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BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 8 Issue 4: Oct' '18 - Nov' '18

FREE



Photo by Robert Riddell

SHANE JENNINGS

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AND ALL-STAR WINNER



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REAMHRA

Autumn draws in and as soon as the Green is filled with Tofts and the waft of road apples, the witches will tip their brooms into Black Friday and the orgy of Christmas excess will help brighten our shortest days of the year!

October sees the guff of policy headlines having to be replaced with the hard resourcing of what a Government wants to see change and how much we want to pay for these changes. By the time our next magazine arrives we will have passed a budget and elected the next ninth President. Dublin is devouring its young and denuding the rural and provincial of young people. The acute housing crisis of 10,000 plus waiting for home beggars belief – when there are three times that many units available in non - M50 Ireland.

A much leaner, less resourced State in 1934 could get the Land Commission to move and re-settle 27 families from barren land in West Connemara to Rath Cairn in Meath – there was no need for a new agency!

In the 30's Estates were built with the diverted monies from the withheld land annuities throughout the country, to deal with tenement conditions in lanes and alleys of most of provincial Ireland's towns. Our St. Michael's Place and St. Grellan's Terrace were early elements of those empowering and citizen centred Government led schemes.

There will be no students, artists, craftworkers, musicians or service staff – it is predicted living in Galway City Centre by

the time of 2020 as most of their rented accommodation is earmarked for Air BnB. The Evictions with masked attendant officers of viable residential property have begun in Dublin.

The politicians have to try and reverse the Goliath growth of our capital with policies that reward and encourage those who are trying to make rural and provincial Ireland work. Take a look at how the Catalans take the pressure off Barcelona with tax regimes and incentives keep Catalan families in villages and smaller towns – differing VAT rates, lower rates, lower utility costs, lower indirect taxation all used under the nose of the EU in the interests of social cohesion .

The main stream political parties view a home/house as a market good to be profited from. We have come some distance in the three generations since Michael Davitt and the "Landleaguers" used every means at their disposal to prevent a battering ram putting an Irish family to the road.

Our history books explained those images to us all as imperial and landlord greed. We seem to have fully replaced it with a homegrown variety that needs more than just Fr. Peter McVerry to challenge it.

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



Articles and Photos Welcome

NEXT ISSUE

Deadline 13th Nov'

For submission of articles, please email:
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The "Big Dig" has finally commenced and unfortunately there is no gain without pain. We in BACD ask you to continue your support for local Business during this difficult time. There is ample parking around the Town in close proximity to wherever you need to go. Anyone that has looked down into the trenches will understand why this upgrading is absolutely necessary and will benefit the town for generations to come.

We are actively promoting with Galway Co Council "The Pulse" modern office space available over the Library and are hopeful of a tenant in the near future. We are also working with the IDA & Galway Co Cl. to secure funding to build the Advanced Technology Unit in Creagh. An application has been submitted and we expect an announcement by the end of November, hopefully a positive one. The Board are still open to submissions on how this project will be progressed.

Trying to get movement on the St. Brigid's Hospital site is proving more difficult than arranging a mission to the Moon. We cannot even get a simple letter from the HSE to give permission to apply for funding to develop ideas which came forward from the recent seminar for the site. Without this letter we are unable to submit an application. New Barriers are being erected around the perimeter and no one in the HSE is able to outline what their plans are for this vacant area of ground at a time when much needed funding is required for the local Mental Health Services.

In many Towns across the country this is now a very quiet period in the run-up to Christmas. However Ballinasloe has its Fair & Festival which will bring many visitors to town over the next two weekends. A programme of events is included in the Magazine. The Agricultural Show was on last weekend and we have the Annual Zombie walk coming up on Saturday 27th October and Sunday 29th October.

Please continue to support local Business at this difficult time and get out and enjoy all the local events over the coming weeks.

SEAMUS DUFFY,

Chairman Ballinasloe Area Community Development Limited.



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WHAT'S INSIDE

Local News

- 4 Legal Challenge to Waste Transfer
- 5 €300,000 Invested Locally
- 6 Beechlawn Road Safety

Business

- 7 Harney Brothers Retire
- 8 Utah Celebrates 10th Anniversary
- 10 Hogarty's New Showroom
- 11 The Distruption has begun
- 12 Town Team Update
- 14 Gullane's Hotel 75th Anniversary
- 16 Top Marks for Beauty Salon

Community

- 17 Clonfert Pilgrimage to Lourdes
- 18 Our Brussels Representative
- 20 Rev. Bernie Costello
- 21 St. Brigid's Golfing Society
- 23 Active Retirement Review
- 24 Trocaire Humanitarian Award
- 25 Growing Indian Community
- 27 Chalkface Chronicles
- 30 Out and About
- 32 Events Guide
- 35 Gilmore Decendants Celebrate
- 36 Kathy Queen of the Fair

- 37 Cancer Support Centre
- 39 Aussie Family Search
- 40 Three Years Waiting for the Call
- 41 Late Louis Finn
- 42 Passing of Teresa Whyte
- 43 Fair Week

Culture

- 44 Town Hall Theatre
- 46 Art Group Exhibition
- 47 Ballinasloe Archer
- 48 This, That and The Other

Sport

- 50 GAA Snippets
- 51 Profile - Shane Jennings
- 52 Colm Shine's Golf Win
- 53 Local Rugby Player
- 55 Town AFC National Award
- 56 Tour d'Shams
- 57 Vintage Club Gear Up
- 58 Christmas Jumper Day

Tourism And Heritage

- 59 Ballinasloe Remembers its Heroes
- 60 Ballinasloe in 1918
- 61 Cricket Returns to Ballinasloe
- 62 October Fair in Times Gone By
- 63 Ballinasloe Town Map



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LEGAL CHALLENGE TO WASTE TRANSFER PROJECT



Mick O'Neill, Una Fahy, Mary O'Neill, Aisling Dolan (Secretary), Eleanor Shanley, Patt Groarke, Eamonn O'Donoghue, Vincent Parsons (Chairman).

A legal challenge by the "Ballinasloe Says No" Campaign against Barna Waste has recently begun at the High-Court in Dublin, with a full hearing due to take place in October, members of the Municipal District Council were informed last month.

Work by Barna close to the old landfill site in Poolboy has been suspended for the remainder of the legal process. So far, an entrance, passage and some foundation had already been constructed.

Chairman of the campaign, Dr Vincent Parsons stated: "As our legal proceedings move forward we will be providing updates on our High Court hearings. The High Court will review the leave to proceed on the 16th October and assign a date for a hearing more than likely in early 2019. Negotiations with the group's solicitors (Gearoid Geraghty & Co.) on what are the best steps forward are still ongoing.

There have been two fundraising events so far held by the campaign, a concert in The Shearwater Hotel and a table quiz in Gullane's, which helped raised substantial sums for associated costs. The group are now planning another fundraising concert perhaps in November, with the date tbc. People may also contribute online at Please Support Ballinasloe Says No on www.iFundraise.ie and through the Ballinasloe Credit Union.

New members are also welcome to join the team, so if you can volunteer time to the campaign, whether by helping with leaflets, building awareness or helping in any shape or form, don't hesitate to get in contact. Secretary of the Campaign Group, Aisling Dolan, thanked everyone for their support and donations over the past nine months.

Keep up to date with the Campaign on the "Ballinasloe Says No To Toxic Waste Dump" Facebook Page.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

FUNDING...

...for Community Applications in the Ballinasloe Area

secured by Cllr. Dermot Connolly

APPLICATION NAME	WORKS PROPOSAL	AMMOUNT RECOMMENDED
Alley Oop	Purchase Sports Equipment	€800
Basketball Skills	Purchase Photography Equipment	€1,000
Ballinasloe Tidy Towns	Purchase New Sound System for Theatre	€1,000
Ballinasloe Town Hall	IT Equipment	€1,000
Brothers of Charity Galway - Suas Service	Stone Facing Boundary Wall onto Main Road	€1,000
Caltra Community Centre	IT Equipment	€1,000
Castleblakeney Church Restoration	Purchase 2 Manikins for CPR Training & How to use Defibrillator	€850
Eyrecourt & District Cardiac First Responders	Sports Equipment	€1,000
Involve Youth Project Ballinasloe Laurencetown Community Development Group	IT Equipment	€897
Mountbellew District Development Association	Replace Lighting with Energy Efficient LED Lighting.	€1,000
The Artfarm Collective	IT Equipment	€1,000

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€300,000 INVESTED IN MINOR WORKS LOCALLY

The €30,000 given to Cllr. Tim Broderick has been put towards works on flooding and drainage in the district area.

Cathaoirleach of the Municipal Council, Donal Burke, has designated his money to flood alleviation works at Skycur in the Kiltormer/Lawrencetown area, additional street lighting near Kiltormer Nursing Home and a contribution towards wall repairs in Eyrecourt.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Councillors Dermot Connolly, Tim Broderick, Michael Finnerty, Michael Connolly, Aidan Donoghue (Mayor of District) and Donal Burke.

In our February/March edition of LIFE this year we reported that the road from the Kilconnell Landfill site to Cappataggle had to be upgraded to accommodate the trucks using the route. The operator of the Landfill agreed to give €1million towards the works, which left an allocation of €300,000 to the Municipal District Council to disperse.

It was agreed and announced by former Cathaoirleach of the Municipal Council, Aidan Donohue, that €180,000 from the outstanding €300,000 would be divided equally to all six councillors for nominated works in the area. The remaining €120,000 was allocated to a special project, which was later announced to be used improving the town's footpaths, evidence of which can be seen from the River Bridge to Kilgarve.

Cllr. Donohue has so far put forward almost half of his allocated funds on general works in the Brackernagh side of town and is still deciding on what to use the other half on in the coming months.

Most of €30,000 allocated to Cllr. Michael Finnerty has been used on upgrades to footpaths in Creagh, and to Clontuskert National School. Cllr. Finnerty is also proposing to use his remaining funds on the Glebe House in Aughrim.

The Castlefrench road between Caltra and the Ballinamore Bridge will be getting its first revamp in over 37 years, as Cllr. Michael Connolly has decided to put a large amount of his €30,000 into works on it. General works in the New Inn area will also be on Cllr. Connolly's list of upgrades from his funds.

Cllr. Dermot Connolly has allocated his funds to grass-cutting in many estates around town, along with the new footpath across the Suck Bridge in Creagh, which was recently completed.



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BEECHLAWN ROAD SAFETY ISSUES REMAIN

Enda Lohan, and the members of the Beechlawn Residents' Association, are calling for action from Galway County Council for new footpaths, speed ramps and extra road signage to be put in place along the road from Poolboy to Garbally.

Enda met with members of Galway County Council last May to express his concerns, on a road he claims is becoming busier with traffic every year.

"The road is simply not safe enough for pedestrians who use it every day. It's one of the town's most popular walking and running routes, but there have been too many close calls with cars speeding up and down the road" said Enda.

"Now with the potential of the new waste transfer site and factory coming into Poolboy, the traffic on the road will almost double, and that's very worrying in my book" he concluded.

On the 25th of June, Enda carried out a survey between 7:30am and 9:30am to count how many vehicles were using the road in the 2-hour period. Exactly 150 passenger vehicles (Cars/Jeeps/Minibuses/Motorbikes) passed by on the road, along with 31 large vehicles (Trucks/Vans/Lorries/Buses), which totalled a staggering 181 vehicles. Enda also mentions that this was outside of the school period, which makes a big difference to the numbers.

During the Municipal District Council meeting held in July, Cllr. Michael Finnerty proposed that speed ramps should be put in place on the road, though Senior Executive Engineer Fran McEvoy

advised that this not considered the optimum solution.

Cllr. Finnerty, believes that Enda is correct in saying that something has be done with the road before an accident occurs. He reckons that extra signage and three speed ramps on the road would be necessary and is continuing to work on a solution.

SENATOR MAURA HOPKINS



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HARNEY BROTHERS HEAD FOR RETIREMENT

After some five decades on Dunlo St. and nearly two decades on Main St., brothers Pat and John are hanging up their business boots and retiring.

Both men were raised in a family farm in Aughrim-John the elder went to farming with an uncle while brother Pat decided to lease a going concern business, known as "Holloways Restaurant" in Dunlo St.

Motor Rallying enthusiast Pat married his love Ellen – a domestic Science Teacher, and between them and six of a staff they managed and ran the Restaurant from 1968 to 1973. The town of the 70's was a shopping spot and there were some 3,000 people directly employed in factories and healthcare. Jim Burke returned from the States in the 60's and opened the town's first dry cleaning business and Pat saw the need for another similar business.

"People can't imagine the level of commercial activity that was here in the 70's, 80's and much of the 90's – we can remember queues of customers in a line, on a Friday evening out the door, collecting garments. We'd be working till the early hours of the morning to cope with demand" states Pat.

Over the decades they reared a family of three, Paddy who manages the Locksmith Business in Athlone, assisted by Niamh and Owen. In the early 90's Pat expanded the business into Key Cutting, as well as specialising as a Locksmithlock and installing Alarms. He developed that aspect of the business so much so that they expanded to another outlet, choosing Athlone as their new base.

Two things in Pat's view took the footfall off the principle streets by at least 50%. "The moving of Tesco from Sarsfield Road to Dunlo Harbour in 2004 and the introduction of pay parking when customers can rock up for free to new Multiples, have decimated numbers" states Pat.

He is sad to look out at the current state of Dunlo St. during the Big Dig and hopes it will come back to its former glory. "Planners are hell bent on fads. I can see it again in Athlone, where they are pedestrianising the main street. Our town is not for strollers-it's for the Rural hinterland to come to get their messages and services in their car. I hope they return the streets back sympathetically to the heritage and find a new parking system that allows the down town business to compete fairly with the out of town multiples."

Looking back, he laughs at being 50 years this Autumn, in business-seeing off three bank strikes, three currencies and numerous recessions and highs "My favourite currency was the LSD , but seriously for this town to get moving with its centre it needs jobs – some cluster of new factories or a Govt. Agency is vital" urges Pat.

Pat will continue helping out his son Paddy as a Locksmith consultant but is really looking forward to spending more time on the golf course and with his family in the years ahead.

John, after years of farming went into a forecourt business, first in Roscommon in 1995, but diverted his energies to a business that could co-exist with the Computer Training College that his wife Christina had built up. In 1999 he rented a premises off Mrs. Rothwell in Dunlo St. which became the town's first Internet Café, with 10 computers, a small stationary store and some book binding.

"People don't recall but a computer weighed nearly 25 kgs, a printer machine could cost anything from £300 upwards and cartridges and toners were a scald to buy; there was no data roaming or emails coming into house never mind a basic phone less than 20 years ago" states John.



In 2002 he moved the business to Main St. (Rafter's old store) and has remained there since. For John, not alone has the technology changed rapidly in the space of two decades, but those who are his core customers have as well. "I still get my students wanting their CV's done or reports bound but what is most striking of all is the wonderful new nationalities that make up my customer base – Brazilians, Filipinos, Polish, Indians, Pakistanis and nearly every national from the EU have crossed my door in numbers these past few years" states John.

Over his time he and Christina reared their three offspring from their business in the town centre – Andreanna (Mallow), Natasha (Wexford) and Alan living locally.

Whilst John is known and respected for his role in business in the town, it's his association with the Agricultural Show for nigh on 60 years that singles him out. "Martin Joyce in Aughrim brought me to my first show in 1962 and got me

on the committee in '63 and don't ask me why but I can't seem to get away from it since" says John, who is current Chair of the Show Society.

For John looking back changes in on-street parking and customer use of online shopping have been huge stumbling blocks to. "Since 2011 the footfall has really gone off the streets and I don't know if it will come back for our provincial towns but I had an enjoyable time meeting customers and providing services. I am looking forward to caring for Christine, keeping an eye out for the kids and the Show for the next few years" smiles John.

Both men warmly thanked their hardworking staffs and loyal customers down through the years.

BY COLM CROFFY

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UTAH CELEBRATES ITS 10th ANNIVERSARY

One of the town's most popular clothing and home décor department stores, Utah, in Society Street, are celebrating 10 years of business this winter season.

The store was set up in late 2008 at the beginning of the economic crisis by 47-year-old Val Colleran from Beagh, who has over 30 years' experience in the retail sector. The shop now employs 8 staff members from the local area.

At the age of 17, Val began his working life in the old Londis supermarket on Society Street. During the 90's he managed several Penny's stores throughout Ireland and the U.K. After leaving the popular retail chain, he went on to manage the very successful midland based department stores 'Texas'.

Utah started off in Marina Point in a 2000 sq. ft. premises with only 2 staff members. With the success of Marina Point and customer demand, Val needed to expand his business. Once the opportunity arose to open a new 10,000 sq. ft premises on Society Street in 2011, where the old Central Cinema once was, he took it with no hesitation.

The expansion allowed Val to stock a diverse and exclusive range of products while not losing the street value ethos Utah carries, and helped him create five new jobs for locals.

Val says that starting his own business in Ballinasloe was a no-brainer. "We live and work in a great business town with a catchment area of over 14,000 houses. I want to be part of the town's resurgence and help bring it back to the 'go to town' of the midlands like it once was. Ballinasloe desperately needed a department store to compete with other neighbouring towns, and that's where I got the idea of Utah.

"I noticed a market for top brands at discounted prices, where I travelled all over Europe to top fashion houses to get the best



Building in the 90s, Old Cinema



Building in the 50s

deals on all clothing products. We now have extensive ranges in men's, ladies' and

children's fashion and footwear,

along with outdoor clothing, curtains, blinds and bedding. Our store also offers a call out measuring and fitting service for blinds and curtains. 'Value Val's' Bargain Basement offers up to 75% off all fashion brands all year round".

