

BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 8 Issue 5: Dec '18 - Jan '19

FREE



Photo by Robert Riddell

HIGH COURT BACK RESIDENTS



REMEMBERING OUR FALLEN - BOOK LAUNCH



ALADDIN RETURNS FOR ANNUAL PANTO. 10-16TH DEC





Gullane's Hotel
& CONFERENCE CENTRE



Gullanes Hotel celebrating 75 years in Business

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all our customers for your patronage for the past 75 years and we look forward to sharing your company for many years to come.



❄️ Festive Christmas Lunch menus

*available
from €23.00*



❄️ Christmas Dinner evening menus

from €26.00



*Gift Vouchers
available*



For service with a personal touch, call to Gullane's Hotel.

Main Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

T: 090 96 42220 F: 090 96 44395 E: info@gullaneshotel.com

Visit our website gullaneshotel.com

Gift Vouchers available to purchase online



REAMHRA

So for the second time in less than 20 years, a group of ordinary citizens have to get the intervention of the High Court to adjudicate on Waste Management and Galway County Council's stewardship of our safe environment.

It's not a pleasant reflection to close out the year on. At the start of the year in public meetings – elected representatives and local officials told the community that they could not prevent the planning granted to the project as the "Statutory process was complied with." In other words nothing to see here – move along.

The High Court has quashed the decision of Galway County Council on environmental grounds. What is the point in having local councils and democratically elected citizens to oversee the work of officials engaged with the "Statutory process" if it's only in the High Court that real progress to halt unwanted schemes can be made?

Not for the first time we as a community should be grateful for the courage of the 15 named appellants who could be found for ALL costs of such a judicial process. This issue has not gone away – the officials will no doubt commence the "statutory processes" again and this time there should be no doubt as to the feelings of a community already put upon by the waste issues of a county and the region in the past, or elected members not reading their planning notices!

A huge welcome back to all the great many of locals who take this time of the year to reconnect with kith and kin. All of us in the Development Company, the Town Team would welcome an opportunity to meet with you or share an idea for a new enterprise or project that might bring some more investment to our community.

On behalf of the Magazine and all connected with it – may we wish that you all enjoy the blessings and grace of the "dream born in a lonely herdsman's shed" will bring. Those among us to who the November month is but a painful reminder that many can only join the Festive season in our hearts and memories; we hope will be comforted.

As we ring in the New Year and all its issues and worries may we be resolute in our determination that together we can do much more for each other and the community which we endeavour to enrich.

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



The impact of change is always a concern and we are still no further down the road with Brexit and the problem here is we can do nothing to influence it. On the other hand with the Town Enhancement Scheme and its potential impact on Business over the next 12 months, we can influence this inconvenience by continuing to use the Town as we always have.

Disruption to date has been kept to a minimum with Business adapting to same. Our free leaflet drop for Black Friday week has brought a good response and we hope that this support will continue to be shown in the run in to Christmas.

It continues to amaze me the amount of activity that goes on in this catchment area with a queue of articles for publication every two months in Ballinasloe Life. I would like to thank Colm Croffy, our Editor and his team, for their ongoing work in pulling it all together. At this stage he has had the use of 14 different undergraduate students from University of Limerick and a variety of students from France and Italy and the continuity has been excellent.

The delivery of this free Magazine proves a little more difficult during School holiday times with the TY students from Garbally off. We are looking for more volunteers for 3 hours max for our deliveries next year at the end of May & July in 2019. For those of you who do not know how the delivery works, we divide the town into 10 with 10 drivers and 2 passengers delivering through all letter boxes within the town boundary. At this stage it is a well-oiled machine, all we need is a few more volunteers.

As always at this time of year I wish all our subscribers, volunteers and readers a happy Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

SEAMUS DUFFY,

Chairman Ballinasloe Area Community Development Limited.



Articles and Photos Welcome

NEXT ISSUE
Deadline 10th Jan'

For submission of articles, please email:
ballinasloelife@hotmail.com

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

CREDITS

EDITOR

Colm Croffy

CHIEF REPORTER

Kevin Kavanagh

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Kelly, Barry Lally, Kevin Kavanagh, Hilary O'Brien and various other contributors

GRAPHIC DESIGN

KPW Ballinasloe

PRINT

KPW Print, Ballinasloe

PHOTOS

Robert Riddell
J&S Photos - jsphotos.ie
Evelyn Donellan
Kaissia Skowron
Michael S. Kelly



Follow us on Twitter
@BallinasloeLife

WHAT'S INSIDE

Local News

- 4 Town Centre Second Phase
- 5 Waste Permit Squashed
- 6 Municipal Budget Through

Business

- 7 Supermacs 4 Decades
- 8 Augrim Percussion Products
- 9 Photographers National Award
- 10 Plan for Canal Greenway
- 11 Death of Business Woman
- 12 New Dry Cleaners Open
- 14 Joe Kelly helps Sponsor
- 15 McGorisks Pharmacy Expands
- 16 Luke "Ming" Flanagan

Community

- 18 Major Movie Shoots
- 20 Garbally 1978 Reunion
- 21 Kiltormers Hurlers' Aeroplane
- 22 New Parish Council
- 23 Local Woman's National Award
- 24 Ballinasloe Woman in Kildare
- 25 Garbally Class of 1993
- 26 Sarsfields Celebrate Opening
- 27 Mercy Day Celebrations

28 Gaelscoil Feature on TG4

30 Out and About

32 Events Guide

34 Celebrations and Events

35 Fundraiser for Rehab

36 Tributes to Sr. Michael

39 Brian Casey's Book launch

40 Remembering WW1 Heroes

Culture

42 Town Band's Rookies

43 Annual Mummers' Festival

44 Roscommon Solstice Choir

45 Aladdin Returns

46 This, That and the Other

Sport

50 GAA OSKARS Set to Go

51 Paul Keighrey is Snooker Champ

52 Temporary Home for Tennis Club

53 Young Soccer Players Shine

55 Success at Connacht Swimming

56 First Dublin City Marathon

57 Under Age Cross Country Athletes

Tourism And Heritage

59 St. V de P Christmas Appeal

60 Aughrim-Born William MacNevin

62 Winter Gardening Tips



BEC
Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre
An initiative of Ballinasloe Area Community Development Ltd.

Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre,
Creagh, Ballinasloe. Co. Galway
T: 090 9646516 F: 090 9646517
E: info@ballinasloeenterprise.ie
www.ballinasloeenterprise.ie

Disclaimer: The opinions and views in this publication are those of the contributors. In the compilation of this publication, every care is taken to ensure accuracy. Any errors or omissions should be brought to the attention of the Editor. Ballinasloe Life does not accept any liability to any person for loss or damage arising from anything contained in this publication or for any error or omission in it. All material is copyright.

DUNLO TOWN CENTRE SECOND PHASE AWAITS FINAL PLANNING DECISION

Despite the false dawns of the Celtic Tiger era, it looks as if the Town is closer to getting a return of a modern Cinema with the recent application for planning by Omniplex holdings.

An overall masterplan is being drawn up for a multi-million euro development on the grounds surrounding Tesco, which will include almost 100 homes, a cinema, nursing home, offices, retail units and possibly drive-thru restaurant. Potentially it will be the biggest investment the town has seen in well over a decade, running into tens of millions of euro.

