force as well as the centenary of its disbandment, it seems an appropriate occasion to briefly recall the development of policing in this country over the past few centuries and the RIC's part in the story.

For much of the 18th century law enforcement was the responsibility of deputy magistrates assisted by posses of ordinary citizens, sometimes reinforced by Grattan's Volunteers or regular troops. The cities and some of the larger towns employed watchmen, popularly known as "Charlies", to patrol the streets, mostly after dark. In 1787 a system of untrained and ununiformed baronial constables was introduced. Contemptuously referred to as "Barnies", the constables soon became notorious for corruption and incompetence. The Peace Preservation Force, brainchild

of Sir Robert Peel, Chief Secretary of Ireland, emerged on the scene in 1814. They operated on a sort of fire-brigade principle, being temporarily deployed to various parts of the country as the situation demanded. The constables had no special uniforms and were free to wear those of whatever army regiment they chose. Contemporaneously with the Peace Preservation Force were the Revenue Police whose *modus operandi* was similar.

Seeing the need for a properly trained and uniformed police force with a permanent presence throughout the country, Peel set up the Irish Constabulary in 1822, organized on a county basis. Though the new body was of a semi-military character, the constables did not routinely carry guns while on duty. The force came under central control in 1836, and in the same decade was notably successful in largely suppressing faction fighting. They received the prefix "Royal" in 1867 for their part in quashing the Fenian Rebellion.

The newly-elected Dáil Éireann in 1919 identified the RIC as the major obstacle to the exercise of its authority, prompting it to launch a boycott of the force in the expectation of inducing mass resignations. The police responded by requisitioning whatever provisions they required and by serving themselves in public houses. Moreover, the boycott was never as universally enforced as Republicans had hoped: 12 of the 32 counties were unaffected, as were in general urban areas, although even here in Ballinasloe attempts were made to deprive the constables of a turf supply as well as of rented accommodation.

When boycotting failed, assassination was resorted to,



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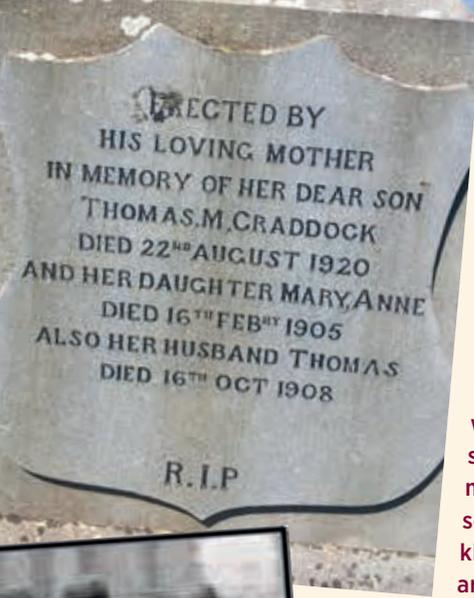
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claiming hundreds of lives over a three-year period. Early in 1920, the British Government began recruiting in Britain to fill the depleted ranks of the police. The new recruits were unemployed war veterans, not, as is often alleged, men with criminal records. For the most part, working-class fellows of low stature, the RIC trousers were much too big for them. A solution was found by initially kitting them out in khaki army trousers combined with the dark green, almost black, police tunics. Hence their soubriquet of Black and Tans after the coat pattern of the Co. Limerick Scarteen Fox Hunt's Kerry beagles. Apart from a proficiency in the use of firearms, they were poorly trained and generally quite unsuited to their role as policemen. Drunkenness and indiscipline were common.

Under provocation, and out of frustration with the inadequacies of the justice system, some policemen became involved in extrajudicial killings and the destruction of property. While criminal behaviour by security forces cannot be condoned, it should be recognized that guerrilla wars are never prosecuted according to the rules of The Hague and Geneva Conventions. All sides commit atrocities. Such regrettably is the nature of these conflicts.

A new counter-insurgency force entered the arena of the

Anglo-Irish War in September 1920: the Auxiliary Division of the RIC. Composed of former army officers commissioned from the ranks during the Great War, the Auxiliaries were nominally part of the RIC, though in practice they operated independently under their own commanders. Organized in companies of about 80 men each, they were stationed in areas of high IRA activity where they proved to be redoubtable adversaries. Clearly identifiable by their characteristic tam o' shanter caps as shown in our photo of General Frank Crozier, their commander-in-chief, they are often conflated with the Black and Tans.

