

# BALLINASLOELIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 2 Issue 4: Oct/Nov 2012



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# BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 2 Issue 4: Oct/Nov 2012

## REAMHRÁ



*In years to come we'll wonder in awe at how the County hurlers managed to tog out three times in the one summer against the Cats! The price of the truly horrible summer will recede fully if the Liam McCarthy Cup and the Tribesmen clamber back across the Shannon for the winter. Wonderful to see what a good campaign and a smell of an All-Ireland victory can do, to bring out the best in the Maroon and White supporters. Take a bow St. Brendan's residents, you have led from the front!*

*This Magazine will be hot off the press only a few hours before our fate will be known. As will that of the Opening weekend of the Fair, the Agricultural Show, the Finals of the Tug O'War and then the evenings will draw in past the mid-term marker of Hallowe'en, the hairshirt budget and onwards into the unwavering march to the tinsel and then the new year sales and snowdrops. If we are fortunate to see them. For many in our community, especially the young leaving cert students heading off to college, a term of 15 weeks is infinity, to a bondholder it is just another quarter to be measured on the abacus of share earnings.*

*Much talk lately of how little things change, after 18 months of the new administration, the slow reality is dawning on most of whom rioted in the ballot boxes. There will be no revolution nationally, what reforms may emerge will be glacial in their delivery. Self help and changing our circumstances will not happen quickly for us but rather will be a series of small steps, many of them local, that will encourage us to survive and then maybe grow over the next 60 months.*

*Changing our retail habits, focusing on supporting the local artisan producers, giving local firms or service suppliers an opportunity to even quote, are not empty rhetorical suggestions. They are practical approaches towards keeping the economic life blood of an area pulsing.*

*35% of all nationwide retail activity occurs in the last three months of the year, we all know our disposable incomes are reducing in size. Let's try and support where we can those who want to support a community.*

*Le gach Dea Ghui,  
Colm Croffy, Editor*



*I would like to welcome all visitors to town for the Annual Fair. It lifts the spirit locally as the days begin to shorten and Christmas beckons. It also gives a welcome boost to the local economy.*

*All economies go through cycles and new job creation will come in time. For the present we need to protect our existing workforce. You can support local jobs by spending your hard earned cash locally. There are over 930 jobs alone in the three Main Streets and you can easily treble that by expanding to the town speed limits. There are also many small and medium size enterprises in the catchment area that need your support.*

*We are doubling the circulation of our Christmas edition which will be out around the 23rd November and same will give retailers a chance to promote their wares along with opening times on the run in to Christmas.*

*For the present let's hope the Liam McCarthy cup will visit the fair and make our 10 day festival an extra special occasion.*

*Seamus Duffy, Chairman,  
Ballinasloe Area Community Development*

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- Salmons Dept Store, Main Street
- P&M Kellys, Brackernagh
- Corrib Oil/TOPAZ, Brackernagh

The Cover price is €2 each and all the proceeds go towards the production costs. The Board of BACD and the Subscribers will continue deliver 3500 copies into every local homestead, flat and business within the Ballinasloe Urban Area. The Magazine can also be read online at [www.ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie](http://www.ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie)

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# A Powerful Ballinasloe Woman



Jackie Daly is pictured in the third row, with Relay for Life Team!

**Writes Pat Johnston**

**"When life throws you lemons, make lemonade" says the optimist and when life throws lemons at Jackie Daly, who is one of the leading lights in cancer care in this community, this consistently calm lady catches them, juggles them and turns them into something culinary or creative for the benefit of all around her.**

Jackie's mother, Mary Reynolds from Shanboley, married Dermot Keogh from St. Michael's. Their children Tom and Maureen were born and then Dermot died when Mary was six months pregnant with Liz. Six years later she married Sligo-man Seamus Guider whose father was a guard in Ahascragh at one stage. Family lore relates that her mother used to serve thirty dinners a day from her house in the Square and Seamus was one of her customers. Margaret and Jackie were born in St. Michael's Square and when Jackie was a year old the family moved to Brackernagh where Corinna and John were born.

The house, built from locally-quarried limestone, was originally the lying-in hospital built by Cloncarty for the women on his estate. A newspaper found in the walls during internal renovations dated back to 1857. The house looked out on a farmyard and hayshed, part of the Portiuncula farm and just at the eastern edge of that was the Protestant school. Jackie saw no differences in the children who went to school there. Her granny in Shanboley lived beside

the Cobbyns where local ecumenism flourished. A member of that same Cobbyns family later wired the Guider house in Brackernagh for electricity.

Jackie grew up in Brackernagh where everybody knew everybody else and they could play football on what was the main Dublin-Galway road at the time.

So what prompted Jackie's early interest in supporting cancer care? She says that her mother often spoke fondly of her father, Corny Reynolds, who died from prostate cancer in 1957. Back then it was the dreaded 'Big C' that was spoken of only in whispers and strictly among adults.

After school there was an almost automatic graduation to work in Dubarry factory, then in its heyday, where the employers were excellent and the workforce a real community. She also speaks positively of Square D where she worked for a short time. Jackie first saw Michael Daly from Loughrea going down behind her house to the soccer field and later met him with his brother on the August bank holiday in Flynn's pub. They went out together from October 1983 and got married the following year.

The depression of the 1980's saw Michael made redundant from Schlegel in Loughrea and the couple made the decision to emigrate to Australia and later to New Zealand where their son, Seamus, was born in 1992.

Emigration was a little easier for Jackie because she was going out to her sister Liz, but it was still a culture shock. They planned to go for a year, during which they expected to make money and return to an Ireland in economic recovery. "If

we didn't make a fortune", Jackie says "We were millionaires in the friends we made in both countries." Reflecting on the very current issue of emigration, Jackie says; "It's very hard to leave home and I only started to settle when we had a safety net of savings that meant we could come home if anything happened. Going home is always in the back of your mind and homesickness is like a physical ache in the heart." But they soldiered on and now Jackie can say in retrospect that "Australia was the best party I was ever at!"

The family came home in 1998 when Jackie's father died. She wanted Seamus to get to know his Irish family so they intended to stay for 12 months. But Jackie's mother's health deteriorated and they stayed at home to look after her. Circumstances overtook them as both Michael's parents were in failing health and Jackie says she wouldn't swap the time she spent in this caring role which lasted until her mother died in 2008. During this time Jackie's brother, Tom, died from colon cancer and Jackie herself fought her own battle with melanoma.

Jackie refers with great admiration and pride to her mother Mary, who was awarded Community Person of the Year for her work with Meals on Wheels and the Social Services. It was also from her mother that Jackie acquired her formidable baking skills. And it was with those baking skills that she took her next step back into the workforce when she volunteered her services in Garbally to new principal Seamus O'Brien. Now she runs the Garbally Breakfast Club for a varying number of students each morning. By now Jackie might have



expected life to stop throwing lemons but within a year of her mother's passing Michael was diagnosed with prostate cancer. This must have been the hardest time for Jackie as she says, 'Cancer in the house can be a very lonely time for spouses. You can't share your worries so you really do need to look for outside support.' In September 2009 Jackie Daly's family discovered when Michael came home from hospital that there was very little help or information available for survivors of prostate surgery. They were very fortunate in Ballinasloe to have a brilliant group of district nurses who went out of their way to provide help, advice and support. For example, they arranged for continence Nurse Mary Durkan to visit the family and give advice. But when Mary retired in 2010 she was not replaced, so the people of the west of Ireland are now without this vital service.

Jackie goes on to recount how the DVD project came about; 'In September 2009, our son Seamus was a Leaving Cert student in Garbally and he wanted to help in some way. His friends and classmates rallied around and with the help of one of their teachers, Ms. Grainne Lally, and the then principal, Mr Seamus O'Brien, they organised the staff and students to be waxed or shaved. This idea is the foundation of what is now the annual Garbally College 'FunRazor'

and the money kickstarted fund-raising for PSA Ireland. Jackie, who spearheaded the project believes that the DVD is invaluable in helping survivors cope with the life changing consequences, both mental and physical, of prostate surgery.' She adds, 'We are also celebrating the fact that several more men are now surviving prostate cancer surgery due to early detection, the skill of the surgeon, the staff of UHG and our own wonderful Portiuncula Hospital and the continued advancement in research.'

Jackie talks with fondness of the now well-established Men's Group which has about twenty members, all recovering from prostate cancer, meeting regularly with the first item on their agenda being 'freshly-baked scones.' For Jackie cancer now holds no fear. 'Grab it and look it straight in the eye', she says. This year Jackie also helped out with Relay for Life. She wants to take the fear out of a cancer diagnosis and she believes the key is education. Some cancers are hereditary so awareness and screening are important. She believes you are dealt a hand and you get on with what you are dealt, taking all the support you can get.

She continues to live serenely baking, walking her dogs and entertaining the many visitors who drop in to her home. Michael is back at work. She is open to the future, whatever it brings.

## Fletcher's Are 55 Years in Business



### Writes Siofra Mannion

Fletchers Expert is 55 years in business. They have recently revamped their store on Society Street, carrying all the top brands from Panasonic, Sony, Neff, Siemens, Bosch and Hotpoint. Fletchers are approved Saorview retail store and can provide all products and information needed for the digital switch over. Friday the 14th of September the store played host to the 2FM Roadcaster with Rick O'Shea. The day was a promotional day for Saorview products encouraging individuals to switch their TV over as soon as possible.



## Get Ready for Digital TV with Fletcher's Expert Wednesday 24th October is Analogue Switch off Date

### ARE YOU READY? HERE ARE THE 4 STEPS TO FIND OUT

1. Check your coverage. You will be able to do this on [www.saorview.ie](http://www.saorview.ie) or call into your local Expert stores where we would be happy to check this for you.
2. Check your aerial. You will need a rooftop UHF aerial to receive Saorview. If you can get the 4 Irish channels with your aerial it's likely that you will receive Saorview.
3. Choose your Equipment. You do not need a new TV to receive Saorview; however if you're thinking of upgrading ensure to get a Saorview Approved Model. If you want to keep your existing TV you may need to get a Saorview Approved Set Top Box. Your local Expert Store stocks a full range of Saorview Approved TV's and Set Top Boxes.
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# O'Connor's: A One Stop Shop



Above: Jonathan Coleman, Gerard and Mary O'Connor.  
Below: Gerard O'Connor busy at work in his New Food Hall.



## Writes Siofra Mannion

O'Connor's Foodhall is the place to go for quality meat and artisan products at affordable prices. Gerard and Peter O'Connor opened their foodhall on the 31st of May, 2012. They started it as just a butchers but it has broadened out to be a one stop shop for your home cooked meals.

The two O'Connor brothers began developing the concept last year but it wasn't until January the retail space became available for them to acquire.

The Foodhall is one of the few places you can get fresh fish in the town, they are supplied by Galway Bay Seafood and this is delivered three days a week. Most of the meat, fruit and vegetables are sourced locally and the breads are baked fresh on the premises each day. Their beef is handpicked, less than 28 months old and matured for 21 days before putting on the counter. The same goes for their lamb.

The meat counter has promotional offers on every week and they even prepare and prepack meat to their recipe on the premises that can go straight from tray to oven. For people that visit looking for something on the go they have a cold deli where they prepare sandwiches, rolls and wraps and there is also a tea/coffee machine in store.

If there's a product out of stock that you need they will order it in for you or you can call them and preorder any of their products. You can pre order deep freezer packs, specialised fish, bulk items and they prepare cold meat platters for any occasion. Gerard and Peter believe in giving their customers a personal touch, if there's a bag too heavy or just too many to carry their staff will be happy to help.

They stress that quality is an important aspect of their service and between Gerard and Jonathan Coleman they have over fifty years experience in the meat business.

Their opening times are 8 - 18:30 Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Saturdays and 8 - 19:30 Thursday and Fridays. Call O'Connor's Food Hall on 090 964 2964 for any orders.

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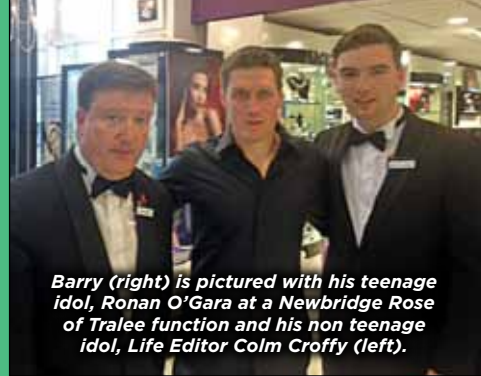


# Reporters: Coming and Going

**Writes Colm Croffy**

After nearly nine months at the news desk of Ballinasloe Life, Barra Ó Crofaigh takes his leave. As our third reporter on three editions and acting as Press and Communications Assistant for AOIFE and assisting with various other projects with European Seminars, the Rose of Tralee and the Digital Switchover, Barry had a busy agenda. Uniquely for him and the legions of correspondents and PROs that he interfaced with, he was a local lad and he knew instinctively a miss totted match score or a dodgy surname. He also knew instinctively who was not going to make a deadline! His keen interest in the online world saw him toil at our fledgling Facebook site and in effort to drag the Magazine and its readers into the 21st century. He managed to give us a toehold on the cliff face of social media. The NUIG Graduate moves to Dublin, where he will complete a postgraduate course in primary school teaching and also continue his interest in media. From time to time we will publish some of his back catalogue of articles. Chairman Seamus Duffy, Lyn our Manager and especially the mercurial and erratic (at production weeks, Editor) thank him for his noble efforts and wish he well in his future career.

Out of the pan and into the fire we welcome Siofra Mannion, a 21 year old, Journalism and New Media undergraduate at the University of Limerick as Reporter number 4. From Kiltullagh-Killimorday, Siofra is looking forward to working on Ballinasloe Life for her co-op placement and brings a raft of new exciting ideas to her post. We will be reading her work in this and the next two editions. We wish her all the best in the post and hope that the East Galway welcome will be fullsome!