Coming from a family of ten, Val's late father Bill (who ran a successful wood mill business off Main St.) and some siblings also have/had businesses in town such as An Táin Bar (Ger Colleran), The Bread Basket



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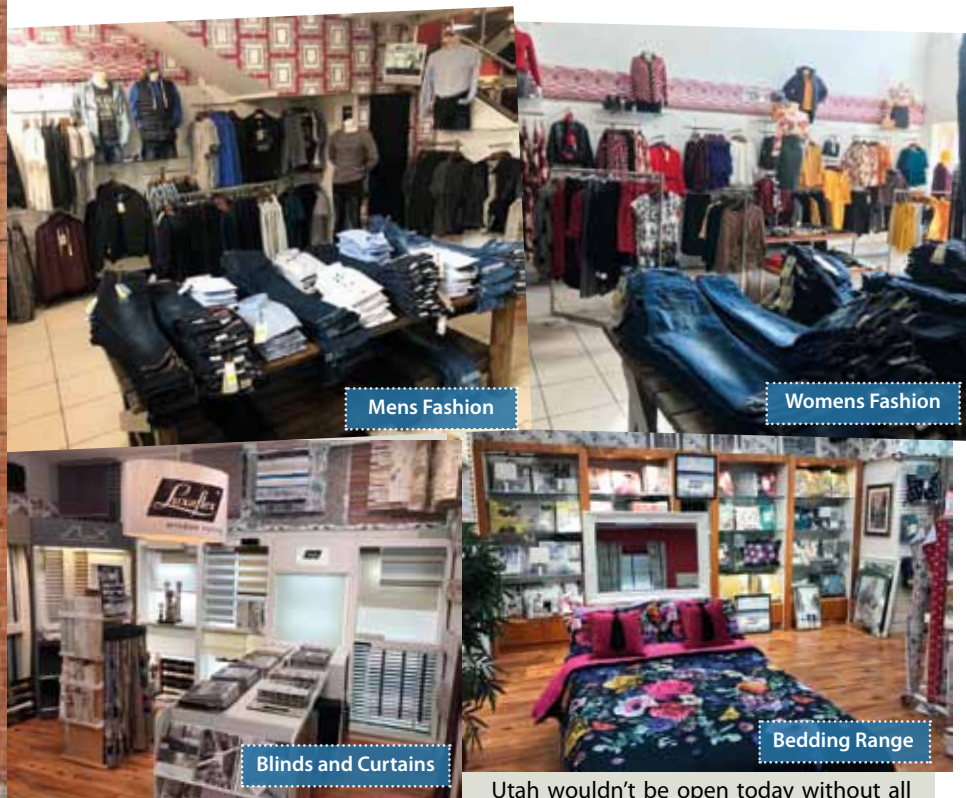
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Store owner Val Colleran with staff members
Tammy Kells and Bridget Spain



Mens Fashion

Womens Fashion

Blinds and Curtains

Bedding Range

Café (Martina Reynolds), and Tranquility Beauty Clinic (Olivia Kelly).

Setting up a business in Ballinasloe is a good idea once it's done right according to Val. "To start a business, you must identify a niche that you love, and that people can/will benefit from and pay their hard-earned money for. Be ready to invest 24/7 in the initial few years and go beyond the expectations of your customer. Never be the bad guy, always love your customers and your staff, as they say you get what you give. Create a business plan that you can work on, and never thrash it, just stick to it".

Utah wouldn't be open today without all the support they have received says Val. "I'd like to take this opportunity to thank

all our loyal customers for the last ten successful years and hope to serve you for the next ten and beyond.

"A big thank you also to my loyal staff team (Cathy, Bridget, Vera, Brenda, Tammie, Conor and Liam) for the hard work and commitment ye have shown over the past couple of years, and to my wife Kellie and two sons Fadlán and Éanna for their patience".

Utah opens from 9am – 6pm from Monday to Saturday and will remain so throughout the Town Enhancement Work on Society Street.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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NEW SHOWROOM AT HOGARTYS, BIRCHGROVE

Hogarty Enterprises of Birchgrove (on the old Athlone road), recently unveiled their new showroom of carpets, floors and rugs to the public, which has doubled the size of their retail space.

There are now eight full time staff members employed in the store, with two sub-contracted carpet fitters working along with them. Founder Sean himself is still active within the outfit, along with the rest of his family.

The newly renovated showrooms compromise of 40,000sq ft of paints, wallpapers, carpets, vinyls, wood/laminate flooring, rugs, lighting, sundries and much more.

Personal service is always guaranteed at Hogarty's with advice on all products offered by each staff member, who have gathered a lot of experience in the flooring and décor industry over the years.

The store is main stockists of Fleetwood Irish made paints, with a complete range from exterior to interior as well as a full complement of primers. A full range of furniture paints, waxes and oils are also available.

There are over 700 patterns of wallpaper in stock, ranging from Italian vinyls, contours, feature wallpapers, blown vinyl's, borders etc.

Over 200 rolls of carpet and vinyl covering along with 100 patterns of flooring are available and ready for either immediate delivery or installation by a professional, competent installer.

Near to 1,000 rugs of all colours and sizes are on show for purchase to suit every style taste and budget. Finishing touches are also catered for in the shape of lighting, lamp shades, artworks and frames.

In 2015 Hogarty's opened a sister branch store in Terryland, Galway City, which has been very successful in trading carpets, rugs and flooring direct.

"It's great to see our business develop the way it has done over the past few years, and our new 40,000 sq foot show room really is the highlight of it all" states Manager Edward Hogarty



John & Helen Ryan with Founder Sean Hogarty on winning two hurling final tickets in Hogartys customer draw ! Remember Hogartys Old Athlone Rd. Ballinasloe first for value for flooring and diy since 1977 !

"We would like to welcome everyone to come and check out all of our brand-new stock which is on display, and hopefully we will have what's suited to your home or business layout" exclaims Sean.

The store is open from 9am – 6pm Monday to Saturday. Free parking is also available to the public, with over 20 spaces available.

For further queries please contact 090-9643109, and be sure to follow Hogarty's on Facebook for all up to date offers, news and giveaways.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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SALMONS

DEPARTMENT STORE

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THE DISRUPTION HAS BEGUN

Yes the Streets of Ballinasloe are being dug up to upgrade services and enhance the town so as to make it much easier for walking and more people friendly.

But that is not the disruption that I am writing on. The Convergence of two world changing technologies, The Internet and 3D Printing for purchasing items i.e. Clothing, Shoes, Books, Watches and all makes of Jewellery etc., etc. These were once stocked high on shelves in Bricks & Mortar Buildings around the World for Consumer demand.

Printed catalogues are being replaced by on-line databases. What seems to have happened with this change is that consumers seem to use their Credit cards to make payments in other countries for items and wait 7 to 14 days for arrival as well as paying for delivery?

The alternative/opposite to this is loyalty to the locals store, thus locals are able to enjoy the convenience of working locally or securing sponsorship from the local stores. The welcome and greeting when you enter a local store is still a big plus for the Consumer plus they can browse, feel the items, try them on and get the price immediately without any charge for delivery. Each item is gift wrapped free of charge and the customer enjoys first class service. The Retailer appreciates their custom and loyalty. This all adds to positivity in the locality of any community.

So this Autumn do consider shopping locally. Do phone the shop and talk to us about your requirements, get a quotation and in most cases free delivery within 3 to 5 miles. You can also pay off on items over the weeks, have your item/s gift wrapped and ready for collection when you arrive into any shop in our town which can boost of a wonderful community spirit.

Build your local town with loyalty for the next generation. Thank you.



BY MAUREEN CAHALAN



Newly elected President of the Association of Fine Jewellers (formerly RTJ) Fionagh Ryan being congratulated by Maureen Cahalan, Cahalans of Ballinasloe. Fionagh is from S. Ryan Jewellers Limerick. Maureen was the first lady to be elected to this post in the mid 80's.

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TOWN TEAM UPDATE

Free Commercial Leaflet Drop

A Leaflet Drop is being done for Black Friday, using Town Team funds to cover the cost of the design, print and postage. The objective of this Leaflet Drop to 14,000 homes is to give the local town businesses free promotion of their offers/products, whilst encouraging townspeople to shop local in the lead up to Xmas.

Zombie Walk

The dates have been set for this year's Zombie Walk; Saturday 27th and Sunday 28th of October at 5:45pm, 6:45pm, 7:45pm and 8:45pm both days in Garbally Woods.

Heritage Brochure

Pádraig Ó Ceithearnaigh is leading this project in conjunction with Pádraig Lyons, different options and ways of printing the brochure are being explored and sent to other members for review. The brochure details an ecclesiastical heritage trail of the area.

Library

The MOU with Galway County Council on the joint marketing and co-ordination of the PULSE Business space has been ratified by both Council and Board of BACD. A funding application has been submitted for new sound equipment and to host some networking and marketing events in the coming months.

Business Networking Event

Revenue will give a presentation about the upcoming Budget in the Pulse Business Space at the Library on the morning of the 10th of October. All local business will be invited. With the new PAYE system being introduced in the new year, anyone with payroll systems will need to be updated.

Young Persons Taskforce

Some of the town's young business people have been brought together to form a discussion group to see what services the younger people in the area want and need. Brian King has been facilitating meetings with young business owners and service professionals.

Rural Regeneration Funding

Galway County Council are applying as the Lead body for the Rural Regeneration Fund for Ballinasloe to fund several projects. BACD are leading on 2 projects with the overall application namely the IDA site and St. Brigid's. The grant aid will be for 75-80% of the project.

St. Brigid's Think Tank Follow Up

As a next step on the ladder to move the St. Brigid's Project along, it was recommended that a feasibility study be carried out which will cost in the region of €100,000 to €200,000.

Other possible Feasibility Studies mentioned that would be beneficial to the Town were The River Suck and Fit Town Trails, our connection of the Greenway from Athlone to Galway – a detailed application for funding will be made for these by the Town Team also.

Big Dig Update

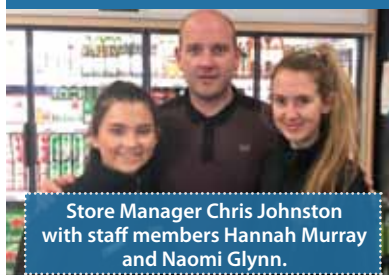
Works will restart after the fair which sees the project move over to Main Street on the 10th of October. Main Street will be worked on in two phases, the first will see works commence from the roundabout junction to halfway down the street from October 10th to November 21st, with the second half being worked on from November 22nd to December 7th.

Pedestrian access will be put in place during that time, and all businesses will be open as usual.

BY IAN O'BOYLE



NATIONAL NOMINATION FOR BEST CUSTOMER AWARD FOR DOLANS



Store Manager Chris Johnston with staff members Hannah Murray and Naomi Glynn.

Dolan's Service Station of Kilgarve has been nominated for this years Topaz/Circle-K best customer service award.

Michael Dolan and his family have been in business for 50 years and are hoping to mark the occasion by winning the prize, after being nominated along with three other stores by their regional manager.

There are currently 51 staff members employed by Dolan's in both fulltime and part time positions, between the shop, deli and Supermacs.

One of the shops managers, Chris Johnstone, says that customer loyalty is what has kept the service station running so long, and they have been a big influence in the stores nomination for the award.

The Decision of the National Jury will be known in October.

EXCEL SPREADSHEETS TRAINING AT ENTERPRISE CENTRE

Martin Loughman's Excel Spreadsheet Course is coming back this winter season. Martin has been working as a trainer since 2015, and also carries 20 years' experience working with Excel as an accountant.

"Pretty much everyone knows something about Excel, whether it's to input a few figures, give a text label to each one or simply add them up. However, did you know the big distinction between relative and absolute cell referencing in Excel? This is super important if you want to make real progress as a beginner in Excel and it's something you'll definitely learn all about throughout this course" says Martin.



Martin Loughman

For a breakdown of what's included in the course visit <http://bit.ly/excelbs>.

Participants are asked to bring their own laptop with Excel installed to follow along and do the exercises. Certificates of Attendance are issued at the end of the course.

Classes begin on Wednesday, October 10th in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre (Training Room) for ten Wednesday evenings (7 - 9 p.m.). The cost is €90 for 20 hours.

If you want to get more details about the course or arrange to meet Martin prior to any booking, you can always contact him on (090) 9621006 or (087) 4310927 or email info@spreadsheets.com.

MEELICK WEIR AND WALKWAY SECURE FUNDS

The Western Regional Manager of Waterways Ireland, Eanna Rowe, updated the community on progress on to the restoration of the Meelick Weir and Walkway, at a recent site visit.

Mr Rowe gave a positive update and reassurance that Waterways Ireland had allocated €2.5 million to carry out this significant project on the River Shannon.

The rural communities of Meelick and Lusmagh, Co. Offaly were badly affected in the harsh winter of 2009 with severe flooding. This catastrophe caused extensive damage to the walkway, which left the communities isolated from one another for nine years.

However, these two communities had several positive public meetings to find effective solutions to reopen a precious amenity. Chaired by Charlie Killeen, an extensive lobbying effort was undertaken by all.

After planning permission was granted by both Offaly and Galway County Councils, Waterways Ireland announced initial funding of €160,000 to reconstruct the Weir and Walkway.

Phase one of the works are due to commence in March-April 2019. Details of the overall project and tendering process are available on Waterways Irelands' website. www.waterwaysireland.org

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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GULLANE'S HOTEL - 75 AT THE HEART OF MAIN STREET

Hard to imagine in the summer of 1943, the world was at war, Hitler's forces were losing ground in Russia and Italy, General Patton had landed with US troops in Palermo, Churchill had appointed Louis Mountbatten as the general of South East Asia command. Couples danced that summer to the strain of Glen Miller's 'That old Black Magic' and meanwhile good old Ireland was having an emergency. Despite all this a young Bridget Divilly and her new husband Michael Gullane had just bought a small bar and grocery shop on Main Street, Ballinasloe; that for 75 years would become a focal point in the town and indeed the community.

Proprietor Tomás Gullane's late mother Bridget Divilly worked in the old O'Carroll's Hotel on Dunlo Street in her youth. The building where Hayden's Hotel was developed was for sale at this time and the bank offered it to her for £5,000. However, she and her husband Michael, who was a builder by trade, decided to buy the premises on Main Street for £775 instead.

They reared a family of four children, back in the day when most business families lived over their premises – Padraig, Eamon, Tomás and Anna.

Like most small groceries and bars, the swinging sixties wave of wealth brought new shopping and socialising practices. People flocked to the new supermarkets. A new generation, for the first time that century did not have to immigrate, but could work, socialise, marry and settle in their own community.

Tomás and his siblings could see an opening for a music venue to entertain the crowds. Being musically talented, he and his sister Anna began playing piano and singing in the small lounge, thus creating the first 'singing pub'. With an overhaul of an outdoor yard with tarpaulin and planks from Collerans Saw Mill across the street, The Log Cabin prototype emerged.

In 1968, the young guns covered a lower part of the yard. Tomás with his buddies formed a band and when not managing the pub, they were out gigging. In the 70's with the change in currency, they decided to build a substantial premises which became, in its day, a luxury 300 seater venue and function lounge with music - 7 nights a week.

Some of the biggest names in Ireland at the time played in the venue. Foster and Allen, the Furey Brothers, Colm T Wilkinson and Christy Moore, being just a few. Around this time, a certain Waterford man, Stephen Flannery, came to work and is still with the firm today 35 years later.

During the following years, Padraig and Anna went on to careers in medicine and Eamon took over the famous Harrys in Kinnegad. Tomás' ambition went into further developing the family business. Life and business did not always run smoothly for Tomás. He faced many adversities during these years but with the support of his family, hard work and sheer determination, he overcame these challenges.

In the late 80's he met his wife Caroline who hailed from Westmeath. Together they took on the next challenge of building Gullane's Hotel, initially starting with 14 bedrooms, 2 function rooms and a large bar and carvery.

In the late 90's, they purchased adjoining gardens from premises on Main Street and converted them into car parking and from 1988 have provided free car parking through boom and bust.

In 2003/04 the Gullanes purchased the two adjoining premises

on Main Street 'Touch of Class' and Cecil Walshes' Shoe Shop, and embarked on a major programme of renovation and amalgamation of the buildings into the current premises that is Gullane's Hotel.

Looking back, Tomás and Caroline have, like the generation before them, reared a



family of 4, Eimear, Ailbhe, Graeme and Hannah from the heart of the town and created an even larger family of past and present management and staff. "All the children have worked in the business and we are delighted and proud of their involvement. We have been truly fortunate with the wonderful people who have worked with us down through the years. This milestone anniversary is really a tribute to those past and present," stated Tomás and Caroline.

"We are really lucky with the loyalty of so many generations of families who continue to use the Hotel, as a meeting point, a marker of their life milestones such as christenings. Communion, confirmations, birthdays, funerals and anniversaries," remarks Tomás.

"We are strong supporters of community, voluntary and sporting organisations. It is lovely to be associated with the victorious hurling, football and camogie teams of Galway", he added.

Gullane's Hotel now has 27 bedrooms, 2 function rooms, conference rooms, large bar, restaurant and foyer areas. We are open for business





from 7.30 in the morning for breakfast, and serve food throughout the day with our a la carte and set evening menus from 5pm to 9pm.

With their children, the management team of Fintan Leslie and Jennifer Gelston and Head Chef Adrian Harney, together with a staff of 60, Gullane's Hotel is well placed for the future. As their 75th year draws to a close, all are very much looking forward to the future.

"With our team of ambitious and enthusiastic people at the helm and an abundance of new ideas, we hope to continue to advance and flourish whilst continuing to provide real and genuine customer service to our guests," concluded Tomás.



TOP MARKS FOR LOCAL BEAUTY SALON

The Front Room Beauty Salon was recently crowned the winner of "Salon of The Year West of Ireland". Creagh woman Andrea Duffy opened The Front Room in 2015 after the birth of her 3rd son. After being out of the beauty game for a few years, Andrea was finding it increasingly hard to get a job within the beauty industry, so she took the incredible step to open her first ever beauty salon in Society St.

After studying Beauty Therapy in Georgina Price College of Beauty Therapy in Galway, Andrea went on to work in salons in Athlone and County Galway, and the front room of her home, where the name of her salon originated. Andrea currently employs one full time Therapist, Breda Mongan, who has been locally nicknamed "The Brow Boss".

The salon offers skincare/manicures, pedicures, make-up, tanning, HD Brows and much more, along with stocking a wide range of award-winning products such as Gelish, Waxperts, Juliette Armand, High Definition and Bellamianta.

Clients of The Front Room nominated the salon for the awards, and shortly after they received an email to say that due to the high volume of nominations that were received, they had been shortlisted to the finals. Overall there were 9 other salons from the west of Ireland in their category.

After that stage, Andrea had to send supporting documentation to the judging panel, which included information on the salon's background, when and how they began their journey to Society Street, some of their defining moments since they opened, information on their staff, their qualifications and what products they use to carry out treatments, and a list of any charity work they undertake.

Andrea was truly shocked when her name was called out at the Awards Ceremony. "We didn't expect to win at all. Truth be told we were so delighted to be finalists and only expected to get that far, but we went to the awards ceremony for the experience and the networking opportunity, and we were absolutely floored when they called out our name, so much so that my mother had to tell me to stand up and go to the stage. I was speechless" recalls Andrea.

The community is what makes having a business in town so special according to Andrea. "I would absolutely recommend starting a business in Ballinasloe to anyone that has an idea. If you build it, they will come! Everybody wants to see everybody else doing well. You will definitely be afraid to start, as I was petrified.

"I didn't have any business background when I started and I felt I had nobody to reach out to for some help and guidance but one thing I have learned on this journey is that Ballinasloe is peppered with people who have all sorts of backgrounds and who are more than willing to share a coffee and give you some free advice.



