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# BALLINASLOELIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 8 Issue 3: Aug' '18 - Sept' '18

**FREE**



Photo by Robert Riddell

**DONAL BURKE**  
NEW CATHAOIRLEACH



**NATIONAL LADIES**  
U18 RUGBY STARS



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# REAMHRA

So after the worst glorious drought in four decades, the thundering hooves and tilted fascinators of Ballybrit will sharpen us all back to Autumn focus. Daithi live from Dome will herald the organising of school bags & Pope Francis's visit and oh yes we have an early All-Ireland Hurling final – we will then be finally counting the weeks till October Fair !!

For most places the drawing to an end of the summer's lengthy dusks means a chance to refocus on what you are doing or could be doing as the evenings draw in.

Not for the first time one could be fooled by the sometimes quietness of the buildings surrounding us and the easy mistake that education and training is only for the youth!

This Fall there are countless opportunities between the Local Enterprise Office, the Community Employment Schemes, the Ballinasloe College for Further Education, TUS, VTOS, GRD, Active Retired Association, AIT, GMIT and a host of other National and International programmes; where a body can train for something completely new or continue to advance in a career path already chosen.

In essence whilst the next four weeks will be spent wondering who got what points and which CAO course from the Leaving – there is a myriad of ways into obtaining a PHD without the usual Freshers week hysterics.

At the collapse of the Celtic Badger in 2008 the local live Register stood in the region of 2,600 souls, by 2017 that was down to 1645 (this figure accounts for part time workers and persons in receipt of specialist forms of social protection income payment). Who would believe that in 12 months that figure has fallen by some 20% again – figure now stands at 1316 in June 2018. Signs on – with reports from many back to work schemes enjoying near 95% success! The signs are back in windows, employers are finding it tougher to recruit, they all want that person with a little bit more. You owe to yourself to check out some of the many national accredited and international certified courses on offer, or indeed to make the welcome trek back into employment now that your circumstances permit.

We are spoiled for choice! Enjoy the Racing, hurling, football and then the grumbling about the fodder crisis for the next 8 months !!

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



## Articles and Photos Welcome

### NEXT ISSUE

Deadline 11<sup>th</sup> Sept'

For submission of articles, please email: [ballinasloelife@hotmail.com](mailto:ballinasloelife@hotmail.com)

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The Development Company is currently looking at developing a new 5 year plan and the Board has agreed it's primary objective is to secure new industry and jobs. There is no magic formula to do this but we are of the view we have to shout louder than everyone else to be heard.

A new survey conducted by jobs.ie shows half of Dublin based workers would leave the capital for shorter commuting times. It revealed a quarter of workers have a commute of at least an hour with most travelling to work during peak hours. This should give comfort to multinationals and indigenous industry considering investing in the regions outside Dublin. There is clear evidence there that workers are willing to move to experience the range of benefits that Ireland's Market towns have to offer, including shorter commuter times, lower housing costs and a much higher quality of life.

We have all heard how it is Government policy to have a fairer dispersion of jobs and despite recent visits from Ministers, TD's and top level IDA officials to Ballinasloe, they have not delivered. All the running to date has been done on a local basis, it is now time for the Baton to be taken up by decision makers. On another note Businesses are facing considerable disruption over the coming 18 months with the commencement of the Town Enhancement Scheme but a commitment has been given to keep the disruption to a minimum and it is vital that we continue to support local business as we need them there when this work is completed.

Normally thank yous are reserved for the latter end of the year but I wish to express our appreciation for the new Ballinasloe LIFE delivery recruits both in a driving and postman/woman capacity as without you our door to door delivery would founder.

Enjoy the rest of our exceptional Summer weather.

**SEAMUS DUFFY**,

Chairman Ballinasloe Area Community Development Limited.



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## WHAT'S INSIDE

### Local News

- 4 Donal Burke New Cathaoirleach
  - 5 Bogland Fires
  - 6 Big Dig Starts
- ### Business
- 8 Fairy Dog Groomer
  - 9 Training for Employment Growth
  - 10 Comer Brothers Profile
  - 11 Pulse Library Contract
  - 12 New Factory Interest
  - 13 Gullane's Launch New Evening Menu
  - 14 St. Brigid's Seminar
  - 15 Stand Out From The Crowd
  - 16 Paul Byron Shoes Two Decades
  - 17 The Pillar House 60 Years
  - 18 Ballinderry Nursing Home Two Decades

### Community

- 19 Two Youths Cycle for Jigsaw
- 20 Mairead McGuinness Visit
- 22 BCU Launch New Loan Package
- 23 Prayer Centre Celebrates 21 Years
- 24 Kitty Mulvihill R.I.P.
- 25 Old VEC Autumn Courses
- 26 BACD Board Members and Staff
- 28 Paramedics Graduate from NTC
- 29 Adopt a Dog in Killimor
- 30 Out and About
- 32 Events Guide
- 34 Celebrations and Events

- 35 Town Gardening in the Heatwave
  - 36 Long Lost Roots
  - 37 Hospital Watch
  - 38 Town Councils Bill Restoration
  - 39 Art in Mind Success
  - 41 Putting Lives at Risk
  - 42 The Years from 1841 to 2018
  - 42 Sandy's Dog Warmer
  - 43 Irish Cancer Society Transport
- ### Culture
- 44 Sarah Corcoran wins AIMS Award
  - 44 Caltra Fitness Programme
  - 45 Fifth Larry Reynolds Festival
  - 46 Culture Night in Library
  - 47 Strings Festival
  - 48 Town Band Promotes New Music Lessons
  - 49 Queen of the Fair Looking Back
- ### Sport
- 50 Camogie Club
  - 51 Community Games 45 Years
  - 52 The Oscar's GAA Fundraising Night
  - 53 Sports Hub and GAA
  - 54 10 Ladies make Connacht Rugby Squad
  - 55 Town FC Shortlisted
  - 56 Summer Camps
  - 57 Tour D'Shams Busy Season
  - 58 Underage Golfer Scoops All-Ireland Title
  - 59 Gardening Tips
- ### Tourism And Heritage
- 60 Judge Keogh
  - 61 Ballinasloe's Mr. Salubrious
  - 63 Down Memory Lane



# BEC

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# DONAL BURKE NEW CATHAOIRLEACH

BY IAN O'BOYLE



The local Municipal District have elected Cllr. Donal Burke as Cathaoirleach for the next 12 months after Cllr. Aidan Donohue finished his time at the post. He was proposed by Cllr. Michael Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Michael Finnerty.

Donal is from the small parish of Clonfert, just half an hour out from Ballinasloe Town. Donal's family comes from a small farming

background, his father Dan worked as a supervisor in Bord na Móna for many years and his mother Nora was a stay at home mother who also served as an organist in their local church for almost forty years.

He qualified in Architecture from Bolton Street College, and went on to become an architectural consultant in Dublin and Wicklow after he graduated in 1994 before moving back to East Galway. He met his wife Alison nine years ago during tango-dancing lessons. Three years later they went on to marry each other!

Donal was first elected to the local council in 2014 which was his initial foray into politics. His inspiration to become a local councillor came from getting involved in community activities and events, where he saw that there was a need for himself to roll up his sleeves and do a bit more for the local area.

His political party Fianna Fáil suggested that he move from activist to representative that he run as a candidate for the local election: "I had to give it some serious thought, it was never the first thing on my mind. I decided that it was an opportunity I should go for and hopefully do some good for the Ballinasloe District".

I'm very excited to be honest, this is actually my second time as Cathaoirleach following on from two years ago. It's a very rewarding and challenging role but I'm really looking forward to it. There's a lot going on in the district now in Ballinasloe and surrounding areas, so we won't be short of activity", states Donal.

The Town Enhancement Scheme which is currently underway

is Donal's biggest project for the upcoming year, and he says that it will make a huge difference to town: "I'm looking forward to working with all those who are involved with the Town Enhancement Scheme, trying to minimise the impact as much as possible and most importantly trying to get it all completed in time", he explains.

"We've got a very good team of engineers, design team and of course the contractors who are carrying out the work and running the show, all of whom are very capable people. There's a liaison officer in place on the contractor's side to deal with the public, along with representatives from different businesses from each of the streets in the town. There's a lot of ongoing public consultation, priorities and interaction which is always a good thing", remarks our new Cathaoirleach.

Moving away from Ballinasloe town and into the rest of the district parishes, Donal says that his priority is to try and put a lot of funding into the areas with very poor road conditions to help minimise fatalities. "The local district currently covers a huge area, from Fahy in the south all the way up to Ballygar in the north, but in an actual fact this will all be changing in a years' time where the district will become a more larger and changed area.

"Within this area we have a large area of roads, most of which run through the country side away from towns and villages. The current condition of these roads is very poor, therefore one of my top priorities along with working in Ballinasloe town is to try and improve these roads to aid access to our rural areas and lower the number of casualties which take place due to these poor conditions. Funding is always the key issue, but I will do my level best to get as much out of it as we can" notes Donal.

Outgoing Cathaoirleach, Cllr. Aidan Donohue, expressed his gratitude to all the members, the technical staff and administrative staff for their co-operation and assistance throughout his term in office.

Cllr Michael Finnerty was elected Vice-cathaoirleach.

All the local council members and Director of Service Alan Farrell thanked the outgoing Cathaoirleach for his courtesy and co-operation during his term, along with wishing Cllr. Burke for the upcoming year.

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# DERMOT CONNOLLY PRAISES COMMUNITY MEITHEAL SPIRIT DURING BOG FIRES

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Local Sinn Féin Councillor Dermot Connolly has praised the local community members for helping out their friends and neighbours to desperately save their winter turf during the recent bogland fires in the Ahascragh area.

Turf bank owners were left heartbroken when most of their newly cut turf went up in flames during the scorching heatwave at the start of July. The bog fire spread through many acres for a long time period, destroying everything in its path and disturbing grazing cattle and sheep in the process.

Many locals rushed to the scene to tend to the flames with buckets of water and anything else they could use to help prevent the spread of the flames. This task was made even more difficult due to the nationwide hosepipe ban which had been in place due to drought, adding risk to the locals being fined for not following instruction.

In due course, the Ballinasloe Fire Services (led by station officer Barry McKeon), and other nearby Fire Crews were on site to deal with the blaze, though for many it was too late, and their precious winter fuel was burnt to crisp.

Cllr. Connolly in raising the matter at a recent Ballinasloe Municipal District meeting offered his sympathy to those who have been affected by

the fire, but gave credit to those who showed true bravery to help them out: "Though it was such a tragic event to happen, there's one positive we can take from the whole event, and that's the great community spirit to help out those who are in desperate need" stated Cllr. Connolly.

"I have no doubt that those who have lost their turf will be helped out by the locals who will share their own fuel, and the main thing is that nobody was badly hurt or injured during the fire" concluded Dermot.



## UPGRADE APPROVED FOR AHASCRAUGH VILLAGE SEWAGE

Following on from a previous public consultation by Irish Water in Daly's Lounge Ahascragh, there is good news that the Village is to get its Sewage Scheme upgrade.

A Section of the sewage pipe network is to be replaced and increased in size, along with a new pumping station with increased pumping capacity is to be put in place. A new holding treatment plant is also scheduled to be built, which will increase the capacity of the current one. This upgrade will increase capacity from 340 to 470 population equivalent, with further possibility to increase pumping capacity if the need arises in future.



This proposed upgrade has been welcomed by Local Fianna Fail Councillor Michael Connolly. "This announcement will give fresh opportunity for development in Ahascragh Village by giving it a modern treatment system

that meets EPA and EU standards and after much lobbying is very welcome" stated Cllr Michael Connolly.



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The Town Enhancement Project has finally started with the first stages of works in St Michael's Square being undertaken. The works were designed by Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers, and construction work is being carried out by contracting group SIAC Construction Ltd.

The cost of the construction currently is estimated around €7million including VAT.

The Contractors, who are based in Tuam (with a temporary office site in Poolboy during the works), have previously carried out numerous similar projects to the one in town, most of which have been in County Dublin.

The Contractor has appointed a Public Liaison Officer for the works, Shane Boland. Shane's contact details can be found on the projects website – [www.ballinasloetownenhancement.ie](http://www.ballinasloetownenhancement.ie). His contact number for businesses effected is 087 7619308. The number of staff members on site sits at around 20, with numbers increasing as the works progress.

Works on St Michael's Square East, which is known as Phase-1A of the works, started in late June, and have so far been running on schedule. The laying of sewers, water mains, ducts and all associated connections and fittings are near completion on this side of the Square. Works on the west side of St Michael's are due to be completed by the middle of August.

With works being completed on the water services, there will be stages where the mains will be shut off for short periods which may be up to a number of hours in some cases Residents and business affected will be notified with a letter, or through public media such as the radio.

The main issue with the works so far have been accessibility and parking according to many locals around the town, with roads being closed off along with many parking spaces.

As the works take place, every business with disturbed pedestrian access to their business all have the same motto 'business as usual'. So far businesses such as the Bread Basket Café and An Táin have been limited to access, though customers still come to them just as if the works were not happening.

With limited access, deliveries to the premises need to be notified to the Contractor in advance so that a pathway can be made clear for the goods to be moved in, however some of these businesses have back entrances which aids the proceedings.

No weekend work will be carried out until they begin on the central junction, where traffic disruptions will be at its peak. It's for this reason the contractors want to get the works done as quickly as possible in that area.

A full-time archaeologist is on site with the team, monitoring for any old building remains or artefacts. So far there has been one significant discovery during the digging process which was a wall of the old Market Building located at the top of The Square. Archaeological finds are not expected to cause major delays, unless they are of major significance.

No works are expected to take place in the town in the run into or during the October Fair, so that traffic build ups or pedestrian access will not be an issue during the towns busiest period.

For further updates on the Town Enhancement Scheme in the coming months, visit [www.ballinasloetownenhancement.ie](http://www.ballinasloetownenhancement.ie), or [www.ballinasloe.ie](http://www.ballinasloe.ie).

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## FAIRY DOG MOTHER GROOMING

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Leeane Swaine from Dublin has started her own new dog grooming service 'Fairy Dog Mother' in Croffy's Yard, Main St. Leeane has been grooming dogs for over 12 years, and recently decided to take her career a step forward by setting up her very own salon. She has just returned home after seven years in Australia where she met her partner Liam Finneran from Taughmaconnell.

After many years working for other salons, Leeane says that having her own business for grooming has been a dream come through. "Grooming is not just a job for me, it's my passion. Working with dogs has always been my true love, it's something I always wanted to do from a young age, and now my dreams have become a reality".

**In her spare time, Leeane competes in grooming competitions all across Ireland, and previously in Australia when she resided there. She enters classes with Terriers, Poodles and Gundogs to name a few, which she learns so much from after multiple 1st, 2nd and 3rd placings.**

Leeane is fully qualified as a groomer after completing her advanced city and guilds exams, where she learnt to specialise in breed trims.

Doing what she does best, Leeane says that she thinks of every pet as her own in the salon, and that they will always be in good hands: "I'm

just an all-round animal lover, and I treat every dog which comes into my workplace with the love and respect they deserve" says Leenane.

**Fairy Dog Groomers are open Monday to Friday from 9am to 5pm, and Saturday 10am to 5pm, but they can accommodate bookings outside these hours if needed.**

Prices vary for grooming depending on the dogs breed and hair length. A small short haired breed is €25, and a small long-haired breed costs €45. Large short haired breeds cost €45, while large long-haired breeds are €75.

**This includes all hygiene areas of the dog such as their ears, nails, pads, and sanitary area. They get two good washes, a condition and whatever style you would like done for the dog.**

To book your dog in for a grooming session, or for further information, contact the Fairy Dog Groomers on 087 366 5566.



## CUTS TO BUS ÉIREANN 20/X20 SERVICE UNACCEPTABLE



**Fine Gael Senator Maura Hopkins has said that cuts to Bus Éireann's 20/X20 are totally unacceptable and has called on the company to reverse their changes.**

Senator Hopkins stated, "The proposed changes due to be implemented from Sunday next 29th July 2018 will mean rural areas along the Dublin-Galway bus route, including the stops at Dubarry in Creagh and in Ballydangan in South Roscommon, will not operate. This will leave a

significant area without any public transport service.

**"I know that many people rely on these services daily for healthcare and other essential services. This route provides a vital lifeline for those people and I am strongly opposed to a reduction in this service."**

She has written to Bus Éireann and Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross T.D. to reverse the change.

**She has appealed for public support for the service "I would urge people to contact Bus Éireann and join with me in calling for the reversal of the decision to reduce services along this route."**

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# TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT SEES HUGE GROWTH

Ballinasloe Training for Employment CLG is a Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection funded Community Employment Project which has been in existence for nearly thirty years.

Located on the first floor of the Enterprise and Technology Centre, Creagh, it has a board of voluntary directors, and 34 staff participants. There are two managers who run the project on a daily basis, Billy Ward General Manager who has been with the project since the beginning and Patricia Tierney Assistant Manager who joined in 2008.

**Both managers work collaboratively with all local and national agencies along with local voluntary and not for profit groups, to provide training and employment to their participants.**

Up until early July this year, the scheme has had a significantly higher than usual number of staff leave due to finding full time jobs. This progression has been made all the more noteworthy by the fact that most of the jobs were based here the locality in Ballinasloe.

**Patricia says that it's great to see so many locals going back to employment with businesses so close to home: "It's been very rewarding to see so many local employers expand and open their doors for re-hiring again, which is hopefully a positive sign for the town and community".**

In terms of benefits of the scheme for users, Patricia explains "Firstly, you gain invaluable support in areas such as CV and Upskilling,



job searching, training needs analysis, and registering on many online Government supports. The project has spent many years building up valuable contacts within local and national training and employment agencies, and within our local employer database all this is used to enhance the participant's progression routes".

**The Project could not survive without the dedicated long hours the Board of Directors put in of their own time. All the invaluable work experience received by participants is sourced within the local community's voluntary and not for profit sector, sports clubs, mental health support groups, cancer support groups, tidy towns and the local Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre.**

Each participant works on their own individual training progression path at their own level. A needs analysis is carried out upon entry to the project and after discussion between the managers and the participant, the department

helps to fund the training. All participants at the moment are completing training which will help them progress into employment in areas such as security, lorry driving, taxi driving, office and sport administration, social media, payroll and accounts, and much more.

**If you are interested in joining the DEASP Community Employment Project, please contact their office on 090 96 31652 to make an appointment and to see if you are eligible.**

**BY IAN O'BOYLE**

# HARMONY CONSULTANT LAUNCHES NEW SERVICES

Local therapist Siobhan Byrne has set up her part time business 'Harmony Conflict Resolution' in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre for weekend and evening sessions. Harmony started up in 2007, and now includes Harmony Hypnosis and Harmony Conflict Resolution.

"Mediation is a positive, practical and collaborative way to ease tense situations and resolve a broad range of conflicts within a variety of settings. It is cost effective and efficient. It is a process where a neutral and independent trained mediator helps the parties negotiate a settlement. Courts now expect people to consider mediation before issuing court proceedings" explains Siobhan.

**She has 25 years legal industry experience which enriches her practice as a mediator. The structured mediation process is designed for resolving relationship conflicts workplace conflicts, succession disputes and those that may arise in our communities. Community disputes can include neighbour disputes, environment or planning disputes and victim-offender restorative justice.**

In the future Siobhan hopes to be add a dedicated website for hypnosis downloads ([harmonyhypnosisdownloads.ie](http://harmonyhypnosisdownloads.ie)), and to launch an online training site for legal services project management and process improvement (Harmony SmartLaw:

[Smartlaw.ie](http://Smartlaw.ie)).

Following her career as a Solicitor in London, she returned to Ireland and worked as Solicitor in Athlone and Ballinasloe.

**Since returning home Siobhan has volunteered with the Ballinasloe Musical Society, Relays Drama Group, Foroige's Big Brother Big Sister, the East Galway Cancer Support Centre, the Lions Club, and Western Alzheimer's. Siobhan was also founding member and chair of the award-winning Meadow Cross Cultural Association from 2007-2012 and was nominated in 2008 for a Mayors Award for her outstanding contribution to Community Life in Ballinasloe.**

Outside of Harmony, Siobhan works as a Training and Employment Officer with the Irish Association for the Social Integration of Offenders (IASIO). The IASIO Linkage Service work with referrals from Probation and specialise in the employment of people with criminal convictions who are often very committed, hard-working and appreciative of a second chance.

**For more information visit [conflictresolution.ie](http://conflictresolution.ie)**

On her Harmony Hypnosis she explains that "Hypnosis is a safe, cost-effective and time-efficient intervention. It is a pleasant experience where the body remains relaxed while the mind goes into a highly focused state. At Harmony Hypnosis I really enjoy helping clients to find their inner strength and to make the changes that help improve their lives."

**Continued on next page...**

# COMER GROUP BUY SHEARWATER HOTEL

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Comer Group was established over 30 years ago by brothers, Brian and Luke Comer, originally from Glenamaddy Co. Galway. After a great deal of tenacity and hard work, the Comers have created a leading property company with substantial development and investment interests in several market sectors, including luxury residential homes, office parks, retail parks, hotels and leisure facilities.