*Barry (right) is pictured with his teenage idol, Ronan O'Gara at a Newbridge Rose of Tralee function and his non teenage idol, Life Editor Colm Croffy (left).*



*New Reporter Siofra Mannion*

## Life Mag Commended by Action for Market Towns

Ballinasloe Life has been commended by judges of the prestigious Action for Market Towns Awards 2012. It was one of many entries to the awards that cover small market towns in Britain and Ireland. The awards recognise and showcase initiatives that aid the small market towns they are based in. These initiatives illustrate how those towns have adapted to change and flourished in the challenging times they face. Debbie McGraf the Programme Manager for the Action for Market Towns Awards said "Ballinasloe Life is an enterprising way of increasing footfall to Ballinasloe." The Ballinasloe Life Magazine is an initiative that was undertaken by Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd, in partnership with KPW

Printers and AOIFE Ltd. We are now into our 9th issue with the 1st being published back in April 2011. Part of the Action for Market Towns Awards is "making sure other towns can use the projects that are showcased and Ballinasloe Life is a good easily transferable project" according to Debbie. The West Zone in which Ballinasloe falls under covers West Midlands, North West England and Ireland. Ballinasloe Life was the only Irish project to be commended in the 2012 awards. Lyn Donnelly, the company manager of Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd said "We are all delighted to be recognised for the hard work and effort that goes on behind the scenes in making the magazine a reality."

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# The BEC Shop Local Campaign

## Writes Lyn Donnelly

Ballinasloe needs you, we cannot take our shops and businesses for granted. Ballinasloe really has it all, covering every base of our consumer needs, but while we are a busy town, a lot of businesses are struggling. Nobody is immune to the economic pressures currently gripping the country. Now more than ever we have to be committed to shop local, we can't just assume others will do it for us, and our businesses will survive. After all, a bustling town makes for a better town. The local retailers are all working together to make shopping in Ballinasloe convenient, competitive and consumer friendly especially in the run up to Christmas. On the right we have outlined some of the Do's and Don'ts of shopping local in Ballinasloe.

### DO'S

- **Do** support the existing jobs in Ballinasloe;
- **Do** support the creation of part time work for local students;
- **Do** support those who support your clubs and societies;
- **Do** capitalise on the top brands and excellent customer service offered by local retailers;
- **Do** encourage your family members to shop local;
- **Do** speak positively of good shopping experiences in Ballinasloe;
- **Do** ask owners of empty premises to make them presentable.

### DON'T

- **Don't** spend €40 to drive 100kms to shop elsewhere (Tolls, Carpark, Fuel, wear and tear);
- **Don't** forget about the excellent Christmas Clubs provided by local retailers;
- **Don't** sacrifice quality and service for cheap copies;
- **Don't** assume you cannot buy it locally;
- **Don't** assume products are dearer locally;
- **Don't** assume there is no free parking in Ballinasloe;
- **Don't** assume there is no choice or quality in Ballinasloe.

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# BEC

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# Improved Score For Tidy Towns




## Writes Síofra Mannion

Ballinasloe has improved its marks in the Tidy Towns Competition compared to last year but it still has a long way to go before it wins any awards. The town was commended on the effort its inhabitants made with the competition over the last 12 months saying it was clear that they had been extremely active.

Commenting on roads, streets and back areas the report said "the wide approach along the N6 past the Hospital creates a favourable first impression of Ballinasloe. On the Shannonbridge approach the grey buildings on the right were admired and especially the globes that form part of the landscaping." However the other entrances to the town such as the Athenry approach, need to be worked on. The report showed that the adjudicator was impressed by the development of a Resident's Association in the town. Areas such as Garbally Oaks, St Joseph's Place and Deerpark were given a special mention by the adjudicator. They even went on to say "excellent grass areas at the entrance of Ard Mhuire were

noted as was the well cut grass verge areas by pavements." The adjudicator was struck by the use of information stands about the waste minimisation issue and described it as "a simple idea but a very effective one." But they would also like to see these positive steps put to good use and see clear advertising of what is happening with wastes such as engine and gear box oil, paper and cardboard.

Commenting on the overall tidiness of the town, the adjudicator welcomed the idea of upgrading the signage around the area. There are areas that have to be changed; they advised the cottage at the graveyard on the Creagh road should be removed if that is at all possible. Also they said "Inappropriate projecting signage in Ballinasloe is a problem that creates visual clutter." The most positive remarks from the adjudicator were regarding the landscaping around the town. They were pleased with the planters on Society Street and added "these and other small landscaped areas add much to the overall impression of Ballinasloe." The adjudicator criticised many areas in the report but was still satisfied by the progress the town has made since last year. 

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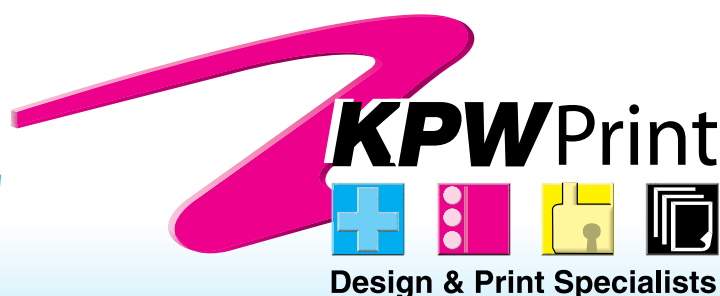
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## Junior Cert Results

*Left (L-R): Colm Colohan (Ollie Colohan & Sons Ltd), sponsor of Garbally College, Academic Award. Mr. Stephen Reilly (Principal) and Hubert Darcy the worthy recipient of this year's Junior Cert Academic Award. Hubert achieved the highest grades in this year's Junior Cert Exams.*  
*Right (L-R): Mrs. Patricia Ryan, Stephen Ryan, Mr. Stephen Reilly (Principal) and Ms. Sinead Kennedy at the presentation of Junior Cert results to Stephen Ryan who is a student in the Special Needs Class in Garbally College. Stephen achieved fantastic results in the six subjects he took. This is a major achievement for the teachers involved with the Special Needs Class which helps students with Moderate to Severe Learning Difficulties or under the Autism Spectrum.*



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# Joy for Job's Club Graduates



Back (L-R): Bernie O'Brien, Viadim Kacajev, John Murphy, Joanne Ryan, Maura D'Arcy, Samantha Clogher, Stephanie O'Connor-Shaw, Patricia Tierney, Mary Coughlan, Gerry Horan, Johnny Walsh, Angela Flaherty, John Murphy, Pat Ruane, Tom Murray. Front (L-R): Stephen Connell (Resource Centre) Elaine O'Connor, Ita Hodgins, Una Groarke, Helen Gavin, Prof. Ciaran O'Cathain, Ann Hill, Mary Frances Ahern, Mary Lohan, Nuala Keher (Director, Equal Ireland) and Nuala Murray.

## Writes Nuala Ní Mhúiri

### 25 adults from Ballinasloe returned to education and recently graduated from Athlone Institute of Technology with a Bachelor of Arts in Business, Enterprise and Community Development.

Our students ranged in age from 25 to 50 and came from a variety of backgrounds such as unemployment, part-time work and some full time work. For a number of reasons, such as leaving school early, bad experiences at school or lack of finance, we never made it to college. Two people in particular, Gerry Scouler, former Manager of the Job's Club and Stephen Connell, Chairperson of the Ballinasloe Resource Centre made the dream a reality. Their foresight and determination resulted in Equal Ireland, IBEC, Lionra and FÁS joining forces with the help of the EU social fund, to create the Access to Third Level Programme (A3L). Equal Ireland's Eddie Higgins and Nuala Keher were hugely instrumental in bringing the course to fruition. The journey began by doing the Access course. We were taught computer skills, communication skills and the most daunting task of all was to complete a course in Leaving Cert Maths! Help was always at hand and the realisation that it is possible to do was just incredible. With confidence and ambition, we then completed the Higher Certificate in Business Enterprise and Community Development. We went to the

Emerald Ballroom most Saturdays and spent long days there grappling with computer skills, communication techniques and business terminology. Then there were the assignments! With help, encouragement and a fantastic group dynamic, all assignments were completed on time and uploaded to the computer. The following year we got the opportunity to do the Degree, with assistance and guidance from Tutors from NUIG, AIT, GMIT, we all completed our course. We had our graduation earlier on this year in AIT and it was a huge success. Messages of congratulations were sent from President Michael D. Higgins and Minister for Education and Skills Ruairi Quinn. President of AIT Ciaran O'Cathain, himself a returnee to adult education, touched a positive nerve with the graduates present.

Reflecting over the past few years spent in the Emerald Ballroom, it is fair to say that personal development and good mental health were to the forefront of this experience. People from all backgrounds and from different personal circumstances grew in self-awareness, gained knowledge, developed strengths and talents. People's quality of life changed because goals had to be met. Aspirations were fulfilled and life was enhanced. The work of the Job's Club continues. Some of the graduates completed a very successfully run pilot Craft class over the past ten weeks, partially funded by RAPID.

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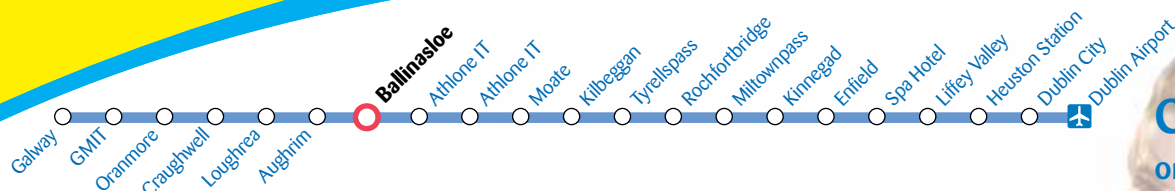


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Social Dance Class with cheque for €2,720 from a fundraising night. (L-R): Frances Kelly, Mary Ryan, Bernie Hurley, Steve Jackson, (Manager, St. Brigid's), Frank Kelly, P.J. Silke, Brid Mullins, Ann Casey, Gerry Coen, Thomas Clarke, Gerry Tynan, Brid Brennan, Teresa Naughton and Marie Dolan.

## Social Dancing Club & Classes

Gerry's Social Dance classes have resumed in Hayden's Hotel on Thursday nights at 8.30pm, along with the newly formed Social Dance Club. The Club members had some very enjoyable trips during the year to various venues on the Country and Western Circuit. For further information contact Hayden's Hotel on 090 96 42347. A dance held in the Ballroom of Hayden's Hotel raised €2,720 for the Patient Comfort Fund in the Acute Admission Unit of St. Brigid's Hospital during the summer. Gerry wishes to offer a special word of thanks to all members of the Social and Set dancing classes at Hayden's Hotel who helped on the night.



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# Little Rascals Crèche Reopened



New Little Rascals proprietor Amanda Hopkins with staff member and sister Dannielle Hopkins.

## Writes Síofra Mannion

Little Rascals Crèche and Montessori, Shannonbridge Road, Creagh reopened recently under new management and promises to be a dependable and cheerful environment for those who arrive at the crèche.

The new proprietor Amanda Hopkins, a native of Caltra, Ballinasloe, has spent the summer renovating and redesigning the crèche to the highest international childcare standards. The crèche with its bright and cheerful new decor provides a warm, cosy and homely environment where children can play and learn in a comfortable clean and safe environment.

Little Rascals Crèche and Montessori now boasts state of the art playrooms, quiet rooms, classrooms and messy play rooms, as well as a large outdoor garden and playground where younger and older children can play and learn in a secure and stimulating space.



Oscar Arru shows off his painted face whilst enjoying Little Rascals open day.



One of the newly redesigned rooms at the Little Rascals Crèche and Montessori.

Each room is equipped to the highest standard with a large selection of toys and equipment. Amanda Hopkins and the enthusiastic staff at Little Rascals are trained in first aid, moving, lifting and child protection and they all hold recognised qualifications in childcare. The crèche facilitates Babies and Toddlers, Preschoolers, Montessori and afterschoolers. They also ensure home cooked meals are served and School drop-off and collections are provided. Little Rascals celebrated their reopening on Sunday, 16th September with a very successful family fun themed open day. Adults and children of all ages enjoyed a great day of BBQ food, cakes and treats, fun on the bouncing castle and getting creative with face painting as well as admiring the redesigned new building. Amanda's future plans for the crèche include further family fun themed days, trips out and additional activities such as art classes and summer camps.

There are currently spaces available in the newly designed baby, toddler and pre-school rooms. To make an enquiry or for further information please contact Amanda on Tel: 090 9644577 or email [ballinasloelittlerascals@gmail.com](mailto:ballinasloelittlerascals@gmail.com).



Emma McGreal, Mariam Darcy and Ashlinn Arru enjoying the playhouse and garden.



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# The City and County Enterprise Board Roadshow Hits Town

**Writes Síoфра Mannion**

Galway City and County Enterprise Board is marking SME Week 2012 with a major Roadshow around Galway County. The event will hit Ballinasloe on the 16th of October from 7-8pm in Gullanes Hotel. The show will consist of a series of events which will provide information and inspiration to individuals with business ideas and also concepts to help out established businesses.

The Roadshow features Pádraic Ó Máille, creator and founder of Smácht, a group coaching programme designed to help people apply discipline in key areas of their business and life. Local business man Niall Barrett, founder and owner of N. Barrett Engineering Ltd. will also be there to talk about his story. Breda Fox, CEO of the Galway City and County Enterprise Board will be there to meet all attendees and talk about support. Breda said "we are delighted to have the opportunity to be in Ballinasloe and this event is to highlight the vibrant business community which exists in the County and has produced several success stories over the past decade including Niall Barrett."