A detailed planning application has been lodged with Galway County Council for Phase 1 of the development at Dunlo, and involves the construction of 95 new homes and a childcare facility, at an estimated cost of around €14 million.

Scoping designs are also being considered for a cinema, nursing home and maybe some retail units and a drive-thru restaurant on the large site at Harbour Road and Dunlo – although these have not been finalised. Jacqueline Kenny and Cian O'Connell from Claregalway, directors of Limehill Esker Ltd., have sought permission for the development on an 8.5-acre site at Dunlo, adjacent to Tesco.

According to the application documents lodged, the site is part of a larger master plan scheme for the Dunlo area, which has Tesco at its retail heart, with Aldi and the Tesco Fuel Station on the entrance road of the extensive roundabout.

Omniplex Holdings ULC plans to build the five screen cinema on the site next to the Aldi. Their application lodged some weeks after the master plan, is for a five screen, single-storey Omniplex approximately 7.9m high with associated car parking. The gross floor space of the project would be 1123m².



The owners of the land, Limehill Esker Limited, have an agreement with Omniplex Holdings allowing them to seek planning permission.

"The overall scheme consists of retail, leisure, office spaces, a creche and residential units along with carparking and open space. The subject site incorporates Phase 1 of the development. Any further developments relating to this scheme will be subsequent to separate planning applications," the application states.

The company owns an extensive tranche of land surrounding Tesco.

Phase 1 involves the construction of: 30 two-bed apartments; 25 two-bed terraced; 26 three-bed terraced; 14 four-bed semi-detached houses, 641 square metre creche and 154 parking spaces.

An agreement in principle has been reached to transfer 10 of the homes to the County Council to meet social housing requirements. A final decision on the plans is expected in the early part of the new year.

BY COLM CROFFY

CHRISTMAS SUPER OFFER

FLETCHERS
expert



Panasonic

Panasonic 55" 4k Ultra HD, Smart TV

was €999

NOW €599

WASTE PERMIT QUASHED BY HIGH COURT ORDER

There was some degree of relief among members of the Ballinasloe Says No Campaign as we went to print with the news that the High Court was quashing the decision of Galway County Council to grant a waste facility permit in Poolboy.

The group formed in the teeth of local opposition, with the support of a huge open public meeting in January of this year, took the costly challenge with their legal counsel Gearoid Geraghty, in late July.

The case was listed for Mr Justice Noonan and members of the group were present in the High Court Dublin to see the judiciary intervene in a waste planning matter between our town and Galway County Council in less than 20 years, before once again coming down on the side of the locals.

Mr. Justice Noonan in his review noted how "the Council had erred in law and acted contrary to the requirements of Council Directive 92/43/EC of 21 May 1992, on the conservation of natural habitats and of wild fauna and flora in circumstances where it failed to assess whether the activities authorised by the permit was likely to have a significant effect on the site."

"In essence the Council has been found to be flawed or mismanaging their approach to maintaining a healthy environment or indeed health of habitats by the Court" stated group Chairman, Vincent Parsons.

"What confidence ought we now to have as a community in the manner in which our officials, who must manage waste, environment and our locality, after this type of decision is given" asked Vincent.

"We believe that this is really a victory of sorts for the environment, our town and the people who again stood up to the powers that be and were not afraid to be cowed. We are very lucky to have such an excellent legal team led by Gearoid, who are amassing technical details and knowledge again for the future" stated Mr. Parsons.

Looking to the future of the campaign he agreed with the assessment of the group meeting that this was only a small battle skirmish but that they had to be vigilant and ready for the war ahead. The group are going to be extremely watchful on what happens next – whether the local authority will attempt to review elements of the licensing process or appeal.

Secretary Valerie Dolan noted how it seemed to be awful waste of ratepayers and public money that these legal costs are being incurred to allow a people to secure a healthy environment when local democracy appears to be a waste of time.

"We are hosting our Christmas Fundraiser and we are making additional fundraising plans as we must have the resources necessary to mount effective legal challenges to each and every step of the process. We need everyone to know we want a positive future for our town – greenways, walkways, wild life habitats, clean industry but chiefly a safe place to be and we must stay focused on delivering just that" stated Valerie.

With over 600 Fair Week raffle entries, Dr Vincent Parsons thanked the community for their support.



Karen Smith was delighted to win a trailerload of firelogs in the Ash or Cash raffle pictured with Paul Dolan, Karen Smith, Raymond Smyth, Eamonn O'Donoghue, Mike Dolan, Dr Vincent Parsons.

"We had the opportunity to talk to hundreds of people about our campaign at our stand during the Fair. We are also organising a Christmas Gala Show with the talented Eleanor Shanley and her band Garydice, renowned soprano Rachel Goode & Mike Hanrahan, a legend from Stockton's Wing, to be

held on Thursday 13th December in Gullane's Hotel. Everyone is welcome and we will give an update on our activity and next steps. We look forward to seeing you there, thank you again for your support and we wish everyone a Happy and Peaceful Christmas" said Vincent.

BY COLM CROFFY

*Christmas Greetings
and Happy and Prosperous New Year to all*



Eimear Loughnane & Co.
SOLICITORS & NOTARIES PUBLIC



St. Michael's Square,
Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
& High Street, Tuam, Co Galway

Principal: Eimear Loughnane B.A., L.L.B.
James O'Donohoe BCL, Notary Public, TEP,
Dip Emp Law



T: 090 9646535 F: 090 9646594
E: info@eimearloughnane.com

Practice areas include:

Conveyancing (property purchases & sales)

Probate, Wills & Estate Planning

Personal Injury Claims & Litigation

Family Law

Employment Law

Debt Collection



*For contentious business a solicitor may not calculate fees or other charges on a percentage or proportion of any award or settlement.

CHAIR'S CASTING VOTE PUSHES MUNICIPAL BUDGET THROUGH

At a recent annual Budgetary Annual Estimate meeting of the Municipal District Council, Cllr Michael Finnerty (who was chairing the meeting in the absence of Cllr Donal Burke and Cllr Michael Connolly), had to use his casting vote to have the draft budget approved.

Councillors Timmy Broderick and Dermot Connolly vehemently opposed the budget while Cllr Donohue and MI Finnerty approved with some significant changes.

Head of Finance Mr. Mullarkey stated the two major changes were the €1.1million in additional Roads Grant and that an additional €10,000 was allocated to street cleaning.

Cllr. Connolly acknowledged that while the increase of €1.1 million in additional Roads Grants was welcome, he noted that the estimated cost of Storm Ophelia damage was in excess of €6 million for the Municipal District alone. He further stated that the €1.1 million awarded for the whole county to be divided between the Municipal Districts would leave in excess of €5 million requiring repair. Cllr. Connolly also expressed his concern at the lack of an adequate Recycling Facility, lack of CCTV for Illegal Dumping offences, the cost of Repair of the Ballinasloe Town Clock and the fact that there had been no increase in the provision for parks, pitches and open spaces.

Cllr. Donohue expressed his concern that though funding for upkeep and maintenance of Local Authority Housing Estates had remained the same, there was a notable decline in the level of services being provided.