Clare O'Hanlon (Juliette Armand Ireland), Breda Mongan, The Front Room, Andrea Duffy, Owner, The Front Room, Marsha Abrahams (Juliette Armand Ireland).

"I have been lucky enough to be taken under the various wings of some well-established business people, school principals, butchers, pub owners, accountants, hairdressers and many more since I started out and I am so grateful to them all for their sound advice, good ideas and for recognising that I was a bit stuck, and putting me back on the right track".

For further info on the salon and its services check out their facebook page The FRONT ROOM.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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130 CLONFERT PILGRIMS MAKE THE ANNUAL LOURDES TRIP

BY ALAN HARNEY



Clonfert clergy and staff.

The annual Clonfert Diocese Pilgrimage to Lourdes took place recently under the leadership of Bishop John Kirby. This year marked the 160th anniversary of the apparitions. Over 130 pilgrims travelled to Lourdes this year, including clergy, nursing staff, volunteers, pilgrims, and those in need of assistance during the trip.

The five day pilgrimage included a full programme of events and services including the Eucharistic Procession, the grotto Mass, Lourdes baths, penitential service and anointing of the sick. This year the Diocese was delighted to be able to lead the torchlight procession,

which is a highlight for pilgrims.

There were many enjoyable social evenings during the pilgrimage. Many pilgrims also availed of trips to the City of the Poor, up the Pic Du Jer in the Pyrenees and over the border to Spain.

Bishop Kirby stated "I wish to thank all those who were involved in making our 2018 Pilgrimage a great success, not just during the pilgrimage, but also for their time and effort throughout the year."

For information on the 2019 Pilgrimage please contact Society Travel, Ballinasloe (090 9645350) or see the Clonfert Lourdes Pilgrimage Facebook Page.

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OUR BRUSSELS' REPRESENTATIVE OVERVIEW

On the run up to the European Parliament Elections in May 2019, we wish to profile each MEP in the Midlands-North-West Constituency, based on their engagement in the local area in the past, and what they hope to do for the future. We will feature each of the 4 MEPS – one in each edition to the elections.

MEP Marian Harkin is from County Sligo and has held her seat in the EU Parliament since 2004, along with being elected to Dáil Éireann as an Independent TD for the Sligo–Leitrim constituency from 2002 to 2007. She is an Independent politician, but part of the Alliance of Liberals and Democrats for Europe.

Thank you to Ballinasloe Life for asking me to write a short piece on my work in the European Parliament and how that work impacts on

people in the Ballinasloe area.

First, can I say that I am very lucky to be able to link in with two excellent politicians who represent Ballinasloe at local and national level, Councillor Timmy Broderick and Sean Canney T.D. One of the issues they keep me up to date on, is the issue of flooding in Ballinasloe, both in the town itself and the wider area of South Galway – the Suck, the Aggard, the Callows and of course the Dunkellin.

Over many years, I attended meetings with Michael Silke and others on the wider issue of flooding in South Galway, because of course flooding is not just a local issue, you must take a whole river approach. This included bringing groups from South Galway to the European Commission to try to resolve the flooding in that region.

In more recent times, I have worked with Sean Canney when he was Minister and I am very pleased that progress is being made regarding flood relief. I have lobbied Government many times to ensure that homeowners, businesses etc can be insured against flood risk

Finally, I have attended several meetings in Ballyglass National School regarding the Ballyboy Flood Relief Programme and the recent Flood Forum meeting in Ballinasloe, where experts from different countries, as well as Ireland, got together to find solutions to the overall matter of flooding on the Shannon and its tributaries.

One of my main interests in Brussels is to recognise and support Family Carers. I am a founder member and Chair of the Carers Interest Group in the Parliament and I have worked closely with Carers from Ballinasloe and Loughrea over the years. This has included trips to Brussels where they have an opportunity to speak to officials from the European Commission on issues affecting Carers.

In fact, one of my proudest achievements in the European Parliament is the significant role I played in ensuring a proposal from the European Commission for a Directive on Carers leave and Family leave, which is like Maternity leave.

I also do a lot of work with Credit Unions and I co-Chair the Interest Group representing them in the European Parliament. I have visited your Credit Union in Ballinasloe and as always, I was hugely impressed with the vision and the commitment of your local Credit Union to deliver a not for profit service owned by its members and for its members.

I have worked closely with Cllr. Broderick on several other matters. These include attending meetings in



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any European influence to bear on this matter.

I have visited the Europe Direct Centre in Ballinasloe on several occasions and chaired the Soapbox competition. In fact, I am in the Europe Direct Centre on 16th October this year to launch their "Time to Move" event.

It was farmers from East Galway that I met several times during the last CAP negotiations who convinced me to submit a proposal on coupled payments (only farmers will understand the jargon). This proposal got through and is part of the final CAP Programme.

I have also visited a few Schools in the Ballinasloe area, including Garbally College and Newtown National School.

I attended a meeting on the Ballinasloe Enhancement Scheme in Gullane's Hotel, which is like a second home to me for clinics and meetings, with Maureen Cahalan across the road, keeping me up to date on important happenings.

I have kept the best until last, I had the honour to open the Ballinasloe October Fair and Festival, and it was a privilege to do so.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Ballinasloe and lobbying the Minister for Health in regard to the East Galway Mental Health Services, arranging a huge meeting in Kilconnell which helped to achieve a better outcome in regard to the Septic Tank issue, attending meetings in Cappataggle in regard to the retention of Post Office Services and on a lighter note, attending a family fun day in 'Cappy', where I bet and lost on the Donkey Derby.

In my work lobbying for the roll out of high-speed rural broadband, I always remember visiting Easy Fix products just outside Ballinasloe with Cllr. Broderick, and having the discussion about how the availability of a high-quality service would make such a difference to this very successful company. I have also corresponded with and again with Cllr Broderick regarding "Ballinasloe Says No to Toxic Waste". We are still awaiting outcomes, as it is only then I can bring



Marian pictured with Chief Supt. Tom Curley at the 2013 Ballinasloe Horse Fair which she officially opened on September 29th.



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REV. BERNIE COSTELLO ANNOUNCED AS ADMINISTRATOR OF PARISH BY COLM CROFFY

Parishioners and local townspeople were glad to hear from Bishop John Kirby that Fr. John Garvey would be having a break and would be going on Sabbatical for a year from September 2018 to July 2019. There was a warm welcome for the news that Portiuncula's Chaplain – Fr. Bernie Costello would stand in for the year as Acting Administrator of the parish during Father John's absence. Fr. Bernie is no stranger to the town or its folk having served as Hospital Chaplain for some twenty three years.



Fr. Bernie and Mary Phelan

When asked how he felt about the next twelve months, Father Bernie said he was delighted that Father John was going to have a well-earned break and he wished him well and hoped it would be a wonderful year for him. He went on to say that he was very happy to agree to take on the running of the parish when asked by the Bishop; he spoke warmly of the help and support he had already received from Frs. Colm Allman and Kieran Danfulani and Mary Phelan, Parish Secretary, as well as the new Parish Council, chaired by Seamus McGuinness. "I'm very much looking forward to working with all of them in the coming months" stated Fr. Bernie.

For anyone who does not know, Father Bernie is a proud Premier Tipp man (!), coming as he does from the parish of Drom and Inch, near Thurles. He was ordained in 1983 for the Diocese of Clonfert. His first appointment was to the parish of Kiltormer as curate for two years, followed by five years in Woodford parish. These were very happy years where he learned the basics of parish life and ministry, and learned all about building in the development of the churches and schools in the area.

He was then asked to join the Irish Chaplaincy Team in the UK, and with a sense of excitement and a slight feeling of anxiety, he agreed to go. These were to be the years that in his own words "built on the foundation of my parish experience and formed me for all that followed. I learned tolerance, appreciation, understanding and respect for another way of looking at life. They were the years where I began to understand at a deeper level the suffering and heartbreak of our own people who had been forced to leave home and settle in another country because there was little or nothing for them in Ireland at the time. But alongside of all this, I saw too the extraordinary resilience of the human spirit and the ability to put down roots, rear families, hold on and be faithful to our Catholic faith, and give back to the society in which they lived. These are things for which I will always be grateful" states Fr. Bernie. The new Adm. was stationed in London at the church of St. Mellitus – dedicated to the memory of the first Bishop of London. Many of the friendships he formed then are still in existence today.

In 1995, he returned to Ireland and undertook the Clinical Pastoral Education programme in the Mater Hospital, Dublin. With this course successfully completed, he returned to Ballinasloe and was appointed Chaplain to Portiuncula and St. Brigid's Hospitals. The years in Hospital Chaplaincy were to deepen his understanding of humanity and the fact that we are not asked to get things right, we are simply asked to do our very best.

Looking back over a varied, multi-cultural, diverse life time of experience, Father Bernie speaks of his sense of awe at the capacity of people to understand and accept each other. He talks often of the people he has met from all religions and none who show great

respect for our Christian and Catholic tradition and only ask in return that we respect theirs.

Looking to the year ahead, he is mindful of the Chaplains in Portiuncula, and speaks warmly of his colleagues, Niamh and Cathy. He is grateful for their understanding and support, and wishes them well in this new chapter of hospital chaplaincy, assuring them of his support. At the same time, he is acutely aware of the pressing needs of the parish and the decreasing number of priests – in the last twenty years, the number of serving priests in the Clonfert Diocese has gone from seventy five to thirty five, and the age profile of the remaining has obviously

increased significantly.

"I am slightly apprehensive about, but looking forward to the year ahead, it is clear that we have all begun a journey which will require vision, leadership and the willingness across the board to share our talents and gifts as we move into a very different model of Church" concluded Fr. Bernie

MASS TIME CHANGES

As from Saturday, 6th October, there will be a change of Mass times in St. Michael's, Creagh and Portiuncula Hospital in Ballinasloe. There are now only three priests in the Presbytery to cover all the ceremonies and consequently he has made the following time changes.

On Saturday evenings Masses will be celebrated in Portiuncula Hospital at 6pm, in Creagh at 7pm and in St. Michael's at 8pm.

On Sundays St. Michael's will have Masses at 9.15am. and 12 noon while in Creagh the Mass will be at 10.30am. On Weekdays, there will be Mass in Creagh at 10am. while in St. Michael's it will be at 6pm.

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ST. BRIGID'S GOLFING SOCIETY

BY MICHAEL KELLY

St. Brigid's Golfing Society was founded on the 4th of November 1975 and the founder members were Jimmy Creaven, Liam Curley, Frank Dooley, Jimmy Flynn, Joe Gallagher, Marjorie King Hamill and Willie O'Rourke. Their first outing was held in Ballinasloe Golf Club on the 10th of December 1975. Thirty six men played an 18 hole scotch foursomes competition and six ladies played in a nine hole singles competition. Kevin Callery (the first captain) of the Society, presented the prizes to the winners. Jimmy Creaven and Michael Moclair were the winners of the mens competition and Margaret Creaven was the winner of the ladies competition. The majority of outings have been held at Ballinasloe Golf Club with one or two away outings per year. The first away outing was held in Athlone Golf Club on the 22nd September 1976. Green fees were £2 and the winner was Jimmy Flynn with a score of 67.

On the 19th of August 1981 Mr. Bernie Haddigan (Hospital Administrator) officially opened and Fr. John Higgins Chaplin, blessed a practice ground for the Society on the hospital grounds at the back of the nurse's home. A longest drive competition was held in conjunction with the opening. Martin Staunton won the gents section and Margaret Creaven the ladies. The society also developed a Pitch & Putt course at St. Josephs Block and the first competition for patients and staff was held on the 24th September 1981.



Aiden Dooley the Overall Winner of St. Brigid's Golfing Society Captain's Prize and Geraldine Minton (Captain). Back row l-r Martin Stack (Secretary), Liam Curley (founder member), Joe Moore (President), Willie O'Rourke (founder member) and John Goode (Treasurer).

When the society was founded it could not have been envisaged that St. Brigid's Hospital Complex would no longer be functioning in its original capacity. Remarkably, St. Brigid's Golfing Society remains active holding four to five well supported outings per year. It looks like the Society will continue to provide enjoyment for its members for many years to come.



THE LATE TERESA MURPHY

Teresa Murphy (nee Rankin), Garbally Demesne, who passed away in her 95th year, was among the town's oldest residents. She was one of the first people to secure employment at the Dubarry Shoe Factory when it opened in 1937. For over fifty years Teresa worked there, first as a general operative before being promoted to quality control. She is predeceased by her husband, Christy, who passed away in 1989. The eldest of a family of eight, Teresa is survived by her daughter Marcella, sisters Vera (McDonnell) and Carmel (Gannon) as well as her brother Declan, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

DEATH OF POPULAR PARISH PRIEST

BY KEN KELLY



The Diocese of Clonfert lost one of its most popular priests with the passing of Monsignor Ned Stankard, Parish Priest of Cappataggle and Kilrickle, after a short illness. Born in Clifden in 1931, Fr. Ned was ordained in 1956 for the Diocese of Clonfert and ministered in Ballinasloe, Fahy, Aughrim and Loughrea before going to Cappataggle 32 years ago. He immediately involved himself in local projects and was loved by his parishioners.

In his homily at Fr. Stankard's funeral Mass, Bishop John Kirby said his concern was always for his parishioners, for those in his care and particularly for those coping with problems. He added "People liked and respected Fr. Ned. Despite his advancing years he was recognised as an excellent preacher. His homilies were always short, relevant and with a clear message. As a priest colleague over the years, he was a rock of good sense. I appreciated his advice and chose him as Vicar General of the Diocese. There was a simplicity of life that was very much part of him."

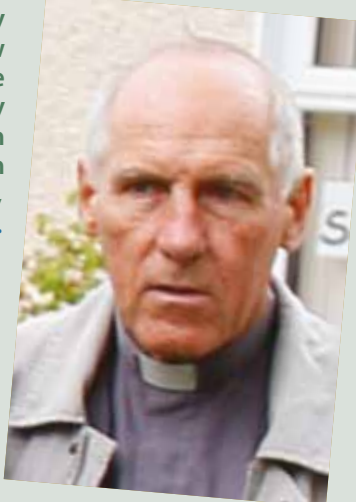
Monsignor Stankard, who is survived by two sisters, Pat Courtney and Phil Connolly as well as many other relatives and his parishioners, was laid to rest in the Church Grounds of the parish that he loved and his congregation loved him.

SMA PRIEST APPEALS FOR SPONSORSHIP

A Clontuskert priest who is working in a seminary in Zambia has appealed for sponsorship for new vestments, which will go to seven young men from the seminary who will be ordained next year. Fr. Anthony Kelly, SMA, has been working as a missionary priest in many parts of Africa for over forty years, following in the footsteps of his late uncle, Bishop P. J. Kelly, SMA, who was bishop of Benin City in Nigeria for many years.

Fr. Anthony, who hails from Tristane, Clontuskert, said the Elphin Apostolic Work supply the vestments for everything a priest needs to say Mass, in even the remotest regions in Zambia. 18 Mass kits are needed as well as Sick Calls sets, Chalices and Ciboria as well as other items.

Anybody interested in making a financial contribution towards the costs involved should contact 087 2072400 or log on to www.apostolicwork.ie



AHASCRAUGH GAA PLAYER SHINES DOWN UNDER

Marcus O'Neill from Lowville, Ahascragh, has been named GAA Player of the Year in Perth, Western Australia. Son of Murt and Mary O'Neill, Marcus played for Caltra senior footballers before emigrating. He now plays with Southern Districts in Perth where there are eleven GAA football clubs in competition.



MONSTER LAURENCETOWN CHARITY AUCTION

The community of Laurencetown are looking forward to their Monster Charity Auction Day on Sunday, 21st October. There have been months of planning for the event, and hopes are high there will be a great turnout.

The Auction is in aid of safe and accessible carparking at Laurencetown National School. The School only has 6 car parking spaces currently, forcing parents to park on both sides on the busy main road. This bottleneck then puts pedestrians, including young children, onto the roadway, along with creating blind spots.

It really is an accident waiting to happen and a LCDG commissioned report last year proved 70% of the traffic are passing the school at an average speed of 80km so it really is a dangerous area.

The group have been working tirelessly to ensure that they have a bumper list of products to attract top bids such as turf, timber, fodder, day's labour, cakes, bric-a-brack, and arts & crafts. Others might like to look at the gift voucher shop, where there is anything from gym membership, spa days, dinner and lunch vouchers to hair & make up.

The auction will be held in Kiltormer Complex on the 21st of October. Doors open at 1pm for viewing and the bidding starts at 3pm.



Members of Laurencetown Community Development Group at the recent launch of school parking project.

BIG DIG UPDATE

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ACTIVE RETIREMENT REVIEW SUCCESSFUL SUMMER SEASON

The Ballinasloe Active Retirement Association had a very busy and successful summer season. The very popular day trips consisted of visits to Belvedere Gardens and the beautiful Longford Cathedral in July. Many members also headed off for a tour of Kilmainham Gaol, followed by a guided tour of the G.P.O., Maynooth College and Castle in August.

The highlight of the Spring break was a five-day trip to Scotland. The group were collected by coach in town and were accompanied by a very informative guide. The trip included visits to Edinburgh Castle, Stirling Castle and many more historic places. This was followed by a fun day cruising on Loch Lomond. Recently, the group headed off to top up the sun-tan in Tenerife.

The Summer season finishes off at the Ara-Go-On Festival in Ennistymon during October. Here the Ballinasloe group joined up with all the other Active Retirement groups in the West of Ireland to mix, have fun and celebrate their "coming of age".



Charles and Marie Doherty



Margaret Brennan and Noelle Rohan



Noel Mason and Ml. O'Hagan

The Autumn schedule started off with the monthly meeting for all members in Gullane's Hotel on the 5th of September. All the groups dedicated walkers can be seen stepping it out every Tuesday morning at 10.30am on the towns athletic track. The walk is followed by some gentle exercises and the usual cuppa in the G.A.A club house.

Chairperson of the group Margret Brennan stated "If you are retired or only thinking of retiring, we welcome all new members. There is something for everyone, be it Bridge, Art, Bowling, Knitting, Singing, Theatre, Cinema, Informative talks or Book Club. Join us in Gullane's Hotel any Wednesday at 3pm".

For more information, visit ballinasloeactiveretirement.com, or contact Margaret on 0877731707.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

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INAUGURAL TROCAIRE HUMANITARIAN AWARD PRESENTED TO LOCAL NUN

BY IAN O'BOYLE



Eamonn Meehan (Executive Director Trócaire) Bridget Tighe, Bishop John Kirby

There were great celebrations at the Franciscan Convent in Brackernagh, recently, when Sr. Bridget Tighe FMDM (Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood) was presented with the Trócaire Roméro International Award, in recognition of the outstanding work she has carried out in conjunction with the organisation Caritas Jerusalem.