Ms. Fox has added that "I believe that there are many local people with fantastic business ideas but just need a little bit of support and hand holding to make it happen. These Roadshows allow us to meet local entrepreneurs and small businesses to give information on supports. It demonstrates that there are organisations such as the Galway County and City Enterprise Board and other experts available and willing to help you."

Local businessman Niall Barrett who will be at Gullane's on the 16th, set up his business in 2001 with the support of the Galway County and City Enterprise Board. Niall is based in Ballymacward and currently designs, manufactures, markets and sells products for cattle handling and is aiming



to become a one stop shop for cattle handling equipment. Niall will be travelling to New Ross for the National Ploughing Championship from 25th to 27th September where Barrett Engineering will be showcasing its latest range of products and services and launching its two latest products. Barrett Engineering is a local success story and Niall said "I look forward to meeting and sharing my story with local people on the night."

For more information for SME and to register for this event please call us on: 091 565 269 or log on to: [galwayenterprise.ie](http://galwayenterprise.ie)

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# Local Authority 100th Anniversary Conference

Minister Phil Hogan  
addressing the  
AMAI conference.



**Writes Síofra Mannion**

**In excess of 250 public representatives from Town and Municipal Councils attended the two day conference which was opened by the Mayor, Cllr Carmel Grealy and attended by the Minister for the Environment Phil Hogan T.D.**

Politicians from all of the political parties and independents were wowed by the attractive facilities and top class convention professionalism provided by the Town Council organisers and the Management and Staff of the Carlton Shearwater Hotel.

The Conference was key in portraying the town and the signature convention facilities it now boasts as well as its central location, to the National media and indeed the Cabinets of the future! This year to date the Town has played host to the National Students Conference and will play host in early November to the National Festival and Event Organisers Conference. It is estimated that the economic spin off to the Town was in the region of €130,000. Local Government Reform was a key topic for discussion for the Annual Conference of

The Association of Municipal Authorities of Ireland (AMAI) which was held in the Carlton Shearwater Hotel on 13th and 14th September. The AMAI is the representative body for town and city councils throughout the country. At the conference, keynote discussions took place on the reform of local government and local development as well as discussions on the Green Government Paper on local government reform.

Director of the Association of Irish Festivals and Events, Colm Croffy, gave a detailed presentation on the role and impact of festivals and cultural events throughout the country and the innovative ways in which some local authorities were championing events. The Town's role in hosting Europe's oldest Horse Fair and particular benefits it brings to the locality was amplified.

This high profile national conference was attracted to Ballinasloe by our pro-active Town Council who beat off stiff opposition from other towns to successfully host the 100th anniversary of this very prestigious event.

Minister for Environment, Community and Local Government Mr. Phil Hogan TD, addressed the delegates on Friday evening and also officially launched the book *A Century of Service: A History of AMAI 1912-2012*. It is widely expected that the proposals from Government on Local Government Reform will be announced in the coming weeks.

A top class social programme was arranged and included performances by local talented singers, Rachel Goode and Sarah Corcoran, accompanied by Richard Moore. The local Sean Nos dancers and the local traditional band *Still Sloping*, along with a performance by dancing group *Mystic Force* and local band *Buzz The Agent*.

The Town Councillors availed of the opportunity to do some fundraising for their colleagues for the Day Care Centre in the Social Centre, Brackernagh and a hefty €1,260 was raised from the delegates present. A number of attendees visited Clonmacnoise on the Friday afternoon while some enjoyed a round of golf. The conference was a great success and hopefully will bring more business to the town.



(L-R): Anne Power (Senior Staff Officer), Cathriona Morgan (Town Clerk), Kevin Kelly (Director of Services), Mayor of Ballinasloe Cllr. Carmel Grealy, Cllr. Geraldine Bane (Mayor of Loughrea), Cllr. Mogie Maher (Loughrea), Cllr. Johnny Walsh (Ballinasloe) and Diana Walsh (Ballinasloe).

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## Men (and Women) Not Equal Until December 21st

Writes Mark Scannell



From the 21st December 2012 Life Assurance Companies will not be allowed to charge different premiums to men and women. This new "Gender Directive" which will have a big impact on the rates charged for different policies and there will of course be winners and losers.

**Life Cover: Males Win / Females Loose**  
Males will end up paying a similar rate to current rates for life insurance and females paying significantly more. So for females needing life insurance cover, now is the time to buy. Male rates should remain at much the same rate.

### Serious Illness Cover: No Clear Winner or Loser

While some age males pay more than females and vice versa, overall the difference between the two are modest so the new gender neutral rates are expect to fall close to both.

### Cancer Cover: Females Win / Males Loose

Cancer is the dominant cause of serious illness claims in Ireland. For females it is far more prevalent than in males and for that reason female premiums are higher than male prices. After the move to gender neutral pricing, the male rates will tend to go up significantly.

### Income Protection: Females Win / Males Loose

While insurers take into account additional information such as occupation, all other rating factors being equal, females are currently charged significantly more for Income Protection cover compared to males. So for males thinking about taking out Income Protection, now is the time to act.

What does all mean to you? Well basically, if you are women considering getting life cover or a man considering Cancer Cover or Income Protection you need to act fast. 🐸

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# MeetWest Conference Returns

**Writes Kieran Coyne**

Following the success of the inaugural *MeetWest* business networking initiative co-ordinated by Galway City and County Councils last November, this year's event will be hosted by Roscommon County Council. Last year's event attracted over 300 companies primarily from counties Galway, Mayo and Roscommon to one of the biggest business networking events in the west. The event last November included a number of high calibre speakers from the business world including Jerry Kennelly, managing

director of Tweak.com, Helen Ryan, CEO of Creganna and John Concannon, managing director of JFC Manufacturing. An Taoiseach Enda Kenny was guest speaker at the networking dinner. The central focus of the event was a full day of co-ordinated one-to-one business meetings. This involved the use of a specially commissioned computerised booking form that matched businesses to other attendees, based on their preference and their direct requests but also suggested meetings that may create synergies. The *MeetWest* event also developed a directory of every

business and organization represented, including details of the type of business, size, turnover, areas of interest and where they were seeking development or opportunities. The one-to-one meetings took place on day two with over 2,400 individual 30 minute meetings organised, in addition to a large number of 'ad-hoc' or specially requested meetings. The *MeetWest* event in 2012 takes place on November 20th and 21st in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Roscommon. Go to [www.meetwest.ie](http://www.meetwest.ie) to register your interest in the event or call 090 663 7325 for further information.



*The scene at last year's MeetWest Conference.*



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# Aughrim 1691 Remembered

Writes Ken Kelly

**More than three hundred years after its bloody battle, the village of Aughrim is attracting more visitors from all the world who want to visit the Battlefield as well the local Interpretative Centre, which houses so much memorabilia of the era.**

The 1691 Jacobite-Williamite Battle at Aughrim has been described as one of the bloodiest conflicts ever staged in this country. The loss of the Irish Leader, St. Ruth and the hasty departure to Ballyneety by Patrick Sarsfield are just some of the cameos many remember from their schooldays. But thanks to the foresight of the late Martin Joyce, a national schoolteacher who took a great interest in the history of the area, the Aughrim Battle will always be remembered.

Collecting muskets, old swords and firearms, Martin Joyce established a museum in the village that now attracts visitors from all over the world. "There has been a huge increase in American and European visitors in the last two years, while school tours from the North of Ireland are arriving at least weekly" said Julie Cruise, Manager of the Interpretative Centre. "There is so much here to see, with a full video and maps of the famous stands taken by both armies. We take visitors back in time, over three hundred years, and make them feel as if they were there" she added. Recently a weekend of "Aughrim Remembered"



*At the official opening of the Aughrim Remembered weekend were Joe Kelly, Cllr. Peter Roche, Mayor Carmel Greally and Paddy Naughton.*

was organised by the O'Kelly Clan, local groups in Aughrim and Galway Co. Council which saw the village come alive with reinactors dressed as soldiers, in the period costume of 1691. The Commemorative Park was the base for the soldiers' camps and huge crowds enjoyed a taste of life in the camps, for the soldiers, their wives and families from the Battle of Aughrim 1691.

A book, dealing with the involvement of the "Danish Soldiers in the Williamite Army in Ireland 1689-91" was launched and the author, Kjeld Hald Galster, flew over especially for the launch. There was plenty of traditional music and dance, entertainment for all ages and a big boost to the local economy. The

opening ceremony was addressed by Cllr. Peter Roche, Deputy Mayor of Co. Galway; Cllr. Carmel Greally, Mayor of Ballinasloe Town Council and Retired Capt. Joe Kelly, chairman of the Aughrim Remembered organising committee after being welcomed by Mr. Paddy Naughton of the Local Development Association.

The organisers are now hopeful that the "Aughrim Remembered" weekend can be expanded to attract more visitors to the area, as well as welcoming home more of our "Disapora" back to their roots next July. The committee also welcome any volunteers or information to help ensure that the Battle of Aughrim is Never Forgotten. 🌱



*Julie Cruise presenting Joe Kelly with an O'Kelly Castle photo print by Robert Riddell.*



*Soldiers in the 1691 costumes of the era.*



# Great Success for Relay Return



## Writes Seamus Daly

The marathon 24-hour community *Relay for Life* event in Ballinasloe has raised €65,000 which was presented to a representative of the Irish Cancer Society at the Relay Wrap-Up which took place on Friday 14th September in Gullane's Hotel. More importantly, the event raised much needed awareness of cancer issues in Ballinasloe and its surrounding areas.

Over 25 teams took part in the community initiative to Fight Back against Cancer providing entertainment and information for over 2700 participants. Relay provided the backdrop for performances from a number of local bands including the Gaegan Paegans, Evan Blake and Colin Lyons, The Strawboys and Ginger Biscuits to name but a few. D.J's Daithi Hynes, Eoin Quinn and iRadio's Fergal Darcy were on hand to promote cancer awareness and support the *Relay for Life* initiative.

When a young participant was asked what they thought of the *Relay for Life* initiative their answer was "It's savage, cool! It's an amazing opportunity for helping others and to gain a sense of self accomplishment"

Annette McDevitt, Co-Chair of the event, was overwhelmed with the response to this year's event and said "It was amazing to see everyone taking part in Relay and we are grateful to all those who supported this year's event." The opportunity to remember and celebrate those who have been through the cancer journey was marked by the poignant Candle of Hope Ceremony where over 1650 candle bags, decorated in remembrance of loved ones, were lit and were on display for the duration of the ceremony.

Mrs. McDevitt continued "Our sincere thanks to all those involved, including the survivors, their care givers, all the teams and to the entertainment who

came together to achieve and promote cancer awareness in our community."

*Relay for Life* Ballinasloe 2012 was concluded, with a symbolic release of balloons at the Duggan Park, where 150 balloons were released into the air to signify the lifting of the stigma surrounding cancer.

Relay for Life which is supported by the Irish Cancer Society, strives to develop cancer research and provides a number of local cancer support services, including the Daffodil Centre for cancer patients in Galway University Hospital, night nursing services and the *Care2Drive* scheme for assisting cancer patients travelling to and from hospital. This is in addition to the free National Cancer Helpline 1800 200 700, counselling services and health promotion initiatives run across the country.

Contact us @ [www.RelayforLifeBallinasloe.ie](http://www.RelayforLifeBallinasloe.ie)  
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# Junior A in Garbally College 1953 – A Retrospective View

**Writes Michael McCullagh**

**Following my passing of the Primary Cert (in St. Grellan's B.N.S.) in June 1953. I enjoyed the reasonably good summer that followed and I was dispatched on the 7th September, by my mother, as a boarder to Garbally College and found myself in Junior A as a 'Chaw' (first year students were called that, it's a polite word, trust me).**

Prior to entry to the college, there was a short interview of the student some weeks before by the President in the presence of his parent(s). A required list of clothing, duly marked with one's name was as follows: set of blankets, quilt, two pairs of sheets, pillowslips, bolster covers, laundry bag, two suits, overcoat, shower proof coat, two pairs of boots, pair of house shoes, four day shirts, two pairs of pyjamas, six pairs of socks, six handkerchiefs, six collar and ties (in college colours), paid gloves, four ordinary towels, two bath towels, three serviettes and ring, set of toilet articles, pair of football boots, pair of football knickers, pair of handball shoes, tennis racquet (optional), Hurley. A Garbally College blazer was available with the Crest of the college on the breast pocket

with the words Fide Et Fortitudine, meaning Faith and Fortitude. The fee for the year was £48. (€61) per annum. Laundry was £2 (€2.50). Extras were: Games and Physical culture 15 shillings (€1.00), Entry fees for state exams, Medical and Dental care, Instrumental music Violin and Pianoforte was £5 (€6.50). All fees were paid half yearly in advance September and January. Scholarships were awarded to high Octane students. (I was not in that class.)

A typical day involved 7.15 am Rise and shine, Mass at 8 followed by breakfast. Then we could walk the grounds until class time. Classes were usually 45 minutes. We had a break at 12.30, Tea and bread and butter. Back for afternoon classes which finished at 3.30pm. We had dinner at 4pm. Post was passed out by the priest in charge at this meal. Far away students might have got parcels of fruit cake and it would be shared at the table. Sports/music practice followed depending on the students. I did a lot of piano practice in the afternoon and I had permission to miss certain classes to get music lessons from Ms. Sheridan.

Tea was served at 7.30. Not many students got fat in Garbally! Senior students were allowed to smoke in the "Bogey" and some got hold of the "day before" newspapers. It goes without saying that Chaws never smoked (in

view!). Corporal punishment was part and parcel of daily life in Garbally both in the class room and after classes. The major dissention among the students and particularly the junior students was the caning as a result of not knowing your "lessons." Not all the students were gifted with high intelligence. If one broke the rules and corporal punishment was administered it was accepted. Looking back it was a cruel practice. I can recall having numb fingers on both hands for about an hour after being slapped in the classroom. There were 31 students in that classroom which was part of the former cut stone living quarters on the first floor over the horse stables of Lord Cloncarty's Stable yard, used by his extensive staff who worked his large estate. Each student was assigned an individual desk which one kept for the year and could be locked. The President, Fr. Campbell, came around each day and completed the roll call.