Cllr. Finnerty spoke about the impact the 'Big Dig' is having on businesses in the town centre and suggested that Car Parks located on each side of the town should be free of charge for the duration of the dig. He also requested that the Ballinasloe rate be frozen this year as any increase in the rate would not be acceptable.

Cllr. Broderick stated that he would like to be informed as to

what amount of income is taken in at local level. He would prefer details of both Local Income and Local Expenditure and stated that it was difficult to accept a draft budget that presents one side only.

Mr. Mullarkey explained that the Council were in year 4 of a 5-year transition to change from the old Town rate to the County Rate and stated that there would be an increase in the Town rate for 2019 as part of that process.

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

GERRY CROFFEY GARDEN MACHINERY

Killure Castle, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, H53 K403
090 9688840 www.gerrycroffey.ie



Christmas Gift Vouchers available instore

BERG CLASSIC RED

This is Santa's choice

Merry Christmas to all our Customers



Approved Stockists of Calor fittings and accessories

Peter Madden Fuels



OPEN MON - SAT
9.30 - 6PM



T: 090 96 43638 M: 086 8629387 HOBSONS LANE, BALLINASLOE



Wishing all our customers a Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year



Official **Homefire** Stockist

FOUR DECADES-FROM MAIN STREET BEGINNINGS-TO 2,700 EMPLOYEES!

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

40 years ago, Supermac's first opened its door in Main St. Ballinasloe and a year later made its first venture outside of County Galway by opening an outlet on O'Connell St in Ennis, ultimately leading to a total amount of 115 outlets nationwide.

The group currently employs over 2,700 people throughout the country. Supermac's also operates Papa John's Pizza, SuperSubs and Macs Place Diners. The SÓ Hotel Group as well as the Claddagh Group of Pubs in the United States are also owned by Pat and Una McDonagh.

Cappataggle-born Una has been at the heart of the business and the Ballinasloe community since the very beginning and has always been very aware of the importance of the town as the home of Supermac's. "I was looking for a summer job in 1978 after having just completed my Leaving Cert. At the time there was a young teacher in the neighbouring village by the name of Pat McDonagh. I was hitching to town one morning and he pulled in and gave me a lift. Pat had just set up a restaurant in Ballinasloe and as luck would have it he asked me if I wanted a part-time job. Not only did I get my part-time job – I got a job for life" recalls Una.

Pat and Una went on to open their second shop in Gort which is now operated by the long-standing franchisee, Frank Murray. "We made our first venture outside of Co. Galway by opening an outlet on O'Connell St in Ennis, and in Galway City we opened on Cross Street. This year we opened 7 new outlets in different parts of the country, bringing our total amount of outlets to 115 and employ over 2,700 people nationwide", states Una.

The latest store to open was in Donegal on the 1st of November, the first Supermac's to open in that county. They also purchased the Athlone Springs Hotel this year that adds to the SÓ Group of hotels that includes the Lough Rea Hotel and Spa, The Castletroy Park Hotel in Limerick, The Charleville Park Hotel and The Killeslin Hotel in Portlaoise.

The secret to the success of any service-based business, according to Una, is the relationship with the customer. "Knowing what your customer wants is the key to success of any consumer-based business. I love meeting customers and speaking with them," she said.

Business has changed a lot in the past 40 years according to founder Pat. "If you look at what people ate in the 1970s versus today, Fresh Food is what customers are looking for now. They are increasingly health conscious and you have to move and change with the times. That's why we introduced the Wholemeal Grilled Chicken Breast Sandwich and the SuperSubs range. The convenience of online



The original Supermac's.



Pat and Una McDonagh with the Galway football captain, Damien Comer, and the Galway hurling captain, David Burke, at the announcement of the Supermac's sponsorship of Galway GAA for a further 5 years. Supermac's has been sponsoring Galway GAA for 28 years.

ordering for the customer and the business cannot be overestimated. It is good for the customer because it is convenient and speeds up the process. It's good for business for the exact same reasons and allows us to concentrate more on in-store customer service."

Many of the younger staff at Supermac's have used the company to pay for their college education. A lot of doctors, nurses, dentists and teachers spent many years working with

Supermac's throughout the country to help put themselves through college. "These young people want sustainable jobs that utilize their talents and gives them the freedom to continue with their studies," Pat said. "One of the big changes I have noticed over the years is in relation to staff. I get great energy from working with young people – those born since 2000 – have different needs and life structures. The young people now are not like we were. One time the rota was done based on the business needs. Nowadays we find we have to roster the staff based on their needs and demands. They have absolutely no memory of the 20th century. We need to get ready for them and speak to them in a different way."

Another big change Una has noticed is how sophisticated when it comes to the quality of the product we offer here in Ireland. "For years myself and Pat used to travel to the US to see what the trends were like there. Usually you could see what was coming down the line from an ideas point of view. We would come back from there with 4 or 5 ideas that we would put into practice. But a change that we have seen is that the food here in Ireland and the ideas we have ourselves in this country is every bit as good, if not better, than it is in the States. The move to fresh products was a big change. We now serve fresh, never frozen Irish beef and chicken in our restaurants."

we have become the product we offer here in Ireland. "For years myself and Pat used to travel to the US to see what the trends were like there. Usually you could see what was coming down the line from an ideas point of view. We would come back from there with 4 or 5 ideas that we would put into practice. But a change that we have seen is that the food here in Ireland and the ideas we have ourselves in this country is every bit as good, if not better, than it is in the States. The move to fresh products was a big change. We now serve fresh, never frozen Irish beef and chicken in our restaurants."

Finally, Pat believes that here is a real need to proactively develop towns like Ballinasloe as centres that can be real alternatives to the bigger cities. "The shops we have and specifically their locations have changed dramatically over the years. In the 70s and 80s, remember that those years were gripped with recession, we started our business in towns and villages in the West of Ireland. Ballinasloe was thriving with 3 factories and a hospital. Things have changed a lot since then and I'm not too sure that some of the policies that are changing the ways of our county towns and villages are for the best. I'm not so sure that the increased emphasis on centralising economic and infrastructural development in key cities at the expense of the county towns is where we need to be going as a country. Dublin is overdeveloped and Galway city has real issues with traffic. Ballinasloe has a real role to play in solving some of these problems and I believe that a fresh new approach is needed."

PERCUSSION PRODUCTS FOR EXPORT BY AUGHRIM MAN

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

Aughrim craftsman Lorcan Mitchell, in the space of three years, has developed his idea for the Mitchell Drum, working out of his dad's garage to building his own workshop near Aughrim to produce more products in the range.

Lorcan came up with the idea for the Mitchell Drum in 2015 after a volunteer trip to the Philippines where he built houses and started a music school. He stated "I wanted to create a drum that was light, portable, easy to play and fun for everybody, something that you could bring with you everywhere."

Now Lorcan has a range of products, a new factory and a growing list of high-profile fans. "I started building the electric Mitchell Drum as an option for professional drummers to use, and thankfully they love it. Now I have the drummer's for Nathan Carter, Justin Timberlake, Jamiroquai, Nile Rogers and Chic using the Mitchell Drum. I'm currently in talks with The Script endorsing the Drum, so fingers crossed" he said.