Sr. Bridget grew up on a small farm in County Sligo in the 1950's and 60's, before she went to England at 17, and began nursing at Whipp's Cross Hospital in East London, the week she turned 18. There was a Franciscan church close by where Sr Bridget worked, and that's where she joined the Third Order of St. Francis.

This year, Trócaire inaugurated an International Award in memory of the martyred Blessed Oscar Roméro, to honour a person who has made an outstanding impact in international humanitarian work, and out of all the world, they chose Sr. Bridget Tighe FMDM, for this inaugural award.

More than 100 guests came to the Franciscan Convent for this celebration, including Sr. Bridget's three brothers and other close relatives, FMDM Country Leader Sr Kathleen Murphy and FMDM Sisters from all over Ireland, Bishop John Kirby, local Sisters of Mercy, a Franciscan Brother from Mountbellew, other local clergy, convent staff, many local residents and friends, and a large contingent from Trócaire, led by their Executive Director Eamonn Meehan, who presented the award.

The award was a large Galway Crystal engraved vase, together with a cheque for €5,000 towards Sr. Bridget's work in Gaza. The formal presentation took place in the Convent Chapel, as part of a short Service of Thanksgiving led by the General Manager, Sean O'Healy. There was another very important element to the day, with the launch and blessing of the new Trócaire Garden as part of their awareness-raising programmes, Trócaire present a Show Garden at the annual Bloom festival in Dublin during the June Bank Holiday weekend.

This year, Trócaire's garden was entitled "Resistance", depicting the work of human rights and environmental defenders in Zimbabwe,

Guatemala and Palestine, who risk their lives daily to protect their homes, way of life and communities from exploitation and eviction. The Palestine section of that garden featured a mural by Ciaran 'Yohan' Brennan of an Israeli man and a Palestinian woman standing together to protect an olive tree, a symbol of peace in the region.

After the Bloom Festival, Trócaire presented the mural and the contents of the garden to the Franciscan Convent in Ballinasloe, specifically to honour the work of Sr. Bridget in Gaza with Caritas, but equally to honour the missionary work of the FMDM worldwide over the past 75 years. While it was not feasible to re-create the original Bloom garden within

the grounds a new corner garden was created around the mural, encompassing an Olive Tree. All the remaining Bloom garden's trees, shrubs and flowers were dispersed throughout the convent grounds, symbolising the dispersal of FMDM missionaries across 19 countries worldwide. Each of these 19 countries was represented by a lamp on the altar during the Award Ceremony at Franciscan Convent.

Bishop Kirby led the prayer of blessing over the mural and garden, which was followed by food and refreshments prepared by the Convent's catering staff.

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GROWING INDIAN COMMUNITY RUN SUCCESSFUL FLOOD RELIEF

BY IAN O'BOYLE

In the past decade the Indian community in the local area has rapidly grown, with the clear majority working in Portiuncula Hospital and Millrace Nursing Home.

Seenas Ahammed Sebin is from Kerala, in the south of India and has been living here for 3 years with her family. Her husband, Ahammed Sebin, is working in Portiuncula since they came to town and together have a one-year old son.

When Seenas and her family arrived to town, there were only three or four Keralite families. In the last three years the numbers increased to approximately 30 families from Kerala, not including people from other 28 states in India.

Together all the families have three community gatherings during the year, along with the likes of parties, tours, fishing or fundraising. The majority of their events are hosted at the Creagh N.S.

The community group have started their very own sports clubs in town, a badminton and cricket team which are two of India's most popular activities. The badminton club have 15 members and they meet at the Emerald Ballroom every Saturday and Sunday from 4pm to 7 pm. Some members come from Athlone, Portumna, Killimor and other surrounding areas. The team host a league three times a year along with teams from Galway and Dublin.



Families of the Ballinasloe Indian Community coming together during Christmas 2017



Members of the Ballinasloe Badminton Team.

The cricket team have 16 members, with their matches being played during the summer. The team's officers have recently applied to the County Council for a new ground. They participate in many tournaments held across Ireland, the most recent ones being in Nenagh, Lucan, Limerick and Kilcolgan.

Seenas states that moving to a new place away from home is a big step for all the Indian families, but they find the community is always developing and have the basic facilities to support and embrace families of all ethnicities.

"The hike in rent is an increasing concern for immigrant families, with very few houses available at an affordable price. The locals however are to be praised for their friendliness, and making Ballinasloe feel like a home away from home"

continues Seenas. She acknowledges the new

Adm., Fr. Bernie Costello, as a huge support for the Indian community, by supporting families and visiting their events.

Over the summer, many of the families faced a worrying issue in their homeland, where torrential floods hit the area for the first time in over 100 years, destroying numerous of their loved one's homes in the process.

In response, the group organised a fundraising event in late August for the victims at Creagh N.S. Over 25 families contributed to the fund, making it a success. They raised an amount of €2,250 which was sent to the chief minister's relief fund. The Indian Community thanked everyone who donated to their fundraiser.

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KAREN'S SUCCESSFUL CONCERT FOR SOCIAL SERVICES

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Karen Breen recently held an afternoon concert in the Town Library for the Social Services. Karen, who is from Kilgarve, is well known around town for her great musical talent, by playing numerous instruments which were self-thought. She plays music every Tuesday for the elderly patients in the Social Services and has played for crowds of locals in the past few years.

For many years Karen has attended the Viewpoint Resource Centre, which she gets great enjoyment out of. Karen was born with Edwards Syndrome, but it hasn't stopped her from doing what she loves most. Her mother Anne and staff of the Resource Centre are amazed and proud of how far she has come with her talent.

During the concert, Karen played the keyboard along with many local Talents such as Eleanor Shanley, students from Scoil an Croi Naofa, Frank Hession and Friends from Social Services, Hannah Moore and James Murphy. Overall Karen raised a total of €300

during the event.

Acting Team Leader of the Centre, Carol Pender, says that the Concert was a huge success, and is hoping for another one just like it very soon. "We all have to take our hats off to Karen and applaud her work, it takes a very brave person to host a show like she did. She put on an amazing performance along with her supporting acts, and on behalf of everyone in the Resource Centre I would like to give her a massive thank you for the great concert and congratulations for her fundraising".



Karen and her proud Mum Anne Breen

AUTUMN RANGE OF NEW KIDS ACTIVITIES IN LIBRARY

The Town Library have launched a new range of books and activities for the coming months that will help beat the back-to-school blues.

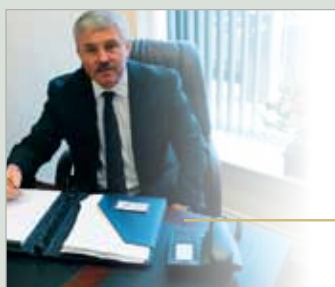
A new series of casual, drop-in events will take place every Friday at 3.30pm over the winter season and beyond. Music will be held on the 1st Friday, board games on the 2nd, and Lego/Duplo on the 3rd. No bookings or payment required, just drop-in and enjoy the fun.

The new Lego Club which was brought in earlier this year is going very well. The good news is that there are some places left for this

term, just call in to the Library to register. The club meets every Tuesday at 4.30pm and is open to kids aged 7-12. If your child is under 7, then just come to the reception desk and a member of staff will give your child a box of Duplo to play with.

Children's author and illustrator Alan Nolan will be coming to the Library in October, which is children's book month. Alan will teach classes from local schools the basics of comic creation and how to create your own comic strip.

The Library's phone number has recently changed. The new contact is 091 509551.



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ARDSCOIL MUIRE SELECTED FOR EU TELESCOPE LEARNING NETWORK

Ardcoil Mhuire have been selected as one of four Secondary Schools to be part of the Connacht Schools Planetary Radio Telescope Network.

This project has been brought in to teach the next generation of scientists and engineers new and exciting ways of learning about our planets and solar system. Funding of almost €10million has been provided by the Europlanet Consortium.

Eight dual dipole antenna radio telescopes, which are over 10ft high and 20ft long, will be installed on the school's grounds from the awarded funding. Both students and teachers will be given the chance to use the telescopes once they're up and running.

BACK TO SCHOOL



Anna Fallon 3rd class and Noah Fallon 6th class Scoil Ui Cheithearnaigh.

Brother and sister, Donal Byrnes going into 2nd year St. Brigids Loughrea and Maeve Byrnes going into 5th Class Cappataggle NS.

Millie Quinn starting second year and Hollie Quinn starting her first year of playschool in Little Rascals.



Willow Comer 1st day of Naoinra.

Heidi (3rd class) and Shay (senior infants) Comer back to school.

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ARDSCOIL MUIRE CELEBRATES EXCELLENT LEAVING CERT RESULTS



Principal of Ardscoil Mhuire, Patricia Kilgallen, has congratulated the class of 2018 on achieving excellent results in this year's Leaving Certificate.

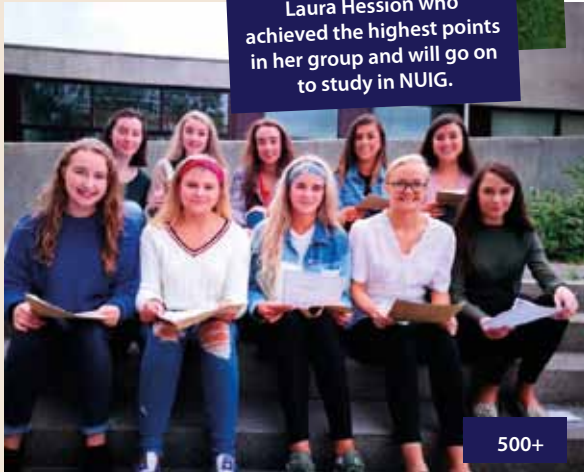
"Well done to all our students who will continue their studies in many other diverse areas, and in centres of learning throughout the country. We wish all of them the very best in whatever career or area of study they pursue in the future.

"A huge thanks also to the teaching and support staff of Ardscoil Mhuire who work tirelessly for our students, and congratulations to the parents, guardians and carers who have supported the students all the way".

20% of the students achieved 500 points or more, and over 50% of the group achieved over 400 points. Laura Hession had the highest points in her year, with 601 out of a possible 625.



Laura Hession who achieved the highest points in her group and will go on to study in NUIG.



500+

NEWTOWN NS WELCOMES JUNIOR INFANTS



TINY TOTS CRÉCHE AND EDUCATIONAL PRESCHOOL GRADUATION CLASS JUNE 2018



Back Row: Gavin Cotton, Emma Connolly, Liam Mooney, Jack Connaughton, Leighton Keighery, Molly Costello, Matthew Sweeney, Emmet Dolan.

Front Row: Rachel Tarpey, Mohammed Salem, Daniel Fallon, Emily Black, Eve Shaughnessy, Kellyann Greene, Reece Coyne, Grellan O'Conghaile, Ornagh Kelly, Conan Coone, Iarlaith Hurley, Conor Dolan.

GARBALLY CELEBRATES EXAM RESULTS



Aaron McGreal is studying Biomedical Science at University College Dublin, he is pictured with his parents, Claire & Kieran McGreal.

Abuzar Jawad earned highest points achievement and he is seen with Mr. Reilly, and will study Medicine at NUIG.

Enda Craughwell.

Mr. S. Reilly, Gerard Colleran and Ms. A. Claffey.

Jakub Biegaj, Mr. Reilly and Darragh Malone.

Mr. S. Reilly, Josh Bleahen and Ms.A. Claffey.

Mr. S. Reilly, Liam Hession and Ms. A. Claffey.

Triplets Barry, Georgia and Tadhg Codyre with Mum Marie.

Mr. S. Reilly, Liam Hession and Ms.A. Claffey.

Josh Bleahen, Matthew Kelly and Kealan Tully.

Garbally Junior Cert Group 2018.

OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE

Some of the Children who partook in the Library's summer reading challenge 2018. They were all presented with a medal, certificate and some goodies for all their hard work.



Carrie and Fionn Stephenson



Iarlaith Hurley



Mia Duffy



Michael, Shane and Stephen Eagney



Ballinasloe U10 Team that defeated Skehana in the Windsor Nissan Motor U10 A1 Shield Final played in St Brendan's Park Loughrea

Back Row (L-R): Sharon Kelly Caulfield (Manager), Caitlin Dempsey, Amy Swaris, Adelle Finnegan (Capt), Laoise Caulfield (Capt), Ava Burke, Caoimhe O'Connell, Aoife Headd, Kevin Caulfield (Manager).

Front Row (L-R): Clodagh Gavin, Fiona Zancanaro, Grace Coleman, Aoife Berrigan, Deirdre Headd, Ceyda Kara, Amy Clarke,
Absent: Mary O'Grady and Keisha Manning.

OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE



Sean McCormack, Michael Turley, Lena Donohue, Frank Donohue with Richie Carroll (Corrib Oil), were the Overall Winning Team in the Ballinasloe Golf Club "Am-Am" Team Classic sponsored by Corrib Oil.



Pictured at a cheque presentation from Connect Church Galway arising from their recent fundraiser in aid of GROW's Western Region are: Pastor Tom Conney (Connect Church), Frances (GROW Volunteer), Alan Keaveney (GROW Area Coordinator) and Noreen Kenny (GROW Regional Team).



Nancy Reilly, President of the Weir Restoration Committee, Eanna Rowe Western Regional Manager of Waterways Ireland along with Basil Larkin, Margaret Barton, Veronica Hogan, Patrick Duffy, Tommy Clarke, Paul O' Kirwin, Dermot Duffy, Mark Larkin, Charlie Killeen Chairman Meelick Weir Restoration Group, and Joe McMahon of Waterways Ireland.

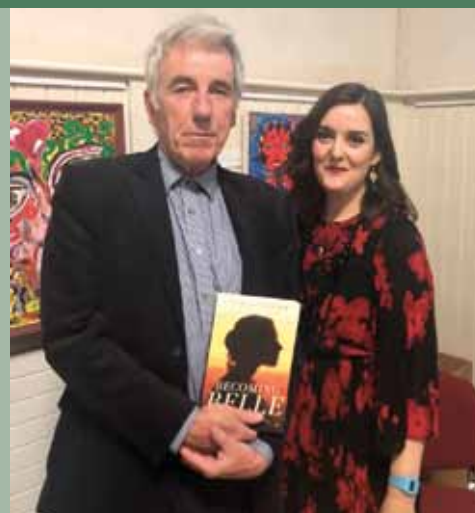
Some of the locals who attended Nuala O'Connor's book launch of "Becoming Belle" and Group 8's Art Exhibition in the Library Church Gallery



Kathy Keogh, Jackie Eastwood, Bernadette Bleffin, Ness Porter Kelly and Catherine Patrickson.



Cuan O'Connor and Mei Qi Men.



Joe Bergin and Nuala O'Connor.

OCTOER EVENTS GUIDE

Monday 1st		
Horse Fair	Fair Green	All Day
Food & Craft Market	Streets	All Day
Pop Up Tea & Coffee	Town Hall	All Day
Connemara Galros Comp	Fair Green	1pm
Live Music	Gig Rig	2pm
Geagan Pagans	The Pillar House	7pm
Steve Reilly	Dunlo Tavern	8.30pm
Tuesday 2nd		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	1pm- 4pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30pm- 5.30pm
Heritage Talk on Fair	B'sloe Library	6pm
GROW	B'sloe Library	6pm- 8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Wednesday 3rd		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.15pm -7.15pm
Fair & Fashion Show	Shearwater Hotel	7.30pm
Live Trad and Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 4th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Soapbox Derby	Dunlo Street	8pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm
THE HIGH REEL	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Friday 5th		
Kids Drop-In Music Ses	B'sloe Library	3.30pm- 4.30pm
Family Entertainment	Gig Rig	7pm
Fireworks Display	B'sloe Marina	8.30pm
Annual Tug of War	Society Street	8.30pm
Annual Jiving Comp.	St. Michaels Sq	9pm
Michael Regan	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm
Shane Moore	Downey's Bar	10pm
Joxer & Davy	The Pillar House	10pm
Funky Fridays	An Tain	10pm
Paul Burns	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 6th		
Country Fair Day 120 Stalls	St. Michaels Sq Parking	All Day
Mare & Foal Fair	Fair Green	All Day
Food & Craft Market	Streets	All Day
Pop Up Tea & Coffee	Town Hall	All Day
Mare & Foal Comp.	Fair Green	12pm
Live Music	Gig Rig	2pm
Bothareen	Dunlo Tavern	5.30pm
Ken	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
The Noshowband	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Crazy Chris	Downey's Bar	10pm
Sprise	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Hickory Wind	The Pillar House	10pm
Eoin Maher	An Tain	10pm
Rodney's Glory	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
The Live Wires	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 7th		
Food & Craft Market	St. Michaels Sq	All Day
Vintage Show	Main St.	All Day
Dog Show	St. Michaels Sq	1pm
Kids Arts & Crafts Comp	St. Michaels Sq	1pm
Motorbike Show	St. Michaels Sq	1pm
Woodcarving	Main St.	1pm
Kids Tractor Race	St. Michaels Sq	4pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Gringo Stars	Brewery Lane	8pm
Seanie G	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Crow Bar Hotel	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm

Tuesday 9th		
Budget Briefing	B'sloe Library	8am
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	1pm- 4pm
Active Retirement B.Club	B'sloe Library	4pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30pm- 5.30pm
Art Ex-'Resonance' Opens	B'sloe Library	6pm
GROW	B'sloe Library	6pm- 8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Wednesday 10th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Knitting & Crochet Class	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.15pm -7.15pm
B'sloe Flower Club	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Live Trad and Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 11th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Singers Circle	Dunlo Tavern	9.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Stepen Reilly	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 12th		
Kids Board Games	B'sloe Library	3.30pm- 4.30pm
Happy Bar Stars	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm
Funky Fridays	An Tain	10pm
Beardy Bucks	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 13th		
Joe Wynne	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
The Goodfellas	Brewery Lane	10pm
Colin Kenny Live	Downey's Bar	10pm
Boithrin	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	The Pillar House	10pm
Na Riadoiri	An Tain	10pm
Live Music	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Shane Downey	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 14th		
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Keith & Shane	Brewery Lane	8pm
Piano Man	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Tuesday 16th		
Time To Move Euro Event	B'sloe Library	10am
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	1pm- 4pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30pm- 5.30pm
GROW	B'sloe Library	6pm- 8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Wednesday 17th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Knitting & Crochet Class	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.15pm -7.15pm
RDG-&ThenThereWereNone	Town Hall Theater	7.30pm
Live Trad and Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 18th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
RDG- And Then There Were None	Town Hall Theater	7.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Ger Long	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 19th		
Lego and Duplo Fun Kids	B'sloe Library	3.30pm- 4.30pm
RDG-&ThenThereWereNone	Town Hall Theater	7.30pm
Amy Brennan	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
The 2 Q's	Brewery Lane	10pm
Funky Fridays	An Tain	10pm
Damien Butler	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Saturday 20th		
Steve & Friends Live	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Red Tape	Brewery Lane	10pm
Olivia Douglas	Downey's Bar	10pm
Eric and Davy	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Joe Wynne	The Pillar House	10pm
Cold Porter	An Tain	10pm
Live Music	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Jiggers of Erin	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 21st		
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	8pm
Crehan Sound	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Tuesday 23rd		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	1pm- 4pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30pm- 5.30pm
GROW	B'sloe Library	6pm- 8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Wednesday 24th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Knitting & Crochet Class	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.15pm -7.15pm
Live Trad and Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 25th		
Witches and Wizards Classic	B'sloe Golf Club	All Day
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Book Club	B'sloe Library	7pm
Brothers of charity Disco	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Michael Regan	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 26th		
Witches and Wizards Classic	B'sloe Golf Club	All Day
Fundraiser 'Lip Sync Battle'	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
John Molloy Live	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Toxic Twins	Brewery Lane	10pm
Funky Fridays	An Tain	10pm
Saturday 27th		
Witches and Wizards Classic	B'sloe Golf Club	All Day
Zombie Walk	Garbally Grounds	5.45pm -8.45pm
Rod O Neil	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
The Tav Jam Band	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Dave	Downey's Bar	10pm
Cruiscin	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Pacifica	The Pillar House	10pm
Hot James	An Tain	10pm
Live Music	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Ken Solo	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 28th		
Witches and Wizards Classic	B'sloe Golf Club	All Day
Zombie Walk	Garbally Grounds	5.45pm -8.45pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Audrey Morgan 80's Night	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	8pm
Seaneen	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Matt Keane	The Pillar House	10pm
Hickory Wind	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Monday 29th		
Witches and Wizards Classic	B'sloe Golf Club	All Day
Tuesday 30th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	1pm- 4pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30pm- 5.30pm
Diversity Art Ex Launch	B'sloe Library	6pm
GROW	B'sloe Library	6pm- 8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Wednesday 31st		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.15pm -7.15pm
Live Trad and Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm

NOVEMBER EVENTS GUIDE

Thursday 1 st		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Sabrina Fallon	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 2nd		
Kids Drop-In Music	B'sloe Library	3.30pm- 4.30pm
Small Deal Live	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Funky Fridays	An Tain	10pm
Saturday 3rd		
Billy Gavin	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Loose Rooster	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Crazy Chris	Downey's Bar	10pm
Maggie D	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Joxer & Davy	The Pillar House	10pm
Eoin Maher	An Tain	10pm
The Suspect	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 4th		
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Gringo Stars	Brewery Lane	8pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Tuesday 6th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	1pm- 4pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30pm- 5.30pm
GROW	B'sloe Library	6pm- 8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Wednesday 7th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Knitting & Crochet	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.15pm -7.15pm
Live Trad and Folk	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 8th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Singers Cirlce	Dunlo Tavern	9.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 9th		
Kids Board Games	B'sloe Library	3.30pm- 4.30pm
Happy Bar Stars	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
The 2 Q's	Brewery Lane	10pm
Steve Reilly	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Funky Fridays	An Tain	10pm
Saturday 10th		
Table Quiz	B'sloe Rugby Club	8.30pm
Live Line	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Small Deal	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Maggie Dunne	The Pillar House	10pm
Pink Shirt	An Tain	10pm
The Goodfellas	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Dave Dolan	Downey's Bar	10pm
Rodney's Glory	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
The Live Wires	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Sunday 11th		
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
The Noshowband	Brewery Lane	8pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Tuesday 13th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	1pm- 4pm
Active Retir' Book Club	B'sloe Library	4pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30pm- 5.30pm
The Gables Art Exhib	B'sloe Library	6pm
GROW	B'sloe Library	6pm- 8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Wednesday 14th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Knitting & Crochet	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.15pm -7.15pm
B'sloe Flower Club	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Live Trad and Folk	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 15th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Stephen Reilly	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 16th		
Lego and Duplo Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30pm- 4.30pm
John Molloy Live	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Hoppy Bar Stars	Brewery Lane	10pm
Funky Fridays	An Tain	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 17th		
B'sloe Cyding Club AGM	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Billy Gavin	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Red Tape	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Crazy Chris	Downey's Bar	10pm
Bojangle	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Paul Burns	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
The Chillbillies	The Pillar House	10pm
Cold Porter	An Tain	10pm
Sunday 18th		
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Musical Society Auditions	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	8pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Tuesday 20th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	1pm- 4pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30pm- 5.30pm
GROW	B'sloe Library	6pm- 8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Wednesday 21st		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Knitting & Crochet	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.15pm -7.15pm
Live Trad and Folk	An Tain	9.30pm

Thursday 22nd		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Brothers of charity Disco	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 23rd		
Small Deal Live	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Toxic Twins	Brewery Lane	10pm
Beardy Bucks	Dunlo Tavern	10pm
Funky Fridays	An Tain	10pm
Saturday 24th		
Amy Brennan	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
The Tav Jam Band	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Crazy Chris	Downey's Bar	10pm
Jockstrap	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
DJ John Finnerty	The Pillar House	10pm
Na Riadoiri	An Tain	10pm
Hickory Wind	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 25th		
Christmas Craft Fair	Emerald B'room	11am-4pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	8pm
Lighting of the Christmas Lights	St. Michaels Sq	4.45pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Tuesday 27th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	1pm- 4pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30pm- 5.30pm
GROW	B'sloe Library	6pm- 8pm
Les Miserables	Ardscoil Mhuire	7.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Wednesday 28th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Knitting & Crochet	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.15pm -7.15pm
Les Miserables	Ardscoil Mhuire	7.30pm
Live Trad and Folk	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 29th		
Age Action PC Classes	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Book Club	B'sloe Library	7pm
Les Miserables	Ardscoil Mhuire	7.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Sabrina Fallon	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 30th		
LNS Christmas Show	Laurancetown NS	7.30pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	8pm
Steve & Friends Live	Shearwater Hotel	9pm
Funky Fridays	An Tain	10pm
Damien Butler	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

To advertise your events here contact: ballinasloelife@hotmail.com or Call **090 964 5831** by November 13th.

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS



Ballinasloe Tyres fitter Gareth Webster has become one of just 16 people chosen by iconic brand Michelin to take its new Licenced Retail Tyre Technician course.



Senator Maura Hopkins and Cllr. Aidan Donohue with Mrs. Kathleen Frehill, Glentaun, Creagh worked closely with local residents to secure funding for road works in Glentaun which were recently completed under the Local Improvement Scheme.





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Thank you to everyone who found time to pop into the salon for our Open Day on September 9th. We hope you enjoyed it.

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GILMORE DESCENDANTS CELEBRATE GREAT-GRANDPARENTS WEDDING-140 YEARS TO THE DAY

The Gilmores, who came from Deerpark, Cloghan's Hill, on the Mayo/Galway border, saw 13 of the 17 children of Julia and Daniel Gilmore leave the Irish shores for new shores, 12 of which travelled to the USA and the other to China as a missionary nun.

Each of Julia and Daniels children achieved great success in their chosen fields and relished the immigration experience. The children set way on their travels between the years of 1901 and 1923. The age gap between the oldest and youngest siblings was 21 years, born between 1878 and 1899.

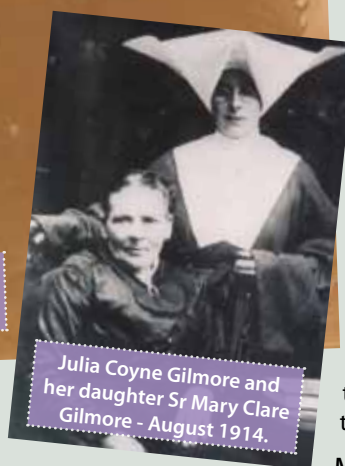
The couple married on the 18th of August 1878 in Liverpool, where they were living and working at the time, before returning home to Deerpark with their two oldest children Ellina and Thomas in 1881, to take over the running of the family farm following Daniels father's death. From there the rest of the couple's children were born.

Both Julia and Daniel had a visionary attitude, and they raised their children with a strong faith which encouraged them to cultivate a tenacious and hardworking approach in life. Three sons were carpenters, one a blacksmith and the other an engineer. Three of their daughters were nurses, another being a cook, three homemakers and one missionary nun.

Between all the sons and daughters came 35 grandchildren and numerous great and great-great grandchildren, who all took the pioneering spirit forward and also became professionals in their respective fields, with a number of them also serving in the U.S



Daniel
Gilmore,
1910.



Julia Coyne Gilmore and
her daughter Sr Mary Clare
Gilmore - August 1914.

military during WWII, the Korean war, with one also serving in the Irish Army during the emergency of 1940 – 1946.

140 years to the day after Julia and Daniels marriage, the grandchildren of their own children Margaret, Katherine, Julia, Patrick and James Joseph came together in Ballinasloe from all over the USA and Britain, to celebrate the marriage and legacy of their Great-grandparents.

They were joined by the younger 4th generation of descendants and celebrated in great style in Gullane's Hotel. Entertainment on the night was provided by musicians Johnny Johnstone, Liam Loughrey and Alan Colohan.

The following day the family went on a tour of County Mayo to visit the resting place of Julia and Daniel, Daniels parents, siblings and their children in Kilmaine, where a prayer service and blessing was conducted by Fr. John Pallon. Following on from their tour, the family enjoyed another family dinner together in the Dalton Inn, Claremorris.

Margaret Gilmore, who is a first cousin of local woman Mary Reynolds, Birchgrove, says that family reunions such as their own are a fantastic way of learning about your family's background and lifestyle. "The Gilmore Family Reunion was a great opportunity to recognise the positive impact of emigration on one family and how an adventurous spirit can be an inspiration to each subsequent generation, whilst acknowledging the importance of family, connections and roots" states Margaret.

BY IAN O'BOYLE



KATHY CROWNED QUEEN OF THE FAIR

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Kathy Colohan, a 25-year-old primary school teacher from Ahascragh, was crowned the lucky winner of this year's Queen of the Fair contest.

Eleven young ladies from the local area took to the stage in Gullane's Hotel in front of their families, friends and sponsors with hopes of being announced the winner at the end of the night. The MC for the night was "Galway Bay FM's" Ollie Turner.

In the end it was Kathy who was awarded the Tiara and Sash from last year's Queen Kim Connaughton, who gave an emotional speech on stage about the amazing year she had representing her town.

Kathy has been attending the Fair since she was a toddler, and says that some of her best memories in life have come from it. "Looking back to my childhood some of my earliest memories are from the Fair here in town, it was like a second Christmas to most of us. The Tug of war and the showground events were always my favourite to attend during the week".

It wasn't up until the last couple of years that Kathy even thought of contesting in the Queen of the Fair. "To be quite honest during my younger years I didn't quite understand what was involved throughout the year as Queen, but in recent times I've heard so many stories from previous winners about how much fun it was, and that's when I started to dream of being getting to experience it all. I'm really excited for the year ahead, I'm just after speaking with Kim who said it's an amazing year



all round and full of so many opportunities".

Mike O'Brien, owner of the Brewery Lane Bar who was Kathy's sponsor, stated "It's a pleasure to have sponsored Kathy for this year's event, I know she's going to be a fantastic rep for both the Fair and our town and I wish her the very best of luck".

Kathy thanked all her friends and family for all the support they have given to her over the past few weeks, and to Mike her sponsor along with Talking Heads Hairdressers for her hair-do at the event.

Secretary of the fair, Mary Phelan, believes Kathy will have the experience of lifetime as Queen. "We had a wonderful night in Gullane's Hotel and I'm sure Kathy is bursting with excitement for all the events she will be attending during her time as Queen, so well-done Kathy and all the other girls who made their town proud tonight".

To keep up to date with all Kathy's events over the coming year, follow the Ballinasloe Fair Facebook page, or check out their website at www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com



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CANCER SUPPORT CENTRE TO PARTICIPATE IN NEW RESEARCH STUDY

The volunteer-led sector of cancer support has become extremely valuable in offering help and care to cancer patients and their families. One such local service is East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support, which is entirely funded by charitable donations, and has been running for over 8 years.

The centre provides many services including counselling, touch therapies and nutritional advice. The centre also established a cancer-only gym, the first in Ireland, where patients can undertake a physiotherapist-developed exercise programme. In 2017 this centre had approximately 3,000 contacts with cancer patients and their families.

A new EVeCanS study is being undertaken by a group of researchers in University College Cork, funded by Breakthrough Cancer Research. The aim of the study, according to the principal investigator, Dr Frances Drummond, is to undertake an evaluation of the volunteer cancer services.

Director of Services at the Ballinasloe centre, Jacqueline Daly, has welcomed the new study, and hopes it will be of benefit to voluntary cancer support groups nationwide. "We will investigate the benefits to those patients, their family and friends who come to East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre. It is through such studies that we can also understand how the services can be further improved. We want to hear from people who have availed of East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support currently, and in the past".

If you want to know more about the study, please email frances.drummond@ucc.ie or contact East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support.

Jaqueline would also like to thank everyone in the community for their support and fundraising since the centre was created. "Here at East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support we are so grateful for the number of fundraisers that have been organised by fantastic members of communities that we serve.

"Since the launch of our Transport Service earlier this year we have

been under pressure to meet the demands of continuing to grow our vital services. Monies raised from some of these fundraisers have been allocated to adding an extension to our Centre in Brackernagh" stated Jacqueline.

"Once complete we will have two new treatment rooms, a new office, and repurposing of our current office to another treatment/induction room. An extended welcome area as well as an already completed expansion of our kitchen and dining area is also thanks to all your generous donations" explained Jacqueline.

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AUSSIE FAMILY SEARCH FOR EAST GALWAY ROOTS



Ron Coughlan's brothers Michael and Glenn, great grandchildren of Patrick

Shirley Coughlan, from Perth, Western Australia has spent many years trying to find records of her husband Ron's ancestors in Ireland. She has managed to trace records of Ron's great-grandfather Patrick Coughlan, 1800-1860 from Ballinasloe, who married Honora Fahey from Gort.

Ron Coughlan and Shirley Coughlan (nee Oates) were both born in 1926. They have two sons, Peter (1949) and Trevor (1951), along with four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Ron worked for the Australian Military and when WW2 ended he transferred to the Australian Regular Army until retirement. The couple now live in the Perth suburb of Scarborough. During Ron's army career the family lived in Melbourne for 23 years and spent 3 years in London. They went on holiday to Ireland, where they found a Coughlan's Bar, and met Nancy Coughlan who said she believed some of her family had left Ireland but didn't quite know where they emigrated to.

"At that time no thought was put into looking further into our conversation. This I now regret" said Shirley. "Ten or more years ago, we were contacted by Michael Coughlan from Victoria, a family historian. He was trying to find relatives. Some of Patrick and Honora's boys came to WA in the late 1890's. Michael's visit was the beginning of my interest in finding out about family ancestors" continues Shirley.

"Michael arranged a family reunion, in Melbourne, Victoria about nine years ago, it was a great success and well attended by over a hundred people. They came from all over Australia, the Patrick Coughlan descendants are well spread throughout the continent and I believe elsewhere in the world.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

"Being the third generation born in Australia, Ron is an Aussie, but his Irish background has always been well known. Until modern technology it was not easy to get the information available now, that is why I think family connection was lost".

The pair are now looking for more leads to Patrick in East Galway/ South Roscommon. If you have any information or might be related in any way to Patrick, please email Shirley at scoughlan@live.com.au



Eugene Murphy TD

Roscommon - Galway

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Kildare Street, Dublin 2
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3 YEARS "WAITING FOR THE CALL"



A Killimor woman, who suffers from Sarcoidosis for the past 25 years, has thanked the Mater Hospital in Dublin for life-saving treatment. Rosaleen Clasby who lives with her husband Sean, at Heathlawn, Killimor, was first diagnosed over twenty-five years ago and despite various medical strategies and treatments the Sarcoidosis prevails. This

condition causes gradual depletion of the function of the lungs, and over the years Rosaleen's lungs have decreased in capacity by over sixty per cent. This has resulted in the gradual decline of Rosaleen's physical capacity, and has restricted her ability to undertake any strenuous work.

The family was told that a Lung Transplant was the ultimate, if not the only solution but she would have to go on a waiting list. After thirteen years of nursing care, the call eventually came and was given twenty minutes notice to be ready for the ambulance which took Rosaleen directly to the Mater Hospital. After more days of waiting she underwent a seven hour Lung Transplant operation and was sitting up and talking the following day.

Her husband Sean, thanked all the medical and transplant team who cared his wife over the years and added "We are humbled and honoured to be the ones chosen in this case and will be forever grateful for the gift of new life which is now offered to us. As we prepare to begin a new era in our lives we pray for those who 'waited in vain for the call' (some of whom were friends) may they rest in peace, and those who are on the 'List' : We sincerely hope

BY KEN KELLY

that they are not too long 'waiting for the call'.

As a token of her appreciation for the life-saving treatment she received in the Dublin Hospital, Rosaleen Clasby is running a Fund-raising Dance in Ballinasloe's Shearwater Hotel on Friday, 30th November with all the proceeds going to the National Centre for Heart and Lung Transplants in the Mater Hospital. Tickets can be purchased from the Hotel, the Organising Committee (087 2727336), as well as both Killimor and Portumna Post Offices and in local shops.

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LOUIS FINN (1939- 2018)

The recent passing of Louis Finn was a source of great sorrow in his native Creagh and in the Ballinasloe area.

Educated in Creagh N.S. and Garbally College, Louis went to work in London for a few years before returning home and taking up a position in the administrative office in St. Brigid's Hospital. Soon he was offered a position as a trainee psychiatric nurse, a job he excelled at and which he was eminently suited to. Over the following thirty years Louis displayed outstanding professionalism on a daily basis that was infused with a wonderful sense of caring and compassion towards the patients. The well-being of the patient was always his first concern, a job that came very naturally and easy to Louis because of his gentle nature and great sense of humour. He was also a great mentor of younger nurses, who he treated with tremendous respect.

In his school days he showed great prowess as an exciting athlete. He was the Irish schools hop-step-and jump champion in 1956 which won him a place on the national athletics team to participate in the European Schools Championship in San Sebastian. Unfortunately, lack of adequate resources resulted in many of the team not travelling. How ironic that travel became one of his great loves in later life - travelling to places like Russia, Oman, England and many European countries.

He won a county medal in goal with Ballinasloe minor hurling team and played for the St. Brigid's hurling team for a number of years. He



BY JOHN MOLLOY

was a very handy winger in rugby, a talent earned him a place on the Connacht under-18 team. However, golf became his great sporting love over the years. With a handicap in low-single-figures for many years, Louis was chosen on several teams to represent Ballinasloe Golf Club, which he did on many occasions with aplomb. He was elected captain of the club in 1983.