The classroom was of its time, with unvarnished well-worn timber boarded floors, Cast-iron radiators, dull painting on the walls, three windows and a large blackboard. Of course the teacher had a wide desk and chair. A wall to wall wooden partition occupied the back wall and at night time study it was opened to form a very large room where all the boarders studied under

## Garbally View Nursing Home

**Garbally View Nursing Home is a family run business providing convalescent, respite and long term care for the past 19 years in Ballinasloe. The Nursing home is registered with HIQA and provides a variety of services for its Residents.**



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



supervision. All of the teachers were clerics, with the exception of the science teacher, whose science room was on the ground floor. Among my priestly academic teachers was Fr. Keys (Irish and Elocution) Fr. Flynn (English), Fr. Solan (History and Rugby) Fr. Ryle (Geography and Sports) Fr. John Glynn (Latin) Mr. McGahon (Science) Fr. Dan Byrne (Greek and Christian Doctrine) Miss L. Sheridan (Pianoforte and Violin) there was an Army Corporal (Physical Culture) Fr. Christy Glynn (Sport). All the new Chaws were domiciled in the New Dors (Dormitory) over the concert hall. I think it held 54 beds and there were 2 prefects to keep control. Fr. C. Glynn lived on the same floor. In those years the college ran a farm which provided milk, vegetables and potatoes. It was expected that the students would assist in the farm work when asked.

Each Christmas Miss Sheridan produced a Gilbert and Sullivan operetta and this was a valuable educational tool for all the junior students as it involved vocal work, acting, painting the sets, learning about lights and stage craft, the management of a theatre and acting as ushers for the audience. The maintenance man was Mr. Finn, Ard Mhuire. He gave valuable advice to all the students. This involved some of the Chaws dressing and acting as girls (Imagine That!)

Ms. Sheridan Breezy, taught all the voice ranges SATB and had a defined knack of picking (correctly) those who would be principles. The show was over 3 nights. Parents came the first 2 nights, and the final night was customary the townspeople night. The operetta was never a paying proposition. Miss Sheridan assembled an orchestra. As I was a student of Miss Sheridan I got the opportunity to assist in the organisation of the orchestra pit, its layout between wind and string instruments, music stands, lights etc, and most important helping in the ordering of the Band parts what I learned then was of tremendous assistance to me recently in producing an Easter Musical in St. Michael's Church.

Garbally attracted students from East Galway and all the surrounding counties and from Dublin. Rugby was the prime sport of the college. There was a very strong College Union and it fostered connections between all the ex-students which promoted the college and job prospects for all concerned. Achievement on and off the sports field was encouraged, expected and rewarded. As previously mentioned the fee for a boarder was supported by the clerical teachers as they got paid as teachers by the Department of Education whose salary went to the College and the priests were then paid a stipend only with the balance going to support the college finances. Of major



financial assistance to the college was the Madden Endowment which was a trust left by a Fr. Madden to assist in the education of suitable students for the priesthood. Great thanks must be given to those priests for their unselfish commitment. Along with the other boarders, we considered it a privilege being in Garbally. In addition there were many day pupils who walked or cycled every school day to the college. They were a source of bringing goodies to us boarders. One priest when asked "May I go out town for a haircut?" his reply usually was "You can BUT you may not." Expulsion was a regularly used word by the management. Out of bounds was rigorously enforced and student(s) caught outside the boundary was a serious matter usually punished by corporal punishment together with a night in the Library (which was cold) and on the night that there was a film shown once a month in the concert hall. Elocution was instructed by Fr. Keys and

students had to walk across the stage in the concert hall with 4 books on their head and at the same time recite the Lord's Prayer. Students acquired their own Nicknames, which in some cases superseded their real name, even to this day. It was truly amazing how nicknames were created. One great example was a student who lost his biro during study and went around to every desk looking for it. He was therefore called "Biro" for the rest of his time in Garbally. Similarly the Teachers also got nicknames or had them for years from previous times.

The tuck shop was located near the concert hall. Despite the shortage of cash amongst the boarders (some had more than others) sharing the goodies was a regular feature.

Each year there was a Retreat. One must remember that Garbally was an important source of candidates for the priesthood. At these Retreats a missionary priest would speak and have interviews with possible candidates including myself. Silence was a required aspect, and at mealtimes scripture readings were in vogue. Maynooth, Dalgan, Kiltegan, Thurles seminaries were all mentioned at regular intervals throughout the year. Garbally was a Diocesan College primarily educating students that would/could follow on to become priests. Prefects were 5th year students usually high in academic, or excellent performing sportsmen and they sought to impose the writ of the management at all times, yet some were very fair and some were real lemons!

House exams were held at Christmas and Easter. When the first report card arrived at our house during the Christmas VAC (Vacation) there were 3 headings, Conduct, Achievement, and Application. Application puzzled me but my mother soon explained it to me by giving me plenty to do during the VAC and commenting on my "application" to each task.

Each year every student got a free dental examination by Mr. O'Byrne and a doctor, Dr. Brown, attended once a week. Miss Delaney (Apple Annie) was the Bean an Tí, the Matron in other words, administered medicines, tablets and cough bottles to those who needed them including those who didn't (as one got time off class if sick). I can confirm that every student availed of this diversion. It was amazing the ingenuity of the 'Chaws'.

Overall I got on well in Garbally and appreciated the sound and sincere Christian education, the academic uplift I got, all the friends I made and still have. On the 1st June 1954 I left Garbally College for the last time as a CHAW for the summer VAC. When I returned the following September I was an adult. I thought. I was 15. 🐸

# OCTOBER Events Guide

## 1st OCTOBER

Fair Green	Horse of the Fair	All Day
Main/Dunlo/Society St.	Over 100 Market Stalls	All Day
AIB Sound Stage	Colin Lyons and Evan Blake	2pm
AIB Sound Stage	Emma Walsh	2.45pm
AIB Sound Stage	Blaithnaid Fenton	4pm
AIB Sound Stage	The Sumbrellas	4.30pm
The Black Pig	Live Music	6pm
Hayden's Hotel	Set Dancing	8.30pm
Gullane's Hotel	Line Dancing	8pm
Maud Millar's	Music with the Sumbrellas	10pm
Downey's Bar	Trad Session: Davy and Friends	10pm

## 2nd OCTOBER

Shearwater Carpark	Gullane's Tug O'War	7pm
Hayden's Hotel	Bingo	8.30pm
Gullane's Hotel	Monster Tea Dance	9pm
Downey's Bar	Singing Pubs Competition	9pm

## 3rd OCTOBER

Emerald Ballroom	Galway Bay FM Roadcaster	2.30pm
Emerald Ballroom	Fair and Festival Heritage Day	3pm
Gullane's Car Park	Gullane's Tug O'War	7pm
An Táin	Trad Session	10pm
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm

## 4th OCTOBER

Gullane's Car Park	Gullane's Tug O'War	7pm
Gullane's Hotel	Bruno Groening: Circle of Friends	7pm
GAA Club House	GAA Card Game	8pm
Hayden's Hotel	Social Dance Classes	8.30pm
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Gullane's Hotel	Music wth Sharon Turley	10pm
Maud Millar's	Live Acoustic Session	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Kevin Rohan and Friends	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	Singing Pubs: High Reel and Friends	10pm

## 5th OCTOBER

Town Hall Theatre	Country Market	9.30am
Gullane's Car Park	Finals of Gullane's Tug O'War	7pm
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Maud Millar's	The Converse All-Stars	10pm
The Black Pig	Live Music	10pm
Gullane's Hotel	Tug O'War Presentation/Zodiac	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	Buzz the Agent	10pm
Marina	Supermac's Monster Fireworks	10.30pm

## 6th OCTOBER

Fair Green	Traditional Country Fair Day	All Day
Main/Dunlo/Society St.	Over 100 Market Stalls	All Day
AIB Sound Stage	Oilean	1pm
AIB Sound Stage	Bobby and Friends	2pm
AIB Sound Stage	Club Damhsa an Sean Nos	3.30pm
AIB Sound Stage	Still Slopin'	4pm
Gullane's Hotel	Music with Sharon Turley	10pm
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Dunlo Tavern	Gaegan Pagans	10pm
Maud Millar's	Music with the Rivulettes	10pm
The Black Pig	Music with The Crooked Jacks	10pm
Downey's Bar	Live Music	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Nights Owls	10.30pm

## 7th OCTOBER

St. Michael's Square	Craft and Food Market	All Day
Derrymullen Alley	Beginners Handball	10am
Derrymullen Alley	Improvers Handball	11am
Showgrounds	Premier Proteins Open Dog Show	1pm
Showgrounds	Vintage Show	1pm
St. Michael's Square	Children's Bakery Competition	2pm
Showgrounds	Parade of Champion Dogs	5pm
Downey's Bar	One 2 One Followed by Colin Galligan	7pm
The Black Pig	Live Music all evening	6pm
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Carlton Shearwater	Patrick Feeny	9pm
Maud Millar's	Music with the Skillet Poet	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	Trevor Dixon and Guests	10pm
Planet Night Club	DJ till late	Open 12am

## 8th OCTOBER

Hayden's Hotel	Set Dancing	8.30pm
Hayden's Hotel	One 2 One	10.30pm
Downey's Bar	Trad Session: Davy and Friends	10pm
Gullane's Hotel	Line Dancing	8pm

## 9th OCTOBER

Hayden's Hotel	Bingo	8.30pm
Gullane's Hotel	Tea Dance	9pm

## 10th OCTOBER

Gullane's Hotel	Ballinasloe Flower and Garden Club	8pm
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## 11th OCTOBER

Hayden's Hotel	Social Dance Classes	8.30pm
Maud Millar's	Live Acoustic Session	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Kevin Rohan and Friends	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	Singers Circle	10pm

## 12th OCTOBER

Town Hall Theatre	Country Market	9.30am
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Maud Millar's	Keith and Johnny	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	Kieran Whyte	10pm

## 13th OCTOBER

Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Dunlo Tavern	Actin the Maggot	10pm
Maud Millar's	Rivulettes	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Country Comfort	10.30pm

## 14th OCTOBER

Derrymullen Alley	Beginners Handball	10am
Derrymullen Alley	Improvers Handball	11am
Gullane's Hotel	Céili: Fundraiser for CRI	4pm
Downey's Bar	Live Music with Paul Burns	8.30pm
Carlton Shearwater	Smokie Mountain Rambers	9pm
Maud Millar's	Skillet Poet	10pm
Planet Nightclub	DJ Till Late	Open 12am

## 15th OCTOBER

Hayden's Hotel	Bingo	8.30pm
Downey's Bar	Trad Session	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Set Dancing	8.30pm
Gullane's Hotel	Line Dancing	8pm

## 16th OCTOBER

Gullane's Hotel	City & Co. Enterprise Board Roadshow	7pm
Gullane's Hotel	Tea Dance	9pm

## 18th OCTOBER

Gullane's Hotel	Bruno Groening: Circle of Friends	7pm
Hayden's Hotel	Social Dance Classes	8.30pm
Maud Millar's	Live Acoustic Session	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Kevin Rohan and Friends	10.30pm

## 19th OCTOBER

Town Hall Theatre	Country Market	9.30am
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Maud Millar's	Gaegan Pagans	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	The Ramblers	10pm

## 20th OCTOBER

Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Maud Millar's	Chill Out	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	Kensey 3	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Last Man Standing	10.30pm

## 21st OCTOBER

Derrymullen Alley	Beginners Handball	10am
Derrymullen Alley	Improvers Handball	11am
St John's Church	Harvest Songs of Praise	3pm
Downey's Bar	Paschal Brennan Followed by DJ	8.30pm
Carlton Shearwater	Gina Dale Hayes and The Champions	9pm
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Maud Millar's	Hoppy Bar Stars	10pm
Planet Nightclub	DJ Till Late	Open 12am

## 22nd OCTOBER

Hayden's Hotel	Set Dancing	8.30pm
Gullane's Hotel	Line Dancing	8pm
Downey's Bar	Trad Session	10pm

## 23rd OCTOBER

Hayden's Hotel	Bingo	8.30pm
Gullane's Hotel	Tea Dance	9pm

## 24th OCTOBER

Everywhere	All TVs switch to Digital broadcast	10am
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## 25th OCTOBER

Gullane's Hotel	Bruno Groening: Circle of Friends	7pm
Hayden's Hotel	Social Dance Classes	8.30pm
Maud Millar's	Live Acoustic Session	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Kevin Rohan and Friends	10.30pm

## 26th OCTOBER

Town Hall Theatre	Country Market	9.30am
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Dunlo Tavern	One 2 One	10pm
Maud Millar's	Hooch Hikers	10pm

## 27th OCTOBER

Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Maud Millar's	Streetwise	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	Sons of Erin	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Christy and Mike	10.30pm

## 28th OCTOBER

Derrymullen Alley	Beginners Handball	10am
Derrymullen Alley	Improvers Handball	11am
Downey's Bar	Actin the Maggot Followed by DJ	8.30pm
Carlton Shearwater	Mike Denver	9pm
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Gullane's Hotel	Log Cabin Reunion Night	9pm
Dunlo Tavern	Howdy Doody	10pm
Maud Millar's	Rivulettes	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	One 2 One	10.30pm
Planet Nightclub	DJ Till Late	Open 12am

## 29th OCTOBER

Gullane's Hotel	Musical Society Halloween Party	2pm
Hayden's Hotel	Set Dancing	8.30pm
Gullane's Hotel	Line Dancing	8pm
Downey's Bar	Trad Session	10pm