After trying to teach his niece to play the drum, who in turn started dancing on it, Lorcan turned his hand to making dance floors. He commented "I was attending trade shows and music festivals where I was meeting musicians and world champion dancers. Dancers were telling me they were injuring themselves as they had no proper dance floor to practice or perform on. I started working with local Champion Irish dancers and created the Mitchell Dance Floor." The dance floor is a 36' x 30' portable sprung floor with a built-in pick up that helps reduce injury and improve performance.

As the product list grew his dad's garage became too small which spurred Lorcan to build his own workshop near Aughrim. "The more ideas I had the more space I needed so I decided to build my own workshop. It's a nice space."

He is currently working on promoting the business aims to start



employing people locally. Lorcan is seeking to employ somebody to assist in the building of the drums, dance floors and wooden shakers.

So as the horror of a full drum kit in a garage over the Festive Season or a wanna be RiverDancer hoofing it all over the wooden floor in the dining room why not consider some Lorcan's entry level products for some of your festive "pressies." Most of his stock is available on line at www.mitchelldrums.com or you can follow Lorcan and Mitchell Drum on Facebook or Instagram @Mitchell Drum to learn more.



Ballinderry
Nursing Home

Kilconnell, Ballinasloe. T: 090 9686890
www.ballinderrynursinghome.com

"Dedicated to what we do"

- 24 hr Nursing Care • Access to 24 hr GP Service
- Physiotherapy • Imagination Gym
- Phlebotomy Service (Blood taking service)
- Dietician • SLT • Eye Testing • Chiropody
- Special Dietary Requirements Catered For
- Hairdressing • Dental Services • Wifi in All Rooms



NATIONAL AWARD FOR LOCAL PHOTOGRAPHER BY KEN KELLY



Ballinasloe enthusiast photographer Robert Riddell, as part of the Midlands Photography Club Team has won the Irish Photographic Federation National Shield.

Robert and 9 other members that included John Sludds, Rob Ledwith, Michael Furey, Trish Cahill, Noelle Grouden, Gerry Campion, Mick Lynch, Paul McHale and Peter Dunican submitted a panel of 10 images in the colour section, finishing in 1st place ahead of 26 other clubs. Images are

judged independently by 3 different judges and scores combined. The IPF National Shield is an annual inter club competition open to all clubs who are affiliated to the IPF. Photographers competing at Intermediate level are eligible to be represented in this competition. His works over the years have been featured on RTE and Virgin Media

TV channels, as well as many international publications.

Robert, who is a graphic designer with KPW Print, is a regular contributor to Ballinasloe LIFE where his cover page photographs are greatly admired, as well as his photographic images in the Ballinasloe Credit Union calendars.

Robert has recently applied for his Licentiate'ship (LIPF) distinction with the Irish Photographic Federation.



Robert's image from the winning panel

NEW INITIATIVE FOR LOCAL YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS

BACD Ltd have recently announced the launch of "The Pulse Club", a new and exciting initiative specially aimed at young entrepreneurs and young businesses in the Ballinasloe Area, which will be based in the Pulse Offices above the Library on Society Street.

A number of local entrepreneurs in the vicinity have formed the group including Eoghan Kenny of Areneco Ltd/ The Compliance Team, Lorcan Mitchell of Mitchell Drum, Andrea McLoughlin of the Front Room and Joe Glennon of Shuul Colours.

The club's objective is to provide a networking platform along with mentoring and support networks to its members through monthly meetings and presentations by seasoned executives. There will also be subsidised in depth courses on key topics. It will be open to membership from January.

The Club will be officially launched on the 8th January in the Pulse Offices with guest speakers to be announced. Further information will be issued through social media and the BACD



Joe Glennon



Eoghan Kenny

Ltd mailing list. If you are interested or want further information contact Lyn in Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre on 09096 46516 or info@ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie

BALLINASLOE

TOGETHER WE'RE BETTER

We are always looking for volunteers or people with ideas. If you're interested in getting involved contact us at Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre

BEC

Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre

Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre,
Creagh, Ballinasloe. Co. Galway
T: 090 9646516 F: 090 9646517
E: info@ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie
www.ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie

POTENTIAL FOR TOWN TO BE FULCRUM FOR JOINT CANAL GREENWAY

A new campaign group believes Ballinasloe can become the fulcrum for the longest greenway in Ireland and are promoting the continuation of the Dublin to Galway Greenway from Athlone to include Ballinasloe and Shannon Harbour, linking two of Ireland's longest greenways.

The Royal Canal Greenway currently goes from Dublin through Maynooth and Mullingar, where a continuation to either Ballymahon or Athlone can be taken. The Grand Canal Greenway is a separate route which begins in Dublin and caters for Sallins, Edenderry, Tullamore and Shannon Harbour.

The Athlone-Ballinasloe-Shannon Harbour Greenway Campaign is promoting the continuation of the Royal Canal Greenway from Athlone towards Ballinasloe and then a circle back to Shannon Harbour, which would connect the two routes.

The route being promoted by the group would create a 300km circular journey (the longest in Ireland) from Dublin, without having the need to revisit locations on the way back to Dublin. Midlands towns also have strong rail connections which would provide a way for cyclists to return home or continue towards another location. The connection could add to the Ireland's Hidden Heartlands tourism brand run by Fáilte Ireland, which promotes the midlands as a tourism destination:

A group of supporters cycled part of this proposed route from Ballinasloe to Shannon Harbour via Banagher in October last, about 30km, using mainly off-road bog tracks and quiet local roads and believe it provided a 'proof of concept' for their proposal.

If approved, a recent funding application by Offaly County Council to undertake a feasibility study for a greenway from Shannon Harbour to Banagher would further advance part of this route and avoid the need for an expensive new bridge crossing the river at Shannon Harbour while also extending the Greenaway benefits to the scenic town of Banagher.

John Kelly, a member of the campaign, looked to the Great Western Greenway in Mayo as a prime example of what could be achieved in a short period of time. "As witnessed in Mayo and



BY K. KAVANAGH

elsewhere, Greenways bring enormous Economic, Environmental, Health, Social and Recreational benefits to all areas where they are developed. Ballinasloe badly needs safer and sustainable transport infrastructure for residents and visitors alike."

Further expansion of this proposed cycleway into Galway City and to Connemara would also enhance the route's potential, but this may take many years to complete and in

the meantime we could benefit from the extension of the two nearby existing greenways to Ballinasloe. This would require about 60km of new greenway, much of this could be placed on state owned lands, avoiding private landowner concerns.

While this is just a suggestion, Senator Maura Hopkins raised the matter of the continuation from Athlone to Ballinasloe with Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Shane Ross TD on Wednesday recently, stating:

"There remains a significant untapped tourism potential right across this region and the development of this section of greenway has the potential to bring an influx of tourists into the area. I strongly believe that this greenway from Ballinasloe to Athlone and onto Dublin can provide a major boost for South Roscommon and East Galway".

In 2015 Ballinasloe lost the opportunity to have the greenway pass through the town due to objections in Western Galway. However, Transport Infrastructure Ireland took over the development of the greenway beyond Athlone from the National Roads Authority, Shane Ross announced in April, bringing back the possibility of the greenway continuing to Ballinasloe.

The next phase is set to progress the route from Ballymahon Road in Athlone to the River Shannon. An Bord Pleanála also granted planning permission for the greenway to include a bridge to traverse the river in Athlone.