Louis was a founding member of Creagh Community Development Council in 1997 and served as secretary for a number of years. He maintained a deep interest in its work until his illness intervened, but his impeccably - written minutes of meetings are a rich legacy of his sharp mind. The achievements of the Community Council were always a great source of joy to him, as were the recent triumphs of Galway hurling, and the Connacht rugby, teams.

Louis and his wife Peggy were regarded by everyone as Ballinasloe's answer to your typical Hollywood couple. Both dressed impeccably - he the "dapper" young man and she the glamorous and stylish lady - with both also setting a really high standard on the many dance floors they adorned.

The condolences of Creagh and Ballinasloe communities are extended to Peggy, children David, Louise, Alison and Kenneth. Ar dheis de ar a anam dilis.



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SUDDEN PASSING OF TERESA WHYTE

The community and countless numbers of families who have had loved ones cared for in Garbally View Nursing Home, were shocked at the sudden death of Teresa Whyte (nee Kelly) on the 20th of July last.

Teresa was the middle child of seven, reared in a small holding in Tristane, Aughrim, who like most girls of that era went to London to train for Nursing. On returning to Ireland she took up a private nursing position with a family in Dublin. She managed to take the train home, when she could, a local hackney would drop her home and on one such spin – introduced her to a certain dashing footballer who worked in the Stores in St. Brigids.

Trips to Achill, numerous football club dinners and after some seasons of courtship she and Tony Whyte enjoyed a double wedding in St. Michael's with her sister Cepta and Ollie Curley in 1966. The hackney driver's eye for a match would leave that couple together for more that 50 plus years as they celebrated their Golden Jubilee, two years ago.

Teresa took to being the home builder – rearing a busy family of eight, first in Johnstown, a move to Galway, Mayo and back to Drum when Tony was engaged as Manager/Secretary of Portiuncula Hospital.

Her home was her castle and she enjoyed keeping an open house for relatives, friends of the youngsters. She went back to her vocation of nursing and was engaged for a few years in Aras Vianny – the Retirement Home for Clergy. After some locum nursing she took the plunge with Tony and buying, what was then Hardiman's 5 bedroom family home in 1993, and renovating it as a Nursing Home.

In those early years every room was painted, furnished, curtains made, residents seen to and the operation managed by Teresa. She had the key support of Tony and her sister Annie McDonnell and her now Director of Nursing Marie Dudgeon.



Three years after the purchase they had to invest or close with the Health Board and Regulatory Environment that was steadily encroaching into Geriatric care. In 1998 they expanded from 10 residents to 26 – 8 new bedrooms, new dining room, new day room etc.

While Tony was key to the Management and financial side – Teresa enjoyed the coal face. Tony established Retreat Nursing Home in 1998, in Athlone and really left Teresa in full charge of her dream– running the place like her home, not an institution.

She was a visionary carer long before the manual and mission statements came into the sector. "If her residents were happy she was happy and happy residents made a home" was her motto. She was always there to brighten the lives of those in her care – whether it was the lollipop runs on the hot days or a surprise cake on the tougher ones. All of her staff and longstay residents attest to her care, attention to detail and dedication to the 37 resident facility.

She loved colours, fabrics, art, interior decorating and in later years loved her sunshine breaks with Tony. She had a huge passion for ornithology and had some of the best fed birds in South Roscommon calling to her patio and garden year round!

Faith and family were hugely important to her. All of her family are moved by the expressions of sympathy and stories that they have had heard and have been greatly supported in their loss and that of their two siblings by the manner in which all of the 30 odd staff sought to rally around and keep the show on the road for a pioneering carer whose heart and soul went into all her residents and staff.

Teresa was predeceased by her sons Tony & Joe. Our thoughts to her heartbroken husband Tony, daughters Marie, Sandra & Therese, sons Paul, Ollie & Mark, daughters-in-law, sons-in-law, adored grandchildren, sisters Annie (McDonnell) and Breda (Brien), in laws, nieces, nephews, relatives, neighbours & friends.

BY COLM CROFFY

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FAIR WEEK AIMS TO ENTERTAIN AND ADD ECONOMICALLY

BY IAN O'BOYLE

This year's Fair and Festival looks set to be the one of largest ever with 95,000 visitors expected as well as an estimated €8.5 million revenue for the local economy.

Highlights this year are as follows:

President Michael D. Higgins will officially open the fair at 3.30pm on Sunday 30th September in the Town Square.

A Heritage presentation takes place in the town library at 6.30pm on Tuesday.

This year's Fashion Show will take place in the Shearwater Hotel on Wednesday evening at 7.30pm. A raffle will take place on the night, and this year the committee will be supporting the Audrey Morgan fundraising campaign.

Subject to entries, the Soapbox Racing will be held on Thursday night at 8pm. The course has changed this year, competitors will now descent down Church Hill onto Society Street and into St. Michael's Square.

There will be entertainment for all the family from 7pm on Friday, eve of County Fair Day, with the Fireworks Show taking place at the Marina at 8.30 pm. The open-air Jiving Competitions will follow on at 9pm in the marquee in St. Michael's Square

The Wrafter Family Band will make their Festival debut on Saturday afternoon at 2pm at the Festival Sound Stage as part of the afternoon's live music.

The final day of the Festival weekend looks set to be a busy one with the Dog Show, Food and Craft Market, Children's Bakery Competitions, Children's Tractor Race and Vintage Display, all taking place in the town centre. Also on the day is the new Motorbike Show, which is on Dunlo Street during the afternoon.

The new Chairman of the F&F, Mal Croffy acknowledged that it was getting more and more difficult to organise the festival element of the Horse Fair. The difficulties facing the voluntary committee are primarily financial ones: "In 2018 it will cost in excess of €15,000 to insure the F&F events, and with no source of income the committee is totally reliant on sponsors" said Mal.

"Any town in Ireland would love to have a weeklong festival and if our festival is to continue then more sponsors need to come on board. The event generates much needed revenue for the town, so we appeal to all businesses to come on board for 2018 if the Festival is to continue" he concluded.

The main sponsors for this year's Fair and Festival are the Ballinasloe Credit Union, Supermacs, Jim Derwin, Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe Vintners, Galway County Council, Roscommon County Council, Shearwater Hotel, KPW Design & Print, Dubarry, Bread Basket, Ambrose & Mary Cuddy, AIB, Bank of Ireland, Apache Pizza & SIAC construction.

For more information log-on to <http://ballinasloeoctoberfair.com>, email info@ballinasloeoctoberfair.com. or call the Fair HQ on 087 4421561 / 087 1662638. Follow the festival activities on Facebook at Ballinasloe Fair.



Ballinasloe Fair & Festival Committee: Sinead Manning, Kevin Murray, Niall Clarke, Kathleen Croffy, Ana Victoria Mulcahy. Front Row - Mary Phelan, Mal Croffy, Kathy Colohan, Tomas Gullane, Ciara Croffy.



Tomas Gullane, Sponsor of Queen of the Fair, Kathy Colohan, Queen of the Fair 2018, Grahame Gullane, Sponsor of the Queen of the Fair.



Judges for Queen of the Fair: Kieran O'Malley, Kathy Colohan, Kathleen Croffy & Ana Victoria Mulcahy.



Ollie Turner, MC, Kathy Colohan, representing Brewery Lane Pub (Mike O'Brien); Caoimhe McMorow, rep B'sloe Musical Society; Lucy McLoughlin, rep Venezia Italian Restaurant; Ciara Lennon, rep The Bread Basket; Melissa Fahy rep McGorisk's (Broderick's) Pharmacy; Emma Donoghue, rep Valerie's Pub, Aughrim; Sarah Daly, rep Gullane's Hotel; Blanaid Fenton, rep Dolan's Filling Station & Centra; Nicola Downey, Rep Downey's Pub; Aoife Downey, rep Clare's Flowers; Ashling Wallace, rep Wonderland Hair & Beauty; and Ana Victoria Mulcahy (Judge).



Tomas Gullane, Sponsor of Queen of the Fair; Ciara Croffy, Fair & Festival, Kathy Colohan, Queen of the Fair 2018, Mary Phelan, Fair & Festival, Kim Connaughton, Queen of the Fair 2017, Ollie Turner MC for night.



Ballinasloe Queen of the Fair Selection 2018
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TOWN HALL THEATRE SOCIETY SEEKS NEW VOLUNTEERS

BY COLM CROFFY

The AGM, took place in the Town Hall in late Sept. Chairperson Maura Hughes gave a detailed and frank account of the year under review. Whilst acknowledging the status and position enjoyed by the building locally and the loyal audience that they had garnered down through the years the issues were stark.

"I would like to see volunteers of all ages, particularly the young, willing to take on an active part in running the Theatre", said Maura.

"We are not achieving viability - without grants we could not keep our heads above water, this is quite an alarming prospect that we constantly need funding and fundraising on annual basis just to stay open. Possibly we could have a "Friends of the Town Hall Association" explained the Chair.

Secretary Mary O'Connell in her detailed report gave a summary of the events and activities held in the Theatre. She explained how the Theatre made successful applications for Grant Aid to RAPID for €6,000, €1,300 to Galway County Council and €1,700 to Galway Rural Development for equipment.

She mentioned that the Theatre has some 30 odd nights of performance and some 50 evenings of Rehearsal. The Theatre was indebted to John Boland and his actor troupe who had for the past few seasons produced plays whose proceeds went directly to the Town Hall.

Addressing the issue of venue usage she explained that in some 4 years costs/expenses had increased almost 20% but that the rate card for users groups of the building had not increased to keep apace – despite the huge increase in investment in the facilities of the building. She quoted the example of the insurance bill now in the region for €6,000 annually.

She outlined how the Theatre was grateful to its band of volunteers and especially to the Tus operatives and members of the Community Employment Scheme who continue to provide personnel and crew to the Theatre.

New seats for the balcony had been purchased and will be installed by volunteers and all of the back stairs and lobby areas had been



New Committee, l to r: Eoin Croffy, Niamh Cavanagh, Maire Hughes, Mary O'Connell. Standing: l to r: Elain O'Hanlon, Pat McGovern, Pat Joe Guinnessy, Gerry Sweeney, Ben Parker, Frances Leahy. Missing: Eva Burgoyne.

resanded and painted in the past season. New locks and additional security features have been installed.

She mentioned the fact that most of shows and events were using the online Box office and this facility was proving an excellent marketing tool for the Theatre. In an average calendar year, Sept to May, remained the busiest time for the venue.

They have made application for toilets and back stage area upgrade through the Rural Regeneration Fund and were hopeful of some success in the next few months.

Treasurer Frances Leahy gave a summary of the overall picture of the finances advising those present that full audit of the company's books will be available shortly. She gave detailed figures on the Society's accounts and outlined how the Society members had to lend some funds to the company with the lease to make ends meet. In her own analysis" some 40% of annual operating income is grant aid, some 30% is fundraising and the balance is raised from activities in the venue and we are stretched to find the average of €27,000 per annum to just keep the lights on; we will have to change what we are doing in the next year to start balancing our books better" said Frances.

Prior to the election of the new Committee there was a wide ranging discussion on how the Society might go about recruiting more members, a youth programme, a separate committee for fundraising and capital works, encouraging more new people to be on stage and indeed towards developing more activity.

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RELAYS TO STAGE AGATHA CHRISTIE PLAY BY IAN O'BOYLE

Relays Drama Group was formed in 1959 and is returning to its roots of fundraising. The group are currently in rehearsal with a production of Agatha Christie's "And Then There Were None", as a fundraising event for the Town Hall Theatre.

A fine cast of actors, some veterans of the Town Hall stage and several new faces have come together for this production. Behind the scenes, set builders, sound and lighting personnel and the back-stage crew are all hard at work. Taking part in the "Who Done It?" play are Lucy Dolan, Noel Lohan, Dean Flanagan, Deirdre O'Murchadha, Brendan Boland, Ciaran Smyth, Mary Cuddy, Brian Derrane and Greg O'Connor. The show is directed by Mary O'Connell and Maryrose Finlan. Set and Stage design is by Pat McGovern.

"And Then There Were None" is a dramatic adaptation of the best-selling crime novel by Agatha Christie. The plot is well known with a group of characters cut off in an isolated setting with a murderer in their midst. The innocent are presumed guilty and the guilty



Pictured are some of the Cast and Crew of the upcoming production - Lucy Dolan, Noel Lohan, Dean Flanagan, Deirdre O'Murchadha, Brendan Boland, Mary O'Connell (Producer), Ciaran Smyth, Mary Cuddy, Brian Derrane and Greg O'Connor.

presumed innocent. This is one of Agatha's most famous plays, a murder who done it, which will keep you guessing to the end. Eight guests and two servants are invited for the weekend to a remote island, and then the murders begin.

Who is the murderer? Come find out in the Town Hall Theatre on Wednesday 17th Thursday 18th and Friday 19th of October at 8pm. Tickets can be bought for €15 / €12 concessions at www.ballinasloetownhall.com or call the box office at 090 9646540.

Other events taking place in the Town Hall over the next few weeks are as follows;

Tea / Coffee stand during the Fair on the opening and closing weekends.

Ardscioil Mhuire production of Lis Misérables on the 27th, 28th, and 29th of November.

Laurencetown National School Christmas Show on the 30th of November.

Christmas Craft Fair in the Emerald Ballroom on Sunday the 25th of November 11-4pm.

STUDENTS OF IN STEP AWARDED ARTS SCHOLARSHIPS TO LONDON

Local stage performers Marnie O'Hanlon Carroll and Bronagh Doherty have both received scholarships to two of London's top performing Art Colleges.

Both Girls were formally students of Elaine and Ally's In-Step Stage School locally and are well known for their numerous performances in both singing and acting in the Town Hall Theatre.

Marnie has received a Dance and Dramatic Arts Award and Bronagh has been given the Andrew Lloyd Webber singing scholarship from over 1,600 applicants.

Mary O'Connell Secretary of the Town Hall has wished both girls the very best of luck in their new adventures, and that they are a true example of showing that hard work really pays off.



Marnie and Bronagh

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MEMBERS OF LILY KELLY'S ART GROUP HOST NEW EXHIBITION

Local artists Nicola Bowes and Emel Omans are hosting an art exhibition in October called 'Diversity' in the Ballinasloe Library Church Gallery.

Nicola is originally from Athlone, but now lives in Cappataggle, while Emel now resides in Shannonbridge after living in the UK. Both women have had a love for art throughout their lives, along with being members of Lily Kelly's Art group for many years, where they have developed their passion of the hobby even further.

The art event, which takes place on Tuesday October 30th at 6.00pm, is a tribute to the famous 1939 movie 'Gone With The Wind'. The exhibition is free to the public, with a wine reception also taking place during the evening.

Nicola and Emel have previously had their work on display in the Church Gallery, along with having an ongoing show of their works in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre and Shorelines, Portumna.

"We have recently exhibited in the gallery restaurant in Gort for the month of August and in Shorelines Portumna also, with all the other artists from Lily's art group. We have also been involved in a Culture Night which takes place every September for the past few years. You can see a display of 28 faces done by 28 artists including children from Lily's art classes on the windows on the top of Dunlo Street that we done for culture night last year" states Nicola.

They are exhibiting between 40 and 50 paintings which also includes 'Gone with the Wind' paintings from four invited artists, Rosemary Carty and Mary Barber from our art group, and artists Ava Kiernan and Laoise Kiernan from Glasson near Athlone.

"Both Emel and I are looking forward to the exhibition and are very thankful to the Ballinasloe library for displaying our paintings in such a beautiful gallery" concludes Nicola.

BY IAN O'BOYLE



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BALLINASLOE ARCHER WINS NATIONAL TITLE

BY IAN O'BOYLE



21-year-old Christopher Riddell from Pollboy, son of Finola and Robert Riddell recently won the Irish National Senior Gold Medal in mixed Team Archery.

Christopher is currently in his final year of college in NUI Galway, where he is studying chemistry. He started playing

archery in his first year at the University, and only took serious interest in the sport last September.

"I pushed myself to continually improve and also invested in good equipment. I've always had an interest in archery, especially from watching movies with medieval storylines. However, the sport is much different to the movies" said Christopher.

Before taking up archery, Christopher played soccer with the Ballinasloe senior B team while attending Garbally, but soon after starting college he decided to change his sport interest.

"While totally different to Soccer, archery is a tough sport and requires a lot of hours in the gym and many many hours of shooting practice along with mental training. He is currently shooting for the NUI Galway Archery Club which is one of three clubs in Galway city, the others being Galway Archers and GMIT Archery".

Christopher won his first piece of silverware in September 2017, finishing second in a team event with fellow club members Mark Walsh and Josh Coughlan at the National Indoor Open. The team also won a bronze medal in the Irish National Indoor championship, a silver medal in the Student National Indoor Finals and then followed by a silver medal in



Christopher and his teammate Roisin on the winners podium

the National indoor student league.

"I'm very happy to win an Irish national gold medal as this was only my second event shooting outdoors. I only started outdoor archery in April of this year with the 100mm 10 score target at a distance of 70 metres. Weather conditions play a huge part in calculating the range. The mixed team comprises of one male and one female archer, Roisin Mooney, a colleague from NUIG. "The match was pretty tough and we should have won early on, but we slipped up on an arrow or two".

The match ended in a draw, which led to a high pressure one arrow shoot off for the gold medal.

"Once I graduate and finish college, I'll be aiming to go abroad and shoot in the Outdoor World Cup and maybe some international events. Though he wants to go further with the sport, Christopher says "I won't be training as hard this year as my main focus is working hard on my studies and leaving college with my degree in hand".



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THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER.....

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

Cooper Helmets were worn by 75 per cent of the senior and minor hurlers who played in the All-Ireland hurling finals, in Croke Park, in August. Of the sixty players who lined out, forty-five were wearing Cooper helmets. The Ballinasloe company's director, Ronan Lally, said it just showed that Cooper Helmets are consistently the No. 1 hurling helmet nationwide and went on to congratulate Shane Jennings on getting "Man of the Match" award in the minor game for his outstanding performance at full-back.

91-year-old Phoebe Walshe (nee Gowing), Liscappul, Aughrim, who passed away at the Ballinderry Nursing Home, was a native of Tullamore. She is predeceased by her husband, Bertie, who was also in his nineties. Mrs. Walshe is survived by her son Francis, daughter-in-law Tina, grandsons, granddaughter and a great-grandson as well as other relatives and friends.

Aughrim's Cemetery Committee have given a major facelift to the Church Grounds and the two cemeteries in the village. The voluntary committee of eight have carried out major renovations including the painting of all the statues, grass cutting, spraying, hedge cutting and the planting of flowers and shrubs. A new Reflection Seat has also been provided in the New Cemetery, the timber for which was donated by Hyde's Sawmills.