They bought the Shearwater Hotel last month. This comes on the back of other hotels such as The Connacht Hotel (Galway City, 363 rooms), Shannon Oaks Hotel & Country Club (Portumna, 63 rooms), Kilternan Hotel (Dublin, 128 rooms), The Nox Hotel (Galway City, 102 rooms) and Palmerstown House Estate (Kildare, 120 rooms). The Shearwater now adds 104 new rooms to their collection of 502 current rooms in Galway alone.

According to The Irish Independent, The Comer Brothers are worth €1.25bn this year, compared to €1.05bn last year, which is an increase of 19.05%. They are also placed number 15 on Ireland's

rich list.

Both men gained a wealth of practical "hands-on" construction experience, having spent their formative years as contract plasterers. From relatively humble beginnings in 1971, they rapidly developed a countrywide reputation for their high-quality plastering. This resulted in the Comers being awarded major contract work on many of Ireland's largest construction projects in both the public and private sectors.

Brian and Luke Comer have been instrumental in recruiting and shaping a highly skilled and valuable senior management team of designers, architects and construction professionals, built up a significant property portfolio but got out of the Irish Market prior to the crash and sought investment and development opportunities in the UK and mainland Europe. They have laid a very solid foundation to exploit forthcoming opportunities. Through astute planning and strategy, the men have always been confident of achieving the Comer Group's ambitious growth plans of which the leisure and hotel segment will play a role.

In a statement released to LIFE "The Comer Group Hotels are delighted to have invested in the Shearwater Hotel, a prominent property in the Ballinasloe Community. The Comer Family, Galway natives, are proud to add this Amazing Property to their growing portfolio. We look forward to meeting our patrons over the coming months."



Management and Staff of Shearwater Hotel Toast the new Owners

Continued from page 9...

She can typically help with a wide range of changes such as stopping smoking, phobias, slimming, or building confidence and self-esteem. She also helps clients with the mind-body connection for conception and childbirth and draw on international programs such as HypnoFertility, the Fertile Body Method and HypnoBirthing. For more information visit [harmonyhypnosis.ie](http://harmonyhypnosis.ie)

Reflecting on her move to the Enterprise Centre she states "Although I started out part time and now I'm looking at an office share as Harmony is operating evenings and weekends. The BEC also offer desk-sharing facilities catering for all budgets and which can be really helpful for start-ups".

Siobhan can be contacted on 087 2055 475 for further enquires.

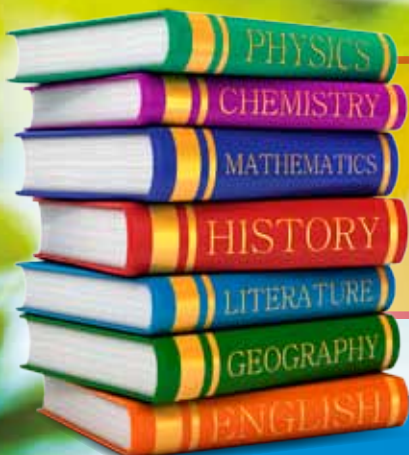
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# BACD TO MARKET & MANAGE NEW PULSE CENTRE SPACE IN OLD LIBRARY



A fully furnished 4,000 square ft. office, located on the upper floors of the old Library is to be aggressively marketed and managed by BACD – Ballinasloe Area Community Development CLG, following a contract signing with owners Galway County Council.

It can accommodate up to 50 office workers. The area which is available for immediate occupation covers two floors and is complete with new carpets and office furniture. Just five minutes from the M6 and a free car park 100 metres from the front door, this is an ideal stress-free commute. Galway and Athlone are thirty five and fifteen minutes' drive respectively, with excellent bus and rail connectivity.

As part of an employment creation initiative by both Ballinasloe Area Community Development (BACD) Ltd board and Galway County Council (GCC), this office space is being offered at competitive rental rates with the objective of creating new jobs for the town.

A three tier approach is being taken with this focus in mind.

1) There is a dearth of quality office space immediately available in both Galway and Athlone, targeted companies are being identified to relocate their "non-essential" head office staff to the new Ballinasloe office. Functions that could be moved include Finance / Administration / After Sales service / Marketing research etc.

2. To assist young entrepreneurs develop their business concepts, part of the office space will be allocated as an incubation zone. "Hot Desks" will be made available at a nominal monthly rental and the BACD will be on hand to introduce mentors and offer a pathway to resources,

grant aid and contacts.

3. Fast Landing, the IDA from time to time requires a "Fast Landing" site. Companies who have decided on the Midlands to locate their headquarters, often require immediate and suitable office space for many reasons including: Advance teams for planning and implementation / recruitment, Project management of a construction site, A base for market research.

**Whilst Skibereen and other provincial towns have their Ludgates – for new high speed, cyber space companies – the Building and location may well lend itself to some Hi – tech start ups as the town is also earmarked for a Broadband speed upgrade.**

The general terms – are a letting Minimum 12 months, Broad band speed Fibre Broadband, Parking Free carparking in fairgreen carpark, Catering Self-service kitchenette, Access: Own access through blue door, Disabled: fully disable accessible. Customisation or reconfiguration of space would be based on length of lease and type of employment numbers the project could offer.

**BACD Board Director Brian King (Ex AT Cross Management) believes that the space and approach are ideal for targeting the next generation of young entrepreneurs "the location, the premises are well positioned to assist is us mentoring and reaching out to our young people in colleges, or at the start of their careers who are priced out of the major population centres" states Brian.**

For a visit of the premises or even a preliminary discussion on the options entrepreneurs are requested to speak with the Company Manager Lyn Donnelly at 0909646516.

BY IAN O'BOYLE



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## EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST SOUGHT FOR NEW FACTORY

Ballinasloe Area Community Development Chairman Seamus Duffy has announced that they are now seeking expressions of interest from parties regarding the development of a new Commercial Unit in Creagh.

Planning permission is in place for a 15,000 square feet industrial unit and the Development Company is now looking to move to the next level.

Several options are available to potential investors; the option is there to purchase the site and build on spec. If a company is interested in building and occupying this can be facilitated. A third option is that the Development Company will build if they have a party interested in committing to a long-term lease.

Currently home to several multinational companies and is an ideal location to establish a base, along with a high quality regional hospital namely Portiuncula.

From a logistics point of view there are two exits off the M6 Motorway which link the town to Knock, Shannon & Dublin Airports, and the Business Park is located on the main Dublin / Galway rail line and again has direct links to all major Irish Ports.

The town has a highly educated workforce, with close links to NUIG, GMIT and AIT, with two top quality feeder secondary schools (Ardscoil Mhuire and Garbally College).

Housing costs are well below the national average with exceptional



leisure & sporting facilities available to cater for all interests, along with three quality Hotels which make the town a very attractive investment.

The ongoing €7million town enhancement

scheme will give the town a new sewage and water network with all cabling placed underground. On top of this a new street landscape will be developed with funding available to upgrade premises following completion of these very welcome improvements.

The town is one of only 12 in Ireland who will have 1MB of broadband available in the very near future.

For further details feel free to contact Company Manager Lyn Donnelly at 090 9646516 / [info@ballinasloeenterprise.ie](mailto:info@ballinasloeenterprise.ie) or Chairman Seamus Duffy on 087 2506431.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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# GULLANE'S LAUNCH NEW EVENING MENU

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Gullane's Hotel of Main St. have launched their new evening time menu for the summer season. The kitchen's Head Chef is Adrian Harney from Athlone, where he leads 20 members after joining the team over 22 years ago as a Sous Chef. Since that time, Adrian has been instrumental in helping to build Gullane's reputation for carvery lunch and function food.

Along with his team members Brid, Ronan and Mark, Adrian has put together some new and exciting banqueting menus along with hot buffet menus and finger food options, and the new a la carte menu will add to the already successful lunch and function menus which are on offer.

**"Working in Gullane's hotel for over 22 years has given me a unique insight into our customers' tastes. We are fortunate to have an established and repeat customer base who dine with us frequently, this has allowed us to tailor our menu to showcase the best dishes that customers want. I wanted to create a neighbourhood restaurant, that allows you to meet and relax and dine with family & friends in a warm and friendly environment."**

"The new menu is based on sourcing organic and locally grown food and is designed around locally produced suppliers, and all our meats and vegetables are locally sourced and easily traceable. All our dishes are based on simple comfort foods, where the taste and quality stands. We are always evolving to stay current and to meet the needs of our valued customers" said Adrian.

**Sales and Marketing Co-ordinator Jennifer Gelston remarked "As the saying goes, the first bite is with the eye, and therefore a menu says a lot about a place creating an initial impression before the customer has even seen any of the food or drink on offer, we wanted our menu to be a combination of different culinary styles, that would suit all palates so that we can cater for all customers."**

"We try to stand out from the crowd, serving not only great food but doing so with excellent service. Both of which have always been at the very heart of Gullane's success. It's a relaxed and special dining experience where the guest's enjoyment is core to each meal. The combination of the finest cuisine, an extensive wine list and impeccable service in the heart of town creates an unbeatable dining experience and atmosphere with delicious home cooked food".



Head Chef Adrian Harney and Chef Brid Brien.

Jennifer knows that the customer base has been amazing in helping the kitchen team to develop their menus and catering options over the years, and the current reaction on their new menu has been most helpful; "We are very fortunate to have wonderful clientele who have been supportive to the new menu changes and are eager to offer their feedback. So far, the response has been very positive with everyone enjoying the new additions to the menu. Our new gourmet pizza range has been especially popular with young families and has added a new dimension to the kids' menu" she added.

In terms of what to eat, here are Chef Adrian's recommended dishes to choose from; "To Start with our Galway Bay Creamy Seafood Chowder a firm favourite with locals and visitors alike. It's a great evening dish, and simply one of the tastiest starters on the menu. Served alongside our homemade brown bread, it leaves your heart feeling warm.

**"Our Signature 12oz Sirloin Steak is without a doubt one of our most popular main courses. Over the years Gullane's has been renowned for providing a quality steak locally sourced and generous in size. Cooked to each customers specification this is one Steak that is worth the wait".**

The menus and specials are always available at [www.gullaneshotel.com](http://www.gullaneshotel.com).

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# REIMAGINING ST. BRIGIDS SEMINAR REPORT SIGNALS PATHWAY FOR MULTI USE FUTURE

The Final Report on potential uses for the future of the St. Brigid's campus in Ballinasloe highlights "a very clear consensus around the vision for St. Brigid's and the next step" Minister Denis Naughten has confirmed.

The report follows Minister Naughten's discussion-based workshop as part of his and the town team project 'Reimagining St. Brigid's' and highlights that those who attended – State agencies as well as businesses and community representatives from throughout the area – all shared a common vision for the site and how this should be progressed.

The delegates to the workshop were chosen to represent various sectors of the community, and senior management of the key state stakeholders. Some participants were invited to the facilitated workshop on the basis of their submissions to the open call for ideas launched on line through the survey portal. Over 700 submissions and questionnaires were received on ideas for the use of the campus and site.

"This report clearly shows how positively this project has been met and the commitment and enthusiasm of the workshop attendees," explained Minister Naughten. "When we started this project it was because of my belief in the huge potential of not only the site but also the town of Ballinasloe as a whole. I believe this site can be transformed breathing new life into the town. What was most interesting was that a consensus of opinion emerged for the future of the site despite the diverse nature of the stakeholders in attendance, a strong indicator of the support for the project."

Chairman of BACD Seamus Duffy welcomed both the process and the report's outcome "this has energised us all into seeing the positives that can come about from the current sad eyesore that is deteriorating in front of our eyes and provides us with a route map for next concrete steps. Certainly the Town Team and the Development Company will continue to partner with the stakeholders on the next phases of this project" stated Seamus.

The overall consensus that emerged is for a multi-use space that would draw on the mental health history of the site by creating an interactive museum and heritage site, forming a global centre of excellence around this centre with research and training facilities as well as a wellness village and trails.

The need for a commercial element to drive job growth locally and regionally was acknowledged as was the potential to incorporate opportunities for training and education and both indoor and outdoor community spaces.

It was agreed that the next steps should be forming an action group and main promoter, continuing community engagement and completing a feasibility study of the vision.

"From the beginning this project has been about stimulating debate on the future for the town and the St. Brigid's site and

about bringing together local knowledge and national expertise to map how this could progress and what exactly the future could look like for this landmark location" commented Minister Naughten.

"The response to this project has been extremely positive from

both the local community and the State agencies with the likes of Enterprise Ireland, the IDA, Government Departments, the Film Board and RTE among the many who attended the discussion workshop" concluded Minister Naughten.

The Report can be accessed via the [Ballinasloe.ie](http://Ballinasloe.ie) Website.

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# LET YOUR BUSINESS STAND OUT FROM THE CROWD



CEO Brenda Fox and participants who successfully completed the start your own business course which finished in June.

**The Local Enterprise Office Galway, which is responsible for fostering business start-ups and developing existing micro and small businesses across city and county, has launched its new Autumn schedule of training courses.**

There is no pre-requisite to have done any previous course to attend the advanced courses. It is up to the participant's own judgement on their ability level, but advice is available prior to registration.

Head of the Local Enterprise Office Galway, Brenda Fox says; "All of the workshops provide essential information and skills required by business start-ups and existing businesses to run their business".

All training is subsidised to assist and support small businesses. All the workshops are relevant for someone who is thinking of starting a business especially the single operator who is self-employed, or those who are already in business and seeking opportunities to grow and develop.

## **18TH September: Marketing for your Business (including guerrilla marketing).**

**Learn how to market your business in one day. Find out how to identify your market segment, analyse, decide and plan the most effective marketing strategy for your business. Learn various marketing and PR techniques. The Course costs €50.**

## **25th September: Content Creation for Website and Social Media (half-day course).**

**Learn how to create and develop unique and relevant content for your website and social media channels. Find out how to keep your customers engaged and interested in your business. The Course costs €30.**

## **2nd October: Search Engine Optimisation.**

**Learn the importance of search and SEO for marketing your business and driving traffic to your website. This workshop aims to provide a detailed overview of current Search Engine Optimisation best practice, it will address keyword research, long tail keywords, structure, navigation and sales conversion. The Course costs €50.**

## **9th October: Facebook for Business (Advanced course).**

**This workshop is for people already familiar with Facebook and have a Facebook business page already in operation. Facebook is constantly changing and has evolved into an advertising business platform. This will cover the latest Facebook marketing techniques and advert campaigns. The Course costs €50.**

## **16th to 23rd of October: Design and Build your own website using Wordpress.**

**This course will be run over 2 and half-days, 16th Oct (full day) 18th Oct (full day) and 23rd Oct (half-day). You will learn the steps required to design and build your own website and promotional site for a small business. In advance of the workshop, participants will be facilitated to arrange hosting and install WordPress so that a website can be created during the course. The Course costs €50.**

## **30th October: Instagram and Twitter for Business.**

**This one-day workshop will show you how to use Instagram, Twitter and Snapchat for brand building and marketing your business including setting up accounts and how to focus on your customers. The Course costs €50.**

Full details and registration links for all courses can be found on [localenterprise.ie/Galway](http://localenterprise.ie/Galway). For more information email: [leotraining@leo.galwaycoco.ie](mailto:leotraining@leo.galwaycoco.ie) or call: 091 509090. Courses can be booked online at [www.localenterprise.ie/galway](http://www.localenterprise.ie/galway).

The next Start Your Own Business programme begins in September, so keep an eye on the website and LEO Galway social media channels for registration.

**BY IAN O'BOYLE**

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# PAUL BYRON SHOES OVER TWO DECADES IN TOWN CENTRE

Well-known Irish shoe store 'Paul Byron Shoes' are celebrating 23 years of business in the town centre this year. The shoe chain is 100% Irish owned with over 22 stores across Ireland, which aim to provide consumers with high quality fashionable footwear at the right price.

Having opened its first store in Ballaghaderreen, Roscommon in 1978 (with their store in Ballinasloe opening 17 years later in June 1995), Paul Byron Shoes have grown progressively with the company selling on average 8,000 pairs of shoes per week and some five vans leaving their distribution centre daily.

The Company also run discount outlets in Castlebar, Newbridge, Roscommon, with their newest outlet store opening in Drogheda during the summer.

The shoe chain has expanded to cover Galway, Kildare, Leitrim, Longford, Mayo, Offaly, Roscommon, Tipperary, Waterford, Westmeath and Wexford Regions, with hopes to expand even further in the future.

The local store, located in Marina Point, currently employs 5 staff members, who work with hundreds of customers on a weekly basis. The Store Manager Tara Coyne has been working in the store for almost 15 years, and is in her first year as manager.

Paul was always eager to get his store into Ballinasloe stating "Ballinasloe has always had a great catchment area, along with being a very productive town with a large population which is continually growing. Our store has continued to develop greatly throughout the years in town. We first opened on Main St. in June 1995 but proceeded to moved to our current Harbour Rd store, so we could offer a larger



Staff Members Sharon Hunter, Deimante Kaulakyte, Gemma Noone and Store Manager Tara Coyne.

range of stock for our customers, along with introducing children shoes to our ever-growing range" states Paul.

He reckons that now is better than ever for anyone to start up their own business in Ballinasloe, as they have a good backing support with the Enterprise Company; "I would suggest to anyone wishing to set up business in Ballinasloe to become a member of Ballinasloe Area Community Development Company, as they work well with all local businesses and have a great community spirit".

Though their store in town may not be the largest, it still has one of the largest selection of shoe brands for all ages and genders of all the stores across Ireland. Paul gives an insight to what's on offer in store;

"In our Ballinasloe store we cater shoes for everyone, as we stock many leading brands with the ethos of "Quality, Value and Fashion". Styles vary according to season, but the selection is always

comprehensive. Our brands include Pitillos, Tamaris, Rieker, Kate Appleby, Susst, Softline, S'Oliver, Heavenly Feet, Skechers, Converse, Vans, Dr Marten, Xti, Refresh, Morgan & Co, Easy B to name a few.

"The children's department also has a fantastic array of brands like Startrite, Lelly Kelly, Pediped, Pabloskey, S'Oliver, Ecco, Geox, Converse and Vans". We cater for feet from early childhood, teen trends, orthotics, specific requirements, work wear, on-trend fashion, occasion wear and everything in between"

Byron's Shoes opens Monday – Thursday 9:30-6pm, Friday 9:30-6:30pm and Saturday 9:30-6pm.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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# THE PILLAR HOUSE 60-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Whilst many families have opened and closed doors on various streets – it's nice to see one family synonymous with Society St. celebrate six decades of successful trading.

The late Godfrey & Evelyn Gibbons first bought the pub in August 1958 from Maureen (nee Dolan) & Mick Croghan. During the 1800's The National Bank of Ireland was the original building before it was bought by the Dolan family in the later part of that century and converted into a Pub and Grocers.

**Godfrey was originally from Ballindine and Evelyn had worked with her mother in Cahill's Pub, in Ahascragh. They wanted to own their own business and when The Pillar House came up for sale they paid the princely sum of £2,500 after it had been withdrawn at auction.**

Son Raymond and his wife Claire now own the business, with up to 15 staff members with them in the bar and in the kitchen, which is led by Raymond's sister Kathryn. The Pub serves food from 9am – 9pm daily with a full Breakfast, Lunch and A La Carte Dinner Menu with daily specials.

**"Our menus change regularly, we aim to provide quality food which is good value. Over the last few years one area of the business which has grown is Outside Catering. It's a great option for parties at home for whatever occasion and we provide a full package from Hot & Cold Food options, cutlery right down to Ice and Ice Buckets" states Kathryn.**

Cathal the eldest son was just two when Godfrey & Evelyn bought the premises in 1958. Over the next 40 years until their retirement 7 children were brought up in a very busy house.

**Godfrey started the Midland and West of Ireland Darts Tournament which brought teams from all over the country through the 60's. The bar once had a great reputation as a card playing venue and many Christmas Dinners were had from the hampers which were played for.**

Raymond says there have been many ups and downs along with changes throughout the years of business in town, but has good hopes for the future. "The 80's and the most recent recession were the hardest, but there have been many happy times which will always outweigh the others" reflects Raymond.

**"We have great family behind us and most importantly fantastic customers, people who came in with their own grandparents and parents for a glass of red lemonade and now they are coming in with their own families for lunch and dinner" continues Raymond.**

"There have been so many changes in the last 60 years, a lot of developments in the trade which help in the management of the business, but like other traditional industries such as farming you need to be able to wear so many other hats than just that of a barman". The town has suffered greatly in the recent recession with a lot of businesses closing their doors, but it's great to see some new doors opening up. A thriving urban area needs to have choice to attract people into town. If that choice doesn't exist people will go elsewhere", states Raymond.

**Looking back he remarks there have been many changes to Society St. in our time, probably most notably the number of families who live on the street. "Our business has changed hugely. 60 years ago, up until 25 years ago our business was just a pub trade, but now a major part of our business is the Restaurant & food operation" he commented.**

"There's been a major consolidation on the number of pubs in the town. 20 years ago, there were up to 30 pubs, now there's 12 or 13. It's important that we continue to support our local businesses particularly



Hubie Hardiman, Godfrey Gibbons, Dick Rothwell, Mrs. Gibbons, Mrs. Hardiman & Mrs. Rothwell at a Vintners Outing to Harp Brewery in Dundalk in the early 70s.