SENATOR MAURA HOPKINS



CONTACT MAURA:

☎ 086 856 4206

@maura.hopkins@oir.ie

📧 @maurahopkinsfg

🐦 @hopkins_maura

*Happy Christmas and
Best Wishes for 2019*

FINE GAEL ★

Wishing All Our Customers A Happy & Peaceful Christmas & A Prosperous 2019



**wizard
computers**

- PC, Laptop & Printer Sales, Repair & Service •
- School IT Support • Business IT Support •
- Data Recovery • Nursing Home Support •
- **GDPR & Data Protection Advisor** •
- Network Setup & Maintenance • VAT Registered •

(087) 2333373

(090) 9645996

www.wizardcomputers.ie

kevin@wizardcomputers.ie

• Fully Insured •

📘 [wizardcomp](https://www.facebook.com/wizardcomp)

🐦 [@wizardcomp](https://twitter.com/wizardcomp)

• Est. 2004 •

PASSING OF POPULAR BUSINESS WOMAN

Margaret (Tess) Loughnane (nee Crehan) of Mackney, Ballinasloe who passed away was in her 99th year. A native of Cloonlyon, Ballygar, Tess, as she was affectionately known, had lived in Ballinasloe for over seventy years where she was part of the business, commercial and social life of the area.

Tess met her late husband Paddy, when they both worked in

Garvey's Hardware in Ballyhard, Glenamaddy. They married in 1948 and Paddy was later appointed manager when Garvey's decided to open a new branch in Main St., Ballinasloe. They both worked in Garvey's new outlet before Tess decided on branching out on her own, opening a new grocery and fuel store in Mackney in 1955.

She was a successful business woman, a great listener and a very popular person in her new surroundings. She worked hard and said "Business is like a wheelbarrow-it won't go anywhere unless you push it." Tess was later joined by her late husband Paddy, who was a native of Cappataggle, before they decided to retire in 1986 and hand the business over to their son, Gerard, who continued there until 1999.

Tess Loughnane enjoyed her retirement, even though she lost her beloved husband 29 years ago and her son, Oliver, in 2009. She drove her motor car up to a year ago, was known as one of the top card players in the area, enjoying "25", Poker, Solo, Bridge etc. in the company of neighbours and friends, once the deck of cards was produced. She was a member of the Ballinasloe Bridge Club and a great supporter of card games in the locality and was even willing to "play cards seven nights a week" as she once said.

The late Mrs. Loughnane is survived by her daughters Ann (Howard) and Mary (Farrell) as well as sons Pdraig, Gerard, Michael and Desmond, grandchildren, great-grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

BY KEN KELLY



ANNE KELLY HR CONSULTANCY SERVICES

Taughmaconnell, Ballinasloe.

Anne Kelly BA, DBS, MBS
P: 086 2539912 E: annemkelly30@gmail.com

HR & EMPLOYMENT LAW
CONSULTING & ADVICE

TONY CARROLL FAMILY BUTCHER

Marina Point, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. T: 090 9644949

Supplier of beef, pork, lamb, bacon, poultry and fish. DEEP FREEZE SPECIALISTS



ORDERS NOW BEING TAKEN
FOR CHRISTMAS



Check in store for Weekly Offers



Like us on:
facebook

www.facebook.com/
tonycarrollfamilybutchers

FREE
DELIVERY
within 3 mile
radius

NEW DRY CLEANERS, LAUNDRETTE AND KEY CUTTING STORE IN DUNLO ST

Bringing their family chain to number five, the Gills of Westport have acquired the old Harney premises in Dunlo St. and have just recently opened the store after an extensive revamp.

Frank and his wife Martina came into the Dry Cleaning business in 1980 when they opened their first premises in Westport. Since then they expanded their chain to include Ballina, Dunshaughlin, Castlebar and have grown from the traditional Mom Pop operation to employing 14 fulltime staff.

With nearly four decades of business in the sector amassed they are keen to bring their range of services across laundry, dry cleaning, alterations, ironing and indeed specialist key cutting to the area. "We have seen some customer trends in the few years with the moves towards regular laundry and ironing drops from all types of households and customers – reflecting their busy lives" states Frank.

Martina and Frank, who are familiar with the town, were keen to build on the previous formidable business and have hired Bosco Riddell and Nuala Ward (whose maiden name coincidentally is Gill) to staff the premises. Bosco, who is looking forward to meeting old and new customers is quick to remind us that he has over 10 years of skilled key cutting behind him.

As to why they located to Ballinasloe Frank explains "we have been familiar with the town up and down through the years and felt that a unit here would complement our Western operations. When the



Frank Gill outside his new Dry Cleaners



Staff members Bosco and Nuala

Dunlo St. premises closed we saw a good opening for our integrated service" states Frank.

They understand the different type of customers and understand their needs – from sports squads with jerseys, the bride getting a wedding

outfit done, or indeed the Airbnb or B & B customer getting some of their weekly laundry and pressing out of the way.

Business hours are 9 am to 6 pm Mon. to Saturday inclusive of lunchtime – if people need to pop out from work with laundry. Theirs is a fast and efficient service and they will be offering fast turnarounds and express on certain items in the new year. "We are looking forward to getting to know old customers and hopefully meeting some new ones also in the months ahead", states Frank.

For more info on services and special offer check out their web site at www.Gillsdrycleaners.ie or phone (090) 9642461.

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

Jorena Health & Gift Shop

SOCIETY STREET, BALLINASLOE 090-9646585

HEALTH SHOP

- Natural Health Food Products
- Wheat Sugar Yeast Gluten Free
- Supplements/Vitamins
- Herbal Remedies for Every Ailment
- Free Advice Service

GIFT SHOP

- Jewellery & Bags
- Pottery, Porcelain & Crystal
- Candles
- Children's Wear
- Baskets to Order



Let your food be your medicine
and medicine be your food



Selected items of furniture 25% off.

Large selection of pictures and great new range of lighting. Some at a reduced price.

CHRISTMAS STOCK

LARGE SELECTION OF CHRISTMAS STOCK

Largest Stockist of Candles: Max Benjamin, Yankee, Celtic, Tipperary Crystal, Duffy and Scott, Woodbridge and Torc.

JEWELLERY RANGE

- Absolute
- Knight and Day
- Kilkenny Sterling Silver
- Tipperary Crystal
- Kelly
- 50% off corona jewellery

Large Selection of Pottery,
Gifts & Artwork
on Display

plus many more...



• Beautiful Range of
Bags, Hats, Shawls,
Scarves & Headgear

EMAIL: JORENA@OUTLOOK.IE WWW.JORENAS.COM

AUGHRIM PRIEST THANKS “LIFE” FOR SUPPORT IN AFRICA

SMA priest, Fr. Anthony Kelly from Tristane, Aughrim and now ministering in Nairobi, Kenya, has thanked Ballinasloe LIFE for supporting his appeal for donations to “Kit out” newly ordained priests in Africa.

Following an article in the last issue of LIFE, Fr. Anthony sent an email stating “There has been a very generous response from people around Ballygar, Newbridge, Ballinasloe, Clontuskert, Kiltormer, Killimor and Aughrim following your story. Every year we have between 6 and 10 ordinations from our S.M.A. formation house here in Nairobi and as they leave us we try to fit them out with Mass Kits to help them get started in their new parishes. At present we have 40 students studying for missionary priesthood with S.M.A. from 14 different countries, They come from India, Poland, Slovakia, Nigeria, Ghana, Ivory Coast, Togo, Benin, Central Africa, Congo, Zambia, Tanzania and Kenya.