When the Provisional Government of the Irish Free State took office in January 1922 it was announced that the RIC would be retained until the new police force, the Civic Guards, became operational. This, however, was nothing more than a face-saving gesture since most of the RIC rank-and-file had been withdrawn to six locations where they remained under what amounted to a state of siege pending their disbandment at the end of the following August. Though the Civic Guards were still unavailable for policing duties, the RIC was formally stood down on 2nd April, an action that merely acknowledged the de facto situation on the ground.

Regarding Ballinasloe, the first members of the Irish Constabulary to arrive in town in the 1820s were housed in a cavalry barracks on Bridge Street. They later moved to a building across the archway from the Pillar House pub in Society Street. In the early years of the last century the police were again on the move. This time to a house on Dunlo Street where they remained up to March 1922. On the eve of that year's October Fair, the Civic Guards took over the building, and in 1938 what were then the Gardaí Síochána transferred across the street to the present-day Garda station. Additional to the aforementioned barracks, another was located in Creagh. It was evacuated in 1919 and subsequently demolished to clear the site for the Church of Our Lady of Lourdes erected in the 1930s.

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Back row, l to r: Liam Goode, Cyril Dunne, Fred Jennings, Sean Keeley, Mattie Ganly, Rev. P. Bruen, Willie Tully, John Kilcommons, Patsy Geraghty, Brendan Greaney.



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Front row, l to r: May Ryan, Barbara Flaherty, Unknown, Margaret McDonnell, Prof. Tom O'Neill, Sr. Patrice, Sr. Mercedes, Madge Cleary, Mrs. T.J. Scanlon.

Second row, l to r: Danny Flynn, Sr. Mary, Mary Burke, Tom Hughes, Padraic Rooney, Maura Croffey, Peadar Burns, Unknown, John Kilcommons, John Joe Grenham, Sean Tully.

Third row, l to r: T.J. Scanlon, Jimmy Crehan, Michael John Kilgannon, Dr. Killeen, Jimmy Joyce, Frank Naughton.

Back row, l to r: John Kelly, Joe Callanan, Michael Brooks, Sean O'Brien, John Kenny, Michael Walsh.

CREAGH NATIONAL SCHOOL 1952

Front row, l to r: Martin Glennon, Padraic McGann, Peter Naughton, Eamon Boland, Joe Fallon, Jarlath Finnerty, Vincent Johnson.

Second row, l to r: Anna Whymes, Margaret Dolan, John Joe Killeen, Sean Egan, Esther Fallon, Moira Campbell, Ann Ferguson, Maureen O'Hara.

Third row, l to r: Moira Feehily, John Boland, Mary Killeen, Sean Craughwell, Patricia Lynch, Marie Cahill.

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COMER GROUP
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It was during a break at work in St. Brigid's Hospital, in early 1972, that the idea of the hurling team going on a trip to the USA was put forward. The club had a good membership, were doing well on the hurling field and why not become the first GAA club in East Galway to fly abroad.

A fund-raising committee was set up with Paddy Lally as Chairman, Frank Curley as Secretary and the late P. J. O'Brien as Treasurer. With the great assistance of the late Michael Keller of Keller Travel and Dan O'Neill of Ireland West and ITAA, Aer Lingus would provide a "split" plane (half cargo and half passengers), flying from Shannon to New York in early October and returning from Boston to Shannon in early October three weeks later.

It was decided that the sixteen players and four officials making the journey would pay the princely sum of £12 (twelve old pounds) while the remaining eighty travellers, who had become club members, would be charged £30 (thirty old pounds) for the transatlantic trip. It was up to each passenger to arrange their own accommodation in the USA.

The Ballinasloe hurlers played in Gaelic Park, Flushing Meadows and Branchbrook Park in New York, where their manager was the late "Inky" Flaherty and the selectors included Tommy Larkin, Mick Geoghegan and Michael Kearns, all now sadly deceased. The group were special guests of the Galwaymen's Association at a dinner dance in Jackson's Heights and also at a Fund-raising dinner in Gaelic Park.

Looking back on the 50th anniversary of the trip, Secretary Frank Curley recalls what started out as a dream turned out to be a memorable event. "The whole group stayed with friends or relations in the States. We were all very well looked after no matter where we went. We played three matches and were invited to play more in Boston and Chicago but many of the lads had gone to visit relations in neighbouring states so we just couldn't muster a team together to line-out. Many life-long friendships were established and even some of the party stayed on afterwards after they were poached by hurling clubs to play there. It was a trip of a lifetime for so many and even back then the fare was unbelievable. Actually the tour was so successful that we went to the States again two years later, in 1974" he said.



St. Brigid's hurling team and supporters boarding the plane at Shannon in 1972.