Godfrey Gibbons and Joe Mulhare pouring Guinness with Sean Reynolds and Liam Hill peering through the hatch.

with the start of the Town Enhancement Work. When it's done it will bring a positive change to the landscape of the town, but it certainly will bring challenges while it's ongoing" said Raymond.

**The Pillar House can be contacted on (090) 964 3939.**

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# BALLINDERRY NURSING HOME TWO DECADE MILESTONE

Ballinderry Nursing Home are celebrating 20 years in business this year. Staff members along with residents, families and the local community celebrated the occasion by holding mass with Rev. Fr. Gerry Geraghty, Fr. Christy McCormack, Fr. Ray Sweeney, Fr. Sean Egan, Rev. John Goffrey and Bishop John Kirby.

In the late 1990's Padraic and Mary Noone identified the need to keep the most precious members of local families close to the area where they lived and raised their children and grandchildren. In 1998 they opened the state-of-



The Noone family  
Eamonn,  
Niall,  
Enda,  
Mary and  
Eimear.

stimulation room with a full-wall mural for "imagination gym" and multiple therapies (for more information contact Director of Nursing, Nora Ryan at 09096-86890).

The newly created butterfly garden for dementia-oriented therapy was blessed and officially opened by Bishop Kirby on the day. After a short ceremony honouring those staff members who had given 10 and 20 years of service respectively, all were invited to join the Ballinderry team to a party with food and live music.

**The local children were treated to a party of their own with a giant inflatable crocodile as a centrepiece.**

Mary Noone says that the Nursing Home is growing and developing each year, along with the love and warmth of its members: "A family-owned business, the philosophy of care at Ballinderry Nursing Home is to



Ballinderry  
Management Team  
John Creaven, Nora  
Ryan, Maura Warde,  
Annette Hurley,  
Mary Noone.



Ballinderry Nursing Home Staff.

the-art Ballinderry Nursing and Convalescent Home on the wooded demesne of Ballinderry House.

**Surrounded by the natural beauty of Kilconnell Park and a short walk from the monastic village of Kilconnell itself, the Noone's felt this to be the perfect therapeutic environment for both recovery and retirement.**

Beginning with 22 beds and just 3 staff members, the Nursing Home was officially opened in October 1998 by former Taoiseach Bertie Ahern. In 2006 the facility was expanded to 52 beds and to its current number of 49 valued staff members.

**The Nursing Home has provided 20 years of employment opportunities in the surrounding areas. This has been made possible by the "continued faith and support of residents, their families, an outstanding staff and members of the local community", according to owner Mary Noone.**

In addition to the nursing care, the staff and full-time activity coordinator offer residents a 'stunning' array of therapies and lifestyle activities at no additional cost. These include weekly physiotherapy, occupational therapy, chiropody, phlebotomy services, optician, hairdressing, special dietary requirements, weekly art classes, music therapy, weekly music sessions and regular mass.

**Ballinderry are excited to announce a new activity and sensory**



Blessing of  
the Butterfly  
Garden.

10 and 20 years service.

engender in its residents and staff the bonds, warmth and loving responsibility for each other that comes with being in a strong, kind, extended East Galway family. It is this people-first philosophy that

makes Ballinderry Nursing Home renowned for being the nurturing residence and workplace that it is today" states Mary.

**Mary and her family thanked the residents and families of the Nursing Home for all their support and love over the past two decades.**



## 2 YOUTHS TO CYCLE FROM MALIN TO MIZEN FOR JIGSAW



**Graham Hendrick (Moore) and Shane Reynolds (Creagh)** are about to embark on one of the biggest

challenges of their lives to date, by taking on a cycle which includes 2,500km of Ireland's famous Atlantic coastline.

"Mental health is a problem nobody likes to talk about, even the Government who seem to sweep everything under the table and really haven't recognised it as a growing problem. It will forever be implanted within us during our time within college, where nearly on a weekly basis a young person went missing or committed suicide which is so tragic when you consider they had their whole lives ahead of them yet" states Shane.

**When searching for the organisation that the boys felt would do justice to the funds the hope to raise, Jigsaw stood out to them. Jigsaw are a charity organisation with support mental health centres all throughout Ireland, and what stood out for the duo was the charity's emphasis on early intervention and prevention.**

Although Jigsaw offer a range of services to those suffering by helping them find their way back out of the dark space of their mind, they are also working hard to prevent others ever having to undergo such a scary experience.

**Both Shane and Graham have witnessed the effects that losing someone through suicide can have, both on a family and the community. Ireland currently ranks 4th in the world for Suicide**

**rates among young men between 18- 24, yet suicide is rarely talked about due to the stigma that surrounds it.**

"We believe breaking this stigma is the key to seeing real change within our country and hope you will join us in our support for this wonderful organisation and help them fulfil their vision of a happier Ireland" said Graham.

**Barry of Barry Cycles helped the boys out with the mechanics of the bike and proper cycling techniques. The lads couldn't credit him enough for all his assistance when it was needed.**

The charity cycle starts on the 8th of September, which has given the lads lots of time to train and prepare for their adventure and good cause.

**To donate to the boys cause, visit [www.everydayhero.ie](http://www.everydayhero.ie)**

**BY IAN O'BOYLE**

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European Union Vice-President and MEP for Ireland's Midland and North-West Constituency Mairéad McGuinness visited the town library for a Q&A session with locals as part of Europe Day 2018.

Mairéad, who was invited to attend on the day by Senator Maura Hopkins, had a great turnout of locals and primary school students in the Church Gallery. Senator Hopkins and Councillor Aidan Donohue welcomed Mairéad on stage before they opened the floor for questions.

**The Primary School Students were well prepared for the occasion as they got the ball rolling, by asking questions which really challenged the trio and put them on the spot.**

Some lucky students were brought up on stage by McGuinness as they got to take part in brief discussions on the importance of Ireland being a member of the EU. Topics such as Brexit and EU policies were touched upon as the children got a better insight to what exactly the EU is all about.

**Mairéad was very impressed by the turnout at the event, saying that it was great to see people of all ages get involved: "To see the young children show an interest in matters such as EU politics is great, it shows that they are willing to learn about modern day issues which will help them a lot in the future".**

After the presentation and questions were over, Mairéad invited everyone in attendance forward for photographs, before taking a tour of the new Pulse Business Centre above the Library. Members of the BACD were happy with the reaction McGuinness had about the new office spaces, saying that they will prove to be vital in bringing employment to the town.

**Speaking after the tour, Mairéad spoke about how businesses in the town can attract foreign direct investment from other countries; "The opportunities for investment are there for the taking, what people need to do is just keep pressing and pressing to get people to come and look at the facilities ye have here in town and the surrounding areas. Sometimes Ballinasloe can be forgotten about as its centralised**

**between two large business hubs (Galway and Athlone), but the value of my visit is that I can now see that people here are very enthusiastic about business opportunities.**

"Take for instance the new facilities I'm in right now (Pulse Centre), businesses in more urban areas around Ireland might be under pressure with expanding their company due to lack of properties or high prices, and with the enthusiasm I've heard today from locals saying that we will not be forgotten will prove to be a huge prospect in attracting foreign investment" added the MEP.

**On the topic of Brexit, Mairéad says that it's not yet known how much it will affect small towns such as Ballinasloe until more discussions between Ireland and the UK take place; "We don't yet know how extreme Brexit is going to be for businesses all across Ireland, of course trade is going to be the biggest issue should a hard border be brought in which I certainly hope will not be the case. What we (The EU) are trying to do now is limit the damage so that the severe damage that could happen is restricted.**

"Trade of goods which come through this town will no doubt have to pass through the UK at some stage to get onto the continent, if a hard



Students of Ardscoil Mhuire along with Mairéad McGuinness, Maura Hopkins and Aidan Donohue.

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border or no trade agreements are made at that time then it will have effect on business. My sense from talking to UK officials is that they don't want to disrupt trade, but unfortunately we haven't found a way of having a new relationship with the United Kingdom once they do leave the EU.

**"We most certainly have the support of the other 26 members in the parliament so that businesses all across Ireland, and in particular small rural areas such as the town here don't lose all their employment values just for the sake of one member leaving".**

Mairéad believes that farmers in rural areas such as here are vitally important to the Irish economy, and that the EU is doing everything they can to be sure that it stays this way;

**"The Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is such an important factor for rural Europe, but in particular for rural Ireland. Money from this budget goes such a long way to help farmers pump**



Senator Maura Hopkins, Mairéad McGuinness MEP and Library Manager Una Kelly.

more money back into local shops and businesses all across Ireland. In regard to new policies, the new reform of the CAP is shaped heavily on more environmental delivery, and with this we are doing our best to protect the budget, so no farmers fall short of income in the future. I think rural areas like Ballinasloe have a lot more to offer when it comes to agriculture, but with Britain leaving we now need more countries from the EU to get involved and help boost our agricultural climate".

Regarding tourism, Mairéad believes that Ballinasloe along with other small towns across the midlands have a lot to offer, and the EU is working hard on making that happen;

**"The EU wants to help develop rural regions, and tourism plays a major part in that. When you think of the Wild Atlantic Way, years ago no one would have even known all the wonders that exist along it, so now its all about promoting the many eye-catching scenes which lie around our delicate midlands" she concluded.**

To see more about Mairéad's visit to Ballinasloe, check out her Facebook page.

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# BCU LAUNCH NEW LOAN PACKAGE FOR EDUCATIONAL & TRAINING NEEDS

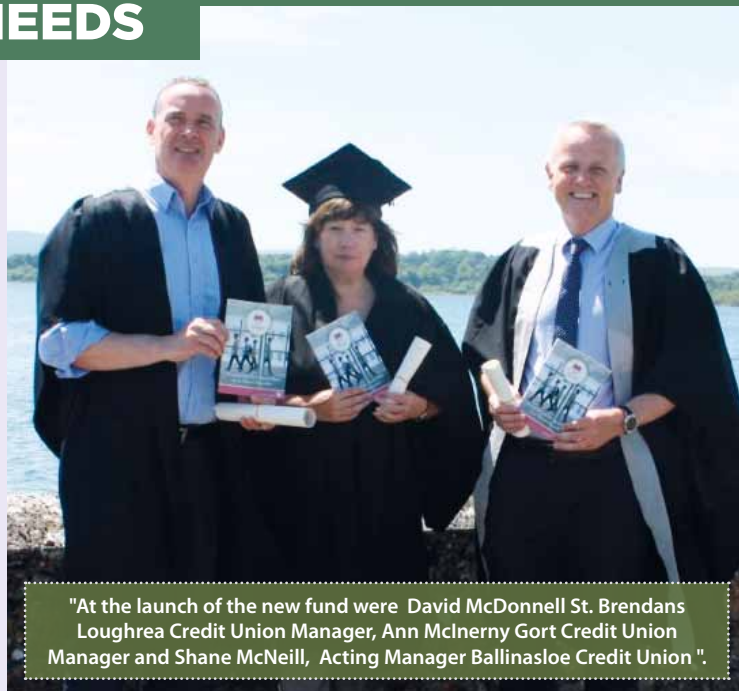
Three nearby Credit Unions have come together to offer a solution to the growing costs of education. After intensive market research and discussion groups, this new finance pack was designed with both students and parents in mind.

Ballinasloe, Gort and Naomh Breandain Credit Union Loughrea worked tirelessly with students, teachers, and other interested groups before launching this brand new and exciting education loan pack.

Educate provides finance not just to third level students. The research and focus groups found that education costs starts back at Primary School level, therefore all age groups participating in education are included under this Educate offering.

If parents find themselves stressed in kitting out their child with uniforms, books, netbooks, iPad's etc. in the primary and secondary level education, Educate can also help them. If your child is beginning a third level journey, taking up an apprenticeship or going back to study something new, then don't hesitate to enquire about the Educate loan.

The Credit Unions designed Educate to allow the student and parent to take control of their education. Eligible members (student or parents of student) can borrow for a wide range of educational needs. From Primary school right up to graduating with a third level degree, a Post Grad, Mature Student, Apprenticeships, Online



BY IAN O'BOYLE

courses or even studying abroad; Educate is designed to suit you.

There are several flexible options available for repaying this loan type. The borrower can pay off the loan early, make additional lump sum repayments or increase the regular repayments, all without penalty. Other repayment options can also be discussed for this loan.

Typically education is an expensive time in the life of a young person or for someone who wishes to re-enter training or education at a later stage in their life. Educate can also be suitable for these members.

This Educate loan pack is different to many of existing loans offered by the credit unions. It offers an element of flexibility different to all other loans, and the CU's encourage those interested in borrowing to call in and discuss this with a Loans Officer.

Many will be surprised how flexible this new Educate loan type is. The repayment terms can be scheduled to suit the borrower. An important point to note also is that the criteria for borrowing is no longer based on the shares held, instead it's based on the borrower's ability to repay the loan.

If you would like to learn more about the offerings of Educate, then call in to the Offices in Main St. Ballinasloe or phone 0909643179 to make an appointment with a loans officer.



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# PRAYER CENTRE CELEBRATES 21 YEARS

BY KEN KELLY

Just over twenty-one years ago the Ursuline Sisters opened a prayer centre, near Shannonbridge, which has become a "Place of Peace" for many hundreds of people since. It is located only 500 metres from Shannonbridge, just off the R357 road to Ballinasloe.

The place of prayer at Rahrabeg is located within five miles of the ancient monastic site of Clonmacnoise and is in the parish of Moore and Clonfad. It is named Ard Chiarain and was officially opened by the late Bishop Joseph Cassidy, the retired Archbishop of Tuam, who was Parish Priest of Moore at the time. The land was donated by the late Fr. Paddy Kenny, a native of the area.

Sr. Maura Moran said the project was funded by the Ursuline congregation, benefactors and the South Roscommon Leader Group. It was the result of "her vision" that the place of prayer and reflection, near the Celtic Christian Community of St. Ciarain came into being. It is comprised of a central meeting chalet and four surrounding residential chalets distant from each other with electricity, toilets and cooking facilities. All five units are surrounded by gardens and walks.

"I wanted the general public to find the place a place of peace, rest and general relaxation, where



they could experience a renewal of spirit before returning to the market place" explained Sr. Maura who is assisted by two other Sisters at the Centre, Sr. Margaret Mary and Sr. Marie.

The Centre offers Directed Retreats, Centering Prayer, Morning and Evening Prayer of the Church as well as Advent and Lenten Devotions and Spiritual Direction or Counselling. The chalets are situated in landscaped gardens, overlooking the Rivers Shannon and Suck. "Ard Chiarain is a Centre of Prayer and Reflection, offering an opportunity for relaxation, peace and self-renewal" added Sr. Maura who wanted to thank all those who supported them over the past twenty-one years, especially the Ursuline Community.



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## PASSING OF KITTY MULVIHILL

Catherine (Kitty) Mulvihill, Birchgrove, (nee Finnerty, Ardnaglug), recently passed away peacefully in St. Brendan's Community Nursing Unit in her 97th year.

Kitty attended Attyrory N.S where she excelled in her studies, winning a scholarship to the Convent Secondary School in Ballinasloe. She had a thirst for knowledge and loved learning, but unfortunately the economic climate at the time didn't allow her to continue her studies, which was something she always regretted.

After leaving school she helped her father on the farm and developed her love of the land. She trained as a mental health nurse in St. Brigid's Hospital, where she met her husband John Mulvihill, a native of Mantua, Co. Roscommon. They married in 1946, where they went onto live together in Birchgrove.

On the 5th of February 1962, John died very unexpectedly leaving Kitty with eight young children ranging from 18 months to 15 years. With her world turned upside down, Kitty edged along rearing her young family with the help of her siblings and wonderful neighbours.

Kitty was a great believer in work, and one of the things she always said was "Hard work never killed anyone". She extended her farm where she sowed crops, and with the help of her sons Peter and Tom would sell her products on the top of the Square and to Hayden's Hotel.

She was an exceptionally resourceful person, whether it was making clothes for all her children, carrying out repairs, cooking, baking, and working on the farm and bog. She always displayed amazing bursts of energy and skill, a wonderful role model for all her family.

The Irish language was one of Kitty's fascinations in life, which she attributed to Master Flynn, a Moore native in Attyrory. She helped teach her children and grandchildren with their studies, where learning Irish empowered them to excel in their

### examinations.

Religious faith carried Kitty through her times of crisis. She was a daily Mass goer for several years and prayed the rosary daily right up to the end of her life. Her rosary beads and prayer book were two of the most treasured items Kitty carried in life. "Is Giorra Cathair Né Ná an Doras", meaning God's help is nearer than the door, was Kitty's phrase when ensuring that her family got holy water leaving the house.

Kitty's garden was always well kept. She had a love for flowers and was always fascinated by their bright colours. Reading was also one of her favourite hobbies, especially the daily newspaper each morning.

Keeping in touch with loved ones overseas was very important to Kitty. Sending and receiving letters gave her great pleasure knowing that no one was too far from home.

Though she didn't play sport, she had a keen interest in G.A.A, Rugby, Athletics, Golf, and most of all the show jumping in the RDS. Seeing Roscommon win the Connacht Championship in 2017 brought her great delight, and she was down to meet them on their return to Padraig Pearse's.

Her manners were pushed into her family as they grew up. She respected everyone regardless of their status, and with this she showed great empathy towards those who were less fortunate.

Music always brightened Kitty's day, where she had numerous favourite artists and songs to dance to with her children. Her favourite of all was the song "Fields of Gold" by Eva Cassidy, as it reminded her of her childhood.

The greatest tribute we can give Kitty is to embrace the values of what she stood for, such as cherishing family and friends, her hard work and of course her love of prayer and religious observance. A wonderful role model for everyone.

"Ní bheidh a leithid an arís".

 PENNED BY RITA DARCY



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# OLD VEC OFFERS LOTS OF AUTUMN COURSES

BY IAN O'BOYLE

The Ballinasloe College of Further Education are now taking applications for available courses starting in September this year. There are over 12 courses to choose from with different certification levels, which can lead on to diploma and degree level with a brief synopsis of what they entail and duration.

## **Plant Identification Care & Maintenance for Horticulture L4**

Plant Identification Care & Maintenance and Safe Horticultural Practice, with Awards in the given modules once completed. The course starts on the 3rd of September 2018 and finishes on the 24th of September 2021. The course is part-time, with classes on Monday Mornings.

## **Care of the Older Person L5**

The Course Content solely involves Care of Older Person, with an award in the given modules once completed. Starting on the 4th of September 2018 and ends on the 22nd of December 2018. The course is part-time, with classes on Monday and Tuesday morning.

## **Nursing Theory & Practice - Nursing Studies L5**

Focusing on Anatomy and Physiology, Human Growth and Development and Nursing Theory and Practice, with Awards in the given modules once completed. The Course begins on the 4th of September 2018 and ends on the 22nd of December 2018. The Course is part-time, with classes on Tuesday mornings.

## **Computer Applications for Horticulture L4**

The Course Content involves Plant Identification Care & Maintenance and Safe Horticultural Practice, with Awards in the given modules once completed. It begins on the 4th of September 2018 and finishes on the 22nd of December 2018. It's a part-time course with classes on Tuesday mornings.

## **Understanding Mental Health. L4**

This programme features Safety and Health at Work, Care Skills and Care Support, with Awards in the given modules. The Course starts on the 5th of September 2018 and finishes in late December 2018. This is one of the few evening courses available, and it takes place on Wednesdays.

## **Hairdressing Science L5**

The Course examines Safety and Health at Work, Hairdressing Theory and Practice, and Hairdressing Science, with Awards in the given modules once completed. Beginning on the 6th of September 2018 and ends in late December 2018. This is a part time course, with classes on a Thursday morning.

## **Personal Effectiveness for Healthcare L5**

This Course involves Anatomy and Physiology, Human Growth and Development, and Nursing Theory and Practice, with Awards in the given modules once completed. The Course starts on the 6th of September 2018 and ends in late December 2018. This is a part-time course, with classes on Thursday afternoon.

## **Early Childhood Education & Play L5**

This Course has only Early Childhood Education and Play as a module, with an Award being credited once completed. It starts on the 6th of September 2018 and ends in late December 2018. This is a part-time course, with classes taking place on Thursday mornings.

## **Personal Effectiveness for Horticulture Sector L4**

Involving Plant Identification Care & Maintenance, and Safe Horticultural Practice, with Awards in the given modules once completed. The Course begins on the 7th of September 2018 and finishes in late December 2018. This is a part-time course, with classes taking place on Friday mornings.

## **Safety & Health & Work L5**

This Course includes Safety and Health at Work, Care Skills and Care Support, with Awards in the given modules once completed. The Course begins on the 7th of September 2018 and finishes in late December 2018. This is a part-time course, with classes taking place on Friday mornings.

## **Word Processing L5**

This course focuses solely Business Administration, with an Award in the module once completed. The Course starts on the 11th of September 2018 and ends in late December 2018. This is a part-time course which takes place on Tuesday mornings.