In addition to our seminary here in Nairobi we have seminaries also in Nigeria and Ivory Coast with similar numbers training to be missionaries for S.M.A. and the people of Africa. They will be

BY KEN KELLY



Photo shows Fr. Anthony with some of the young men studying for the priesthood.

replacing the many Irish S.M.A. Missionaries who are retiring or have already retired from the above countries. It is a great source of joy for our retired missionaries in our houses in Cork and Claregalway to see young students preparing for priesthood from the parishes where they laboured in their earlier years as S.M.A. missionaries in West Africa.

Wishing you and all your readers God's Blessings at this time.

Fr. Anthony Kelly S.M.A." Email: anthony5205@gmail.com

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY FOR PIETA HOUSE

Shops, Businesses and schools are being asked to take part in this year's Christmas Jumper Day on 15th December in aid of PIETA HOUSE. Wear your Christmas Jumper on the 14th of December and make a donation to Pieta house.

Thanks for your support last year. The Simon Community Ballinasloe received nearly €13,000 from fundraiser 2017.

FOR MORE INFO EMAIL

bsloechristmasjumperday2018@gmail.com or check out ballinasloe christmas jumper day on facebook



Garbally Students



Salmons Staff

Want to start or grow your own

▶▶
**We're
ready
if you
are.**


Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
Gaillimh · Galway

business?

Local Enterprise Office Galway

Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway

091-509090

www.localenterprise.ie/Galway



Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil Gaillimh

Local Enterprise Office Galway

JOE KELLY HELPS SPONSOR SOCCER TEAM IN WEST AFRICA

A Taughmaconnell student, volunteering in Ghana, West Africa, has helped to kit out a soccer team with jerseys from Joe Kelly's Bar in Ballinasloe. Publican Joe has been a life-long supporter and sponsor of the Skyvalley Rovers soccer club, who now sees his branded jerseys being worn in West Africa.



Katie Phelan, daughter of Joe and Rose, from Camla, Taughmaconnell, is a third year student in the University of Limerick and is a playing member of Skyvalley Rovers. As part of her studies she decided to volunteer at the Padre Pio Rehabilitation Centre in Ghana's Cape Coast and brought with her a set of jerseys that had been donated to her club by Joe Kelly's Bar. These she gladly gave to a group of enthusiastic soccer players, who are now displaying them with pride in their inter-village matches.

A spokesman for the Taughmaconnell club paid tribute to Joe Kelly for his support and sponsorship since its foundation in 1971. "He has been a true supporter over the years and was a special guest at our 40th anniversary celebrations in 2011. Now his son, Joby, has come on board to continue the sponsorship. The whole family have been most generous and we all here wish Joe a speedy recovery from his recent illness" he stated.



Group of soccer players, wearing the Joe Kelly jerseys in Ghana, West Africa.

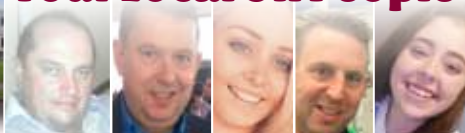
Meanwhile, Katie, who is a former pupil of Ardscoil Mhuire, said the Cape Coast boys are the envy of everyone as they tog out in Joe Kelly's Bar jerseys, telling their opponents they got them from friends in Ireland.

BY KEN KELLY

Garbally oil co.



Your Local Oil People



Tel: 090 9644147

Poolboy Industrial Estate, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.

**Heating Oil
Diesel and Petrol
Pumps open 7 days**

www.garballyoil.com

McKeon's Sand & Gravel Ltd.

Culliaghbeg, Ballinasloe.

Telephone: Office/Sandpit 090 9642521

Email: mckeons1@eircom.net



Now Stocking:

*Decorative Stone
Paving Sand
Screened Topsoil
Bark Mulch*

McGORISKS PHARMACY EXPAND TO SOCIETY STREET PREMISES

The recent acquisition of Brodericks Pharmacy, in Society St, Ballinasloe is an exciting development that will bring some of new services and brands to the town. Speaking on behalf of McGorisks Pharmacy, Philip McGorisk said "We look forward to continuing the excellent service Kevin and Anne have been providing over the years and wish them well in their retirement".



ongoing road works, they are offering a free delivery service. You can phone your order in advance or ask your GP to fax/email your script and they will deliver.

mcgorisks.ie. Their new online store is open. Here the customers can access a huge variety of amazing brands with lots of exclusive online offers and discounts with free delivery on orders over €40. Alternatively you can click and collect in any of their midland stores including Broderick's Pharmacy. They are offering Ballinasloe LIFE readers an exclusive discount for all online purchases for the month of December; just **use the code mcgorisk15** and you will receive

Michael McDermott, who is married to a local girl, is the new pharmacist taking the helm, and they have the same great team of girls, Katie McNally, Aisling Delaney, Melissa Fahy and Aisling Colohan who have all been working in the store for many years. Joining the team is Aileen O'Connell (nee White) a Ballinasloe native.

Some new services that have been introduced include:

Flu vaccination - This is a walk in service, so no appointment is necessary. The Flu vaccination is a safe effective way of preventing the flu and is available up to April 2019. It is recommended for the over 60's, people with long term illness and pregnant women. Don't get the flu, drop into the store and get vaccinated. Mention this article and get €5 off the vaccine (€15), normal RRP €20.

Delivery service - With access to the town proving difficult due to

15% discount off your order.

Medication review - Do you feel like you are taking too many tablets? Their pharmacist can review your medication and make recommendations to the GP that may reduce the number you take. They can also do a price review and sometimes recommend a cheaper alternative

Loyalty card - sign up for our loyalty card today and get 4 points for every €1 you spend. You will also get access to extra discounts and in store events.



BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

corrib oil



Gift Vouchers available to purchase in-store



'For the Perfect Christmas Gift'

Corrib oil, Brackernagh, Ballinasloe
090 96 46022



LUKE "MING" FLANAGAN IN EUROPE'S PARLIAMENT

On the run up to the European Parliament Elections next year, we have decided to profile each MEP in the Midlands-North-West Constituency, based on their workings in the local area in the past, and what they hope to do for the future.

For this edition we spoke with Luke "Ming" Flanagan. Luke is from Castlerea, Co. Roscommon and has held his seat in the EU Parliament since first elected in 2014 on a strong anti EU Platform. He was first elected to Roscommon Co. Council in 2004, becoming Mayor in 2010 prior to him running for the Dail in 2011.

Here is what Luke had to say about his current work for Ballinasloe and surrounding areas, and what he hopes to do in the future;

"My focus at the moment is the review of the Common Agricultural Policy. Townies like myself may ask the question, what has this got to do with us? Well it does. We are currently deciding where €10 billion will be spent in rural Ireland from 2021 to 2027. Currently this money is going to large farmers and directed into the hands of advisers. I am trying to change this so that the money ends up in the hands of small farmers and by extension back into the rural economy. If the money is spent where it should be it will mean a boost to the shops and businesses of Ballinasloe".