LINING OUT IN FLUSHING MEADOWS IN 1972

Front row, l to r:
Tommy Larkin (Selector),
Inky Flaherty (Manager),
Johnny Egan, Frank Curley,
Peadar Ryan, Cyril Dunne,
Mike Cormican, Gerry Mitchell,
Sean Flaherty.

Back row, l to r:
Michael Kearns (Selector),
Sean Kelly, Tom Purcell,
Paddy Manton, Mike Hynes,
Pat Lally, Maurice O'Connell,
Michael Craughwell, Willie Ward,
Mick Geoghegan (Selector).
Inset: J.J. Murray (who had
difficulty finding the pitch and
arrived late).



One of the many messages of condolences following the passing of **Michael Connolly**, Ard Mhuire, Ballinasloe described him as “Dapper, witty and engaging.” They were but few of the descriptions afforded the genial sportsman, artist, literary bug, thespian and a committed tutor.

Born in Main Street to Dermot (former NT) and Mary, Michael had a younger brother David, all of who have now predeceased him. Mary Connolly ran a Newsagency and Toy Store (now Salmon’s).

Both boys were brought by their mother to annual Toy Fairs where she judged how they interacted with various toys before she placed her annual Christmas order.

Michael attended St. Grellan’s Boys’ NS and Garbally College, where he excelled both academically and on stage. On leaving College, Michael emigrated to the Leytonstone area of the UK and even became a fan of Leyton Orient Football Club. On his return he joined the workforce in Dubarry Shoes and was introduced to the sport of fishing by the Factory’s MD, Jim Scott.

When AT Cross arrived in town, Michael became one of its first employees while his wife, Marie, became the first female worker in the Cleaghmore plant. After many years, he moved back to Garbally College as a maths tutor and subsequently gave “grinds in maths” to some Leaving Cert students, many of whom credited him with helping to achieve high grades in their final exams.

Joining Ballinasloe Golf Club in the early 60’s, Michael quickly developed into a skilful player, was very competitive and was soon on a low single figure handicap. He represented the club side in many inter-club competitions and was a squad member on a winning Connacht Shield team. He served on various committees, was elected Captain in 1981 and saw his Captain’s Day prize won by the great footballer, Cyril Dunne.

Bridge was another passion of his. An excellent player who won many competitions in the local Bridge Club and at various Congresses throughout the country. He introduced many to the game and became a “go-to” teacher. However, his patience was really taxed to the limit when two pupils asked him “What is a suit?” and the other “Are Diamonds always Red?”

Michael loved to pass away the hours fishing on Lough Acalla or on the River Suck.

He tied all his own flies and because of their high quality he sold them to fellow anglers in Ireland, the USA, England, Germany and other European countries. They were always beautifully presented in pouches or laminated boxes, all hand-made by the man himself.

A valued member of the Gables Arts Group, he took pride in his colourful garden and even had an aviary there. He loved to read a good hardback-never a kindle-where among his famous crime writers was namesake, Michael Connelly. An adept crossword solver, with the aid of his “John Player” cigarette, he loved to try and “solve the problems of the world” in the company of friends in the local hostleries.

Michael Connolly is mourned by his wife of nearly 50 years, Marie; his son Gary and Gary’s partner, Bronagh, and by his many friends and former colleagues. It was fitting that members of both the Golf and Bridge Clubs should form guards of honour as Michael’s remains made their final journey for burial in Lawrencetown Cemetery.



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With the passing of **Val Martin**, Ballinasloe has lost one of its oldest and most respected gentlemen. Though born in Portumna, in 1922, on the day the Irish Free State was set up, Val lived most of his life in Ard Mhuire, Ballinasloe where his compelling and engaging personality made him an outstanding, though modest, citizen.

In 1934, Val entered Garbally College as a boarder and after completing his Leaving Cert he studied as a Civil Engineer. He played minor hurling with Galway in 1940, and seven years later cycled to Birr for the famous All-Ireland hurling final. He was a regular follower of Galway teams, no matter what code and up to a few years ago willingly travelled to county finals.

Joining the Ballinasloe Golf Club in 1959, he became captain in 1972 and was honoured with the presidency in 1984 and 2000, served as a trustee for several years before being elected an honorary life member of the club. On the fairways he used a hand-pulled trolley, was willing to participate in any competition, anywhere throughout the four provinces, where he made a host of friends. At the "19th hole" he recalled his work travels abroad in Africa, Asia, The Middle East and the USA as well as many family holidays that meant so much to him.