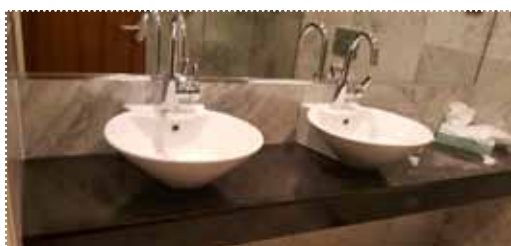
## **Child Development L6**

The Course Content includes Child Development, Early Childhood Curriculum, and Childhood Social Legal & Health Studies, with Awards in the given modules once completed. This Course starts on the 11th of September 2018 and finishes on the 15th of December 2018. This is a part-time evening course which takes place on Tuesdays.

## **Special Needs Assisting L6**

Teaching Child Development, Early Childhood Curriculum, and Childhood Social Legal & Health Studies, with Awards in the given modules once completed. The Course begins on the 12th of September 2018 and finishes on the 18th of December 2018. This is a part time evening course, with classes taking place on Wednesdays.

For more information on each of these courses, check out [www.fetchcourses.ie](http://www.fetchcourses.ie), or contact Bridie Dolan (Course Co-ordinator) on 090 9643479, or email her at [bridie.dolan@gretb.ie](mailto:bridie.dolan@gretb.ie)



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## BACD: BOARD MEMBERS AND STAFF

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd (BACD) is the local community development company with the main objective of economic development for the area. The company's flagship projects include Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre, Ballinasloe Life Magazine, Town Team Projects (further details will be in the next edition of Life) & the development of the IDA site.

Following the companies AGM, the Board of Directors have met and re-elected Seamus Duffy as Chairman and Joe Lyons as Vice-chair. The Board currently has 14 voluntary members, made up of representatives from the community.

The elected board of the charitable not for profit company is:



**NOEL MADDEN** is the retired Manager of Ballinasloe Credit Union after 23 years of senior management involvement. A Member of the Board since the company was first established in 1997. The Credit Union was/is the principal financial supporter of the Enterprise Centre. Noel is also the Musical Director/Bandmaster of the Town Band (estb. 1878). In addition Brackernagh native Noel is a Director of the Credit Union Service Organisation (Payments) - an all Ireland company. He was also recently appointed a director of St Teresa's Special School. All of the appointments are in a voluntary capacity.



**JOHN MCKENNA** is a Chartered Accountant and has worked previously in practice and for Multinationals. He has for the past 18 years worked in Athlone Institute of Technology as Vice-President. John grew up in London and Sligo and has lived locally for 29 years. He is Chairman of Ballinasloe Chess Club and has previously been a member of the National Executive of the Irish Chess Union. He has been a member of the board for the past two years.



**SEAMUS KELLY** is the BCU representative on the BACD board. He worked at Square D Company both locally and Internationally for 28 years. Subsequently he has held Senior Management roles in various Companies throughout Ireland. Currently he is employed in the Tourism sector. He is a Director of Ballinasloe Credit Union for 6 years and a Director of BACD for 2 years. An East Ballinasloe hinterland native (Rossie) all his lifetime and currently resides in the Ballydangan area.



**JOE LYONS** MSc, MA, PhD is Vice-chair. Joe comes from a farming background in South Limerick and has lived in Clontuskert for 40 years. He spent his working life with the ESB as a technical manager and has presented technical papers on electricity generation, environmental



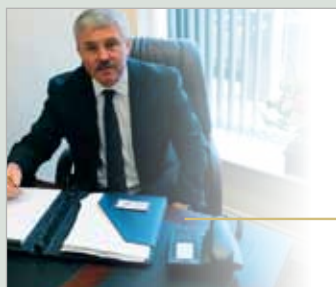
**SEAMUS DUFFY** who worked with AIB Bank in a Management role for 35 years and is currently self employed as a Financial Advisor. He is a member of the Board for the past 10 years and Chairman for the last 8. He is also the current Chairman of Ballinasloe GAA Club. A Mayo native, he has been a resident the town for the past 16 years.



**KEVIN BRODERICK** is a Pharmacist and was owner of Broderick's Pharmacy, Ballinasloe for 24 years. A previous Chairman and Treasurer of Creagh Community Development Council and Treasurer of Ballinasloe Soccer Club for 4 years. Living locally for the past 20 years, he has been a member of BACD since 2016



**MARINA DOWNEY** is the owner of Downey's Bar & Restaurant on Society Street, which specialises in offsite Catering. Born and bred in Birchgrove, Ballinasloe, she had a long career with the Post Office before purchasing a licensed premises on Society St. over 11 years ago. She is a Graduate in Social Studies and Economics from NUIG. She is a member of the board since 2017.



# Sinclair

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management/impact assessment at international conferences in the USA and Europe and he has a number of technical papers published in engineering journals.



**PAUL HARGADON** is the CEO of Corporate Research Bureau, a company based in Creagh which provides business intelligence solutions to Financial, Legal and Insurance entities. He established the company following his retirement from An Garda Síochána where he served for 35 years and held the senior management rank of Chief Superintendent. The Sligo native is the holder of a LL.B law degree from the National University of Ireland, Galway and has been a director of BACD Ltd since 2007.



**DAN DOWLING** is a farmer originally from Kerry living in Creagh, for the past 52 years. He is the Creagh Community representative on the board for the past 12 years. He is actively involved with numerous other groups and committees in the area namely Creagh Branch IFA, Galway LCDC, GCC Economic SPC, Western Regional Drugs Task force, Galway PPN Secretariat, Ballinasloe Training for Employment to name a few.



**VALERIE DOLAN** born in Poolboy and lives in Kellysgrove, she is a Health & Wellness Holistic Practitioner & Coach, specialising in bringing back to health people with stress related illness, obesity and digestive disorders. She became a member of the Board in 2018.



**MICHAEL CONNOLLY** represents Ballinasloe Municipal District Council on the Board of BACD. A member of Galway County Council for the past 19 years, Michael a native of Moylough - worked for over 25 years with Thermo King Europe LTD in Galway City. He is passionate in his support for the re-opening of the Western Rail Corridor from Athenry to Sligo, the development of the Atlantic Economic Corridor from Cork to Derry, and an economic Corridor from Galway to Ballinasloe.



**PEARSE KELLER** is current MD of Keller Travel & Campotel. A Main St. native, educated at Garbally College - Pearse pursued a career in the Hotel Business before returning to the family operations. Current Board member of the Irish Travel Agents Association and Treasurer of Ballinasloe RFC He is a director of BACD since 2017.



**ANN CONLON.** Joined the BACD Board in 2014. She was born and bred Brackernagh and is the owner of Crumbs and Cream Coffee shop and catering specialists on Main Street for the past 25 years. Anne is the mother of 3 girls and is the ladies' secretary of the Rugby club.



**BRIAN KING** first moved to Ballinasloe in 1985 with A T Cross. He was fortunate to have been given the opportunity with Cross to have a number of international management roles in different parts of the world since 1990. In 2004 he left Cross and moved to Dubai to take up a General Management position with a local UAE company. In mid-2017, Brian moved back to town and has been on the board of the BACD since early 2018.

He is keen to help with the regeneration of the businesses environment in town and the surrounding areas. To be successful, Brian strongly believes that we must encourage and mentor the younger generation to take up leadership roles.

**STAFF: LYN DONNELLY**, joined the BACD team as their full time



manager in January 2012. She also is the company secretary. Originally from Dublin where she qualified as a civil engineer in UCD, she worked in Galway for a few years before moving to Laurencetown where she has been living for the past 12 years. She has been heavily involved with Kiltormer camogie club as a player, club official and more recently as underage management.



**PAULA HARLEY** works part-time with the company since 2015. Originally from Brackernagh where her family ran a Constructing and Gravel Works & now lives on the Roscommon side of town. She is a former Projects co-ordinator with AOIFE. Paula is involved with coaching in the local Athletics Club and is the secretary of the local Masters Swimming Club.

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## 20 PARAMEDICS GRADUATE FROM NATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE



The newly qualified paramedics alongside their lecturers on graduation day.

The Graduation of Student Paramedic Course P28B from the National Ambulance Service College, Ballinasloe took place recently at the NAS College and Gullane's Hotel. The Paramedics were taught by lecturers John Marshall, Ivan O'Grady, PJ Commins, Tom Connaughton and Padraig Glynn.

Twenty undergraduates received their degree in advance paramedics, which is a level 9 honorary level. They went through a one-year undergraduate programme followed by a one-year postgrad, and a year of operational practice before undergoing a two-year advanced paramedic course in the local Enterprise & Technology Centre complex.

The training centre was set up in Ballinasloe back in 2008 by the National Education Manager professor Shane Knox. Since that time there has been hundreds of students studying within the complex from all over Ireland and the rest of the world.

Lecturer Padraig Glynn gives an insight to the training process involved within the complex: "The training involves didactic, practical, super numery and observation on ambulances, which is all conducted by the Pre-Hospital Emergency Care Council. After training is completed and the students get their degrees they become operational paramedics, where they can be distributed to any part of Ireland" stated Padraig.

"At the moment we currently have 120 students studying with us. The numbers keep rising every year which is something we are very happy with, and we hope it continues over the coming years. All of the lecturers here carry diplomas in Emergency Medical Science (Para-Medicine)" he explains.

Students are recruited through the HSE, where they must hold a leaving certificate with one science subject and maths. With this applicant must also hold a C1 drivers licence (extra haulage vehicle compared to an ordinary licence).

The graduation was honoured to have present Martin Dunne (Director of the HSE National Ambulance Service), Macartan Hughes (National Head of Education and Competency Assurance) and Shane Knox (National Education Manager).

"We are all very proud of what these students have achieved this year. To become a paramedic is not an easy journey any of our staff members will tell you that themselves. These guys have worked long hours, given up so much of their free time and worked in some very hard conditions, but now it has all paid off for the team and I wish them all the best in their careers" remarked Padraig.

The students now leave the college and go operational as Paramedics with the National Ambulance Service Nationwide.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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## ADOPT A DOG IN KILLIMOR

Galway SPCA (Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals), was set up in 1985. From very humble beginnings, with volunteers caring for animals in their own homes, they have progressed to a sanctuary in Killimor and a shop, offices and small cattery in Galway city.

Their aim is to rescue, rehabilitate and re home all animals in their care to forever homes. In addition to caring for these animals they also work closely with other organisations and government bodies to monitor and support as many animals in distress or causing concern to the public as their resources allow.

Now volunteers in Ballinasloe and Aughrim are fostering some of these unfortunate animals in their own homes and even adopting some of them. Diane Dolan from Kilclooney and Margaret Manning from Aughrim are leaders in the field. Diane said "We absolutely love animals and do our best to bring them back to full health. They are often neglected or abandoned and you really feel for them."

Diane went on to appeal to the public to assist in this worthy cause and added "the Killimor Sanctuary is open seven days a week, 365 days of the year, where there are cats, dogs, rabbits, guinea pigs, snakes, turtles, ferrets, birds and even goats, ready for adoption. On average they care for 750 animals each year, which takes a lot of time and money. If you are looking to adopt and of the above feel free to visit the Sanctuary. It can be a moving experience. We are constantly looking for volunteers, even for a few hours a week" explained Diane.

With animal neglect and cruelty at an all-time high, they believe education is the key and regularly visit schools throughout the county, giving talks to students about animal welfare.

One such case is that of Sparrow. A young lurcher girl found wandering the streets of Tuam on a cold and wet January night. Clearly in distress,



Diane Dolan, Kilclooney, Ballinasloe with rescue dog Gerry.

limping, shut down and void of emotion. After x rays revealed a badly broken leg Sparrow was referred to a specialist vet in Galway city where an operation was carried out and plates were inserted into her leg. But it doesn't end there. Surgery is just the beginning. Weeks of crate rest, numerous vet visits and hydrotherapy treatment are needed to make sure Sparrow makes a full recovery. Which will hopefully give her back her freedom and use of her damaged limb.

The Sanctuary rely heavily on public donations and throughout the year hold a variety of fund-raising events. "As part of their campaign we are having a 'Wags to Riches' night of Fashion in Gullane's Hotel on Friday 7th of September at 8.30pm. This year's theme will be smart casual, night on the town, girls night out, informal dresses, shoes and handbags. Tickets are only €10 and can be purchased on

the night or on [eventbrite.ie](http://eventbrite.ie)" said Margaret Manning.

"If you are considering getting a pet whether it be a cat, dog or other smallie then please think about a rescue pet. A visit to the sanctuary is a must where their experienced staff will guide you through the process. Their aim is to match the right pet to the right home. All pets are neutered, microchipped and vaccinated which is included in the rehoming donation they ask for" stressed Diane Dolan, head of the Ballinasloe Volunteer Group

If you would like any more information on Galway SPCA you can email them on [info@galway-sPCA.com](mailto:info@galway-sPCA.com) or if you would like to make a donation towards the animals in their care, then you can do so via PayPal at [PayPal.me/GalwaySPCA](http://PayPal.me/GalwaySPCA) or through their bank account. BOI Mainguard St account number 53593129.

BY DIANE DOLAN

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# OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE



16 People that use our Services working so hard at Caltra Fitness Programme (BOC) Carol Pender A Team Leader.



Ann Hill displaying some of her art work during her very own exhibition in the Church Gallery.



Brothers of Charity Clients at their fitness programme in Caltra with Service Co-ordinator Mary Hazlett.



Members of Accessibility Ballinasloe during the Pride of Place National Pitch in the Shearwater Hotel.



# OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE



Johnny Farrell (right), Captain, Ballinasloe Golf Club presents his Captain's prize to the Overall Winner Barry O'Keefe.



Barbara Harney (left) Lady Captain Ballinasloe Golf Club pictured presenting her Captain's Prize to the overall winner Rita Staunton.



Iggy Colohan (left) overall winner of Ollie Dooley's Senior's Captain's Prize at Ballinasloe Golf Club.



African delegation to Ballinasloe Credit Union.



Pictured are the prize winners at the recent Dubarry Golf Classic. This year marked the 25th anniversary of the event, which is held in Glasson Golf Club each year. A great day was had by all in attendance and Dubarry would like to thank those that took part in the event.

(L-R) Sean Óg Hurley (Dubarry), Michael Walsh (Dubarry), Ed O'Mahony (Glesson Shoes, Limerick), Dion Zerasa (Whelan Shoes, Clare) and JJ Murphy (Enniscorthy).



Brian Naughton the lucky winner of the €500 scratch card competition held by Pearses GAA being presented with the Cheque by Club Chairman Michael Feehily.

# AUGUST EVENTS GUIDE

<b>Wednesday 1st</b>			<b>Friday 10th</b>			<b>Monday 20th</b>		
Syrian Art Exhibit	Ballinasloe Library	1st Day	B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am-1.30pm	Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Centre	10am-3pm
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure	10am-3pm	Ladies Open 18 H Singles	B'sloe Golf Club	9am	Sean Kelly Art Exhibition	Ballinasloe Library	6pm to 7.30pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm	Cuckoo Hill Sum. Camp	Tommie Costello's	11am-3pm	Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm	Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9pm	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm
B.Killkenney/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm	Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's S'Bridge	10pm	The Goodfella's	Brewery Lane	10pm	<b>Tuesday 21st</b>		
<b>Thursday 2nd</b>			Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm	Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Centre	10am-3pm
Ladies 9 H.S. S'Ford	B'sloe Golf Club	9am	Small Idea's	The Auld Sod	10pm	Sean Kelly Art Exhibition	Ballinasloe Library	6pm-7.30pm
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Centre	10am-3pm	Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm	<b>Saturday 11th</b>			Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	President's Prize	B'sloe Golf Club	9am	Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Live Ascoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm	Na Riadoir i	An Tain	10pm	<b>Wednesday 22nd</b>		
<b>Friday 3rd</b>			Lurical	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Centre	10am-3pm
Syrian Art Exhibition	Ballinasloe Library	Last Day	Nightowls	The Auld Sod	10pm	Active Retirment	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Lyn Kelleher Exh	Ballinasloe Library	First Day	Live Music	The Pillar House	10pm	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am-1.30pm	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm	B.Killkenney/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm
Ladies Open 18H Singles	B'sloe Golf Club	9am	Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm	Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Centre	10am-3pm	DJ John Finnerty	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	<b>Thursday 23rd</b>		
Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9pm	<b>Sunday 12th</b>			Ladies 9 H.S. S'Ford	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm	Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm	Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Centre	10am-3pm
The 2 Q's	Brewery Lane	10pm	Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm
Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm	Live Music	An Tain	7pm	Live Ascoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
The Deans	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm	Blue Ridge Country	Shearwater Hotel	9pm	Trad Session	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Ken Solo	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	Country Music C. Rosney	Shearwater Hotel	9pm	<b>Friday 24th</b>		
<b>Saturday 4th</b>			Liam's Country Road Show	The Auld Sod	10pm	B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am-1.30pm
Crooked Jacks	The Auld Sod	10pm	Cruiscin	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	Ladies Open 18 H Singles	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Cold Porter	An Tain	10pm	Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm	Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Centre	10am-3pm
Boithin	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	<b>Monday 13th</b>			Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9pm
The Deans	Luker's of S'bridge	8.30pm	Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Centre	10am-3pm	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
80's Night DJ Paul Fox	The Pillar House	9.30pm	Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm	Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm	Beggars Velvet	Brewery Lane	10pm
Red Tape	Brewery Lane	10pm	Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm	Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Jiggers of Erin	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	<b>Tuesday 14th</b>			<b>Saturday 25th</b>		
<b>Sunday 5th</b>			Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Centre	10am-3pm	Hot James	An Tain	10pm
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm	GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm	Small Deal	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm	Off The Wall	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm	Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm	Geagan Pagan's	The Pillar House	10pm
Trad Session	Luker's of S'bridge	7pm	<b>Wednesday 15th</b>			Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Social Dancing B. Magee	Shearwater Hotel	9pm	Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Centre	10am-3pm	The Goodlife	Brewery Lane	10pm
Country Music J. Buckley	Shearwater Hotel	9pm	Active Retirment	Gullanes Hotel	3pm	Bothareen	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Nightowls	The Auld Sod	10pm	B.Killkenney/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm	<b>Sunday 26th</b>		
Take Time	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm	Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
M. Keane & C. Naughton	The Pillar House	10pm	Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm	<b>Thursday 16th</b>			Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Declan O'Rourke	Lukers of S'bridge	10pm	Ladies 9 H.S. S'Ford	B'sloe Golf Club	9am	Trad Session	Luker's of S'bridge	7pm
The Livewires	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Centre	10am-3pm	Dermot McConnell	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
<b>Monday 6th</b>			Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm	Country Act/ P.Feeney	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Lions Club Charity Day	B'sloe Golf Club	10am	Trad Session	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	David Mills	The Auld Sod	9.30pm
Cuckoo Hill Sum. Camp	Tommie Costello's	11am-3pm	Live Ascoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm	Maggie D	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm	<b>Friday 17th</b>			Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm	Lyn Kelleher Exh	Ballinasloe Library	Last Day	<b>Monday 27th</b>		
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm	B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am-1.30pm	Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
<b>Tuesday 7th</b>			Ladies Open 18 H Singles	B'sloe Golf Club	9am	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm
Con. Sheild B'sloe v M'bell	B'sloe Golf Club	10am	Swimming Camp	Coral Leisure Centre	10am-3pm	Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Cuckoo Hill Sum.Camp	Tommie Costello's	11am-3pm	Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9pm	<b>Tuesday 28th</b>		
Lyn Kelleher Art Exhibit	Ballinasloe Library	6pm-7.30pm	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm	Sean Kelly Art Exhibition	Ballinasloe Library	Last Day
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm	Toxic Twins	Brewery Lane	10pm	GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm	Ken Solo	The Auld Sod	10pm	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm	Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm	Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
<b>Wednesday 8th</b>			Paul Watchhorn	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	<b>Wednesday 29th</b>		
Cuckoo Hill Sum. Camp	Tommie Costello's	11am-3pm	<b>Saturday 18th</b>			Active Retirment	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Active Retirment	Gullanes Hotel	3pm	Sean Kelly Art Exhibition	Ballinasloe Library	First Day	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm	Eoin Maher	An Tain	10pm	B.Killkenney/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm
B.Killkenney/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm	Take Time	The Pillar House	10pm	Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	Happy Bar Stars	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	<b>Thursday 30th</b>		
<b>Thursday 9th</b>			The Legends	The Auld Sod	10pm	Ladies 9 H.S. S'Ford	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Ladies 9 H.S. S'Ford	B'sloe Golf Club	9am	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm
Cuckoo Hill Sum.Camp	Tommie Costello's	11am-3pm	The Jam Band	Brewery Lane	10pm	Live Ascoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm	Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	Trad Session	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	<b>Sunday 19th</b>			<b>Friday 31st</b>		
Live Ascoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm	Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm	B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am-1.30pm
			Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm	Ladies Open 18 H Singles	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
			Live Music	An Tain	7pm	Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9pm
			Trad Session	Luker's of S'bridge	7pm	Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
			Jimmy Hynes & Crusaders	Shearwater Hotel	9pm	Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
			Country Music G.Guthrie	Shearwater Hotel	9pm	Hoppy Bar Stars	Brewery Lane	10pm
			Pub Fiction	The Auld Sod	10pm	Alan O'Neill	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
			Bumble Bee Honey	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm			
			Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm			