The trial of 3 Galwaymen in Castlebar Circuit Court, over fifty years ago, was recalled in a recent edition of a leading Mayo Newspaper. The trio purported to be buying wool from farmers for a Portumna businessman who was exporting wool to the Iron Curtain countries at the time.

John Roche of Kidlawn House, Ballinasloe, who died suddenly in Portiuncula Hospital, set up an auctioneering and insurance business in Ballinasloe's Main Street over forty years ago. He was also a DJ on Candy Radio, presenting a traditional music hour every Sunday. Later he became a local correspondent

for some of the Midland's weekly newspapers. He is survived by his wife Anne, daughter Michelle, grandchildren Evin and Lucas as well as extended family, relatives and friends.

Shoppers beware! Check your receipt before you leave the store. This warning comes following a number of cases where customers were overcharged in different supermarkets. In one case a head of Lettuce was charged at €20.09 (correct price 69c), another customer was charged €11.49 for a 2-litre container of Milk (normally €1.49) while a bag of Potatoes cost €5.99 instead of €3.99. In each case the customers were refunded their money when they complained to the respective cashiers who all said they "must have pressed the wrong button."

Aughrim Active Retirement Group are to reintroduce exercise and drama classes for the coming months, which were very successful last year. They are also planning for a musical week-end away next month. Forty-two of the group recently visited Farmleigh House in the Phoenix Park and were later brought on a guided coach tour of Dublin City. The day ended with a meal and music session in Tyrrellspass on the way home.

Adopt a Dog. Following a story in the last edition of LIFE on the Killimor Animal Sanctuary, there has been a surge of interest in adopting pets. According to Ballinasloe organiser, Diane Dolan, dogs have been adopted and sent overseas to Sweden, Italy, Great Britain as well as locally. Diane said the interest in adoption is overwhelming and also went on to thank all those who supported the Centre's recent Fashion Show, with all the proceeds going to the Killimor Sanctuary.

Creagh National School will no longer be available for Creagh voters. Instead about 1,500 Urban residents can cast their votes in St. Grellan's National School in Ballinasloe town while Creagh Rural voters will be accommodated in the Padraig Pearses clubhouse at Woodmount.

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JOCKEY TURNS PROFESSIONAL

BY IAN O'BOYLE



Ballinasloe Jockey, David Egan has taken a new step in his career, by taking out a full professional Jockey's Licence, moving away from racing for apprentice titles, following in the footsteps of his father, John.

The 19-year-old comes from a family background of working with horses. His father John taught him everything there is to know about the sport. His Grandfather Kieran, from Birchgrove, is a well known horse enthusiast and lifelong Director of the Ballinasloe Fair and Festival.

At the age of 14 David started pony racing, before moving over to the British Racing School for a month when he was 16. Since then his career has kept on developing something the young Birchgrove descendent always dreamed of.



Ava McKeon represented Ballinasloe and Galway County at the Community Games National Finals in Limerick in August, where she won a National gold medal in the u14 80m hurdles.

After winning 2 National silver medals in both the indoor & outdoor Track & Field hurdles since March, along with a National Bronze representing Ardscoil Mhuire Ballinasloe in the All Ireland School Track & Field in June, Ava was delighted with the Gold.



Local girls Rachel Hayes and Clíodhna Ní Annluain, members of Athlone Gymnastics Club, who recently competed in the Gymnastics Ireland National Finals which took place at the National Sports Arena in Blanchardstown, winning two Silver and a Bronze.

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BALLINASLOE UNDERAGE HURLING TEAM WIN COUNTY FINAL



U12 Ballinasloe hurling team. County shield winners who defeated Tommy Larkins in Duggan Park, 4-1 to 2-2.

Back row L-R: R. Waters, K. Caulfield (management), L. Markhem, O. Sheanon, S. Holohan, J. Bradley, DJ. Swaris, T. Mullins, C. Waters, N. Jennings, C. Killeen, J. Ward, D. Jennings (management), R. Howard.

Front row L-R: T. Hanrahan, D. Clarke, M. Coyne, C. Berrigan, C. Waters, G. Markham (captain), R. Smyth, D. Kelly (captain), R. Dowd, E. Caulfield, F. Ryan, R. Kelly.

CLUB PLAYERS PARTICIPATE IN MINOR FOOTBALL ALL-IRELAND



Oisín McCormack, Odhrán Dooley and Cian Reynolds.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Ballinasloe GAA players Oisín McCormack, Odhrán Dooley and Cian Reynolds all played on the Galway Minor Football team who narrowly lost the All-Ireland Final to Kerry. Chairman of

the GAA Seamus Duffy would like to congratulate the three sportsmen on behalf of all members of the club on an excellent and inspiring year.

Casting for all seven films which are being shown at this year's GAA OsKaRs Night in The Shearwater Hotel have recently been completed.

Folks will meet many of the potential OsKaR nominees at the GAA stand over the October Fair weekends. It's a little bit soon to go looking for autographs as you will not get a chance to see the fruits of their endeavours until Friday 7th December. Rehearsals will be taking place over the next two months, with filming taking place at the end of November.

There was a very good attendance at the recent Club meeting for the event, where main sponsors Supermacs were represented by Una McDonagh and Ballinasloe Credit Union by Niall Clarke.

Tickets will only be available online via the Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre website and will be on sale from early October.

Based on previous experience, Kevin Rowe of Kevin Rowe Event Management expects the night to be a sell out, so it is advisable

to get your tickets early to this unique Black-Tie event. Tickets are priced at €30 each, which include the viewing of the 7 films, a mulled wine reception, a free programme and a ticket to the raffle which will have very attractive prizes.

The GAA have always worked closely with local charities and on this occasion have partnered with East Galway & Midlands Cancer Support Group. A contribution from tickets sales will be given to this worthy cause.

Are you a young person aged 18 – 30?



If so, you can register for the European Solidarity Corps at www.europa.eu/youth/solidarity_en..

This European Union initiative creates opportunities for young people to volunteer or work in projects in their own country or abroad that benefit communities and people.

After registering, European Solidarity Corps participants could be invited to join a range of projects, such as helping to prevent natural disasters or rebuild afterwards, assisting in centres for asylum seekers, or addressing different social issues in communities.

Projects can last from two to twelve months and are usually located within the European Union Member States.

Meet the experts at our Time To Move event on Oct 16th at 10am when we will also discuss the growing opportunities for studying abroad. For details contact:



Europe Direct Information Centre, Ballinasloe Library (091) 509551

email: ballinasloe@galwaylibrary.ie Web: www.europedirect.ie/ballinasloe



JENNINGS HEROIC ALL-IRELAND WINNING PERFORMANCE

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Ballinasloe hurling prodigy, Shane Jennings performance in the All-Ireland minor hurling final has won him a place on the Electric Ireland Minor Star Hurling Team of the Year. He is one of five Galway players selected. Son of Des and Enda, he put in a star performance for the Galway Minors in this year's final against Kilkenny as the winner's full back. His stature and defensive skills proved critical in the second half, as the Tribesmen went on to win 0-21 to 0-14 and earned him the Man of the Match award.

17-year-old Jennings is just after starting 5th year in Garbally College this year. He has played hurling since he was able to hold the hurley in his hand and started training and playing for Ballinasloe at the age of 6. Since then he has won the under 10 East County League Final with the club along with gathering many more medals.

Jennings has been a part of the county team since the age of 14 with the development squads. He broke into the minors first team this year, with a great chance of making his way into the senior team in the coming years, according to keen watchers of the game.

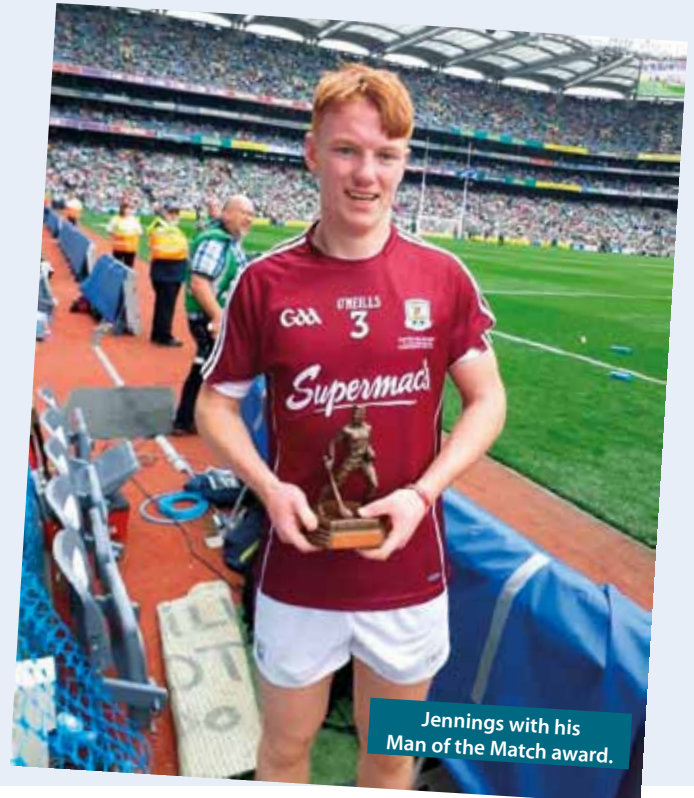
Shane says that winning the final was the best moment of his life, and hopes for more occasions just like it: "The All-Ireland final was my favourite match to date, the feeling of playing in Croke Park in front of thousands of fans cheering us on was exhilarating", stated Shane.

"I felt good in the run up to the final. Obviously, it was a very big game, but we just tried to treat it like a normal match and not get too involved in the hype that surrounds an All-Ireland final. In terms of looking to the future, I'd love to represent Galway at senior level and play alongside some of the greatest hurlers in the country, but at the moment I'm just focused on winning with both my club and the minors" said Shane.

"I've won a few medals with my club, but none with Garbally College.

It's something I'd love to happen before I finish there once in the two short seasons that remain," explains the Deerpark man.

As well as hurling, Shane as an avid sportsman also plays football for Ballinasloe, along with rugby with Ballinasloe RFC and the Connacht U-18 squad. He recently represented the Ireland U-18 squad in the past few months. The St Joseph Garbally College Awards saw Jennings receive an award for representing his country, along with four other students last May.



Jennings with his Man of the Match award.

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COLM SHINE SCOOPS PRESIDENT'S PRIZE

BY IAN O'BOYLE

Colm Shine recently ended his 34-year drought of golfing silverware, after he came out on top for the Ballinasloe Golf Clubs President's Prize Tournament.

The 73-year-old golfing veteran, who has been a member with the club for over four decades, competed against over 200 other members of all ages for the prize, which was a half a year's club membership payed in full. This was Colm's second time winning the prestigious award, having won it all the way 1970 when he played his golf in Mullingar Club..

Born in Portarlinton, Co. Laois, Colm was raised in Walsh Island, Co. Offaly, where his father was working with Bord na Móna. In 1950, Colm and his family moved to Keilty, just south of Athlone. From there he went on to have two sons and three daughters, all of whom still live in the local area except for his eldest son who lives in Swindon

Eamon Staunton, President Ballinasloe Golf Club (on right) presents his President's Prize to Colm Shine the Overall winner of the two day event. Colm Captained Roscommon U21 Footballers to All-Ireland glory in 1966.



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across the water.

Colm spent over twenty-one years of his life in the Irish Military Police Unit, along with An Garda Síochána for 7 years in Mullingar, between 1964-1972. He also spent some years working as a lorry and taxi driver, and as a road manager for his brother Brendan Shine, a well-known musician around the midlands.

During his busy career, Colm managed to represent Roscommon GAA as a corner back for years. He captained the U21 team in 1966 to their first ever All-Ireland Football Championship. The team were later honoured for their accomplishment in 2016 by the GAA.

Colm started playing golf when he worked in Mullingar as a Garda, along with former Galway hurler Tommy Kelly, who was also Colm's Sergeant. Since then he has developed a love for the sport which he claims helps him relax and enjoy himself outside of the real world.

"At the age of 73, I wasn't expecting to win the prize this year, when you think of all the younger and better players who also entered. Having battled cancer for the past 4 years with 2 major operations during that time, it has really given me something to smile about" states Colm.

"Over my golfing career I haven't won much in the years I've been playing. 48 years ago, I won the President's prize in Mullingar, and in 1984 I won the intermediate scratch cup, so as you can imagine I've been very eager for silverware or a top prize since then" he said.

"I would like to thank everyone here at the club for the amazing support they've shown to me over the past couple of years, they are just like a second family to me" exclaimed Colm.

President of the Club, Eamonn Staunton, says that Colm has been a treasured member since joining all those years ago. "The dedication and heart shown by Colm to represent our club for all these decades is amazing. He's an all-round good guy and a great mentor to our younger members. For him to win the President's Prize this year is a great achievement, we were all so delighted for him".

LOCAL RUGBY PLAYER MAKES INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE SQUAD

25-year-old Conor Loughrey, son of Liam and Siobhán Loughrey, Bachelor's Walk, was called up to represent the Irish Rugby League squad early during the summer. He started playing rugby at under 8 level with Ballinasloe R.F.C. and from there he went on to represent Connacht, up until the age of 18.

Playing with Ballinasloe R.F.C., the closest Conor came to winning silverware was in the Connacht Junior Cup Final, though the team had to settle for second place. Throughout his years in Garbally College, the Senior team only made it to the semi-finals when he played with them.

His impressive ability led him to being rewarded with a scholarship in Athlone I.T. for the sport, where he was a part of the All-Ireland winning team in 2013.

Conor got the shock of his life last June when he was called up to represent the Irish Rugby League squad for their upcoming season. His first match started off with an impressive victory against Hungary, where the team came out 70-0 winners. The debutant got his international career off to a great start after contributing to the win with two tries early in the game.

Conor says that playing rugby league got some getting used to at first. Each team has 13 field players and 10 substitutions are allowed during throughout the game. Tries are scored by advancing the ball down the length of the pitch. When a player is successfully



Roy Stanley, Ryan Guilfoyle and Conor Loughrey after their match against Hungary in Budapest.

BY IAN O'BOYLE

tackled in Rugby League, they must drop the ball and roll it behind themselves with their foot, for another team-mate to gather it up.

"There is tackle limit in the game and once it's reached, the ball must be handed over to the opposing team. If the ball is out of play, the opposing team will be awarded a scrum. In Rugby League, a try is worth 4 points, a goal is worth 2 points and a field goal/drop goal are worth 1 point" explains Conor.

Growing up, Conor always dreamed of representing his country, but is now in disbelief that it has become a reality.

"As a kid I used to run around my back garden with the ball in hand, imagining myself wearing the national jersey and playing in front of hundreds of supporters". Every team I ever played for I gave my heart and soul to it, I never give less than 100% when I'm on the field of play. I can't thank everyone enough who helped me to get where I am today" remarks Conor.

Over the next few years, Conor is hoping to see Rugby League grow and become just as popular as the standard game. "Rugby League isn't known to almost three-quarters of the population in Ireland, which is a real shame. I'd like to see more rugby clubs across the country to bring it to their club, and help it get the recognition it deserves" he states.

Conor's next two games are against Italy and Canada at home in the current series, with fixture dates to be announced soon.

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RUGBY ROUNDUP

BY IAN O'BOYLE



Sean Carey (Top row 4th from left) along with the UAE Team.

Former Ballinasloe RFC, Connacht, and Under-19 Irish International, Sean Carey played with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) team this year, who were winners of the Asian Sevens Tournament played over 2 days in Singapore.

Sean played in all rounds of the competition, including a win over hosts Singapore 14-0 in the final to secure promotion to the top tier of the Asian Sevens Series.

The Ballinasloe club hosted the first round of the U18 Women's Interpro Series on September 2nd in the club grounds, with the meeting of the Connacht Women and the Ulster Women, which Connacht won 23-18.

The Ballinasloe Ladies were well represented on the Connacht side with 10 members in the squad: Jordan Hopkins, Macy McDermott, Hannah Gullane, Meabh Deely, Aine Galvin, Claudia McNicholas, Emily Gavin, Beibhinn Parsons, Aoibheann Reilly, Niamh Kenny.

The girls later went on to beat Munster in the Sportsground, captained by Aoibheann Reilly, to set up a 'winner takes all' clash against Leinster.

The development the club's new 3G Astro Turf Pitch will begin in the coming months at the club grounds, which will allow for training during the winter weather when pitches are unplayable.

All teams are back in training after the summer break from the Mini's to the Men's senior squad. Times are yet to be finalised.

Monday Evening: Girls Under 12's and 14's.

Tuesday Evening: Boys Under 15's, 17's and Seniors

Wednesday Evening: Boys Under 13's and 14's

Thursday Evening: Girls Under 16's

Friday Evening: Boys Under 18's and Seniors

Saturday Morning: Minis, Boys Under 15's and 16's

Sunday Morning: Boys Under 18's

If you would like to get involved at any age group, you can contact the club via Facebook.

Here are some of the forthcoming fundraising activities for the club;

The popular scratch card competition returns this year which are on sale now with a fantastic prize to be won: 2 Tickets for Ireland v France in the Aviva Stadium on Sunday the 10th March 2019, overnight accommodation for two and €100 spending money.

To be in with a chance to win, simply purchase a scratch card for €2 and scratch the panel to reveal a time. If your time matches the time that the first try is scored in the Ireland v New Zealand game at the Aviva on Saturday 17th November, the prize is yours.

The Last Man Standing competition kicks off in November and the annual Table Quiz takes place in the clubhouse on 10th of November at 8.30 pm, with an open bar and lots of prizes to be won. Tables of 4 are €40.

BY IAN O'BOYLE



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TOWN AFC GARNER PLAUDITS AT NATIONAL CONGRESS

Ballinasloe Town AFC flew their flag for the community in the prestigious F.A.I. National Club of the Year Awards which took place recently in the Rochestown Park Hotel in Cork City, with a gala dinner also held in conjunction with the F.A.I. national congress.



Committee members are now focused on preparing their most recent sports capital grant application to further develop and restore the clubs facilities according to Johnny Walsh.

Photograph shows the Ballinasloe delegation receiving their award.