Right up to his passing, Val's remarkable memory, coupled with his unique description of dates and dates was sometimes mind-boggling. He loved and respected all ages, cherished his family and their children as well as his devoted friend and companion, Cecilia. Very fond of card games, Val was extremely popular in the local Bridge Club and represented them at many events throughout the country. He was a former president who encouraged many to join and was quiet willing to help out new starters.

Following his years working with Bord na Mona in the Midlands, as a civil engineer, he travelled abroad on many assignments and on his retirement engaged in private consultancy work with several different bodies. He was easily approachable, always gave sound advice and was highly respected by the legal profession. A man of high morals, with a wealth of knowledge, he will be irreplaceable.

As members of the Golf and Bridge Clubs formed a guard of honour when Val's remains made their way to Creagh cemetery, they were joined by many of his former workmates in Bord na Mona as well as school friends and neighbours from his beloved Portumna. He will be sadly missed in his adopted town, the Golf and Bridge Clubs, but mostly by his sons Declan and Raymond, daughters Maura, Patricia and Carmel; brother Billy, as well as his best friend Cecelia together with many other relatives and friends.

MICHAEL (MIKE) HYNES-AN APPRECIATION

By Sean Tully.



A pall of sadness fell over the Ballinasloe and Ahascragh area when the sad news broke on 21st August last, that **Michael Hynes** had died suddenly as a result of a heart attack.

Michael will always be remembered as a very pleasant man in the Creggane and Derrymullen areas where he grew up. He was an avid gentleman, a good footballer and hurler, and also a keen golfer, playing off a 12 handicap.

I knew Mike, as he was better known, well. We went to school together, we played games together. I was at his wedding and he at mine. We worked together in St. Brigid's for the best part of forty years...and we were related.

Mike's late father, Bill, and my late father, Martin, were first cousins and very close friends. They were both competent builders and helped one another many times over the years. The bond between the Tully and the Hynes was immeasurable.

Memories come flooding back of that tall, lanky redhead playing on the St. Brigid's Hospital football team that won 2 Antigen All-Ireland club finals in the 70's. Mike played a prominent part as well in St. Brigid's reaching the county junior football final in 1972, where we were unfortunately beaten by Killanin. The following year St. Brigid's played Ballinasloe Town in the East Board football final but were well beaten by a strong Town team. Again, it was Mike who helped Ballinasloe reach the county hurling final in 1973, only to be beaten by Castlegar in a replay.

In the mid-70's, Mike transferred to Caltra and played senior football with them for many years. Later he took up golf and became very competitive. He was honoured as Club Captain in 2000 and President in 2008 but he will be remembered most for his enthusiasm, loyalty and encouragement to the younger members, many of whom he nurtured onto teams which did the club proud in competitions at home and away. That was Mike's personality that helped many a young golfer along the way. He was a giver, never a taker.

When the St. Brigid's hurling team travelled to the United States in 1974, I was in his company with his future wife, Anne Kilkenny, sister Sheila and the late Joe Hartigan. It was the trip of a lifetime for us all. And Mike was the centre of attention. He was witty, entertaining and accommodating, possessed of that engaging personality that is so rare. It was a holiday where I made many friends and acquaintances, mostly thanks to Mike.

As a colleague at work, Mike was a devoted, kind and compassionate psychiatric nurse and is remembered with fondness and kindness by his colleagues and clients alike.

He loved to socialise with friends and foes. The game of cards, a flutter on the horses, dwelling on great matches over a pint and a lively debate on some of the greatest hurlers or footballers ever, were foremost when in his company. He knew his facts and could be quite persuasive. But he also had that charitable personality that endeared him to all ages.

He got a huge "send-off." Mourners queued for hours to pay their respects while the guard of honour by his golfing colleagues was a fitting tribute to a popular sportsman. He will be sorely missed by his beloved wife Anne, his sons Alan, Damien and Kevin, daughter Annmarie, his cherished grandchildren, sisters and brothers as well as a very extended family, together many other relatives, neighbours and friends.

But most of all Mike Hynes will be missed in the town he loved, where he always found time to stop and chat with a warmth of interest, compassion and interest. I, like so many others, will miss a dear colleague and friend. May his gentle soul rest in peace.

One of Ballinasloe's best known families suffered three bereavements in a short space of time. The deaths of Arthur (Archie) Donnellan, St. Michael's Place, was followed two days later with the passing of his brother, William (Buddy) Donnellan, Culliagh and three weeks later their brother-in-law, James (Jimmy) Ogle, Glenloughan died in hospital.