## 30th OCTOBER

Gullane's Hotel	Musical Society Open Night	8pm
Hayden's Hotel	Bingo	8.30pm
Gullane's Hotel	Tea Dance	9pm



# NOVEMBER Events Guide

## 1st NOVEMBER

Hayden's Hotel	Social Dance Classes	8.30pm
Maud Millar's	Live Acoustic Session	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Kevin Rohan and Friends	10.30pm

## 2nd NOVEMBER

Town Hall Theatre	Country Market	9.30am
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Dunlo Tavern	Trad Session with the High Reel	10pm
Maud Millar's	Converse All-Stars	10pm

## 3rd NOVEMBER

Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Maud Millar's	Keith and Johnny	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	Too Tall Paul	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Live Music in the Bar	10.30pm

## 4th NOVEMBER

Derrymullen Alley	Beginners Handball	10am
Derrymullen Alley	Improvers Handball	11am
Gullane's Hotel	Ballinasloe Musical Society Auditions	2pm
Carlton Shearwater	Jimmy Buckley	9pm
Downey's Bar	Live Music	9pm
Maud Millar's	Hoppy Bar Stars	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Bojangle	10.30pm
Planet Nightclub	DJ Till Late	Open 12am

## 5th NOVEMBER

Hayden's Hotel	Set Dancing	8.30pm
Gullane's Hotel	Line Dancing	8pm
Downey's Bar	Trad Session	9pm

## 6th NOVEMBER

Hayden's Hotel	Bingo	8.30pm
Gullane's Hotel	Tea Dance	9pm

## 8th NOVEMBER

Carlton Shearwater	Gathering: Business of Fun Conference	12am
Hayden's Hotel	Social Dance Classes	8.30pm
Dunlo Tavern	Singers Circle	10pm
Maud Millar's	Live Acoustic Session	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Kevin Rohan and Friends	10.30pm

## 9th NOVEMBER

Town Hall Theatre	Country Market	9.30am
Carlton Shearwater	Gathering: Business of Fun Conference	11am
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Maud Millar's	Streetwise	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	Keiran Whye	10pm

## 10th NOVEMBER

Town Hall Theatre	Editorial Deadline for Ballinasloe Life	6pm
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Maud Millar's	Rivulettes	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	Actin the Maggot	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Night Owls	10.30pm

## 11th NOVEMBER

Derrymullen Alley	Beginners Handball	10am
Derrymullen Alley	Improvers Handball	11am
Downey's Bar	Paschal Brennan Followed by DJ	8.30pm
Carlton Shearwater	John Mc Nicoll	9pm
Maud Millar's	Skillet Poet	10pm
Planet Nightclub	DJ Till Late	10.30pm

## 12th NOVEMBER

Hayden's Hotel	Set Dancing	8.30pm
Gullane's Hotel	Line Dancing	8pm
Downey's Bar	Trad Session: All welcome	10pm

## 13th NOVEMBER

Hayden's Hotel	Bingo	8.30pm
Gullane's Hotel	Tea Dance	9pm

## 14th NOVEMBER

Gullane's Hotel	Ballinasloe Flower and Garden Club	8pm
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## 15th NOVEMBER

Gullane's Hotel	Gables Art Group	11am
Gullane's Hotel	Bruno Groening: Circle of Friends	7pm
Hayden's Hotel	Social Dance Classes	8.30pm
Maud Millar's	Live Acoustic Session	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Kevin Rohan and Friends	10.30pm

## 16th NOVEMBER

Town Hall Theatre	Country Market	9.30am
Gullane's Hotel	Gables Art Group	11am
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Maud Millar's	Gaegan Pagans	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	Buzz the Agent	10pm

## 17th NOVEMBER

Gullane's Hotel	Gables Art Group	11am
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Maud Millar's	Chill Out	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	The Gaegan Pagans	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Last Man Standing	10.30pm

## 18th NOVEMBER

Derrymullen Alley	Beginners Handball	10am
Derrymullen Alley	Improvers Handball	11am
Downey's Bar	Colin Galligan	8.30pm
Carlton Shearwater	Nathan Carter	9pm
Maud Millar's	Hoppy Bar Stars	10pm
Planet Nightclub	DJ Till Late	Open 12am

## 19th NOVEMBER

Gullane's Hotel	Line Dancing	8pm
Hayden's Hotel	Set Dancing	8.30pm
Downey's Bar	Trad Session	10pm

## 20th NOVEMBER

Hayden's Hotel	Bingo	8.30pm
Hodson Bay Hotel	MeetWest Initiative	TBC
Gullane's Hotel	Tea Dance	9pm

## 21st NOVEMBER

Hodson Bay Hotel	MeetWest Initiative	TBC
Gullane's Hotel	Irish Blood Transfusion Service	5pm

## 22nd NOVEMBER

Town Hall Theatre	Week in the life of a Grocer's Assistant	8pm
Gullane's Hotel	Irish Blood Transfusion Service	5pm
Hayden's Hotel	Social Dance Classes	8.30pm
Maud Millar's	Live Acoustic Session	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	Kevin Rohan and Friends	10.30pm

## 23rd NOVEMBER

Town Hall Theatre	Country Market	9.30am
Town Hall Theatre	Week in the life of a Grocer's Assistant	8pm
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Maud Millar's	Sumbrellas	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	The Ramblers	10pm

## 24th NOVEMBER

Town Hall Theatre	Week in the life of a Grocer's Assistant	8pm
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Maud Millar's	Rivulettes	10pm
Dunlo Tavern	Sons of Erin	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	One 2 One	10.30pm

## 25th NOVEMBER

Derrymullen Alley	Beginners Handball	10am
Derrymullen Alley	Improvers Handball	11am
Downey's Bar	Live Music	9pm
Carlton Shearwater	Declan Nerney	9pm
Maud Millar's	Skillet Poet	10pm
Hayden's Hotel	One to One	10.30pm
Planet Nightclub	DJ Till Late	Open 12am

## 26th NOVEMBER

Hayden's Hotel	Set Dancing	8.30pm
Gullane's Hotel	Line Dancing	8pm
Downey's Bar	Trad Session	10pm

## 27th NOVEMBER

Hayden's Hotel	Bingo	8.30pm
Gullane's Hotel	Tea Dance	9pm

## 29th NOVEMBER

Gullane's Hotel	Bruno Groening: Circle of Friends	7pm
Hayden's Hotel	Social Dance Classes	8.30pm
Maud Millar's	Live Acoustic Session	10pm

## 30th NOVEMBER

Town Hall Theatre	Country Market	9.30am
Carlton Shearwater	Bar Entertainment	9pm
Dunlo Tavern	One 2 One	10pm
Maud Millar's	Idle Tone	10pm



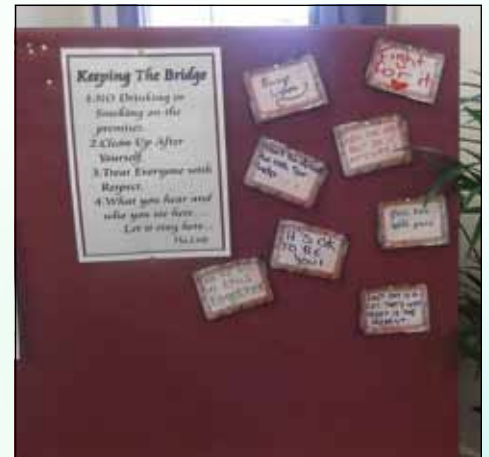
**Photo 1:** The Cork, Galway, New Zealand and South Australia Rose of Tralee contestants on their recent visit to the Carlton Shearwater Hotel.

**Photo 2:** The presentation of a Hurley signed by the Galway Hurling Team to Steven Reilly of Eyrecourt, Ballinasloe, who was the youngest Survivor at the Relay for Life in Ballinasloe.

**Photo 3:** Martin and Shane Glennon, from Ballydangan at the Ballinasloe Autumn Calving Show and Sale in Ballinasloe Mart.

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# Ballinasloe's Simon Community



## Writes Síofra Mannion

**The Simon Community Centre on Bridge Street in Ballinasloe has proven over the last six months that it is a necessity for the town. It puts a roof over the heads of those who are at risk of homelessness and points them in the right direction of how to get back on track.**

On arrival at the centre you'll find a bright open room with a spotless kitchen and a notice board covered in supportive messages from the individuals who use the centre. These messages are to motivate those who arrive at the centre to strive for a better life and not lose hope. There are also a set of rules made and signed by 'the lads' on what will not be tolerated in the centre.

On the 20th of March the doors opened to the Ballinasloe Simon Community Centre on Bridge Street. It started out as just a 12 month pilot scheme but it's quickly achieving its targets. Over the last couple of years there has been an increased need for services such as those the Simon Community provide and Andrew Marmion the Outreach Worker who runs the centre, with the help of Ballinasloe Town Council, called to fulfil those needs.

When the building was allocated to be the Simon Community Centre, the County Council renovated the building; painting

the walls and putting tiles down, thus making it resemble a bright welcoming centre. Andrew has also received help from some local businesses as they have given him discounts and he stresses "I intend to shop locally and build up good will with other businesses in the town."

The Simon Community charity is a non-denominational, non-judgemental organisation that strives to prevent homelessness while providing homes for those who need long term shelter and they also advocate for the rights of people who are at risk of homelessness because they're living in sub standard conditions or moving from sofa to sofa.

The Centre has already begun helping some of the Ballinasloe Town inhabitants; two families with the help of Andrew's advocacy have received social housing and no longer have to worry about 'sofa surfing'.

Andrew states that "There is absolutely no discrimination against any individual who walks through our doors. All are welcome." He is also grateful to the Community Mental Health team and many social workers based at Portiuncula Hospital as they have been a great support to the centre.

At the moment, there are thirty people on the Ballinasloe Simon Community book. On arrival at the centre Andrew has to fill out an assessment form and get the individuals details so that he can contact them if they stop showing up to the centre. All this information has to be

sent on with a monthly report so that the Centre can pass the pilot scheme.

Andrew says if any person in Ballinasloe town comes across a person that is at risk of homelessness they should be pointed in the direction of the centre or you could contact him and let him know. Opening hours at the centre are 10.30am-2.30pm Monday to Thursday. Andrew also expressed interest in joining with the Resident's Associations in Ballinasloe.

Andrew is keen to keep close ties with the individuals who have moved on and no longer need the centre. So for example he will be regularly checking up on the two families who were put into social housing so that he can keep lending them support if they need it.

The new Simon Community Centre in Ballinasloe has become a life line for those who need it, it has helped them improve their appearance, interact better with health services and look out for one another. Andrew believes "it has given them a sense of Community and helped them rediscover their sense of hope for the future." Andrew would like to thank Ballinasloe Town Council, the Joint Policing Committee, Probation Services, FÁS, local businesses in Ballinasloe and other statutory and voluntary bodies.

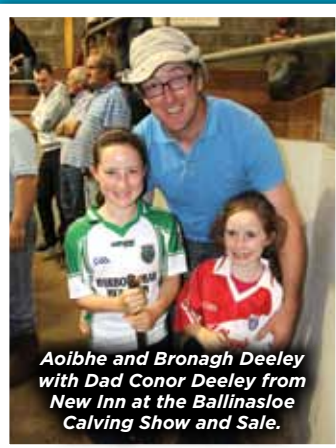
The Simon Community are always looking for new volunteers to help out, so if you're interested fill out an application form on [www.simon.ie](http://www.simon.ie) or give them a call on 091 381828.



# Out and About in Ballinasloe



*Rose of Tralee contestants pictured outside the Carlton Shearwater with Manager Martin Daly as they set off on their tour of Ireland in the lead up to the Rose of Tralee Festival in Kerry.*



*Aoi bhe and Bronagh Deeley with Dad Conor Deeley from New Inn at the Ballinasloe Calving Show and Sale.*



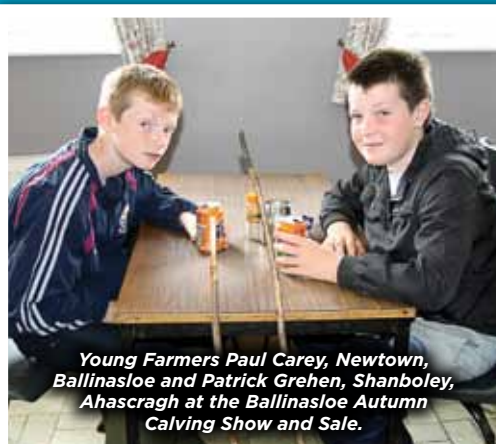
*Relay for Life cycle.*



*Maura and Paul Lloyd with friends at their home in St. Brendan's Terrace during the lead up to the All-Ireland Hurling Final.*



*Presentation by South Roscommon Vintage club of a €1,000 cheque to Betty Kelly on behalf of Ballinasloe Portiuncula Hospitals Children's Unit.*



*Young Farmers Paul Carey, Newtown, Ballinasloe and Patrick Grehen, Shanboley, Ahascragh at the Ballinasloe Autumn Calving Show and Sale.*



*Tony McEvilly (Athlone) is presented with the Michael Lyons Memorial Cup for the best tractor at the Memorial Road Run by Ann Lyons*



*John Hurley's Ballinasloe Golf Team 2012*



# Passing of Thomas Corbett

**Writes Ken Kelly**

Thomas, a talented musician, a brilliant entertainer, a professional tradesman and a lovable granddad passed to his eternal reward recently. Born in Ballinasloe on 26th September 1916, Thomas Corbett had lived with his wife, Tess, in Shannonbridge since 1953.

Born into a very musical family, Tommy, as he was affectionately known, was the eldest of five children born to Patrick and Bridget Corbett. His father was a Coach Builder/Carpenter, whose hobbies were singing and playing the piccolo. Tommy inherited the talents and took part in many musicals, as well as playing the drums with the famous *Aughrim Slopes Céili Band*, Dorothy Dunne's Band and May West. Up to the time of his passing, Tommy was always willing to do "his party piece" at family functions.