# SEPTEMBER EVENTS GUIDE

Saturday 1st		
Chris Nash	The Pillar House	9pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm
Cold Porter	An Tain	10pm
Boithrin	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
Big Idea's	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 2nd		
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Social Dance M.Collins	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Country Act Mike Denver	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm
Bojangle	Killeens of S'bridge	10pm
Shane Moore	The Auld Sod	10pm
Monday 3rd		
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Tuesday 4th		
Lego Club Ages 7 to 12	Ballinasloe Library	4.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 5th		
Knitting & Crochet Club	Ballinasloe Library	11am to 1pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm
B.Killkenney/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 6th		
Ladies 9 H.S. S'Ford	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	8.45pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Friday 7th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am-1.30pm
Ladies Open 18 H Singles	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Wags to Riches Fashion Show	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Summer Trad Session	The Pillar House	9pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
The 2 Q's	Brewery Lane	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Saturday 8th		
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	12am- 4pm
Joxer & Davy	The Pillar House	10pm
Crooked Jacks	The Auld Sod	10pm
The Jam Band	Brewery Lane	10pm
Na Riadoiri	An Tain	10pm
Cruiscin	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Sunday 9th		
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
P. McKenna & G. Shane	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Michael English	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Midnight Cowboy	The Auld Sod	9.30pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm
Babylon	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10pm

Monday 10th		
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Tuesday 11th		
Lego Club Ages 7 to 12	Ballinasloe Library	4.30pm
Group 8 Exhibition Launch	Ballinasloe Library	6pm to 7.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 12th		
Knitting & Crochet Club	Ballinasloe Library	11am to 1pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenney/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 13th		
Ladies 9 H.S. S'Ford	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Skiddilly I	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Singers Session	Dunlo Tavern	5pm- 7pm
Friday 14th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am-1.30pm
Ladies Open 18 H Singles	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Feile Cheoil L. Reynolds	The Pillar House	9pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
Hoppy Bar Stars	Brewery Lane	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 15th		
Brian Casey Book Launch	Library	2.30pm- 4.30pm
Feile Cheoil L.Reynolds	The Pillar House	9pm
Pacifica	The Auld Sod	10pm
Red Tape	Brewery Lane	10pm
New Arrival	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Eoin Maher	An Tain	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Paul Burns	Dunlo Tavern	4pm-6pm
Sunday 16th		
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Feile Cheoil L. Reynolds	The Pillar House	9pm
Charity Dance - CROI	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Various Country Acts	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Pub Fiction	The Auld Sod	9.30pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm
Chillbillies	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Monday 17th		
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Tuesday 18th		
Lego Club Ages 7 to 12	Ballinasloe Library	12-4.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 19th		
Knitting & Crochet Club	Ballinasloe Library	11am-1pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenney/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm

Thursday 20th		
Ladies 9 H.S. S'Ford	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Friday 21st		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am-1.30pm
Ladies Open 18 H Singles	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
Small Idea's	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Saturday 22nd		
Pacifica	The Pillar House	10pm
Nightowls	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm
Celtic Cajon	An Tain	10pm
Small Deal	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Ken Solo	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 23rd		
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Social Dance Live Music	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Country Music D. Ryan	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Keith & Shane	Brewery Lane	10pm
David Mills	The Auld Sod	10pm
Happy Bar Stars	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Monday 24th		
Yoga	Gullanes Hotel	6.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Tuesday 25th		
Lego Club Ages 7 to 12	Ballinasloe Library	4.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 26th		
Knitting & Crochet Club	Ballinasloe Library	11am to 1pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
B.Killkenney/F.Hession	An Tain	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 27th		
Ladies 9 H.S. S'Ford	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Friday 28th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	8.30am-1.30pm
Ladies Open 18 H Singles	B'sloe Golf Club	9am
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	9.30pm
Funky Friday's	An Tain	10pm
Ken Solo	The Auld Sod	10pm
Toxic Twins	Brewery Lane	10pm
Damien Butler	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Saturday 29th		
Live Music	The Pillar House	10pm
Off The Wall	The Auld Sod	10pm
Jock and Davy	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
AN other	An Tain	10pm
Live Music	Luker's of S'bridge	10pm
Jiggers of Erin	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 30th		
Pillar House Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Trad Session	Lukers of S'bridge	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Liam's Country Road Show	The Auld Sod	9.30pm
Boom Diggity	The Pillar House	10pm
Split	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
The Humble Superstars	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

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# CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS



Geraldine Heverin, Sec. Galway LGFA presents the Under 12 League Cup to Ballinasloe captain Sreedha Radhakrishnan.



Geraldine Heverin, Sec. Galway LGFA presents the Under 14 League Cup to Ballinasloe captain, Ciara Daly.



Justin Campbell is an addiction counsellor and has recently qualified as an accredited clinical supervisor, which allows him to supervise across all professions. contact details, email [justincam@eircom.net](mailto:justincam@eircom.net) web: [justincampbell.ie](http://justincampbell.ie) tel 0868840469



At the end of June Maureen Cahalan had the pleasure of congratulating Lorraine Higgins as the new CEO of Retail Excellence, (the very active umbrella organization for the Irish Retailers in Ireland).



Making a farewell and thanks presentation after a year and half with IFEA Europe and collating the Bi monthly Events Guide For Ballinasloe LIFE were Francis Healy, Admin Assistant, IFEA, Ceila Russell Membership Officer, (Moving to a new job in Kellers Campotel), Exec Director Colm Croffy and LIFE Reporter Ian O'Boyle.



Pictured on her Graduation from the Royal Welsh College of Music and Drama with a MA (Distinctio) in Opera performance is Rachel Goode, Birchgrove, with her parents David and Caroline Goode.



# TOWN GARDENING & TIDYING IN THE HEATWAVE

Over the summer period we witnessed one of our hottest ever summers, with weeks of sunshine with no rain, and temperatures reaching up to the 35°C in our locality.

Terrible drought led to the hose-pipe ban, which in turn saw many plants dying and withering. However, the town's flora, plants and bedding were still looking in good shape thanks to the work of many different organisations.

The Tidy Towns, Community Employment Scheme (Ballinasloe Training for Employment), Probation Community Service Project, Moore Scouts, and local businesses all played their part in maintaining the flowers and plants fresh blooming look, by keeping them well watered and replacing the ones which had died.

Different areas around the town were adopted by members of each groups depending on their location. The Tidy Towns took matters into their own hands to keep the plants watered by collecting water from rivers. The plants were tended to for an hour each day, split during morning and night.

The Tesco roundabout flower beds were the worst effected of the lot during the heat, due it being one of the driest areas in town. The moss peat soil which the plants were bedded in didn't help the situation, which led to earth soil being placed in the bed to hold moisture.

The Tidy Towns currently has a small committee of 12 people, with support from local stakeholders who have been very helpful over the past few months. They are Johnny Walshe, Patricia Tierney, Michael Mullins, Marirose Cullinane, Billy Ward, Kevin Connolly, Claire Connolly, Carmel Grealy, Nancy Cregg, Martin Healy, Nora Smith and Mary Whelan.

Chairperson Tom Madden says that the group is continuously working hard to keep the towns floral features healthy, along with their other duties such as litter picking.

The National Tidy Towns Competition has been entered again this year and they are hopeful that they can improve on last year's mark of 299, although Tom believes the construction work associated with Town Enhancement Programme may prove to be a challenge to this.

"Our committee gives a lot of our free hours to help make our

locality more attractive and bright town for the community and visitors. We can't do this without the help and support of



Tidy Towns Volunteer Tom Madden maintaining the towns flower beds.



other organisations and individuals who play their part in helping us when we are not around" states Tom.

"Funding applications are never an easy process to go through, though we never stop to look for financial aid, and Galway County Council always give what they have to help us" continues Tom.

The committee has again been successful with funding from Galway County Council under their Community Support Scheme 2018. It will replace plants and flowers that were lost during the dry spell.

The committee is actively promoting a biodiversity project in consultation with the National Biodiversity Data Centre and Galway County Council, which will see the erection of a number bilingual signs in chosen planted areas of town.

This year Galway County Council are promoting a new 'Cleaner Community Awards', in 4 categories; Best Planted Area, Best Kept Burial Ground, Sweep Your Streets/Litter Clean Up and Best Presented Public Recycling Area.

The Tidy Towns Committee along with several volunteers have put together an application under all four categories and are hopeful of some success.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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## BRISTOL NATIVE SEEKS LONG LOST ROOTS

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Holly O'Sullivan Jones has recently embarked on a journey to find her long lost family relatives in the local area, after finding out that her late grandmother, Teresa (Tessa) Pauline Nicholson (nee Mullins), was born and reared in Ballinasloe.

"In 1978, the link to my Ballinasloe family was broken. I was 18 months old and my parents' marriage had broken down and ended in divorce. Contact was lost with my dad, and with him, my Irish family and heritage too".

Holly lives in Bristol, England with her husband and two children. Now aged 41, she currently works as a support co-ordinator, which leads disadvantaged people back into employment, having previously been an Operations Manager for large scale music festivals.

Holly learnt everything about Tessa from her birth, marriage and death certificates, and unfortunately her mother didn't really know much about Tess for more information. Now that she finally has leads to her roots, Holly is very excited to start searching for her family: "I have always been conscious of a whole side of my family missing. Knowing that a side of my family is Irish, I wish I knew more about my family heritage, to gain a deeper understanding

of my grandmother, and her family's lives. To connect with any of my family living in or whose heritage is from Ballinasloe would be wonderful! To be able to learn about my grandmother and her family, after all this time, well, it would be emotional that's for sure!"

Holly has never been to Ballinasloe before, as she didn't know her family was from there until recently, though she has been to the Emerald Isle on two occasions (Cork and Dublin), in which she claims that she loved them both and is hoping for another journey across the Irish Sea soon.



Looking for lost family is a difficult task according to Holly, though she highly recommends that people in similar cases to hers should most certainly give it a go: "For anyone who is trying to find their long-lost family, I have found that from one birth, marriage or death certificate, with the help of Google, patience and ordering subsequent relevant certificates, you can unravel a lot of mysteries!"

"It does take time though, and it can be incredibly frustrating, but keep at it, talk to people about it, as an objective view point from others can lead to more leads than you yourself may not see".

Anyone with any information regarding Holly's family can contact her at [hollysullivan@hotmail.com](mailto:hollysullivan@hotmail.com)

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## HOSPITAL WATCH

The Irish Cancer Society has recently launched a Cancer Information Point at PUH. Located in the front foyer of the hospital, it provides cancer information to hospital patients and out-patients as well as visitors and the general public.

The information covers subjects such as Cancer prevention, risk reduction, early detection, and services available to patients and the public, how to contact the Irish Cancer Society, and local services such as Cancer Support Centres.

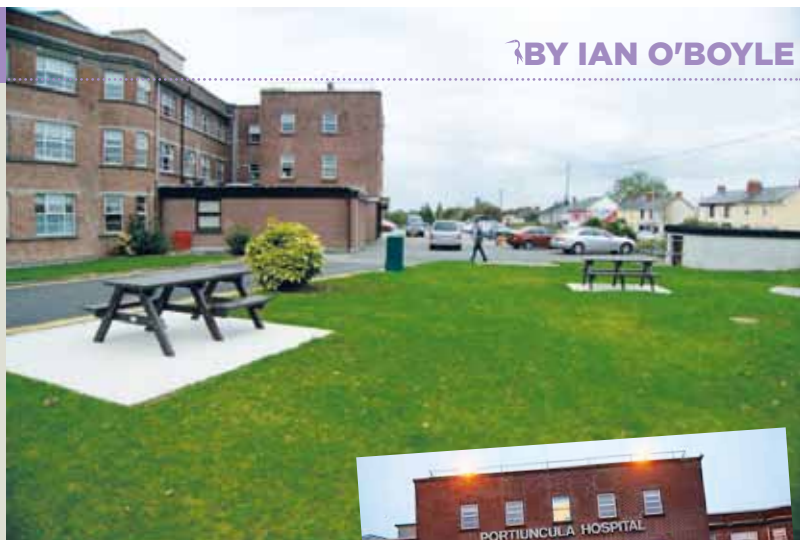
Speaking at the launch of the Information Point, Joan Kelly, Cancer Support Manager with the Irish Cancer Society said "We are delighted to officially open the Information Point in Portiuncula Hospital. On average, over 1,700 people in Galway receive a cancer diagnosis each year so the Information Point will be a valuable support to local cancer patients, their families and the public.

"The team in Portiuncula University Hospital have been very enthusiastic about having the Cancer Information Point at their hospital which services a wide community in East County Galway and surrounding counties."

James Keane, the new General Manager of Portiuncula University Hospital added "We are very pleased to unveil the new Cancer Information Point. It will serve as a valuable resource in the hospital to the significant number of patients and visitors that attend the hospital daily."

To speak to a cancer nurse on any aspect of cancer contact the Cancer Nurse line on Freephone 1800 200 700, email [cancernurseline@irishcancer.ie](mailto:cancernurseline@irishcancer.ie) or drop into one of the 13 Daffodil Centres in hospitals nationwide.

The Hospital made major headlines recently when news broke that they have spent over €28 million on hiring agency staff over the past 5 years. In 2017 alone, the hospital spent close to €5.8million. There has never been so much spent on agency staff alone in the



hospital in the years before 2013. Since that time the figures kept on increasing each year as far as 2016, where they gradually started to decrease.

Sinn Féin general election candidate Claire Kerrane says that the result of PUH not being able to hold onto staff members and recruit suitable ones, has led to this splurge of unnecessary spending. She vehemently believes that so many highly trained nurses and doctors could have been hired with that sum of money.

According to RateMyHospital.ie, Portiuncula Hospital remains at 29th place since May out of the 69 public and private hospitals across Ireland in terms of overall ranking.

Regarding our neighbouring hospitals, Roscommon County Hospital sits six places behind on 35th, whereas University College Hospital Galway sits well below in 65th.

During the month of June, only 5 people were recorded on trolleys during the month according to [www.imno.ie](http://www.imno.ie), a drop from 8 in April.



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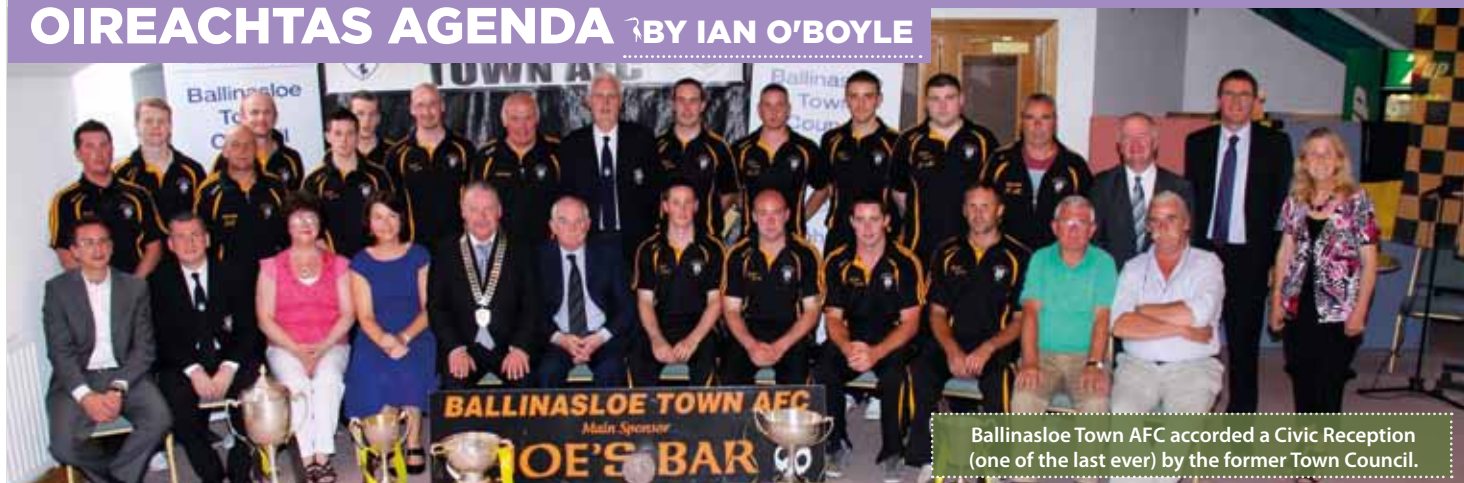
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# RESTORATION OF TOWN COUNCILS BILL ON AUTUMN OIREACHTAS AGENDA BY IAN O'BOYLE



Ballinasloe Town AFC accorded a Civic Reception (one of the last ever) by the former Town Council.

Former Mayor of the old Ballinasloe Town Council, Johnny Walsh, believes that the passing of The Local Government Restoration of Town Councils Bill 2018 will be a huge benefit to Ballinasloe. The Bill was introduced in the Dáil in early July by the Labour Party, in which it effectively restores Town Councils throughout the State for towns with a population of 5,000 or more residents.

According to Labour Leader Brendan Howlin TD, "We have identified a clear problem, which is that national and regional level public bodies have lost focus on urban development, and whole towns are missing out on opportunities for economic development due to the lack of a local figurehead, such as a mayor, to promote the town.

"We want a Local Government Commission to consider and define each qualifying town. We provide that each Council would elect a minimum of 9 town councillors. For towns with a population over 25,000, 15 Councillors would be elected. There would be one local electoral area for each town. They would be a body corporate, and under the proposals a rating authority. Every enactment that applied to old town councils would be restored under the Bill and the costs will be met from existing resources said Mr. Howlin.

The Government believe the adoption of a town council system would

cost in the region of €40 million. If the Labour Party Bill is to become law, it will have to go through several stages in the Oireachtas, and ultimately it will have to be voted on by the Oireachtas members and TDs.

Johnny says that it's now or never for members of the Dáil and Oireachtas to push for the Bill to be passed, along with members of the public to start campaigning for their return. "Given the mathematical configuration of our current Dáil, there will never be a more ideal opportunity to pass this legislation. Even if the Government Party do not support it, it can still be passed by the combined opposition. This can become Law even against the wishes of the Government.

"It is because of this sense of injustice at the abolition of our Town Council that I have vigorously campaigned over the past 4 years for restoration. This campaign has now culminated in the Restoration of Town Councils Bill 2018 being tabled" continued Johnny.

"It's clear to me that the community in our Town of Ballinasloe desperately want and need our Town Council restored. I for one will certainly be canvassing our TDs, Senators and Councillors seeking support for this Bill in the Dáil, and I would respectfully suggest that members of the public in Ballinasloe who feel strongly on this issue should do likewise. If we want our Town Council restored, well now is the vital time to push for it" he added.

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## ART IN MIND SUCCESS

Maura Ward recently opened a new art exhibition in the Church Gallery, consisting of paintings by service users in St. Joseph's Day Centre, St. Brigid's Campus, Ard Mhuire Day Care, Walnut Grove, Glentaun and Rainbow Services, and Deepark.



Joan Healy, Maura and Mary Connolly.

believes "Art is her Medicine" and learned so much as she watched every person grow in confidence with each brush-stroke.

Maura thanked Liam for his support and encouraging words to all involved, along with Artist and Musician Paul Boyle and his nephew Stephen for adding more gaiety to the evening with their music.



Rena Staunton, Sean Coogan, John Reilly, Johnny Fahy, Mary Margaret Mullins, Anthony Joyce, Kevin Staunton, Catriona Hastings, Maura Warde and Bartley Lynch.

The exhibition was officially opened in July by Mr. Liam Curley, which was attended by a large crowd of locals, including service users and staff. In his most moving opening comments, Mr. Curley, who began his work in Psychiatric Care at the young age of 18, was delighted to see some of the service users whom he had personally known throughout the years put on a brilliant display of art.

**Maura, who is an Art Tutor to the various groups, acknowledged the loving care and support given by the staff to all members, along with stating her love for each individual person who attends her classes.**

She spoke of the joys, laughter, songs, conversations and comradeship shared at each table, resulting in the art which was on show. She

BY IAN O'BOYLE



### Constituency Offices Details

Ballinasloe Office  
Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre  
Creagh Road, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway  
Tel: 087-4353834

Elphin Street  
Strokestown,  
Co. Roscommon  
Tel: 071-9633000

Dáil Éireann, Leinster House,  
Kildare Street, Dublin 2  
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# BAN ON TRAUMA PATIENTS TO HOSPITAL PUTTING LIVES AT RISK

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Fianna Fáil TD for Roscommon/Galway Eugene Murphy has said that the confirmation he has received from the HSE that no trauma patients are now been accepted in Portiuncula; is further putting lives at risk.

In a recent parliamentary question reply, the HSE have confirmed that as they have implemented their "major-trauma by-pass protocol" in relation to Portiuncula University Hospital Ballinasloe Co Galway.

"The confirmation that Portiuncula Hospital A&E has basically been downgraded is damning news for the people of Galway and Roscommon. When Roscommon Hospital was downgraded, and the A&E lost, we were given a commitment that Portiuncula would be our emergency hospital in cases of Trauma.

"The people of Roscommon and East Galway were promised a comprehensive ambulance service and more investment in Portiuncula Hospital to ensure that we didn't lose the 'Golden Hour' in relation to accidents and emergencies. We have no chance of delivering the sickest and most urgent patients to University Hospital Galway within the 'Golden Hour' from many parts of Roscommon and Galway.

Therefore, Portiuncula is a vital A&E for this area.