Archie Donnellan's late father, William and his father before him were tailors in the town. However, Archie did not follow in their footsteps. After a brief stint in Dubarry Shoe Factory, he joined his brother Buddy, as a painter in St. Brigid's Hospital, where he remained up to his retirement. A keen angler, Archie loved salmon fishing and landed many a silver-back from the Shannon, at Meelick.



Buddy Donnellan was one of the best-known boxer to come from the John Bosco Club in the town, where he learned his trade under the late former Irish heavyweight champion, Coleman Hernon. The second eldest in the family, Buddy and his brother Joe amassed a huge array of trophies from boxing tournaments all over the country. Later he helped re-establish a boxing club in the town with the late Tom Watters, even coaching his 12-year-old son Liam to All-Ireland success. He worked as a painter in St. Brigid's Hospital for over thirty years and was a lover of all sports.



Jimmy Ogle was the only child of the late Jim and Ellen Ogle. He married Deirdre Donnellan, a sister of the two above deceased, and they had five children. Jimmy worked in Dubarry as a Work Study Officer before taking up similar posts in Belfast. Shortly after Square D opened in Ballinasloe he joined the staff and remained there for 22 years, as Production Manager. A very popular workmate and neighbour, Jimmy loved table quizzes and was a diligent farmer. A devoted family man, his love of nature and his witty humour endeared him to so many.

PROUD "HILL WOMAN" PASSES AWAY



St. Grellan's lost a "Pillar of the Community" with the recent passing of **Mary Finnerty (nee Grehan)**. The 87-year-old was one of the eleven children born to Patsy and Mary Grehan (five girls and six boys) and was always a proud and strong "Hill Woman" making sure she was present at every event and celebration in her community for more than eight decades.

Losing her husband Tommy when he was only 52, the resolute Mary was left with thirteen children to rear in 1982, seven boys and six girls. It was a daunting task back then but she leaves behind a legacy of a strong, brazen woman who influenced, not alone her family but also her community.

At her funeral mass, Mary was described as "a force to be reckoned with for a slight woman. Her presence and personality filled every room and every heart. Not alone was she a wife, sister, aunt but also a mother of 13, grandmother to 67, great-grandmother to 113, along with being a great-great-grandmother and was known as Nana Gums or Nana G to every child in St. Grellan's Terrace."

Mary's love and pride in her family was admirable, taking the time and patience to talk, listen and offer words of advice. In later years the roles were reversed when each of her

children cared for Nana with the same love and affection she had shown to them throughout their lives. Her story-telling was described as "award-winning" while her entertaining personality endeared her to all ages. She had a great love of bingo and was a huge fan of Mrs. Brown's Boys, who truly believed, right up to her passing, that Mrs. Brown was a real woman!

As the remains of one of the oldest residents of St. Grellan's was brought to St. Michael's Church for mass and burial, hundreds walked in silent tribute along the route to bid farewell to woman that was fondly remembered in the community she was reared in, loved with all her heart, and highly respected by her relatives, neighbours and friends of all ages.

A GREAT HISTORIAN AND COMMUNITY ACTIVIST



Luke Nolan from Ardross, Kilconnell, who passed away in his 90th year, was a renowned historian as well as a great community activist. From an early age he had great interest in local, national and international history and published a book on the earlier years of his local community.

Luke often spoke about listening to stories from the older generation and this sparked an interest in reading books on historical events and researching local historical events. He had a keen interest in the 1691 Battle of Aughrim and spoke at a number of events on the topic.

His love of farming from an early age saw him join Macra na Feirme and later he became secretary of the Galway Co. Executive in the 1950's. He was a Trojan worker with his local Kilconnell Branch which led him to higher office at County and National level, before seeing him being elected to represent Galway on the first National Executive of the National Farmers' Association. He continued to be involved in rural and national farming organisations and in 2019 he received an Honorary Life Membership of the IFA, in recognition of his work.

Luke Nolan was a great republican and nationalist, loved traditional music and singing and often featured at the singers' circle in Ballinasloe. He was a great collector of old songs and ballads which he gladly passed on to younger singers to help preserve our

culture and heritage.

In his later years, Luke and his late wife, Joan, loved to travel abroad, particularly in the USA and Europe, where again he took a very keen interest in local history and visited many landmark sites.

Very much rooted to his locality and having a great knowledge of its history, he was a great believer in community action, development and helping one's neighbours-something that was very evident when locals lined the roadside as Luke's remains made their final journey to Kilconnell Church for Mass and burial.

Pre-deceased by his wife Joan (McGuire), Luke is survived by his son Micheal and his wife Sandra as well as grandchildren Conal and Dearbhail; sister Margaret and many more relatives.



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