He was joined on some of these groups by his late brother, Pat, another talented singer and musician, who toured the USA and Britain with the *Aughrim Slopes*. They were both reared in Main St. with their sisters Mamie, Lucy and Kathleen, where their mother operated a poultry shop. Following his education



*Thomas Corbett and his wife Tess surrounded by their 16 grandchildren.*

in the Ballinasloe Boys' School, which was then located beside the Town Hall; Tommy got his first job with Jack Elder, as an apprentice painter at the age of fourteen. He worked for three years without any pay and then was paid ten shillings a week. Tommy later took over the business and was one of Ballinasloe's most sought after painters and decorators until he retired at 75 years of age, diligently working six days a week. An excellent swimmer, Tommy loved fishing and shooting as well as handball and was known to be "able to throw a punch." Possessed with a

wonderful sense of humour, he loved to reminisce and often recalled the cattle and horse fairs on the streets of Ballinasloe. On one occasion, while he was engaged in painting the Jewellers shop of Fallers in Society St., a bull came in. A priest from Shannonbridge, who happened to be passing by, successfully put out the animal without causing any damage. The late Tommy Corbett is survived by his wife Tess, children Mary, Pat, Lucy, Noel, Tom and Gerard; sixteen grandchildren; sisters Mamie and Kathleen, sons-in-law, daughters-in-law and many other relatives and friends. 🍀

## A New World Record is Made

The Ballinasloe and District Vintage Club recently set up a new world record for the biggest number of Fingerbar Mowers operating in one field at the same time.

The event, which saw 84 horse drawn and tractor powered varieties in action, was staged adjacent to Millar's Bar in Ballydangan. Well Done to all involved!





# Olympic Medals Reside Locally

**Writes Síofra Mannion**

John Flanagan was an athletic hero and one of the few great hammer throwers of the 20th Century. He won three gold medals in three successive Olympics 1900, 1904 and 1908. Ballinasloe resident Angela Lyons inherited the 1908 Olympic medal from her father Michael O'Dea, who was John Flanagan's nephew.

Flanagan was the first man to win three Olympic gold medals in the same event in successive games, which was a huge achievement at the time. Limerick man Flanagan didn't represent Ireland in the Olympic Games. After moving to America in 1894, he then trained and competed with the States, winning his first gold in 1900 in Paris. The 1908 Games was where John won the last of his Olympic medals and the toughest. His only obstacle was his rival Matt McGrath who had won the American Hammer title the year previous. On the day of the qualifiers McGrath was suffering from ligament damage and was unable to improve on his first throw so Flanagan went on to throw at 170ft ¼ inches which was a new Olympic record at the time.

On returning to Limerick he brought with him only the most precious of his trophies and medals, on his death Angela's father Michael inherited the collection. He put some of the pieces into a bank account for safe keeping and kept the Olympic medals with him. The three medals were loaned to various individuals and unfortunately the 1908 medal was the only one retrieved. Angela also keeps an article from the Sunday Independent published in October 1979 detailing her Grand Uncle's envious career and detailing her family's plea to have the missing medals returned, which sadly never were. 🍀



Above: The two Olympic medals. Below: An article from the Sunday Independent paper (dated October 7th, 1979) about John Flanagan and his Olympic medals.



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# Local Lad Wins Newbridge Escort of the Year at Rose of Tralee

**Writes Síofra Mannion**

**Ballinasloe native Ian Cullinane, son of Mick and Marie Rose of River Street, was awarded Newbridge Silverware Escort of the Year at this year's Rose of Tralee festival.**

When asked about the week down in Tralee, Ian said "It's difficult to describe the week in a few words, there are so many highlights. You're constantly on the go, with so many functions and dinners to go to. It's an action packed week but great fun too. The parade in front of 20,000 people was special; I even spotted a few Ballinasloe people in the crowd which was great."

When questioned about why the Festival was so special and whether he would advise other guys from Ballinasloe to do the same he said "I would hugely recommend any young man to go ahead and apply to be an escort, you will not regret it. It's an amazing week, full of laughs and great fun. Meeting so many new people living all around the world was a fantastic experience and I know I have made some great friends from the festival. Since the festival has ended, there hasn't been a weekend where we haven't met up."

The Dublin based ESB Trainee Accountant was in contention with thirty one other men from all over Ireland but it wasn't a competition to them. He felt "The escorts got on so well together, we were like 32 brothers by the end of the week."

He had no idea he was going to win, he was only focusing on one thing for the week and that was the Rose he was assigned to escort for the week. "My rose was Dervla Kenny, the Mayo Rose. She was absolutely fantastic and we got on like a house on fire. She did an incredible job and her county can be very proud of her."

When asked about winning, Ian answered "As you could probably tell from TV it was a complete shock. I'm still unsure as to how I won. I just concentrated on being as helpful to my Rose as possible and of course having the craic with the lads. I had such an amazing week, to be voted as Escort of the Year by the Roses and Escorts was just the perfect end to the perfect week." As well as winning a return trip back to the Festival as an Escort next year he received a special Canteen of Cutlery, with his family crest of arms, over €3,000 worth of Newbridge accessories and a cheque for €5,000 .

Present in the Dome on Selection night was Ian's Mother Rose Cullinane who got a huge surprise shock when young Ian's name was called! "I think her phone was busier than mine for a few hours after the transmission it was a magical evening and topped off wonderfully her first visit to the Festival."

Ian believes his link with his home town helped in every aspect of the Rose of Tralee Festival "Part of being an escort is being the consummate gentleman at all times and I feel my



*Pictured at the Rose of Tralee Festival on the night of Ian winning Escort of the Year were (L-R): Marie Rose Cullinane, Ian Cullinane, Dervla Kenny (Mayo Rose), Barra O'Croftaigh (Escort Liason Team) and Kathleen Croffy.*

teachers in both Creagh national school and Garbally college deserve credit in helping me become the person I am today. Similarly, playing underage rugby with Ballinasloe RFC under the tutelage of some great coaches taught me from a young age to have respect for others, which stood to me in Tralee."

Lastly, he is grateful to all those who helped get to Tralee and gave him words of support and congratulations during and after. He said "A Massive thank you to Michael Ward who really helped me out by sponsoring me a tuxedo and all of my dress shirts. Also to the ESB who sponsored me to be in Tralee. Furthermore, thank you to the people of Ballinasloe for the kind words that I have received. I hope I can represent the town with distinction. Last but not least, I'd like to thank my family for all their words of encouragement and advice, it was greatly appreciated."



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# Rosway Walkers: Local Gems!



## Writes Regina Power

The Rosway Walking Club, based in Ballinasloe, was founded in 2005. As Ballinasloe is located on the Roscommon/Galway border, the club has members from both sides of the county border - hence the name Rosway.

The club has a walk or climb every weekend to suit all ability levels. They vary from short, flat local walks to climbs such as Carrantouhill, the highest mountain in Ireland. The Club have had a very busy 2012. Walks this year included a Cuckoo Walk, a Canal walk, a Moonlight walk, weekends away in Inisboffin, Achill, Brandon and further afield to Ben Nevis in Scotland. Our annual Christmas night out was another hit this year with fun and games and orienteering walks. The club has an annual charity walk.

This year the club raised over €4,000 for Ballinasloe Social Services by holding a Coffee Morning, a Draw and a local walk. The winners of the Draw were as follows:

1st Colm Higgins: €200 (Sponsored by ESB)

2nd Tomás Watters: 20 bales of briquettes (Bórd na Móna)

3rd Marie Monaghan: Meal for 2 (Carlton Shearwater)

4th Rosaleen Fallon: €50 (Brian Fahy)

5th Laura Keane: Litre bottle of Whiskey

Thanks to everyone for their support. Rosway Walkers club has over 160 members. Registration for new membership or renewal of membership will take place in the Pearses Clubhouse on Wednesday 10th, Monday 15th and Wednesday 17th of October from 8pm - 9pm. Membership is €50 per year, which includes insurance, membership of the MCI and weekly text message updates. We look forward to seeing all the old crew and lots of new faces. All are more than welcome. 

To get an idea of what we get up to in the Rosway Walkers Club visit or blog at: [www.roswaywalkingclub.blog.com](http://www.roswaywalkingclub.blog.com) or you can contact us directly by email at: [roswaywalkingclub@gmail.com](mailto:roswaywalkingclub@gmail.com)

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# Countdown to Europe's Oldest Horse Fair and Festival



Winner of the Horse of the Fair Competition 2011 Sponsored by Ballinasloe Credit Union: Adrian Ahern (Chairman BCU), Jim Kent (BCU), Andrew Gardiner, (Handler) and Neil Henry (Owner).

## Writes Kevin Murray

**That time of year is upon us again, when the world and their horses descend on Ballinasloe. This year, the Fair and Festival starts on September 29th.**

Crowds in excess of 80,000 are expected to visit Ballinasloe over the nine-day event. The costs associated with running the events are in the region of €160,000 and are worth in the region of €8 million to the local economy. The Carlton Shearwater will once again be the main sponsor for this year's Fair. Associate sponsors include Ballinasloe Credit Union, Gullanes Hotel, Supermacs, Allied Irish Bank and Premier Proteins.

On the equestrian side of events, Horse, Foal and Pony sales will take place on the Fair Green over three days, Sunday the 30th of September, Monday the 1st October and Saturday the 6th of October. On Sunday the 30th, the Credit Union *Horse of the Fair* will take place in the lunging arena on the Fair Green. On Monday the 1st Jim Dervan Pony of the Fair and Hayden's Hotel *Cob of the Fair* will take place in the lunging arena. On Saturday the 6th of October, the annual Foal competitions will take place in the Showgrounds, starting at 10am.

There are many popular events, organised by the Fair and Festival committee, during the seven-day festival including free street entertainment. A Local Artist David Maguire, will get proceedings underway at 1pm on Sunday the 30th. International show jumper and 2012 Aga Khan trophy winner, Clement McMahon, will officially open the Fair at 2pm.

The All-Ireland Hurling final replay will be shown live on big screens in the town centre. The atmosphere promises to be

electric. Music will continue until 6pm. Monday will see a host of local talent take to the sound stage with the 2012 CU (Credit Union) factor winners performing from 1.30–3.30pm. The All-Ireland Tarmac Tug-O'-War Competition will take place nightly from Tuesday 2nd to Friday 5th October. On Wednesday the 3rd October, a Heritage Day will take place in the Emerald Ballroom. Admission to this new event is free, and it will be an informative and fun afternoon, with re-enactments, talks from local historians and fair memorabilia. Please contact Ciara on 087 6555631 if you have any memorabilia you would like to include in the display.

A Monster Fireworks display at the Marina on Friday 5th, follows the conclusion of the Tug-O'-War finals, this will light up the night sky. Bakery Competitions, Art Competitions, Dog Show, Street Entertainment and the International Craft and Food Market in St. Michael's Square will conclude the programme of events on the weekend of Friday 5th- Sunday 7th of October. As preparations continue for the Festival the committee are calling on local citizens to assist in the running of the nine-day event. If you have an hour or two to spare during the festival perhaps you would consider helping out, a helping hand is always needed. Call to the Festival Office, which is located beside Hayden's Hotel, if you like to get involved.

If you are interested in providing B&B accommodation and would like to be included on the official accommodation listings please contact the Fair and Festival Secretary: Mary Phelan on 087 2071869. 🐾

For more details on the 2012 Programme of Events please log on to [www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com](http://www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com) or contact Mary Flynn in the Fair Headquarters on (090) 9644793.





**2nd Prize Winner of the Fair Competition sponsored by Ballinasloe Credit Union: Queen of the Fair Catriona Farrell, Michael Kearney (CEO Carlton Hotels) Jim Kent (BCU), Niall Quinn (Official Guest of the Fair), Desmond O'Brien and Family from Ennis, Co. Clare Adrian Ahern (Chairman BCU).**



**Andrew Gardiner with John Creaven (Hayden's Hotel)**



**Timmy Broderick, Mal Croffy, Ciara Croffy and Caroline Crosby from the Fair and Festival committee with Jason Higgins**

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# 173rd Ballinasloe Annual Show

## 29th Sept: Bigger and Better, Incorporating Connacht Showjumping Championships



*Back Row (L-R): Mickey Coffey (Ballinasloe Show), Seamus Duffy (AIB, Sponsor), Conor Flaherty (Garbally Oil, Sponsor), John Creaven (Haydens Hotel, Sponsor), Sean Hogan (Sean Hogan Trailers, Sponsor), John Burke (Ballinasloe Show), Tommie Dolan (Ballinasloe Show), Sean Brooks (Ballinasloe Show). Middle: Ivan Mullin (Ballinasloe and District Vintage Club), Anthony Grenham (Ballinasloe and District Vintage Club), Padraic Geraghty (Ballinasloe Show), John Harney (Ballinasloe Show), Michael Kelly (Fred Kilmartin Ltd, Sponsor), Jim Colohan (Ballinasloe), Peter O'Connor (Ballinasloe Show). Front: Joe Kelly (Ballinasloe Show), Kathleen Ward (Ballinasloe Show), Fiona Donoghue (Parkmore Stables, Sponsor), Teresa Kilmartin (Fred Kilmartin Ltd, Sponsor), Joe Brooks (President, Ballinasloe Show), Valerie Thorington (Ballinasloe Show).*

### Writes Cathal Gibbons

**The Ballinasloe Show Society's Annual Show is returning this year (for the 173rd time) with a bigger and better programme.**

It is being held over two weekends from Saturday, 29th September and promises a packed programme of events which will hold popular appeal to all. The opening day, will see qualifiers from numerous shows throughout the country congregate in Ballinasloe Show Grounds for 3 All-Ireland Classes.