"The figures that I received last year in relation to ambulance turnaround time are also very worrying as 21% of ambulances that

arrive at UCHG take longer than 60 minutes to book in patients due to the back logs already experienced" continued the T.D.

"The HSE's decision that all trauma patients will now go to the already overwhelmed UCHG is another bad decision", concluded Deputy Murphy.



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## THE YEARS FROM 1841 TO 2018

These days there are continuous discussions surrounding the homeless situation in Ireland. It is so very sad to read of the high numbers of men, women and children not having their own home to return to every evening. Many people's home nowadays is either on the side of a street, or in a squat or hostel or temporary accommodation.

Of course the temporary accommodation is only available when severe weather hits our country, and this is down to the generosity of the many volunteers and donations. Hot edible meals and water are also available every day to our homeless, and again this mostly depends on donations and volunteers.

**There are many reasons why people are homeless, and we are not in a position to judge. Instead we should try to feed and clothe them when the opportunity arises. It is like a 'cycle in life' as this has happened down through the years, notably with the workhouses, and now it is happening again at a different level.**

And then we look across our oceans and see all the poor homeless families travelling to try and find a roof to shelter under. All the while 'Experts' speak about climate change, different technology, progress, budgets and holidays – all of which costs enormous amounts of money and time.

**Governments around the world seem to talk the talk, BUT never walk the walk as the homeless and the refugee crisis seems to grow and get worse by the day. We are certainly paying the price of progress in this 21st century, and is it worth it?**

I will let you, the Reader, judge but please don't judge too harshly on the victims.

Adv **BY MAUREEN CAHALAN**

## SIX YEARS OF SUCCESS FOR SANDY'S DOG GROOMERS



Sandra with one of her freshly groomed dogs.

From a very early age Sandra Mulskara of Sandy's Dog Groomers, Church Hill, developed an incredible love for animals, knowing that when she grew up she'd have her own career working with them.

This year Sandra is celebrating six successful years of business in September, saying that Ballinasloe has been an ideal place for starting her individual career.

**After finishing secondary school in 2006, Sandra completed her diploma in one of the most renowned Dog Grooming Schools in Poland, where she went onto to be a fully qualified dog groomer. She used to work in many different grooming salons in Europe along with some Veterinary clinics.**

Sandra says that all her years of working with animals have made her into an artist of dog grooming, also stating that her love for the job makes it all the better: "Over the years I have matured into an excellent dog stylist/groomer and handler. My work is not only work, it's my passion, my whole world and I love it" exclaims Sandy.

**"The world of dog grooming changes so fast, so I regularly attend seminars, grooming courses and events to provide the highest standard of service for my clients and took part in more than 20 different seminars and courses with the most famous and valued master groomers all over the world" she states.**

Outside of her working hours, Sandra is also a keen dog handler, where she shows dogs at Irish Kennel Club Shows.

**Business opening hours are Tuesday to Saturday from 9:30am to 5pm, though early and late appointments can be made available upon request.**

The best way to get a quote for your dog is to bring it in to her store when you have free time.

**For further information please contact Sandra on 087 7407883.**



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## IRISH CANCER SOCIETY PROMOTES FREE TRANSPORT SERVICE

The Irish Cancer Society is promoting awareness of a free transport service for patients attending hospital for chemotherapy treatments.

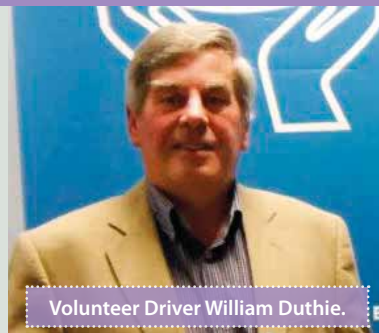
This service, which has been available to patients locally since March 2012, is volunteer delivered. Patients are picked up by a trained and Garda vetted volunteer driver who will collect the patient at the door of their home, drive them to the hospital and when finished treatment they will be collected and brought home again.

It is a one-to-one service, though the patient may bring a companion. This service is available to cancer patients in Galway and Westmeath travelling to any of the following partner hospitals for treatment: Portlincula Hospital, Galway University Hospital or the Midlands Regional Hospital, Tullamore.

Gail Flinter, Patient Travel and Financial Support Manager with the Irish Cancer Society said "The Volunteer Driver Service allows cancer patients to access free transport to and from their chemotherapy treatments, removing the worry, difficulty and financial burden of travelling at an already stressful time. This is a door to door service with local drivers driving local patients to and from their treatments. We have a fantastic national network of volunteers who give generously of their time to help patients that are struggling with transport" she added.

**William Duthie, a Ballinasloe Volunteer Driver who has been with the service since October 2012, has completed over 100 drives to date. He said "I'm delighted to have been involved with the service**

since it started in the area. I first heard about the service during the 24-hour fund-raiser held in Ballinasloe in 2012. They needed volunteers to drive patients to treatments and seeing as I have the time I volunteered. It's been a very worthwhile experience for me. I hope to continue with the service as long as I'm able."



Volunteer Driver William Duthie.

The Volunteer Driver Service is completely free to the patient, and drivers are paid a contribution towards their fuel, all road toll costs and some refreshments during the day.

**The Irish Cancer Society's Volunteer Driver Service is now available in 24 hospitals nationwide. In 2017 the Society's 1,217 drivers brought 1,345 patients to and from 12,156 appointments, covering more than 1.2 million kilometres in 2017 alone. Now in its tenth year, the demand for the service continues to grow.**

Patients undergoing chemotherapy who would like to avail of the service or who would like further information can contact their hospital healthcare professional to refer them to the service. Alternatively they can contact the Volunteer Driver Service team on 01 231 0522/transport@irishcancer.ie or visit [www.cancer.ie](http://www.cancer.ie).

## AUGHRIM "TALK AND WALK" ON GREAT BATTLE

The Battle of Aughrim Interpretative Centre is hosting a 'Talk About and Walk About' tour in the upcoming autumn.

The Visitor Centre recently reopened for the Summer Season and holds many artefacts along with a detailed exhibition on the battle. The Tour Guide at the Centre is Ms. Hannah Daly.

Starting at 12:00 noon on the 25th of August, the tour will begin with

an animated introduction by a host of speakers on the era of Williamite Wars and the battle that took place in 1691.

A guided walk will take place around some of the key areas of the battlefield giving a unique perspective of the landscape and physical difficulties that both armies faced during the battle. As part of Heritage Week, the event is free of charge to attend.

For more information on the Visitor Centre and the Walk About and Talk About Tour, please visit 'The Battle of Aughrim 1691' on Facebook.



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## SARAH CORCORAN WINS AIMS AWARD BY IAN O'BOYLE



Sarah being presented with her award on the night.

Ballinasloe native, Sarah Corcoran, known locally for her singing and acting, recently had huge success in Killarney at the AIMS Awards. AIMS are also known as the National Musical Society awards,

where Sarah was awarded Best Female Singer for her role as Sarah in Bravo Theatre Groups production of "Ragtime".

This prize is regarded as a highly esteemed national award, and there were great celebrations in The Kingdom as Bravo Theatre Group scooped four awards including Best Musical Director, Best Female Singer, Best Chorus and Best Overall Show.

**This was Sarah's first nomination and award which is an incredible achievement. Sarah also performed on the night alongside Bravo Theatre Group to an audience of 1,300 people at the INEC.**

Speaking on the whole experience, Sarah struggled to hold back the emotion: "This has been one of the best moments of my life, to win such an award is such a privilege. All my life I've been practising my singing to try and get this far, and it just goes to show that hard work does pay off.

**"I couldn't have done this without the support of my family, friends and everyone who I play music with, their support and encouragement has always motivated me to go one step further. To everyone in the Bravo Theatre Group, well done on such a great performance, all of our awards were thoroughly deserved" stated Sarah.**

Sarah, a well-known personality for her singing locally is a music theatre graduate from The Irish College of Music Theatre. She is also a three time All Ireland Fleadh Cheoil singing champion. She has played many leading roles over the years with Ballinasloe Musical Society, Ennis, Loughrea and Galway Musical Societies and Bravo Theatre Group productions. Music theatre and singing are her passion and she has coached many students and choirs to county and provincial award.

## CALTRA FITNESS PROGRAMME

Viewpoint Resource Centre (Brothers of Charity) Ballinasloe, recently held a 7-week fitness programme (Caltra Fitness), where 16 of the centres service users partook in the programme.

Acting Team Leader of the Viewpoint Centre, Carol Pender, states that it was great to see all the service users involved making the most of the programme;

**"It was a huge success with the gang enjoying the group exercises, feeling fit and healthy, having fun and being presented with a personalised t-shirt following their 7-week participation".**



Daragh Flynn, Anthony Cawley & Adam Clogher.



James Murphy & Carol Pender-staff with Daragh Flynn, Anthony Cawley, Aiden Kenny, Kevin Heffernan, Caroline Loughnane.

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# FIFTH LARRY REYNOLDS FESTIVAL

BY IAN O'BOYLE

The Annual Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds Festival takes place from Friday the 7th to Sunday the 9th of September. The weekend is full of Traditional Irish Music, Culture and Heritage to commemorate the life of Larry Reynolds formerly of Ahascragh, Ballinasloe and Boston, USA.

Larry, like so many of his time, emigrated to Boston in 1953 where he was a very highly influential fiddle player, not only for his East Galway style but also because of the contribution he made to Irish culture in Boston and all over North America. With this, Larry was a founding member of the Boston branch of Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Éireann.

On the opening Friday there will be a photo exhibition in the Ballinasloe Library, with the country market in the Town Hall. The Annual Schools' Art Competition will take place in local national schools, with aims of promoting traditional Irish music, culture and heritage.

On the Friday night, the weekend picks up a gear with the Opening Session taking place. Acts for the night are being finalised as LIFE goes to print.

Saturday morning will have a selection of traditional music workshops in Flute (Pádraic Keane), Button Accordionist (Daithí Gormley), Concertina (Mary MacNamara), Banjo (Páraic Mac Donnchadha) and Fiddle (Mick Conneely).

The workshops take place in Scoil an Chroí Naofa from 11am to 2pm, followed by tutor's recital at 2.15pm.

From 11am on the Saturday, the streets will go back in time with craft exhibitors throughout the town, where people can observe or try their hand at some of the skills including butter making, wood turning, tinsmiths, tapestry and many more.

There is also an historical walk of Ballinasloe town, and a Lecture on "East Galway Style" of Musicians and Composers in the Library.



As Larry had inspired many young musicians and was very passionate about young people developing music skills, the Larry Reynolds All-Ireland

Open U18 Fiddle Competition will take place at 4pm in Scoil an Chroí Naofa, where the perpetual cup and a cash prize is up for grabs.

After the festival Mass in St. Michael's Church on Sunday morning, there is lunchtime session, singers circle and other sessions throughout the day. On the same day in Gullane's Hotel at 3pm, the annual Céilí with Uí Bhriain Céilí Band will be taking place to dance the afternoon away.

Secretary of the Festival, Mary Feeney, says that this year's event will be extra special to mark its 5-year anniversary:

"Every year since the festival began it just gets bigger and bigger, and the crowds of people just keep on growing. For this year we have some amazing acts playing, and other activities going on to keep everyone entertained. This will be a weekend not to miss, and if it's anything to go by from the last 4 years, there will be so much fun and enjoyment for all the family".

The Committee Members for this year's festival are as follows; Billy Reynolds (Chairperson), Mary Feeney (Secretary), Helena Coughlan (Treasurer), Clare Gibbons, Jennifer Coughlan, Martina Flanagan, Corina Dolan, Anna Guider, Alec Farrell, and Phillip Riddell.

Details of all events for the weekend are available on our website [www.larryreynoldswkend.com](http://www.larryreynoldswkend.com) or from Mary on 087-7916510 or email [secfeilecheoilarryreynolds@gmail.com](mailto:secfeilecheoilarryreynolds@gmail.com)



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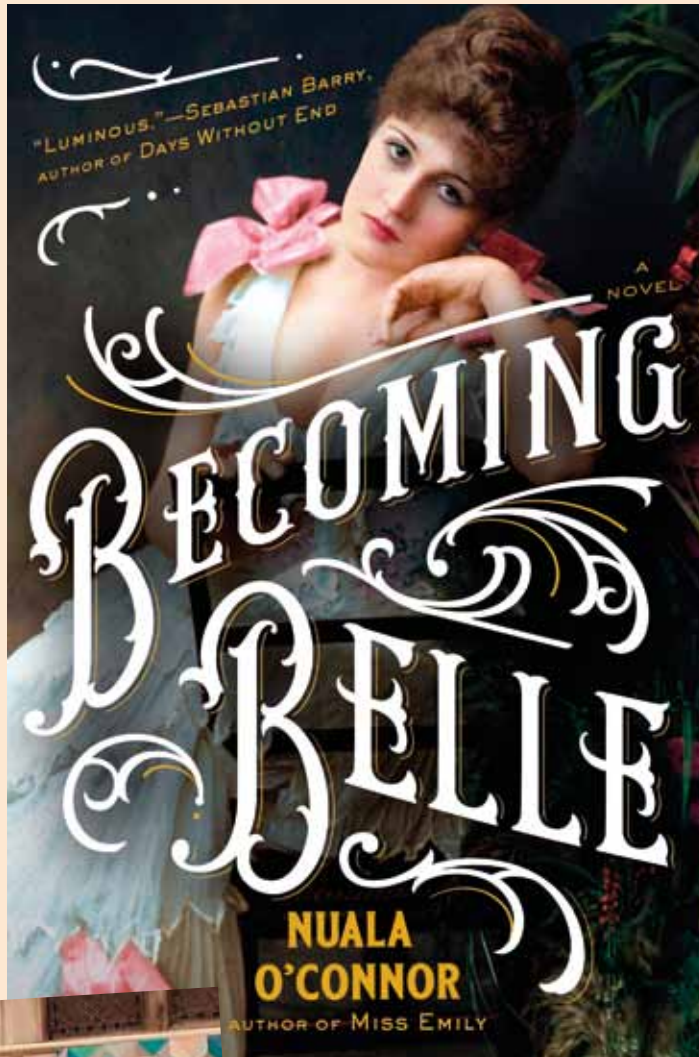
# BOOK LAUNCH & MAPS EXHIBITION FOR CULTURE NIGHT IN LIBRARY

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Ballinasloe-based artist collective Group 8 will hold their largest cultural event to date in the Town Library this autumn. The event will see the local launch of "Becoming Belle" the major new novel by Group 8 member Nuala O'Connor, as well as the opening of the group's exhibition, MAPS, which will feature art and writing that focuses on the theme of maps.

Group 8 was founded in 2009 and is comprised of eight visual artists and two writers: Joyce Little (visual and multimedia artist), Tommy Campbell (sculptor and woodturner), Lily Kelly (visual artist), Grellan Ganly (visual artist), Una Spain (visual artist), Nuala O'Connor (writer), Zara Little-Campbell (writer), (John Soden (painter), Walter Coughlan (ceramicist) and Fiona Ormsby (textile designer).

The book launch and opening will take place on Tuesday the 11th September at 6pm in the Church Gallery in the Library. The exhibition will run for two weeks from that day, encompassing Culture Night on the 21st September, when members of the group will give artist talks.



really excited, especially as it's happening in our local library. Myself and the group really appreciate the support we are given by everyone in the area, and we can't thank them enough" she added.

The exhibition MAPS is the result of collaborative work the members of Group 8 undertook around the theme of maps in all their guises, as geographical topography as well as maps of the mind and heart. The exhibition will feature paintings, photography, felted textiles, ceramics, mixed media and sculpture.

Group 8 is a non-profit, professional arts group whose aim is to foster awareness, imagination and co-operative learning between the artist and the community. The group hosts exhibitions, literary events, artist talks, readings, workshops and book launches. See the [group8.blogspot.com](http://group8.blogspot.com) for more.



Group 8 members John, Nuala, Grellan, Zara, Una, Joyce, Lily, Tommy.



Nuala O'Connor.

Nuala O'Connor's novel, "Becoming Belle" follows the fortunes of music hall actress Isabel Bilton, who was the last Countess Clancarty to occupy Garbally Court in Ballinasloe. It's a witty and inherently feminist novel about passion and marriage, set in Victorian London and Ireland, and will delight anyone familiar with Ballinasloe.

"To say I'm excited about the upcoming event is an understatement, and I also speak on behalf of all the members of Group 8. This is one of our biggest events to date and we hope for many more to come. Releasing my book during our exhibition makes me

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# STRINGS FESTIVAL ENJOYS SECOND YEAR SUCCESS

The Town Library recently hosted the 2nd annual Strings Festival, with hundreds of people turning up from the local area and other parts of Ireland.

The first day of the festival was opened by Veteran fiddle player - Tom Quinn and the Lifeboys during the afternoon in the Church Gallery. This was the Lifeboys first time performing in Ballinasloe, and they hope to be back to play again very soon: "It's a great pleasure to get to play together here in this amazing venue, it's like a hidden gem that not many people know about. We got to play our own variants of music alongside local Comhaltas founder



Lifeboys



Young Performers of the Fireside Music Sessions.



Contempo closing out the Festival.

Tom (Quinn) which was a great honour for us, and hopefully we will be back again next year" said band member Kona Kilcoyne.

"Myself and Eoin used to live very close to Ballinasloe when we were younger but now we've moved on away, so to get to play here in Ballinasloe it feels like a homecoming in some ways" added Emily Donohue.

Many more acts performed over the weekend, with the headlines being local classical guitarist John Feeley and Galway based Con-Tempo. Art exhibitions from many locals were also on display in the gallery during the festival to showcase the varying talents.

Outside of the Library small busking performances took place all along Society St. by many young musical artistes who did well to entertain passers-by, whilst a food market was also held in the town to mark the occasion.

Manager of the Library, Una Kelly, was delighted with how the whole event turned out, and hopes for even more success for next year: "The Strings Festival turned out to be a bigger success than what I and many others were expecting, truth be told. Everyone who performed give it their all and had the crowds well entertained".

"I'd personally like to thank everyone who came and supported the festival, and a big thank you to all the performers and artistes who made the weekend as good as it was" she added.

Plans and preparations have now already begun for next year's event, with the objective of growing the festival by getting more performers for next year, along with promoting the festival on a wider scale throughout Ireland.

For video footage of some of the performances, along with interviews from many of the performers, check out the Ballinasloe Life and Europe Direct Library Ballinasloe's Facebook Pages.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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# TOWN BAND PROMOTES NEW MUSIC LESSONS TO NEXT GENERATION

BY IAN O'BOYLE



The Ballinasloe Town Band joined with New Horizons of Canada.

The Town Band recently organised a concert in the Town Hall for all National Schools in the locality in an effort to promote the upcoming music lessons commencing in September for all children aged 7-12.

In all over 500 children attended from Scoil an Chroí Naofa, Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh, Ballyforan, Attrory, Clontuskert, Killure National Schools. The programme was specifically aimed at children with movie themes, songs from the charts and a few old classics.

Throughout the concert provided by the Band of the 2nd Brigade, Costume Barracks, Athlone under the conductor Tomas Kelly, introduced the children to each different instrument family, with each section of the band performing a solo piece.

Chairman of the Town Band Damien Ó'Neachtain says the children had a great experience throughout the concerts: "The atmosphere at the concerts was fantastic. The children were singing along, dancing in the aisles and all had a brilliant time being introduced to this material".

The following day the Town Band hosted the New Horizons Band from Ottawa Canada. The band were doing a tour of Ireland and with concerts in Belfast, Ballinasloe and Killarney.

From its inception in 2008, the band has now grown to over 200 members under the stewardship of Cathy Wilcox. In advance of the concert which took place in Gullane's Hotel, both bands joined together for a meal, which was a great opportunity to mingle and get

to know each other.

Both bands then took turns to play, with all performances being very well appreciated by the audience. For the final piece of the evening, the two bands joined together to play the Finale from Brahms' First Symphony.

The Ballinasloe Band were joined on the night by a few guests from Clara Town Band, St Pat's Band Galway City plus Frank Kennedy on flute and Austin Madden on percussion.

At the end of the evening Noel Madden, Ballinasloe Town Bandmaster and Cathy Wilcox exchanged gifts to mark the occasion. Ballinasloe also presented a colourful Céad Míle Fáilte banner with the Canadian Maple Flag and the Irish Tricolour as a memento of the night.

Chairman Damien indicated that invites back to Ottawa were extended to the Town Band and hopes for a visit to their new friends in Canada in the future.

The beneficiaries of the night were St Teresa's Special School and Springfield Child Development Centre.

The new Youth Music Tuition Programme for September still has some places left and Registration for classes is still ongoing and can be done by emailing ballinasloetownband@gmail.com or by contact through the bands Facebook Page.

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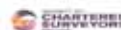
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# A QUEEN OF THE FAIR 2017 LOOKS BACK



What an amazing year I've had as Queen of the Fair. It all started in the Rugby Club when my team mates asked me to represent them in the competition, little did I know the impact of that decision for my year ahead.

I got my dress, I got my shoes and off I went. That evening I met with all the other girls participating and we had a meal in Gullane's Hotel, where we met with the lovely judges for a chat. When Ollie Turner called out my name on stage I could not believe it as I had met so many wonderful girls. The evening of Queen of the Fair was very enjoyable, and I

would encourage any local girl to participate this year.