At a constituent level he regularly gets correspondence from people in the town and surrounding areas. They cover nearly every aspect of life at this stage, whether that be in relation to the health service, housing etc. "I also receive a great many questions on agriculture and in particular the single farm payment" notes Luke.

When queried about the Ballinasloe Economy growing or deteriorating he doesn't believe it's growing. "Maybe someone will contradict me with data on employment etc but I think such metric tell many lies. Towns such as Ballinasloe and my own town of Castlerea will only grow when we have control of our own destiny through proper democratic control of councils and local authorities. The current system facilitates waste and cripples ambition" according

to the man who has seen first hand 8 seasons of local authority as a councillor.

He is blunt on how we can secure some Foreign Direct Investment based employment: "By electing a government that believes it is possible. By electing a government that appreciates the benefits of living in rural Ireland and then goes out and sells it to the multinational sector- is how a Ballinasloe will get these type of jobs", states Luke.

With the Brexit Drama unfolding how will it affect areas such as Ballinasloe? "It depends on the final deal. A no deal will impact negatively on all parts of the Island including Ballinasloe. However there are undeniably new opportunities to attract companies to Ireland as we will be the only English speaking country left in the European Union. With Dublin packed to the rafters it would make sense to develop areas like Ballinasloe which are crying out for development", believes the MEP.

The Ireland 2040



BOOKS

SALMONS

DEPARTMENT STORE

GIFTS



ALL YOUR GIFT IDEAS UNDER ONE ROOF



www.salmonstore.ie Free customer parking at rear of store

MAIN STREET, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY

Tel: 090 9642120 Email: info@salmonstore.ie Web: www.salmonstore.ie





project looks set to bring massive employment and infrastructure to all of Ireland's cities, while leaving small urban towns like Ballinasloe in the shadows.

Is there an EU Charter or new policy for sustainable urban growth in rural areas? "No there is no charter. I think the Ireland 2040 project will not materialise. It was nothing more than spin to boost the governments standings in the poll and more importantly embellish Fine Gael's reputation with print media by the placing of lucrative advertisements. There is already enough money floating around in local authorities to achieve significant economic growth in smaller urban areas. However so long as we have an unaccountable CEO led system then the potential to maximise what we already spend is minimal", offers Luke.

He believes that pumping EU money into Agri Tourism is wasteful – "CAP could better

use the money for rural development. Viable small family run farms have the potential to develop into Agri-tourism enterprises as they do in Italy. However they need to exist in the first place so the upcoming CAP reform is last chance saloon for many. It is our network of small farms that make our countryside as it is. A further move towards industrialised farming would denude our beautiful countryside of many of its unique features. People come to Ireland for something unique. We need to maintain and enhance that. The €1.6 billion per year from CAP can do this if tailored correctly". With a view to limitation of waste and landfills, He is proud of his support for a report which progressively removes once off plastic items such as cups, plates and cotton wool earbuds from use over the coming years". A good day for the environment and our children's future", states the father of three young children.

In common with the other sitting MEPS he does not hold constituency clinics, but will again visit in the future be in the area on the requests of constituents.

He happily recommends that local second level students from should apply to take part in the in the Euroscola annual contest as it is essential, in his view - that we all know what is going on in the European Union and how it impacts on our everyday lives.

FOURTH ANNUAL ZOMBIE WALK A SELL-OUT

Over 2,500 people from all ages journeyed through the haunted woods and nature trail of Garbally Park for the town's fourth annual Zombie Walk.

The event ran for two nights and saw groups of 15-25 spend 20 minutes walking through the haunted, undead-infested woodlands of the historic Clancarty Mansion. Tickets were sold online and some of the time slots were sold out weeks in advance.

The crew of zombies, witches and other terrifying misfits was composed primarily

by members of the Musical Society, Panto and the Town Hall Theatre. Their expert work on make-up, costumes and props ensured an immersive Hallowe'en experience for all in attendance. As well as that, many others were involved in production and stewarding the two nights. In total, there were over 100 volunteers each night.

Many in attendance showed up in their outfits, disguising themselves as witches, devils and vampires, which added greatly to the spooky atmosphere at the grounds.

The Zombie Walk is organised by the Town Team group of Ballinasloe Area Community

Development with proceeds used for other Town Team projects.

Outturn Report Summary	
Income	
Ticket Sales	€10,500.00
Expenditure	
Marketing /Signage/Flyers	€695.00
Snacks/Water/Food	€1,410.00
Event Insurance & Indemnities	€755.00
Production, Props, Lanterns, Make Up etc	€2,810.00
Generators, Fuel, Electrics Bulb	€600.00
Barriers, Staging Equipment, & Lighting	€1,275.00
Civil Defence First Aid Cover	€300.00
Garbally/Scioill Mhuire Schools/Societies	€600.00
Total Expenditure	€8,445.00
Surplus towards Town Team project (Christmas lights, ballinasloe.ie/POTY A)	€2,055.00

FREE DELIVERY on orders over €40


Brodericks Pharmacy, now part of the McGorisks group

SHOP ONLINE NOW

www.mcgorisks.ie

Use code **MCGORISK15** for **15% OFF**
valid until December 31st

 **Brodericks Pharmacy**
Society St Ballinasloe

 **(090) 96 42161**

McGorisks
Pharmacy

TOWN BECOMES LOCATION SHOOT FOR MAJOR MOVIE

Between everyone filming for the GAA Oskars and a professional shoot in Ballinasloe town for FINKY – one could be forgiven for thinking it was Hollywood we were living in for a few weeks in November.

The town has had its streetscapes and cut stone buildings used before for the silver screen but typically this has been for episodes or scenes of – never has our town been taken over by cast and crew for nearly a month!

Over 80 core cast and crew alongside some 300 extras have been busy rehearsing, blocking, rolling and recording for over seven weeks for a 90 minute movie called FINKY.

Developed and funded through the new Cine4 initiative; a TG4, Screen Ireland, and BAI partnership, the film is directed by Datháí Keane (An Klondike), written by Datháí Keane and Diarmuid de Faoite, and produced by Eileen Seoighe and Pierce Boyce for Abú Media Film Productions with funding from TG4, Screen Ireland, Broadcasting Authority of Ireland (BAI) and Section 481.

FINKY is a feature-length Irish-language film. It is a psychological drama that tells the story of Micí Phinci Ó Foghlú (aka Micí Finky) a young musician with a tragic past who is crippled in a car accident and given a chance at redemption when he is recruited by a violent

avantgarde punk circus.

Locals, musicians and performers “a rogues’ gallery of Ireland’s finest outcasts” were auditioned and put through their paces for an array of scenes spanning heavy metal clubs, mad houses, graveyards, coffee shops and some carnivalesque freak shows.

Filming around a variety of locations-outdoor and indoor-as from Nov 12th to Dec 7th, with most of the streetscapes being used and then the crew travelled to Glasgow for 3 days filming.

As to why the Production company chose Ballinasloe, Producer Eileen Ni Seoghie reports “We are a west of Ireland Film Company, our base is in Inverin, Connemara and we like to be within a short drive to base camp. Also the town met 90 % of operational and locational needs – given its character and the range of buildings and situations we needed”.