The first of these will be the Gain All-Ireland Foal Competition followed by the Irish Draught Filly Foal kindly sponsored by Parkmore Stables and finally the Garbally Oil Irish Draught Colt Foal.

The Show Society is proud to host these prestigious competitions but is equally as proud to host a large number of other classes on this, their Annual Show Day. Other classes include Working Hunter Classes, sponsored by local retailer Cathal Concannon, The Champion Ridden Pony competing for the Fred Kilmartin Memorial Cup,

Cattle and Sheep Classes, particularly the All-Ireland Championship Saler Bull Calf; and the All-Ireland Championship Saler Heifer Class. Both the Saler Classes are sponsored by the Saler Society of Ireland. Cattle Classes will culminate in the AIB sponsored Champion Beast of the Show, while the Sheep Classes will finish with the Brendan Walshe Cup for Champion Sheep of Show.

Fowl and Bantam classes together with Pet classes will be judged at 11am, with a number of classes including Rhode Island Reds, Various Egg Classes and Most Unusual Pet.

"We are looking forward to continuing to build on the success of our past shows and with all the renovations that have been done on Ballinasloe Showgrounds in the last two years we feel that we have never been better equipped to deal with what we hope will be our most successful show ever" says Ballinasloe Show Chairman, Fr. Christy McCormack.

There will be a marquee on site with an Artisan Food Exhibition going on all day. "Bar facilities will be available and catering will be provided, as usual, by Rumbles one of our major sponsors",

continued Fr. Christy. Sunday 30th September the Showgrounds will provide Car Parking from early in the morning. Galway and indeed Kilkenny, Dublin and Tipperary supporters will not be forgotten, Live coverage of both the Minor All-Ireland and Senior All-Ireland Hurling Replays will be aired. New to this year's programme are the Connacht Show Jumping Championships for the first time. These Championships will be held over the weekend of Friday 5th October to Sunday 7th. Fr Christy says "We are delighted to welcome these competitions including competitions for 4, 5 and 6 year olds. All jumping will take place on the Sand Arena and we are delighted to have the services of the renowned course builder Paul Duffy."

This event will kick-off on Friday 5th October with 5 Jumping Classes, including a Speed Class and a 1.30 metre Derby with prize money of €1,000.

Saturday 6th October Ballinasloe Show Society will host a further three All-Ireland Competitions, again qualifying from shows around the country. These classes including the All-Ireland Donkey Mare and Foal Championship Final,



sponsored by Gerry Strong and John Harney, The Connemara Pony Gelding All-Ireland Championship Final sponsored by An Garran Syndicate and Fr. Christy McCormack. Continuation of Show Jumping Qualifiers and finally the Connemara Two and Three Year Old Filly and Mare of the Future All-Ireland Championship Final, this event is sponsored by Ballinasloe Registered Connemara Pony Owners Syndicate. Show Jumping qualifiers will continue throughout the day in the Sand Arena, with some highlights later in the evening including the exciting 2 Fence Challenge, sponsored by Barretts Hardware, followed by the nail-biting Puissance Wall Competition, sponsored by Gullanes Hotel. The day's super events will conclude with a World Record Attempt – Susan Short will attempt to break her own Side Saddle World High Jump Record Attempt.

The day will finish off in a festive spirit with music by the lively “ONE to ONE” and a Hog Roast bar-b-que. Sunday the 7th of October, the final day of Ballinasloe Show's activities for this year will showcase the best of Connacht Show Jumping Five exciting jumping classes during the day will include the Finals of the 4, 5 and 6 year olds, The Speed Champion Competition and the Connacht Grand Prix which will be the Grand Finale with prize money of €1,500 kindly sponsored by Ballinasloe Town Council. There will also be a Vintage Show in the Showgrounds with a fine display of Vintage Working Machinery, Tractors and Cars all proudly shown by Ballinasloe Vintage Club and sponsored by McKeon's Sand and Gravel. All activities for the two days will take place on in the showgrounds unless otherwise stated.

“The last word must go to our generous sponsors,” says Fr. Christy. “Ballinasloe Show could not survive without the continued support of all our sponsors, those who have been mentioned above as well as all other sponsors of show classes and show jumping classes. We are delighted to work in conjunction with them and recognise the difficulties that businesses face in the present economic climate and I would like, on behalf of Ballinasloe Show Society, to thank all of our Sponsors, large and small for their loyalty.”

**Closing Date for Entries is Friday 21st September 2012. All enquiries to Show Secretary, John Harney, Main Street, Ballinasloe.**

**Tel/Fax: 090 9645040  
Mobile: 087 2105032 or Email  
computerandoffice@eircom.net**



*Cathal Gibbons (Ballinasloe Show), Michael Kelly and Teresa Kilmartin (Fred Kilmartin Ltd, Sponsor), Joe Brooks (President Ballinasloe Show) and Peter O'Connor (Ballinasloe Show).*



*Brothers John and Noel Harney who between them have been involved in the show for over 80 years.*



*Father and Son, Sean and Joe Brooks, who between them have been involved in the show for 130 years.*



# Pirates: 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Show



## Writes Catherine McCormack

The Ballinasloe Musical Society have announced it will be staging *The Pirates of Penzance* as their 90th anniversary Production this spring. The Society is also delighted to welcome back as their production team, Paul Norton Producer/Director, Shane Farrell Musical Director and Sarah Griffen Choreographer. The Gilbert and Sullivan libretto of a young pirate apprentice named Frederic whose time is up. As it turns out, Frederic was indentured by mistake; he heads ashore where he stumbles upon a bevy of beautiful maidens. He immediately falls in love with the most beautiful of the bunch, Mabel, who graciously offers to reclaim the "Poor Wandering One." But Frederic's pirate comrades soon arrive by his side and recognize the situation as a "first rate opportunity of getting married with impunity." But the girls' father, Major-General Stanley, arrives just in the nick of time and let's just say things get a bit complicated. This production will mark the celebration of the Society's 90th Anniversary. The newly elected committee: Maureen Donoghue (President), Frances Leahy (Chairperson), Celine Black-Loughnane (Vice-Chairperson), Greg Blackwell (Secretary), Lucy Dolan



(Assistant Secretary), Ellen Egan (Treasurer), Gerry Sweeney (Assistant Treasurer), Magda Garcarek (Public Relations Officer), Catherine Madden, Karen Campbell, Pat McGovern, Pat Byrne, Catherine McCormack and Eamon Ward, resumed their duties recently following the summer break and are planning many events leading up to the 90th Celebrations. For anyone interested in joining in the fun, there will be an open night on Tuesday 30th October 2012 in Gullanes Hotel at 8pm. So come along and bring a friend/s. Auditions are planned for Sunday the 4th November 2012 in Gullanes Hotel and will start at 2pm. The musical director will be available the day before to run through some pieces. The Society is always looking for new members and look forward to seeing everyone on the 30th. It's a fun way to pass away the winter evenings. Following the success of last years Hallowe'en Party the Society has decided to run the event again on Bank Holiday Monday 29th October 2012 in Gullane's Hotel from 2pm to 5pm. ↗

For further information contact any of the committee members, check out our revamped website [www.bms.ie](http://www.bms.ie) or check us out on face book. Contact Frances on 087 2220282.

# All Aboard to Treasure Island



The Fairy and Former Mayor Mike Kelly as the King in last year's Panto.

## Writes Síofra Mannion

Ballinasloe Panto Group is embarking on a full scale Christmas production of *Treasure Island*. The cast is currently moving at full steam with rehearsals for their ambitious 4th consecutive show taking place in the Carlton Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe, who are kindly on board as rehearsal sponsors. The show will be staged in the Town Hall Theatre, Ballinasloe, from Monday to Sunday, 10th-16th December 2012.

Following a successful annual general meeting held in September, a new committee was elected to drive the society forward into the next stage of developing local, live entertainment at Christmas. Pat Vaughan leads the team as chairman with Charlene Bloie, Aoife Vaughan, Declan Finn, Celine Loughnane and Karen Campbell taking up the various officer positions. Bronagh Vaughan, Mike Kelly, Sarah Corcoran,

Miriam Hurley and Fiona Curley were elected to the committee. Ballinasloe Panto Group was set up in 2009 to fill a void of local, live, quality, full scale Christmas theatre productions to rival expensive professional productions available in the major cities across the country. If audience figures and reactions to the productions are anything to go by, the team involved has certainly achieved their objective.

According to the Panto's founding member and current director, Eoin Croffy, the success of the Panto has stretched beyond anything he could have hoped for, "I cannot believe we are here four years later, with the scale of each production rising with the audience figures year on year. We set out to get as many people involved in live theatre as possible and with over 150 children and a core cast of 12 principal characters involved in this year's *Treasure Island*, our team must be doing something right."

The group are still looking to inject fresh blood and new ideas and welcome anyone who has previously been involved with Ballinasloe Panto in any capacity to contact the production team. They are also looking for anyone who has never been involved to try their hand at something new.

They are looking for backstage crew, a make-up and costume team, set builders and anyone else who feels they have something to contribute or want to learn something new about how a show is put together. ↗

You can contact any of the committee members or follow the links on [www.ballinasloepanto.com](http://www.ballinasloepanto.com) or check the Facebook page 'Ballinasloe Panto' for regular updates.



# The Story of Three Georges

**Writes Barry Lally**

**A TV documentary partly shot in Ballinasloe last June focuses on the life of a local man few of the present generation will have even heard of.**

His name was George Brendan Nolan (right) who, as George Brent, went on to star in some 90 feature films in the Hollywood of the '30s and '40s, playing opposite such queens of the silver screen as Greta Garbo, Merle Oberon, Ginger Rogers, Myrna Loy, Barbara Stanwyck, Olivia de Havilland, Mary Astor and Bette Davis. Made by Dearg Films for TG4 and scheduled for screening next November, the documentary forms part of a series on Irishmen from a Republican background who subsequently carved out careers for themselves in Hollywood.


While Nolan's life offers a perfect example of the myth-making powers of Tinseltown's spindoctors, the programme's producer Brian Reddin has managed to disentangle the facts from fiction. The following has been incontrovertibly established: Nolan was born on 15th March 1904 in Main Street at his father John's public house in the premises now occupied by Stronge's Photography. His mother Mary (née McGuinness) hailed from Clonfad. When the family broke up, his mother took most of the children with her to New York, leaving George and two of his sisters behind. The 1911 Census of



Population records him as living with his elder sister Lucy in the home of his maternal uncle Richard in Clonfad. In 1915 his mother sent for him and his sister Kathleen to come and live with her in New York, which they did. He eventually became involved in theatre in that city where he was spotted by Hollywood talent scouts in the late 1920s. Married five times, he had two children, Barry and Susanne, by his last wife, and died on 26th May 1979 in Solana Beach, California. So much for the facts. Initially assigned tough-guy roles in his early films, Nolan soon changed his surname to Brent, and here the studios' public relations people seemingly decided that his CV needed some fleshing-out to fit his screen image. What better than a national record as an active I.R.A.

man in the War of Independence? To greatly assist matters it was conveniently discovered that a certain George Nolan from Kimmage in Dublin had been part of the Marrowbone Lane garrison as a member of "A" Company of the 4th Battalion, Dublin Brigade of the Irish Volunteers, during the 1916 Easter Rising. This George Nolan later joined an Active Service (full-time) Unit of the I.R.A. in 1920, and was involved in many engagements with British forces up to the Truce of July 1921.

That a young lad of 15 or 16 would cross the Atlantic to participate in a guerrilla campaign in Ireland might be a tad difficult for even the most ardent movie fan to swallow. However, another fortuitous discovery was made which took care of that little problem. A George Nolan (of whom nothing else is apparently known) was born near Shannonbridge in 1899, and by conflating the three Georges the PR boys contrived to concoct a plausible tale.

Nevertheless, Brian Reddin believes that it may just have been possible that Nolan did play a peripheral part in the War of Independence as a courier for the I.R.A. There were thousands of such couriers and the vast majority of their names were unrecorded. Whatever the truth of the matter, it cannot detract from George Brent's achievement over two decades as an actor at the top of his profession in a very competitive environment. Ballinasloe can take legitimate pride in the story of his success. 

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# Supporting the Galway Hurlers



Ballinasloe general merchant Joe Murray with his son Kevin. On September 9th, Joe attended his 100th All-Ireland final. To celebrate the event, his son Kevin decorated his car to help bring a bit of colour to the streets of Ballinasloe.



Canal House prepare for Galway's All-Ireland Final date with the cats.



Poolboy Cottages decked out in maroon and white.

## Cotton Part of Ted Webb Win



### Writes Síofra Mannion

Ballinasloe native Noel Cotton was a member of the Galway U16 team that played their way to success in the Ted Web Cup. The Galway County team retained the cup defeating the Galway City/West team 2-11 to 1-13. Noel plays left corner-back on the team. He has been part of this panel of players since U14. He started off playing U8 football for Ballinasloe under the watchful eye of Aidan Dooley and was part of a very successful team. He would like to thank the club for giving him the chance to represent them.



# Town Rugby Heroes Pass Away

Writes Liam Courtney

Ballinasloe Rugby Club has bade farewell to two former greats and renowned captains during the Summer when Sean Dillon from Ahascragh and Shay Darcy from Ballinasloe town went to their eternal rewards. Both men were synonymous with the exploits of the club in those halcyon days of the 1940's and '50's. Their fearlessness and leadership in the local colours brought notable trophy success.

Sean Dillon, a doughty scrum half, was a member of the Ballinasloe's Connacht Senior Cup winning sides of 1948 and 1950. It was under his astute captaincy that they captured the trophy at the Galway Sportsground on Sunday 26th of March 1950, overcoming Galwegians by 8pts to 3. Sean's innate skills were also recognised beyond the confines of Ballinasloe, gaining five Connacht caps between 1946 and 1949.