After that evening when the dust had settled, the excitement kicked in with Ballinasloe Fair and Festival members beside me all the time. The planning, the organising and the time that you as a committee put into the Fair is outstanding and something that keeps tourism alive in our town.

I was amazed with the amount of work all involved put in throughout the whole year, and on a personal note Mary Phelan, I could not have done this without the support and guidance that you showed me, thank you.

The whirlwind that was the October Fair saw me do lots of things, from meeting the people from town along with visitors, walking down the catwalk in the fashion show, racing in the Soapbox Race

and helping with art classes for the local children.

It was a privilege to be held with such esteem in my local town and I was really made feel like a Queen due to the sponsorship shown to me from Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe Fair & Festival Committee, Cahalan's Jewellers, Ana Victoria Mulcahy Couture Millinery and Hat Hire, Dubarry Ireland, Frank Owens, Amazing Dresses, Claire's Flowers, so thank you all.

My journey continued to Galway representing the Fair and Festival at the Galway Rose, where I met 27 other participants, many of whom have become my friends for life. The support and the encouragement from both the town and the Fair and Festival committee was both humbling and outstanding.

While I stood on the stage on the 19th of May this year at the Galway Rose I could have burst with pride as I represented the town I call home.

What an amazing year I've had, and I would like to thank everyone involved and everyone who I have met along the way who made my time as Queen of the Fair a memorable one.

BY KIM CONNAUGHTON

*Ballinasloe Fair & Festival Committee invite any girls (18 or over to come along and experience a wonderful year by meeting lots of interesting people, representing Ballinasloe in the Galway Rose and being guest of honour at the St. Patrick's Day Parade and other community events throughout the year.*

*The Queen of the Fair has been a tradition since the 1960's in association with the Ballinasloe Horse Fair and all the successful girls over the years have had treasured memories of their reign!*

*Selection Night is on Saturday, September 15th and is once again sponsored by Tomas and Caroline Gullane from Gullane's Hotel, Main St.*

*Entry forms for this year's contest can be found on [www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com](http://www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com)*

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# CAMOGIE CLUB ENJOY HOSTING AS PART OF FEILE NA NGAEL



**Féile na nGael Camogie 2018 proved to be a great weekend for Cumann Camógaíochta and one that will long live in the memory of all involved.**

The club played host to the girls from Cargin, Co. Antrim.

For several weeks prior to the event, a committee comprising the team management, Pamela Hall and Frank Kennedy, together with Christine Coleman, Jacinta Riddell, and the parents of some of the girls on the panel worked very hard to ensure its success and that the girls were well kitted out for the occasion. They organised a number of fundraising ventures including a Cake sale, Churchgate collection, Quiz night and Bag packing.

**On the Friday afternoon, the Cargin girls arrived in town with a Garda Escort specially arranged by Sgt. Ivan Muldoon. They were met at the Emerald Ballroom by the Beal Atha na Slua players, parents and officials and immediately struck up a great relationship when introduced to their host families.**

After a thunder and lightning delay, the games got underway in Duggan Park with the local side winning their game against Kilmessan from Meath and drawing against Ballinderreen, while Cargin convincingly won their matches against both of these teams.

**The match on Saturday morning between the hosts and their visitors decided the group winners. The girls showed good**

**spirit and work rate to edge out Cargin and top the group. They travelled to Kiltormer on Saturday afternoon to take on O'Moores from Laois in the Cup Quarter-final. The exertions of the earlier game took their toll and despite a gallant effort they took a five-point defeat to a strong Laois team which went on to win the Cup on Sunday.**

"Overall, it was a terrific competition for the Beal Atha na Slua girls and they along with their management team of Pamela Hall and Frank Kenndy can be extremely proud of their performance" reflected PRO Stephen Kerr.

**Both the hosts and Cargin teams joined the Ballinasloe hurlers and their visitors, Portaferry from Co. Down for a meal and disco in Gullane's on Saturday evening before bidding farewell to the visiting teams on Sunday morning.**

"Special thanks are due to Willie Ward, David Curley and Christy Browne of the Duggan Park Committee for all their assistance and for the professional presentation of the venue, to Christine Coleman for providing First Aid, Kevin Keane in his role as pitch co-ordinator, Darren Kelly for adding a real sense of occasion to the games and to all who helped out in any way. Also, thanks to David Harley of Harley Tees who came to the rescue at the eleventh hour when the team's new jerseys arrived without numbers" stated Stephen on behalf of the Club.

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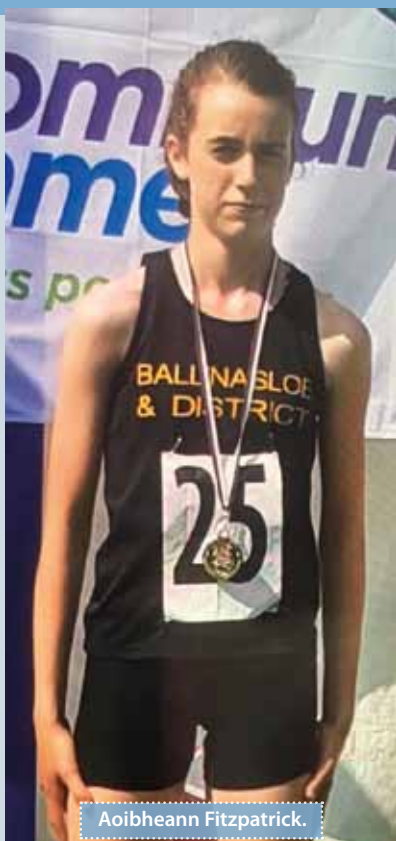
# COMMUNITY GAMES 45 SUMMERS OF PARTICIPATION

The Community Games have now entered into the 2nd national final stage, following on from the successful spring finals. This is the 45th year of the Ballinasloe Community taking part in the National Games, which is run by volunteers of all ages and genders.

The University of Limerick Sports Campus has been selected as the new venue on a three year trial basis for the games to take place.

Carmel Greally, who judges in the national community games (and a former National Vice-president) has said that the UL sports ground is by far one of the best suited sports complexes in Ireland for the games to take place in: "It's a fantastic set up for the games to take place, every pitch and track are no distance from one another which makes it easier to get around. The children loved it when we played the Spring Finals there earlier in the year and I'm hoping that we will remain there for as long as possible".

For the Finals, the local Community Games have two girls partaking in the athletics, Ava McKeon and Aoibheann Fitzpatrick. These events take place from the 17th to the 19th of August. Ava will be partaking



Aoibheann Fitzpatrick.

in the girls under 14s hurdles race. She has so far won three National medals in the hurdles this year, along with claiming silver in the 60m hurdles in the Indoor National Track & Field Championships last March. Aoibheann has qualified for the girls under 12s 600m race, after a year of successful tournaments.

Carmel was full of praise for both girls, saying that they are both great competitors with fantastic records: "Both girls have done us all very proud, their records and consistency when competing is something unique. They have both had a very successful 2018 in terms of competing that its hard to keep up with all their medals and prizes.

"Each year we see more and more new children get involved, all of whom carry a special desire to go out and win, which is something that every participant in the games from 1973 all the way up to now has carried which is fantastic to see.

"On behalf of everyone in the Ballinasloe area, I would like to wish the girls the very best of luck, and no matter of the result, they have become great ambassadors for our town" Carmel added.

For more information on the upcoming final stages, check out [www.communitygames.ie](http://www.communitygames.ie)



Ava McKeon.

BY IAN O'BOYLE



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# THE OSCAR'S GAA FUNDRAISING NIGHT

Ballinasloe GAA are hosting an Oscar ceremony fundraising event later this year. This promises to be one of the largest Community Events to ever take place in town, which takes place on Friday the 7th of December.

While Lips Synch and Strictly come dancing have nearly worn themselves out on the voluntary fundraising scene – the Club will create Seven short films of 12-minute duration to be shown on the night, all of which will be shot locally by incorporating local Actors and Actresses. With this, eight Oscar awards will be awarded on the night. Examples of films used are The Snapper, The Field, The Full Monty, Sister Act, Forest Gump. The winners on the night will be decided by an Independent Jury Team.

**Two of the most popular Community support businesses in town are coming together to be the main sponsors of the night: Supermacs, which originally set up its first Business locally in 1978, and Ballinasloe Credit Union who were founded in 1967. Both sponsors have come up trumps again and will contribute to make the event as memorable as possible in the run in to Christmas.**

Chairman of the GAA, Seamus Duffy, says that as well as bringing in much needed funds into the Club, this whole event will enable people living in the area to form new friendships and further develop existing

relationships that will benefit the whole community long into the future.

**An event of this magnitude will require meticulous planning, but a committee is already putting a schedule in place with a launch night pencilled in for late August or early September, according to Seamus.**

The Club run a sizeable fundraising event every 4 to 5 years, the most previous being their Cycle from Croke Park to Ballinasloe in 2014 from which €50,000 was raised. Four years prior to that in 2010, an Auction was held in the Emerald Ballroom which raised a similar amount of money.

**Over the past 10 years, the club have built three pitches and a new Clubhouse, which came to a total outlay of €2.5million which caters for over 30 teams in Hurling, Football & Ladies Football.**

Casting will take place on the 24th of September for the event. Rehearsals will be held on the 22nd/29th of October and the 5th/12th of November. Filming will take place over two weekends, the 17/18th of November and on the 24/25th of November.

**If you wish to be part of this event, the club are looking for volunteers to take part in the films, and if you would like to be auditioned, please pass on your details to Club Chairman Seamus Duffy on 087 2506431.**



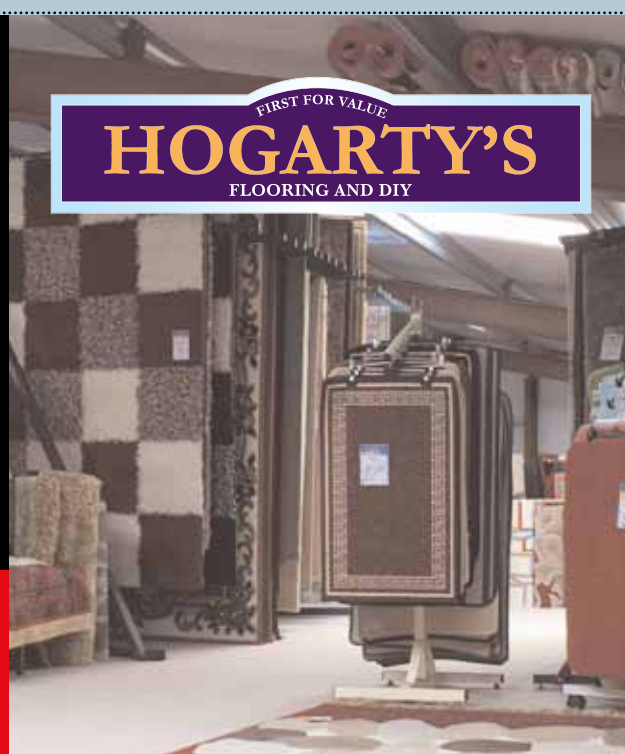
## Under 14s

Back Row L-R: Paul Leonard, Lorna Kennedy, Shauna Mitchell, Katie Galvin, Annalese O'Connor, Zoe Tumulty, Eabha McCann, Ava Kilduff, Ruth Manning, Emma Keane, Roisin Coleman, Caoimhe Ní Tuairisg, Caoimhe Kennedy, Roisin Maher, Stephen Kerr.

Front Row L-R: John Mitchell, Maeve Reynolds, Nicole Ward, Emma Mitchell, Eilish Kerr, Amy Leonard, Ciara Daly, Ciara Frehill, Xige Kennedy, Aoife Ansley, Lauren Ruane, Sarah Russell, Kevin Keane.

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## SPORTS HUB AND GAA HOST DUBLIN UNDERAGE TEAM

Over a year ago the Ballinasloe Town Team established Sports Hub, an initiative to establish the town as a destination for team building for sports and corporate bodies.

In late June, Ballinasloe GAA, in conjunction with Sports Hub, hosted St. Sylvester's U12 Girls Football Team (based in Malahide in Co. Dublin) along with their mentors and parents. Together with the assistance of Ballinasloe Sports Hub, accommodation in The Shearwater Hotel and events for the weekend were arranged.

On the day of the visit, the six teams of Ballinasloe GAA, Padraig Pearse's, St. Sylvester's A & B Teams, Athlone and St. Gabriel's all participated in a competitive blitz to get the weekend rolling. Each team played 3 games in the group stages with the finals being run off between the group winners. Once the blitz concluded all players, mentors and parents enjoyed a well-received BBQ, with the glorious sunshine on the day allowing for al-fresco dining on the pitch.

Late afternoon the visitors returned to The Shearwater to enjoy the Hotel's leisure facilities. When the music began in the bar, the adult members of the party continued to socialise with members of the local GAA.

**"Many thanks for hosting a brilliant U12 girls football blitz last month. The girls, coaches and families from St. Sylvester's U12 girls had a wonderful time. In addition to a great football tournament, the welcome and hospitality we received was second to none and**

**made the weekend one we're sure all our girls will remember for years to come. On behalf of myself and all the coaches - thanks and congratulations to all from Ballinasloe GAA who made the weekend such a success"** stated St Sylvester's team mentor Niall Kealy.



### Under 12s

Back Row L-R: Daria Nowosad, Jessica Tully, Niamh Kerr, Emma Harvey, Lucia Lionel, Clodagh Killeen, Eabha Hardiman, Blaitheinn McCann, Ruth Dudgeon, Aoibheann Coughlan, Leah Clarke, Vivienne Naughton, Aoibheann Fitzpatrick, Alannah McKeigue.

Front Row L-R: Niamh Casey, Gianna Barajas, Naoise Horan, Sarah Dolan, Nicole Manning, Sreeda Radhakrishnan, Eva Ruane, Lalitta Geraghty, Ellen Curtin, Eve Costello, Hannah Manton.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

## MINOR STARS IN BOTH CODES ENCOURAGE THE BEST



Oisín McCormack (son of Peter and Ann McCormack, Ruane), Odrán Dooley (son of Aiden & late Maureen Dooley, Batchlorswalk, Cian Reynolds son of Mr. and Mrs. Peter Reynolds Roscam - all on the Galway Under 17 / Minor Football Squad who beat Roscommon in the Connacht Final in Dr. Hyde Park.



Ballinasloe's Shane Jennings starred in Galway's 15-point win over Dublin in the All-Ireland MHC semi-final at Croke Park. The fullback is son of Dessie and Enda from Kilclooney. Shane was also capped for Ireland's U18 rugby team.



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## 10 LADIES MAKE CONNACHT RUGBY SQUAD

There has been some wonderful affirmative news from the Ballinasloe Ladies' Rugby Squad, with 10 of their players being selected to represent the under 18 Connacht panel in the upcoming season.

The chosen girls are Aine Galvin, Aoibheann Reilly, Beibhinn Parsons, Claudia McNicholas, Emily Gavin, Hannah Gullane, Jordan Hopkins, Macy McDermott, Meabh Deely and Niamh Kenny.



Beibhinn Parsons, Meabh Deely, Aoibheann Reilly and Lily O'Grady.

The girls in green showed their intent with pool wins over England (28-19), Wales (29-5) and hosts Scotland (47-10) to emerge as top seeds. They then reached the final with a 29-14 semi-final defeat of Wales, before tries from Bhéibhinn Parsons, and other team members steered them to a 19-10 victory over England in the decider of the first series.

**Ballinasloe's Parsons, who won her first Ireland cap in April, was top scorer of the two series with a staggering 15 tries, including a hat-trick**

The girls join up alongside 9 players from Westport, 5 from Buccaneers, 1 from Sligo and 1 from Ballina, making the girls' club the most represented team on the squad. The squad was selected following a number of trials days in Tuam RFC at the start of summer and a screening session at The Sportsground a number of weeks later.

Wednesday 4th of July saw the start of their training programme at Galway Community College in Moneenageisha before the interpro get underway at the end of the summer.

Three of the local girls, Aoibheann Reilly, Meabh Deeley and Beibhinn Parsons, also received the added boost of being named in the Ireland U18 Sevens teams ahead of the Home Nations Tournament in Edinburgh, where they were crowned champions over the two series. The two-tournament series, which concluded at Birmingham University on July 20-21, saw the best of underage Sevens talent in Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales play-off.

against Wales in the pool stages. Her club-mate Meabh landed the most conversions. Aoibheann also played a crucial role in the games, by contributing with many tries throughout the tournament.

Beibhinn says that her experience of playing for Ireland has been a dream so far, and hopes for much more success in the future: "The past few months have been amazing by having the chance to represent Ireland. From winning my first cap back in France last April at the under 18's European Sevens tournament in France, along with finishing as the joint top try scorer in the tournament, and now playing in the Home Nations Sevens and being Irelands top try scorer again, its just been remarkable to say the least".

For further updates on the girls representing the Connacht team, keep an eye on the Ballinasloe Rugby Facebook Page and the IRFU website.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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# TOWN FC – SHORTLISTED TO TOP 8 SOCCER CLUBS NATIONALLY

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Local Community organisations have rallied around Ballinasloe Town A.F.C. in the Club's bid to be named the F.A.I. national club of the year. The club have recently qualified as one of the 8 finalists in this prestigious competition and the overall national title winner will be selected at this year's F.A.I. congress in August.

Local organisations ranging from resident's associations, local primary and secondary schools, charitable groups, youth groups, training workshops, community employment schemes, B.A.C.D., Community Games, The Credit Union and Tidy Towns all contributed in a positive fashion to the club's application by highlighting the contribution that the Club make to the Ballinasloe Community.

The community involvement/integration is one of the criteria in which the national adjudicators will assess the applications. Other criteria consist of club development of facilities, youth structure and policy, involvement with F.A.I. Programmes in terms of coaching courses, child protection courses and player development, success on the field of play and promoting the sport of association football (soccer).

The Club are certainly to the forefront regarding satisfying the relevant criteria in that they can successfully boast of a €1.75 million euros development which is currently 97% debt free and consists of 2 grass playing pitches (1 floodlit), 2 floodlit astro turf pitches, a state of the art newly constructed clubhouse, spectator stand and machinery/storage building. The club also have a licence agreement regarding the use of a grass pitch and floodlit training area with the H.S.E. at St. Brigid's Grounds.

The youth structure, sees the club cater for under 8s right up along the line to under 18s. Annual street leagues, weekly youth soccer academies and the hugely successful annual youth soccer camp are also an integral part of the club's youth activities. The Clubs managers/coaches have

successfully completed F.A.I. coaching courses, child protection courses and garda vetting this season.

Former club players who progressed up through the club youth structure have this season featured on Irish International teams, namely Heather Payne (ladies senior team), Jordan Carr (Irish under 16 team) and Conor Lyang (under 18 Irish schools team). Conor Lyang and Eoin McCormack have both signed for Galway United and are starring for the League of Ireland club.

Also featured as recent highlights were the under 16 International between Ireland and Hungary, along with the recent official opening of the new state of the art clubhouse.

Success on the field that was listed included being the current holders of the Connacht Junior Cup, winners of the over 35 league, winners of the under 12/13 combi league, runners up in the combi cup and winners of the A.D.S.L. Futsal Tournament. The clubs senior team finished as runners up in the league, just one point behind St. Peters of Athlone.

The winner of the F.A.I. club of the year will be announced on the 17th of August during the F.A.I. National Congress and Gala Dinner Night in Cork.

Club Development Co-ordinator Johnny Walsh paid tribute on behalf of the club to all Community Organisations who supported the club's application and to all involved with the club for all their excellent work.

During the Club's AGM the new club officers were elected.

Chairperson: Joe Kelly, Vice-chairperson: Wayne Braithwaite, Secretary: Ciaran Keighrey, Assistant Secretary: Brendan Fahy, Treasurer: Ellen Egan, Assistant Treasurer: Johnny Walsh, P.R.O.: James Kinsella, Youth Secretary: Sonia Coyne, Child Welfare Officer: Katie O'Connor, Club President: Fr. Gerry Geraghty, Club Trustees:

Dr Harry Bugler and Fr. Gerry Geraghty, Groundsman: Brendan McNally, Assistant Groundsmen: Francis Egan and Michael Burke.

Committee Members: Mickey Walsh, Henry Loughnane, Barry O'Connor, Michael Riddell, Darren Fallon, Seamus McCarthy, Simon Price, Pete Keighrey, Mark Duffy and Noel Lyons.

Pat Campbell Assistant Groundsman, Johnny Walsh Club Development Coordinator, and Brendan Fahy former chairperson and honorary club life member.



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# SUMMER CAMPS



All the girls who participated in this years Connacht Rugby Camp in Ballinasloe RFC.



Niamh Casey, Oisín Kindergan, Alan Brooks, Laitha Gurthy, Jaidan O'Neil, Pheilm Curren, Lana Connors and Tyler Garvers at the football Cúl Camp.



All the kids who attended the Football Cúl Camp.



Odhran Sheehan, Cillian McPhillips, Luke O'Connor and Eoin Connell enjoying a break during Cúl Camp.



Pearse's GAA Cúl Camp.



Ballinasloe Hurling Cúl Camp.



Under 10 Hurlers at the Ballinasloe Cúl Camp.