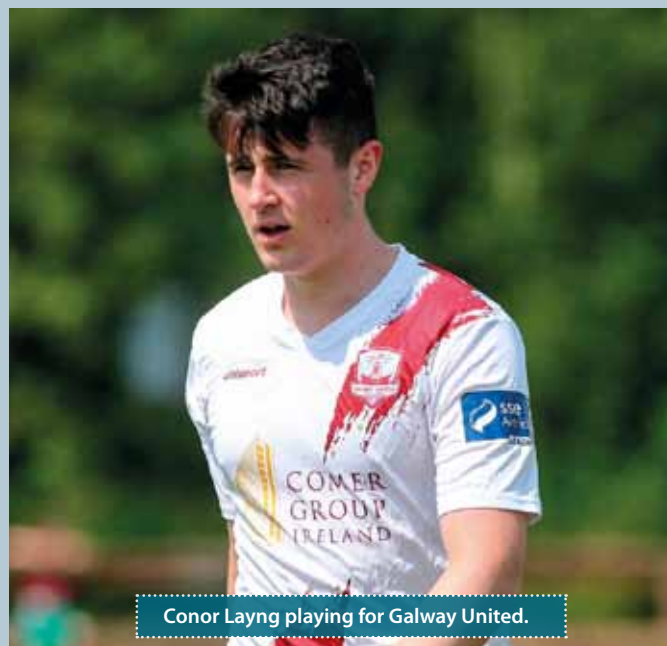
BY IAN O'BOYLE

The club qualified as one of the eight finalists for the award, after several nominations by community members. Although they didn't win the overall national title on this occasion, the club received tremendous praise and recognition for the outstanding facilities at the Curragh Grounds, its extensive youth system, the widespread community integration and involvement, and for all the international players that have come through the clubs ranks.

Representing the club at the finals were the club development coordinator Johnny Walsh, treasurer Ellen Egan, assistant secretary Brendan Fahy and honorary life member as well as former chairperson Pat Campbell.

The Curragh Grounds was recently selected as the venue for the Inaugural Connacht Champions Cup Final by the Connacht F.A. The possibility of an under 19 or under 21 international game is also under consideration to be played at the clubs grounds in the upcoming season.

Club Chairperson Joby Kelly and every other member of the club's committee were delighted to see former player Heather Payne star for the Republic of Ireland senior ladies' team against Northern Ireland in the world cup qualifying game, which was shown live on RTE 1 at the end of July.



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TOUR D'SHAMS RAISES OVER €2K FOR CARDIAC RESPONDERS



John Donnelly Noel Slevin and Aidan Dolan being presented with Dubarry cycling jerseys by Brian Geraghty.



Claire and Kasia.

Ballinasloe Cycling Club recently hosted their 4th annual Charity Cycle Tour D'Shams in aid of Ballinasloe/Creagh Cardiac First Responders.

The participants and supporters had to endure a wet morning, but it didn't dampen the spirits of the whole event. €2043 was raised on the day, and chairman of the club Jon Donnelly says it would not have been possible without the help of the community. "From the volunteers, the marshals to the sandwich makers, these people make these events work, so thank you to all who helped out by cycling with us on the day and to everyone else involved" stated Jon.

Many participants cycled the 100km route who had started the year on the club's couch to 50km programme. "We were very happy to see

their progress throughout the year and will be planning another couch to 50km in the new year (watch this space)" said Jon.

The club undertake cycles every week on Tuesday and Thursday evenings at 6.30pm, and Saturday and Sunday mornings at 8am and 9.0am outside Barry's Cycles, Society Street.

Club members received a new kit at the end of the summer, and Jon would like to thank the club's new main sponsor Dubarry Ireland, along with other sponsors Barry's Cycles, Mightycabs, Kelair Campotel, Dillon's Tyres First Stop and McKeon's Sand and Gravel.

For regular updates on the club's events and cycles, follow them on Facebook.

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VINTAGE CLUB GEAR UP FOR ANNUAL OCTOBER EVENTS

Michael Hyland is a huge inspiration to so many who have been lucky enough to meet him. Here he is pictured getting ready to take one of his Minis for a "Quick" spin around Pallas Karting track in Tynagh at one of Ballinasloe and District Vintage Club's early track days.



This was a brain child of Mike's (The retired principal of Garbally College) which grew legs after he suggested organising an event for members of our club who wanted to "explore the full potential of their vintage machines in a controlled environment" at one of our vintage meetings many moons ago.

This October 21st sees the 16th track day and one which will no doubt be graced with the infectious enthusiasm for all things motoring that Mike portrays, everywhere he goes.

The second picture is of Mike with the first car he ever assembled in 1957 as Agricultural science student. Mike has had an involvement with engines all his life and when he sold his first Morris Minor to the late Fr. Joe Cassidy, a fellow teacher in Garbally, he moved to the Mini. A keen auto cross enthusiast he was a decorated and accomplished



rallying driver in his day. In later years his passion has turned to the vintage and the classic and passing on his vast motoring and technical know how to the next generation.

He and the club are also looking forward to hosting their Annual Vintage and Heritage Day on the last Sunday of Fair week on Main St – which promises again to be a step back in time.

BY COLM CROFFY

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ANNUAL CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY PLANNED

Geraldine Deane is inviting all Schools/Playschools, Shops and Businesses to take part in this year's Christmas Jumper day, in aid of PIETA House. This year the event takes place on the Friday, 14th of December.

PIETA House provides a professional one-to-one therapeutic service for people who are experiencing suicidal ideation, people who have attempted suicide and people who are engaging in self-harm. 90% of PIETA House income comes from fundraising events, which they rely heavily on for the great work they do.

CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTING UP CEREMONY

The Town Team are all set for the Annual Xmas Gathering Christmas Tree Lighting-up Ceremony, which will be held on the last Sunday in November – 25th.

Even though parts of Main St. will be under big dig operations, the plan is to light as much of that street and then light it all after proceedings stop in mid-December.

Businesses and firms are being asked to again make a contribution towards the costs from early in Nov. James Burke will be calling and the net proceeds of the Zombie Walk will be used as the community portion of the funding.

The Big Festive Tree and the other Streets will all be festooned.

Santa and his merry band of Aladdin Pantomime followers and many of the musical groups from different national schools will be on hand to help light the tree from 4.30 pm onwards.

The Town Hall Theatre Christmas Craft Funfair will be held in the Emerald Ballroom, also on the Sunday, from 11 am to 4.00 pm and everyone is hoping for a good turn out!

Thanks to the support of last year's event, The Simon Community in town received nearly €13,000. "With your support Christmas Jumper day 2018 will be equally as successful and we will raise lots and lots of money for PIETA house, along with having great fun on the day" says Geraldine.

For more information, email bsloechristmasjumperday2018@gmail.com or check out Ballinasloe Christmas Jumper Day on Facebook.



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BALLINASLOE REMEMBERS ITS WAR HEROES

The 100th anniversary of the ending of World War 1 will be marked in Ballinasloe with the launch of a book by the local WW1 Heritage Group, containing in the region of 200 names of men and women who served in various ways during that period, many of them paying the ultimate price and have no memorial to honour them.

The group are currently putting the final touches to the research work of the 88 names on the restored Roll of Honour (circa 1926) which is now on display in the history room of the new library for their new book. It will also contain articles of interest and information of that period including photos of local people who signed up, many of whom never returned home from the battle.

Any photographs or information of that period will be greatly appreciated as soon as possible by the organising committee. If you would like to be associated with the publication of this book, which in time will become the definite reference for that period and this area, please contact Douglas at 086 1972 846, Gerry at 087 9325 524, Frank at 086 2680 788. All donations will be acknowledged and receipted.

The book, which contains a lot of memorabilia, will be launched in the Town Library on

Ballinasloe & District Remembers 1914-1918

INFORMATION ON THOSE WHO SERVED IN WW1
FROM BALLINASLOE & SURROUNDING AREAS



Published by Ballinasloe WW1 Heritage Group

Tuesday the 6th November at 6 p.m. to which all are welcome to attend. This week in 1918, the surrender of Germany and the end of the War was officially ended on the 11th hour of the 11th day of the 11th month in 1918.

This generation is the last one who knew and spoke with the veterans of that conflict and is possibly the last time an effort of this type can be attempted.

Everyone is welcome to this historic launch.

BY KEN KELLY

BRIAN LYNCH

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BALLINASLOE IN 1918 BY BARRY LALLY

The Great War was still raging on the European continent at the start of 1918, and here in Ballinasloe we had our own battleground in Main Street where a major riot erupted over the disputed sale of a horse at the January fair.

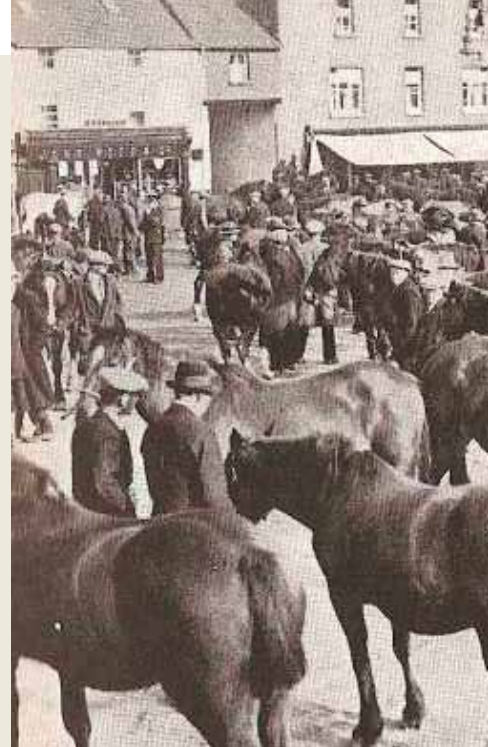
Up to 500 people eventually became involved in scenes reminiscent of 19th-century faction fighting. Much of the "action" seems to have taken place in the laneway between what is now Gullane's Hotel and the Serenity Funeral Home. The police intervened and made liberal use of their batons to separate the warring parties. Before peace was restored, several people suffered quite serious injuries inflicted by bricks, stones and ash plants, including a number of constables, one of whom sustained a broken jaw necessitating referral to a Dublin hospital. Court appearance inevitably followed.

Wartime scarcities continued to bite, with no butter or paraffin oil to be had in town the second week of February. But such privations would soon pale into insignificance in face of the imminent threat of conscription. At a monster anti-conscription meeting in the Town Hall in April, Fr. Timothy Joyce, Administrator, was quoted as speaking in apocalyptic terms: "Never since Henry II landed on our shores was Ireland so united and unanimous against anything as they were to ward off this last attack, this determined attempt to enforce conscription that would destroy the very existence of our ancient race, for conscription means the political extinction of the Irish race and the Irish people, and we therefore must resist it." Though with few exceptions, the local Protestants had signed the anti-conscription pledge, an ill-humoured and menacing editorial comment appeared in "The East Galway Democrat" on 20th April: "If there are those amongst us who are anxious for conscription, let them go and join the army themselves, without being fetched, but let them not dictate to the majority of the people like their leader Sir Edward Carson. There is too much beating of the Orange drum in this community and too much of the 12th July with the old cry 'To Hell with the Pope'. Without mincing matters, and putting them plainly, these people are looking for trouble and if they find it they have only themselves to blame."

Ballinasloe witnessed its first camogie match in mid-May between the Town and Derrymullen. The latter were the winners, though, curiously, the local press neglected to give the final score. A spectator expressed his opinion of Nellie Walsh, a player on the victorious team: "Divil a wan on the field is able to match her, for I was looking at her the other night at practice, and she played left and right as if it was born natural to her." There was a good deal of excitement in town on Sunday 14th July, when a match between Ballinasloe and Portumna

was stopped by the police. It was stated prior to the match that under no circumstances would it be abandoned, but on the other hand the police were determined that such would not be the case unless a permit was obtained. When the parties arrived at the playing ground, the police took away the goal posts, and after some time the ladies who gathered in the field returned to town, and it was stated played the match a half a mile away, when Ballinasloe were victorious.

At a Sinn Féin convention in the Town Hall on 6th October, Fr. (later Bishop) John Dignan presiding, Liam Mellows was selected to contest the forthcoming general election for East Galway by 22 votes to 8 for Galway solicitor George Nicholls. Mellows, leader of the Galway contingent in the 1916 Rising, was still in New York, to which he had fled to avoid arrest and execution after Easter Week. James Cosgrave from Eyrecourt, who had represented the constituency for the Irish Parliamentary Party since the death of





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John Roche, the previous incumbent, in 1914, did not stand for re-election, thus allowing Mellows to take the seat unopposed.

In the same month, the British military occupied the Workhouse and the adjoining infirmary, a move that resulted in the transfer of the inmates to Portumna. The army, however, agreed to allow civilians to continue to use the hospital facilities. Later it was reported that some of the soldiers, when permitted to enter one of the local club rooms, were guilty of audacious and aggravating conduct, and that their behaviour in general since they came to Ballinasloe had been reprehensible. An incident occurred one weekend night on Dunlo Hill when local ex-servicemen confronted the visitors and accused them of stealing their girlfriends. After the ensuing bout of fisticuffs, one of the newcomers was hospitalized with serious facial injuries.

The annual October Fair began on Tuesday 1st, in contrast to the convention established later in the century whereby the business

of buying and selling commenced on the Monday. The Show was accounted a success with an exhibition of horses and stock

that was generally very creditable. At the horse fair, scarcely any animals of the hunter type were shown – very likely most had been commandeered by the army – and the fair was composed almost entirely of animals suitable for agricultural purposes. The supply in this regard was good and excellent prices obtained. Besides the Fair Green, horses were also exhibited for sale on the streets, a practice that continued up to 1959. Due to a burst gasometer at the local gasworks, there was no public lighting, but this probably failed to dampen the spirits of nocturnal revellers in the town's 43 licensed premises. General satisfaction was expressed that the weather had remained fine throughout the week, cool but bright. Not all fairgoers, though, can be said to have gone home happy: a number of "fly boys" (draft dodgers) from England were arrested and detained by the police before their extradition to face military justice across the water.

That Christmas a pint of stout cost 8 pence, while a five-naggin bottle of whiskey would set you back 9 shillings. The unseasonable weather was said to have had a depressing influence on the festive season in Ballinasloe. The post office was kept unusually busy, and the staff had to work a great deal of overtime to cope with the situation. There had been exceptionally heavy mails that year. It was observed that Christmas had been marked by the most gratifying sobriety. There had been no occurrences of any kind to mar the festival in any way. In Flanders the guns had fallen silent, but the New Year would bring no peace to Ireland.

CRICKET RETURNS (Briefly) TO BALLINASLOE

After nearly a century, the game of cricket returned to Ballinasloe's Fairgreen this summer. A number of Pakistani doctors, working in Portiuncula Hospital, could be seen playing the game in the evenings, much to the curiosity of locals. Now the Indian community have formed a cricket club with 16 members and have applied for new grounds to play.

The Ballinasloe Cricket Club was the oldest of its kind in the country,

having been established in the early 1800's before being wound up in 1936. It was the fore-runner of several clubs in the villages and estates around the area which resulted in great rivalry. It was considered a "national game" in the West at that time and by 1818 there were also clubs in Mayo.

There was great rivalry between teams of the Earl of Clancarty and the Clonbrock Estate with victory in the match resulting in "large scale celebrations-all paid for by the Club."

Records show that in 1827 the Ballinasloe Club imposed "crushing defeats on all the metropolitan clubs. And in 1830 Phoenix Foundation, a Dublin team, which was founded by Lord Dunlo, later the Earl of Clancarty, travelled to play Ballinasloe in Garbally, the Earl of Clancarty's main residence, but the result of the match still remains a mystery.

Sadly, despite its great beginnings, the game in Ballinasloe never achieved continuity and interest eventually petered out. It was revived with notable success on a number of occasions (there were six clubs shortly after the Great War), but since 1936 no serious efforts were made to resurrect interest. Throughout the remainder of the West, cricket thrived mainly under the patronage of the British Army and local gentry.

BY KEN KELLY



Photo shows a Ballinasloe Cricket Team of the early 19th century.

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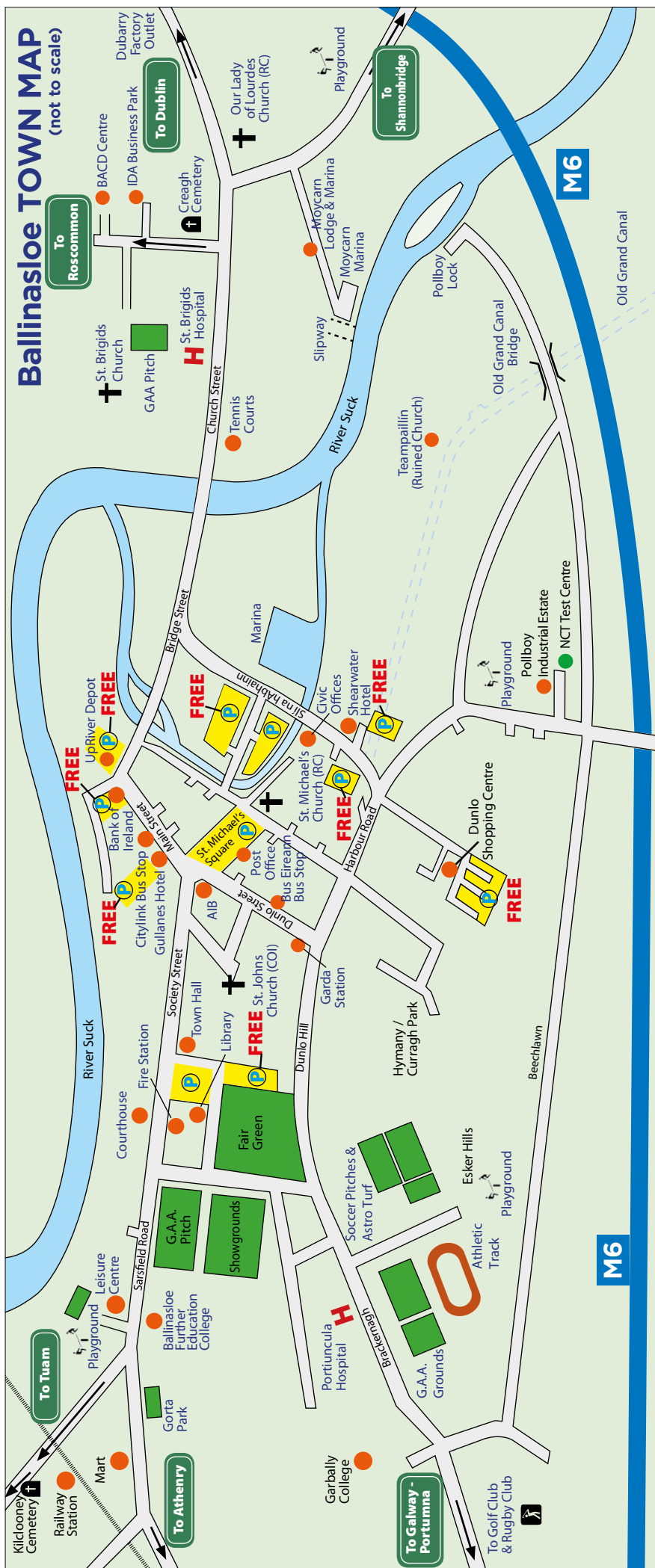
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THE OCTOBER FAIR - IN TIMES GONE BY





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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