Shay Darcy was a forceful figure at the club in the 1950's. It was his captaincy acumen that helped capture the Connacht Junior Cup in 1958. On a balmy Sunday afternoon on the 20th of April at the Sportsground, Shay lead his troops from the second row position to a well deserved 8pts to 3 victory over Rovers from Galway. He was also one of the earlier mentors to a fledgling Ray McLoughlin who played in the forwards that afternoon and was cutting his teeth in the adult game. Ray, of course, went on to attain legendary status in the world of rugby.

Now they are gone and we are reminded of how much they contributed to Ballinasloe rugby in the real amateur days. They were both prominent players and figureheads in what has often been dubbed the golden era of the club, not only sporting icons but also gentlemen in the game's marvellous goodness and fireside warmth. Two great rugby men have departed and with them goes more than a bit of what might be called old world rugby decency.

Ar dheis De go raibh a nanamacha dilis. 🍀



*Ballinasloe RFC, Junior Cup Winners 1957/58 - Back (L-R): M. Holland (Referee), D. Murray, L. Keller, J. Black, **Shay Darcy (Captain)**, S. O'Dwyer, J. Fahy, T. Killeen. Middle (L-R): B. Cullen, P. Cusack, P. Ward, R.J. McLoughlin, B. Kenny, F. O'Meara. Front (L-R): S. Kenny, F. Colgan. In or about 1959 Ballinasloe failed to field a Senior team. The Club continued to play Junior rugby, but the Junior Cup eluded them for many years. The Golden age of Ballinasloe rugby was over.*



*Ballinasloe RFC, Senior Cup Winners 1949/50 - Back (L-R): J. Ward (Referee), M. O'Farrell, B. Guerin, P. Kilcommons, S. Sweeney, M. Crosby, J. O'Meara, M. O'Meara, S. Lyons. Front (L-R): P. Connolly, F. McDonald, W. O'Carroll, **Sean Dillon (Captain)**, E. O'Neill, T. Lally, A. Donnelly.*



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# Karate and Kobudo: Alive and Kicking!

**Writes Síoфра Mannion**

Ballinasloe Town has been the home to a large gathering of Karate enthusiasts for its 36 year existence and its members continue to add to the huge list of the clubs achievements. Originally located in the Social Centre Gym, the club currently resides in the Recreation Hall, St. Brigid's Hospital. Club times are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 7-9pm.

2012 started with a number of students receiving their official black belts and certificates from Japan. They passed their black belt exam (grading) in December 2011 and their names and grade were registered in the Itosu-kai headquarters in Yokohama, Japan, with Soke Sadaaki Sakagami. Of note was Donal Monahan receiving his 5th Dan. This results from many years of hard work, dedication and loyalty to Itosu-kai Karatedo. He joins the ranks of five other 5th Dans in the IKKI association which boasts the highest number of high grade officials in Itosu-kai Europe.

There are three colour belt gradings each year and many students were successful in attaining their next grade. Gradings follow a national syllabus and set goals for students to achieve. Individual ability plays an important role here and our mission is multi-purpose including teaching respect, ensuring students have a positive learning experience in class

and to bring students to realise their full potential.

The IKKI also teaches Kobudo, the ancient art of Japanese-Okinawan weaponry and has done so for over 30 years. Kobudo is very different from karate and while requiring a lot of patience and perseverance, it is hugely rewarding when mastered. Recently the IKKI attended an Itosu-kai black belt seminar in Copenhagen, hosted by the Danish Itosu-kai. Instructors from the various countries presented with the Irish association presenting a workshop on Kobudo through Leo Mulvany, Tony Dolphin and Kevin Casey.

IKKI squad students compete at National, International and World Championship level and have been very successful over the past few years. Besides competing in Ireland and Europe, they have competed in the last 3 Itosu-kai World Championships, Tokyo 2002, Los Angeles 2005 and Kuala Lumpur 2005 and will compete with over 24 competitors in Osaka, Japan in 2013.

Many of the squad students, from junior to senior are part of the Irish National All Styles Squad. This is under the umbrella of the National Governing Body for karate in Ireland. At International level, the IKKI students have been extremely successful as part of the 32 counties Irish team with 2 team silvers and a team gold including



Sensei's Kevin Casey, Leo Mulvany, Tony Dolphin.



Donal Monahan receives his 5th Dan Black Belt.

many individual medals recently. As an association the IKKI is affiliated to many karate organisations and their success at all levels is testament to the hard work and standard of the coaches.

*The Chief Instructor of the IKKI is Leo Mulvany, 6th Dan Karatedo, 4th Dan Kobudo. For a fuller account of IKKI activities, IKKI clubs, International Affiliations, NGB involvements etc. go to the website: [www.itsukaiireland.org](http://www.itsukaiireland.org)*

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# Ballinasloe GAA: Bingo is Back

Writes Síofra Mannion

Bingo makes a return to Ballinasloe after an absence of many years to help support the local GAA. From Tuesday September 18th the popular game will resume in Hayden's Hotel. For regular Bingo players, those looking for a "Fun Night Out" and those hoping to go become richer, this is a night not to be missed. Organised and run by Ballinasloe GAA Club, Tuesday nights is a new entry for your diary. The town's GAA has a long and proud history of hurling, football and ladies football in the town. Now with its new clubhouse and pitches at Brackernagh it is involved in ongoing development of its players from under 6 levels to adult teams. It is also hoping to develop its facilities further for all its members and for the town of Ballinasloe and its people. It is hoped this new venture of Bingo Nights will help in raising funds to achieve these goals. As well as a fundraising event it is hoped that Tuesday nights in Haydens Hotel will be a chance to meet friends and neighbours and really enjoy a "Full House." Bingo Nights in Hayden's Hotel, Ballinasloe, every Tuesday Night at 8.30pm from September 18th.



## Digital TV Switchover

On the 24th of October all TVs that have not been switched to digital will receive no signal after 10am. Anyone who has not switched to digital will be left with a white screen and will have to go in search of SKY, UPC or purchase a Saorview box or TV to go on receiving their TV service. Any person in your area you feel is unable to make the switch help them out as they may not understand and believe their TV will go on working. The longer you leave it the more likely you'll be left with a blank screen on the 24th of October so make the switch now.



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# Footballers in The County Final

**Writes Cathal Croffy**

Ballinasloe are through to the County Junior 'A' final against Clifden after beating neighbours Caltra in North Board final in Menlough.

**Ballinasloe 1-11 Caltra 0-8:** Captain Keith Kelly accepted the Cup from North Board Chairman J.P. Kelly, Liam Lynch was named Man of the Match and received his trophy from North Secretary Padraig Kelly, the Ballinasloe team that lined out was: Nathan King; Shane Kelly, Declan Nevin, Niall Stack (0-1); Shane Kenny, Eoin Fenton, Keith Kelly (Capt); James Shaughnessy, Luke Tierney; Darragh Burke, Padraig Cunningham (0-1), Liam Lynch (1-5); Paul Whelehan (0-2), Gary Canavan (0-2), Darragh McCormack. Subs: Jason Twohig, Niall Hynes, Paddy Ryan, Colm Riddle and Marcus Kelly. The management team of Sean Riddel, Pat Cunningham, Cathal Coleman, Lloyd Kelly and Cathal Croffy, were very thankful to all those who travelled to Menlough to support the team.

The final will be played in Pearse Stadium, Salthill. Between the championship and league Ballinasloe have won the last 10 games. There are 2 games left in the league and we may be in contention for promotion to Div 2A.

Meanwhile the Under 16 Ladies football team are into the championship final after beating Mountbellew-Moylough and Under 14 girls play Mountbellew-Moylough in Semi-final of championship. The Under 16 Footballers play Leitir Mór in semi final of shield championship.

The first of the Sports Person Dream Ticket draws were held in the Shearwater Hotel with the draw winners as follows: All-Ireland Hurling Ticket, Willie Ward Cleaghmore; All-Ireland Hurling ticket, Walter Reynolds; All-Ireland Football ticket, Paul Flynn, Creagh; All-Ireland Football ticket, Hutchinson and Davidson Solicitors, Main Street; Shearwater Leisure Voucher, Aileen Horan, Ballinasloe; Bicycle Sponsored by Barry Taylor, Sean/Peg Reynolds Shanboley; €100 Voucher for Tom Fox Tyres, Community Games; Voucher for ALDI, Jack Parsons, Beechlawn; TOPAZ Fuel Voucher, Shane Payton, Swinford Co. Mayo. Tickets are still available at €30. Contact John Shaughnessy, Seamus Duffy or Staff Ruane.



*Presentation of North Board Junior A Championship Cup, by North Board Chairman J.P. Kelly, to Ballinasloe Captain Keith Kelly, after Ballinasloe's win over neighbours Caltra, in Menlough.*



*North Board Football Secretary Padraig Kelly presents Ballinasloe's Liam Lynch with the Man of the Match Award, after Ballinasloe captured the North Board title against Caltra, in Menlough.*

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## Welcome French Students

Marie Connolly has been taking the time to bring a different group of students to the Ballinasloe Area to learn and improve their knowledge of the English Language. Over the past few months Marie has been receiving many enquiries about the programme which allows students to stay with a Ballinasloe family and interact with them. She is hoping that from these queries she will have more than enough groups of students to come and stay in the area January, February and April. The project anticipates returning bigger and better next year. Any person interested in hosting a French student please contact Marie on 087 246 2457



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*Local Girls at the Ard Scoil Mhuire Grad*



*Local Girls at the Ard Scoil Mhuire Grad*



## Garbally College Students achieve Top Class results in the Leaving Cert Exams

The Garbally College Leaving Cert class of 2011/2012 received their Leaving Cert results. Pupils obtained outstanding results all round and they were delighted with their achievements. Twenty-five pupils achieved more than 400 points while 8 boys obtained over 500 points. Great credit is due to the hard work the pupils put in to their studies over the last few years and also the teaching staff needs to be acknowledged for their dedication and commitment.



*Garbally students, who all received over 500 Leaving Certificate points:  
Back (L-R): Mr. Stephen Reilly (Principal), Ms. Frances Gilmore (Year Head), David Murray, Aidan Loughrey, Darren Greene, Ms. Jacinta Deady-Henry (Deputy Principal), Ms. Jennifer Lenihan (Career Guidance). Front (L-R): Darren Carty, Mark Cormican, Brian Flanagan, Sean Connaughton, Patrick Coffey.*

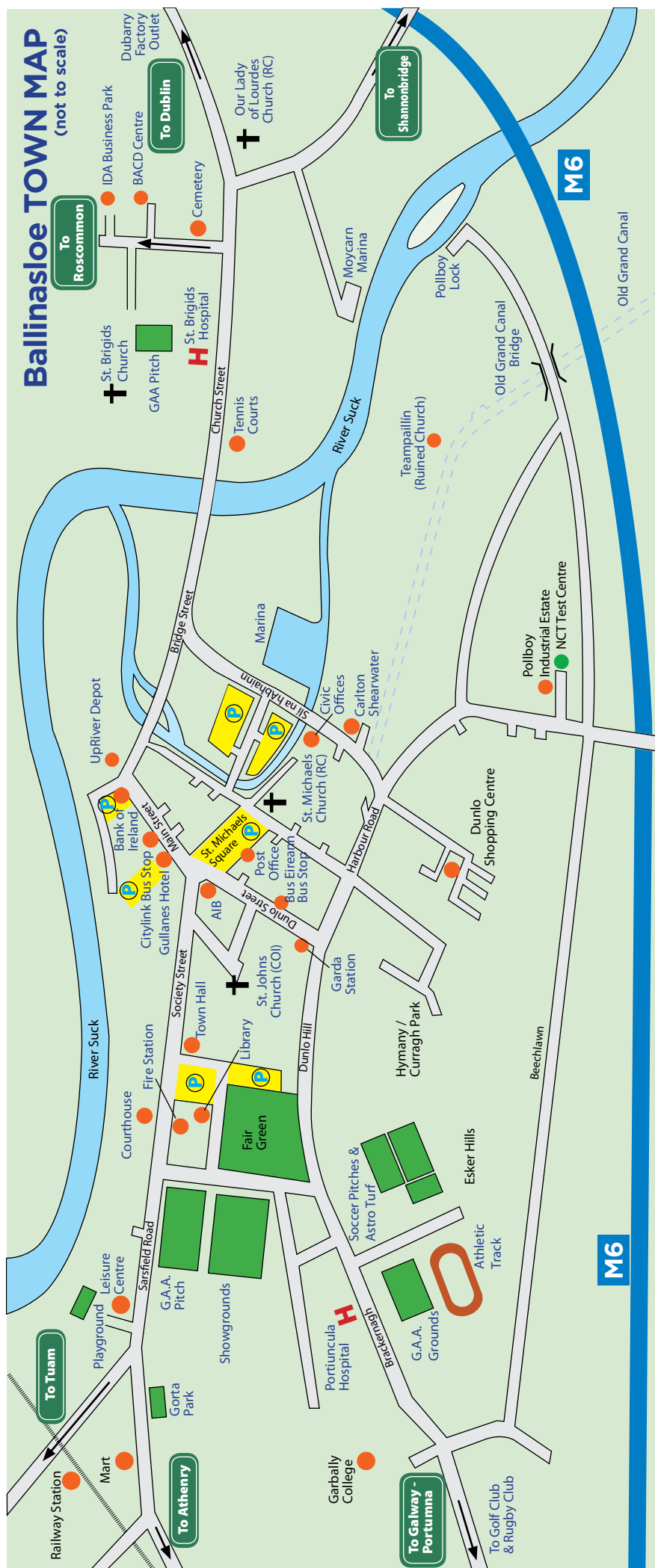


*Patrick Mongan delighted with his results with Garbally Principal, Mr. Stephen Reilly.*



*Paul Dolan and Shane Naughton were thrilled with their results.*





## Ballinasloe History Walk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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





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