Under 8 Hurlers during Cúl Camp.



Pictured at the first round of the Cuckoo Camp in Taughmaconnell, second camp taking place from the 7th to the 11th of August.



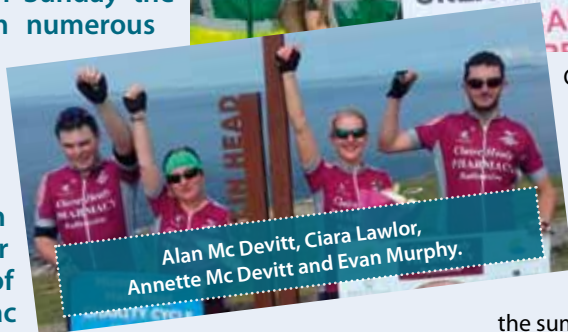
# TOUR D'SHAMS TO CLOSE OUT BUSY SUMMER CYCLING SEASON

Ballinasloe Cycling Club are hosting their 4th Annual Tour D'Shams charity cycle. The event will take place on Sunday the 26th August with numerous cyclists looking set to go through their paces with a leisurely 50km fun cycle or a 100km option available. This year the cycle is in aid of the Creagh Cardiac 1st Responders.

Also fundraising this summer members from the club, Alan McDevitt,



Members of the Ballinasloe Cycling Club with members of the Creagh Cardiac Unit.



Alan McDevitt, Ciara Lawlor, Annette McDevitt and Evan Murphy.

Ciara Lawlor, Annette McDevitt and Evan Murphy, cycled from Mizen Head to Malin Head for the East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre.

**Later in July nine members cycled 330km in one day from Clifden to Howth Head to raise funds for Crumlin Children's hospital.**

Finally, Gerry O'Sullivan is cycling solo from Mizen to Malin Head (600 km) for the Diabetes Federation of Ireland later in the summer.

**For further updates on each fundraising cycle, please visit the Ballinasloe Cycling Club's Facebook Page.**

## LOCAL MAM & FRIENDS MINI MARATHON RUN

Roseann Hogan from Shannonbridge, signed herself and a team of 27 ladies up for this year's Dublin Women's Mini Marathon which took place earlier in the summer, as part of #TeamTempleStreet.

Roseann moved to Creagh two years ago with her partner Adam, where they now live along with their daughter Ella and their two sons. Roseann's daughter, Ella Rose, had been very ill since she was born in Portiuncula Hospital, after suffering a brain haemorrhage which led to internal bleeding shortly after she was born.

**Five months later Ella's head began to swell again as doctors noticed she had Hydrocephalus, which was the build up of**

**fluid in her brain.** Ella arrived in Temple Street for the first time shortly after her first Christmas, where she underwent successful surgery. Since that time Ella, now four years old, had one of her shunts blocked, but again she underwent another successful operation all thanks to Temple Street.



Roseann Hogan, Ella Rose McGrath, and Adam McGrath presenting the cheque to Temple Street.

**Roseann is a huge admirer of the work Temple Street carry out, especially after all they've done for her daughter. Herself and the other 27 women raised €5,400 for the hospital by completing the mini-marathon.**

For the full story of Ella's experience, check out [www.ballinasloe.ie](http://www.ballinasloe.ie).



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# UNDERAGE GOLFER SCOOPS ALL-IRELAND TITLE

One of Ballinasloe Golf Club's most talented young player, **Niall Conneely**, recently won the All-Ireland Wee Wonders under 10s tournament.

Niall, who is just after turning 9 years old, now goes on to represent Ireland in the grand final in Saint Andrews, and in the European Championship in May 2019. He has been a member of the Golf Club since the age of 4 and has been playing in general since he was 2 according to his father Mark.

**The tournament took place in July in Rosses Point, Co. Sligo. 16 children under the age of 10 qualified for the All-Ireland Final from all the regional qualifiers around Ireland. Between 50 to 100 youngsters went through the qualifiers, but only 16 got to the All-Ireland Final.**

Only three Irish boys get to St Andrews, but being the winner, Niall also gets the opportunity to represent his home country in the European Championship.

**Club member Desmond Harney says that he thinks Niall will become one of Ireland's finest golfers in years to come: "He has shown from a very young age that golfing is his true passion, and his talent grows at a rapid speed every time he goes on the course. He has made all of us here at the club extremely proud, especially his parents Mark and**



Mens Captain Johnny Farrell and Lady Captain Barbara Harney with young Niall.

**Bronagh".**

"We know he will give it his all in the Irish Grand Final and in the European Championships next year. We wish him the very best of luck and keep our fingers crossed that he'll bring home the silverware".

**In other golfing news, Johnny Farrell and Catherine Owens represented Ireland in the 2018 9-hole mixed championship in Carnoustie during mid-July.**

The pair played alongside three other couples from Ireland and were up against 16 other teams from all over the United Kingdom. The pair were very unfortunate not to make it into the final, but Johnny says that the honour of representing Ireland was a major achievement in its own right: "Representing your club at an international level is an amazing feeling, and at the end of the day it's not all about whether you come out on top, it's about doing your club proud" stated Johnny, who is Club Captain.

**The Club also raised €900 for the Ballinasloe Social Services after hosting a fundraising tournament in the club grounds earlier in the summer.**

**The Ballinasloe Golf Club can be contacted on (090) 964 2126.**

**BY IAN O'BOYLE**



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**FINE GAEL**



## GARDENING TIPS

BY BARRY WARD



**August and September are the perfect months to enjoy all the hard work you have done throughout the summer months. Autumn gardens are filled with an abundance of colour fruit, vegetables and flowering plants.**

After a very hot summer your plants and garden will be looking for some extra TLC this Autumn. Watering and liquid feeding is more important now than ever to replenish the nutrients as your plants grow, this will ensure long lasting healthy flowers. Liquid feeding and deadheading is especially important in bedding and container

plants to encourage growth and ensure you get longevity out of your summer bedding.

**Lawns will need a good feed to get ready for the winter, to counteract the damage done by the dry spell. September is an ideal time to apply a lawn Feed and weed killer to control broad leaved weeds and clover ask your local garden center for recommendations on which brand will work best for your lawn. August and September are ideal for Re-seeding bare patches in the lawn after summer conditions.**

Continue to make sure the veg patch has plenty of water in dry spells. To help tomato plants ripen remove the bottom leaves from the stems starting from the base up, this will help to expose the plants to sunshine thus ripening fruit. Cut back herbs now to encourage a new flush of tasty leaves before the onset of frost in winter months. Dry herbs now and freeze any fruit for winter use.

**Evergreen hedges can be given a final trim now. August is the perfect time for trimming hedges and shrubs that have now finished flowering for the summer. Pruning midsummer blooming shrubs this month will result in better displays next year and gives the plant time to recover from the pruning.**

Planting trees and shrubs now will prepare your garden for the autumn months bringing colour and variety to your garden through the autumn. Planting shrubs and trees now also allows root systems to develop before the winter and will allow the plant to harden off over the winter months.

## VETERAN CAR CLUB RALLY AUGUST VISIT

**Plans are underway for the annual Vintage Car Club Rally, being hosted by the Ballinasloe and District Vintage Club.**

Locals are set for a special display of Veteran Vehicles on Friday the 17th of August Irish Section of the Veteran Car Club will stop at the Aughrim Interpretative Centre in the mid-morning and Gullane's Hotel for lunch.

About 40 cars are expected for the Rally, including over 20 from overseas. All cars will be over 100 years old as the eligibility criteria states that all cars participating must have been manufactured prior to 31st December 1918.

On Thursday the 16th the route will include a loop of Lough Ree, travelling as far north as Strokestown. The final route of the day will see them travel to Dysart and Four Roads, before returning to Athlone.

**On Saturday the 18th of August the rally will travel to Birr, which will be followed by a stop at Clonmacnoise en route back to Athlone.**

"This will be a fantastic opportunity to see some unique cars from a bygone era of motoring around the Ballinasloe area, and a once in a blue moon chance to see the cars displayed in Aughrim and Gullane's Hotel" states Chairman of the Vintage Club, Shane Burns.

Club stalwarts, Michael Hyland and John Malone, will be co-ordinating the Ballinasloe leg of the rally. For further updates, please check out the Ballinasloe and District Vintage Club's Facebook page.



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# JUDGE KEOGH

BY BARRY LALLY

**He insulted our clergy and likewise our bishop,  
And scoffed at MacHale, the bright star of Mayo.  
All Galway denies him, and Ireland will think on  
The name of that hero – so help me God – Keogh!**

Born into a family that hailed from Taughmaconnell, William Keogh first drew the breath of life in Mary Street, Galway, on 17th December 1817, the son of a solicitor and former clerk of the Crown for Kilkenny. Educated at Dr. Hubbard's school in Dublin, young William, aged fifteen, entered Trinity College in 1832 to study science, but left in his third year without taking a degree. While there he had been a frequent speaker in the debates of the Historical Society and was awarded the first prize for oratory at the age of nineteen. The law beckoned, and in 1835 he was admitted a student of the King's Inns. Called to the bar in 1840, he joined the Connacht circuit where his family connections lay.

During a vacation in London he met and impressed the Birmingham banker and political reformer Thomas Attwood who persuaded him to stand for parliament, which he duly did in the 1847 general election, winning a seat in the borough of Athlone as a Peelite Conservative, thus becoming the first Irish Catholic Tory member of the House of Commons.

Pope Pius IX decided in 1850 to restore the Catholic hierarchy in England and Wales, which had been governed by Vicars Apostolic since the Reformation, a move some professed to regard as an encroachment on the rights of the Established Church, since it would involve the use of the names of Anglican dioceses. In response to public hysteria, the British government introduced the Ecclesiastical Titles Bill proposing to make it a criminal offence for anyone outside the Church of England to use as an episcopal title "the name of any city, town or place, or of any territory or district in the United Kingdom."

Because of their noisy opposition to the proposed legislation, the Irish MPs acquired the nickname of "The Pope's Brass Band", though they themselves preferred to be known as "The Irish Brigade". Keogh took an active and prominent part in the obstructive parliamentary campaign, and this greatly increased his reputation and popularity

in Ireland. After a meeting in Dublin in August 1851 he became one of the founders of the Catholic Defence Association set up to protest against the measure. About the same time, the Irish Tenants' League was established, whose aim was to secure for the tenant farmer the Three Fs: fair rent, freedom of sale and fixture of tenure. These combined bodies constituted

the only nation-wide organisation on any kind active in the 1850s, and their objectives were at once espoused by the Irish Brigade.

Prior to the 1852 general election, forty-eight Irish MPs, including Keogh, took the following pledge: "So help me God, no matter who the minister may be, I will never support that minister or that party unless he comes into power prepared to carry the measures which universal, popular Ireland demands". Following the election, a Conservative administration was formed under Lord Derby, with the Independent Irish Party, as they now styled themselves, holding the balance of power. The government collapsed before the end of the year, to be replaced by Lord Aberdeen's Liberal-Peelite coalition, with the Irish MPs still in the role of kingmakers.

Despite the new administration's lack of interest in furthering the policy objectives of the Irish Party, Keogh, its unofficial leader, accepted office under the government as solicitor-general for Ireland, while his friend, John Sadleir, MP for Carlow, became a junior Treasury minister. Keogh was subsequently appointed attorney-general for Ireland before advancing to the judicial bench



**COOPER HELMETS**  
**Salutes Shane Jennings**  
**one of our own!**  
**What a hurler**

**Cooper**

Ballinasloe minor hurler Shane Jennings is the first player from Ballinasloe in many years to wear the maroon and white with distinction. Shane played full-back in last Saturday's great win over Dublin, by 3-22 to 0-16. Shane had an outstanding game keeping the Dublin danger man Luke Casey scoreless for the entire game. Shane has been an exemplary hurler with Ballinasloe, all his coaches and mentors agree that his attitude was always fantastic since he first joined the club as a 6 year old. One of his first coaches says: "Shane is a perfectionist in everything he does, he trains and practices at every opportunity". Shane attended Creagh N.S. where he received great encouragement and now is studying for his leaving cert in Garbally College. Shanes attention now turns to the All-Ireland final on Sunday 18th August against Kilkenny.

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in 1856. His opportunistic behaviour – which he never deigned to defend – caused widespread dismay amongst his erstwhile supporters who accused him of betraying the principles he had pledged himself to uphold. Furthermore, his reputation was not at all enhanced by his association with Sadleir, a failed banker and notorious fraudster, who later took his own life by swallowing prussic acid. It may be mentioned in passing that neither the Catholic Defence Association nor the Irish Tenants' League survived into the 1860s: the Ecclesiastical Titles controversy proved to be much ado about nothing. The Act soon became a dead letter, quietly ignored by the Catholic community, while the prosperous state of agriculture in post-Famine Ireland temporarily

relaxed the pressure for agrarian reform. A similar fate befell the Independent Irish Party, which had fragmented by the end of the 1850s, due to indiscipline and lack of effective leadership. Besides, they had nothing to show for their time in parliament, neither the Three Fs nor the repeal of the Titles Act.

Keogh incurred further odium by his remarks in the course of his judgement on the Trench petition in relation to the 1872 Galway by-election. Though in light of the evidence, Nolan, the Home Rule candidate, was properly unseated, Keogh imprudently allowed his indignation at clerical interference with the electoral process, combined with his emotional attachment to Unionism, to influence his choice of language, prompting him to castigate the behaviour of the Catholic clergy in coarse, sneering and profoundly offensive terms. His remarks were deeply resented, and aroused much popular feeling. Meetings were held at which he was denounced and his effigy burnt. (Our photograph shows an example from County Clare.) Such was the strength of feeling against him that he remained under police protection for the rest of his life.

By the late 1870s, Keogh was physically and mentally unwell. In 1878 he travelled to London to consult a specialist, who referred him for a course of treatment to a German clinic, where he died on 30th September that year. He was survived by his wife Kate whom he had married in 1841, and by a son and a daughter. Fearing that his coffin would be seized and thrown into the Liffey if his body were brought home for burial, his family opted for a local interment. Bearing the inscription, "To the Honourable William Keogh. His friends and all who admired him", a Celtic cross marks his grave in Bonn. There seems to be no evidence in support of the allegation that he committed suicide.

## BALLINASLOE'S MR. SALUBRIOUS

BY KEN KELLY

When lady shoppers in Ballinasloe hear the complimentary remark "You're looking very SALUBRIOUS today, Mrs." it can only come from the one and only Georgie Grehan, one of the town's most popular and lovable "characters." Renowned for his wit, good humour and happy smile, Georgie is highly popular with all sections of the community.

Born in St. Grellan's Terrace, sixty four years ago, he is the youngest son of Patsy and Molly (nee Ward). The rest of the family comprised Mikey, Mary (Finnerty), Patrick (Toby), Martin, Christy and Denis (Lully). As a very young boy, Georgie with some of his other brothers, accompanied their late father Patsy to GAA games, shows etc. where he "entertained" spectators to his own brand of singing. Often called "Caruso" the entertainer was rewarded with showers of coins from the spectators (often to encourage him to move on) and these were gratefully collected by his children.



Photo courtesy of Liam Jordan Photography

Georgie joined the local Boxing club, where under the guidance of Colman Hernon and Buddy Donnellan he won a Co. championship title, in the 6 stone class, in the early sixties. He seldom failed to attend a GAA match, particularly if Galway were playing, and was on The Hill for Galway's historic three-in-a-row All-Ireland victories. This encouraged him to set up his "own business" of selling team colours prior to the games, ironically following in the footsteps of his second cousin, "Pancake" Ward.

**It was then he picked up the word "Salubrious" with which he used to great advantage to woo customers. "I don't know what it means or where I heard it first but the ladies really love it" said a beaming Georgie. "I like to be good humoured, helpful and mannerly. I have never been in court and the gardai respect me for that. As a youngster growing up I tried to keep out of trouble but the improvements in St. Grellan's have been for the better and has given it a new lease of life. I like paying my respects at funerals and try to lead a good life" added Georgie.**

Some years ago Georgie featured in the RTE's series of "Our Town" speaking of growing up in St. Grellan's and the poverty that existed in his childhood. After leaving school he worked in Dubarry before joining Toft's Amusements at the October Fair and subsequently in Skerries, Inchicore and Lahinch with his good pal Pat Loughnane. Later he took up employment in different restaurants and take-aways in the town where he continued to complement patrons with his trademark phrase "You're looking very Salubrious" with a cheeky grin on his face.

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## DOWN MEMORY LANE



**St. Grellan's BNS c.1958**

**Back row L to R:** Michael Colohan, Gearoid Hogan, Pat Gill, Brian Darcy, James Coyne, Michael Boyle, Noel Ryan, John Joe Canavan.

**Middle row L to R:** Paddy Murray, Kieran Murray, Jacko Keighrey, ? Doherty, Sean Óg Hurley, Francis Dwyer, Donal Larkin, David Connolly, Brendan Lennon, Michael Martyn, Brendan Curley, Gerard Carney.

**Front row L to R:** Paddy Egan, Raymond Kelly, Michael Gilligan, John Coyne, Joe Joyce, Noel Ryan, Joseph O'Byrne, Frankie Cunningham, Larry Concannon, ? Doherty, Michael Egan, Seamus Fogarty, Tom Madden.

*If you have a treasured 'Down Memory Lane' photograph that is locally connected, please submit to [ballinasloelife@hotmail.com](mailto:ballinasloelife@hotmail.com) or contact the reporter Ian at 09096 45831 to arrange for scanning.*



The Editor, Publishing Project Group, Contributors, PROs and various members of all the Clubs, Societies and Committees locally, extend our warmest of wishes for a speedy and fullsome recovery to one of our most valued and treasured photographers and Community Supporters in town Jackie Dolan.



The Late Arthur Judge and members of the Town Band lead the Town's First Industrial Parade of Fair Week in the early sixties. Photo kindly supplied by Cora Kenny Harbour Road who was a newly arrived nurse to town!

## J&S PHOTOS



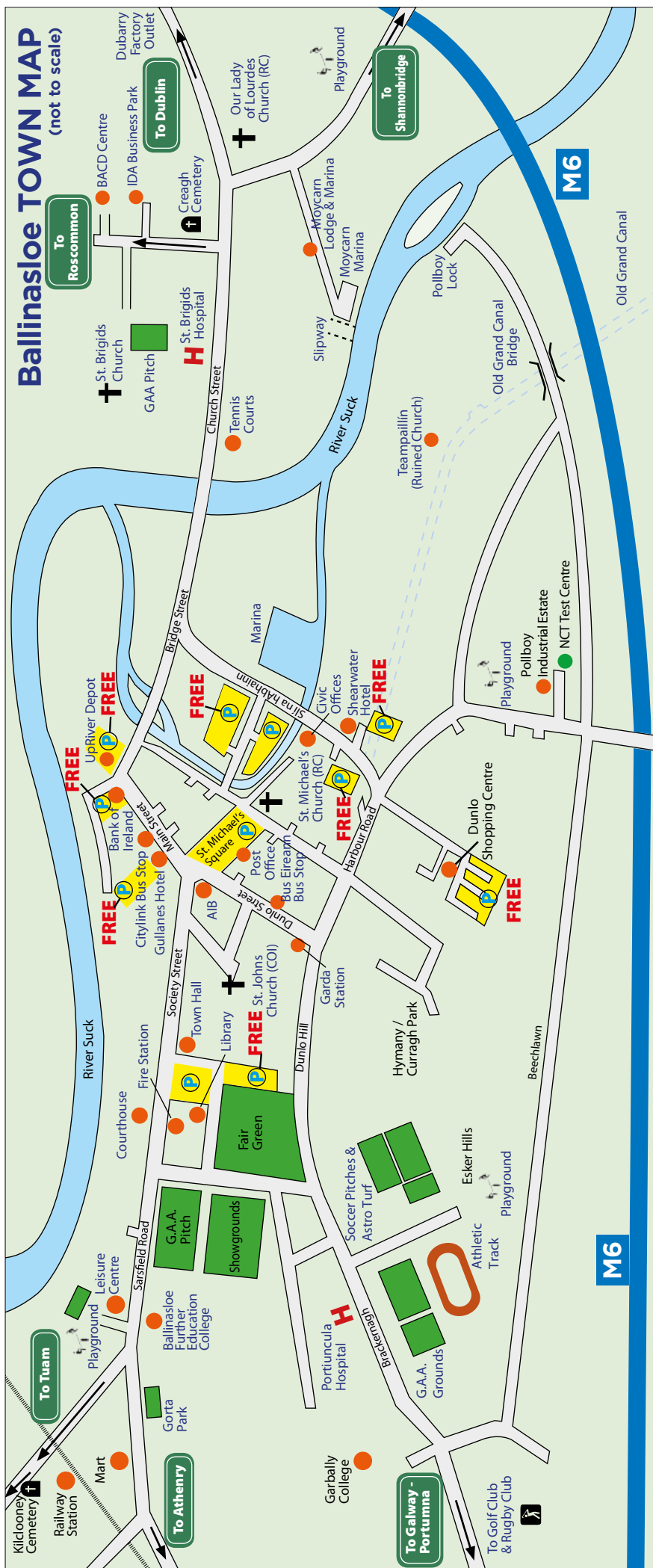
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## Ballinasloe History Walk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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