The Film company was very fortunate to be able to acquire the





SHEARWATER
HOTEL & SPA
★★★★



Shearwater
Weddings
Creating Lasting Memories

Catering
from 50 – 500



**BALLROOM
FULLY REFURBED**
by end of March 2019!!

Call us for more Information
090 9630400
www.shearwaterhotel/weddings/

"Pulse" incubation business space in the new Library as their location office and headquarters for the duration of the shoot. "What makes it really great about shooting here is that everyone has been so helpful to us – Galway County Council, HSE West, the business owners, people who lent us props, Garbally Mansion, Town Hall Theatre – it has been brilliant and sometimes you don't get that level of co-operation from a town" states Eileen.

She singles out Development Company Manger Lyn Donnelly and some of the Town Team members who were very helpful in sorting out accommodation, logistics and practical help. "Lynn was exceptionally helpful in quickly signposting us to all the right people and organisations that we had to make contact with to deliver the shoot" mentions Eileen.

In direct economic terms is believed that the Production Company will have contributed some €500,000 to the local community between accommodation, food, transport and facilities rental over the 7 weeks.

The Film will be released in Cinemas in autumn next year, touring various Film Festivals and will then screen on TG4, possibly winter 2019 or spring 2020.



BY COLM CROFFY

PACKIE CALLAGHAN'S BENEMERENTI MEDAL HONOUR

Eighty-year-old, Packie Callaghan, was recently presented with the Benemerenti Medal for his significant contribution to the Catholic Church.

He is locally renowned for many accomplishments such as setting up the first youth club in Clontuskert and Faith and Fun Club with neighbour Sinead Colleran. Packie has been serving Mass since he was ten years old and recently became a Sacristan, opening and closing the Church daily in his native Clontuskert.

Packie has ran the Dublin City Marathon on several occasions and takes pride in beating the times of some of the younger people in the parish. He goes on holiday every year to Lourdes, Fatima or Medjugorje or indeed Knock,



travelling alone to unwind.

Sinead states "He cycles to Ballinasloe every Friday and Aughrim every Saturday to catch the bus to Galway. He is a powerful man for one man."

The award, otherwise known as the Papal Medal, was modernly designed by Pope Paul VI but dates back to the 1830s and owes its origins to the service in Papal Armies. The medal is a gold Greek Cross depicting Christ with his hand raised in blessing. The medal is suspended from a yellow and white ribbon, the colours of the Papacy.

It simply means in Latin "Well Deserving" !

INNOV8

191 SALES EVENT

DRIVING BETTER VALUE

FORD FOCUS

from just

€23,495*

Welcome to the Ford Innov8 191 Sales Event, driving better value for you. Take a look at the All-New Ford Focus ST-Line including:

- Ford SYNC with touchscreen
- ST-Line Design Kit
- Cruise Control
- 7 year warranty
- 7 year roadside assistance
- 2 years free servicing

VISIT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

Fred
Kilmartin LTD
Ballinasloe

ATHLONE ROAD, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY.

P: 090 963 0800

E: sales@fredkilmartinltd.ie

www.fredkilmartinltd.ie

Michael: 087 1335921

John: 087 4165623

Micheal: 086 3489164

GARBALLY 1978 REUNION

Frank Darcy, Gerry Reynolds, Michael Finnerty, Brian Derrane, Pat Barrett, Mick Curley and Tim Codyre arranged a reunion for the Garbally College class of '78. The group met at Garbally and got a tour of the

house with Fr. Colm Allman, had mass in the oratory, recreation of the class photograph followed by a reunion dinner in Gullane's Hotel, attended by both pupils and staff.



Class of '78 reunion-22nd September 2018-at Garbally College

Back Row 1: Bruno Joyce, Ray Kenny, Aidan Ridge, Dominic Divilly, Norbert Colbert, Micheal Curley, Gerry Reynolds.

Back row 2: Michael Joyce, John Jordan, Gerry Salmon, Fr. Sean Grenham, Vincent Flannery, Brian Kenny, Murt Moylan, Seamus Ward.

Middle Row: John Kennedy, Frank Darcy, Pat Connell, Pat Barrett, Kevin Mitchell, Sean McKeigue, John Larkin.

2nd row: John Kelly, Tim Codyre, Michael Finnerty, John Flanagan, Mick Brodar, Martin Loughnane.

Front Row: Fr. Colm Allman, Sean Ridge, Paddy Hession, Brian Derrane and Pat McNicholas.



Members of the 1978 winning senior cup team

Back row: Gerry Reynolds, Tim Codyre, Aidan Ridge (captain), Vincent Flannery, Murt Moylan, Pat Connell, Kevin Mitchell.

Front row: Sean Ridge, Bruno Joyce and Michael Joyce

Below: Michael Finnerty & Ray Kenny with the Garbally Senior Schools Rugby Cup



Fr Allman being presented with a token of appreciation from the class of 78 by Gerry Reynolds



Class members studying old photo class of 78

Michael Finnerty & Ulick Burke (former Teacher)

Seamus Ward, Gerry Salmon, Iomar Barrett & Ulick Burke (Former Teachers), Norbert Colbert



Bishop John Kirby



Ballinasloe store extended opening hours

**Monday to Saturdays
9am - 6pm
(open lunchtime)**


**Haven
Pharmacy**

Haven Pharmacy Hollys, 7A Marina Point, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway | Phone: 090-9645676

KILTORMER HURLERS HAVE PLANE NAMED AFTER THEM

A former Kiltormer senior hurler, who is now a senior partner in a new Low-fare Airline Company in Columbia, South America, has named the first A320 plane in the fleet after the All-Ireland Club champions of 1992 of which his father was the coach.

It was a momentous day for 34-year-old John Goode from Kiltormer when, along with his Dad, John Snr., he took charge of the company's first aircraft in the fleet and named it "Kiltormer 92" after it emerged from the manufacturer's hangar in Toulouse, France. Standing shoulder to shoulder on the tarmac in front of the giant plane, the father and son were the proudest people in the world.

John Jnr., who is the second oldest in a family of five, played minor football for Galway in 2001 and also lined out with the Kiltormer senior hurlers. Following his education John went on to work for Irelandia Aviation, who set up a low-cost airline company in Columbia, called Viva Air. He is now a senior partner and chief operating officer of the budget airline and had the honour of naming the company's first plane. "I decided upon 'Kiltormer 92' to honour a great group of men that brought tremendous pride to our parish, just over twenty five years ago" he explained.

"I was just 8 years old that famous year and my dad was coach of the team. I went to every game, often on the bus with the players. Looking back on it now, it was an incredible experience for me and had a profound influence on me as a small boy, and ultimately as the man, that I would become. Watching this team win an All-Ireland at a young age gave me the impression that being the very best was not only possible, but should always be the goal in life, regardless of whether it relates to sport, work, personal relationships or anything else.

"It instilled in me a ferocious appetite for success and a deep sense of ambition that are very much dominant characteristics of my personality today. What I learned from my Dad, and the men on this team, was that anything is possible if you want to be and if you are willing to work hard enough" said the former Kiltormer



senior hurler, who was also played minor football with Galway in 2001.

John Jnr. continued "I am hugely proud of where I come from and I am very proud of this team for what they achieved, and I am grateful to them for the very positive influence they had on my life. I have always wanted to acknowledge them somehow to show what an impact they had on me, but always struggled to think of a way to do it justice. Naming an aircraft after them is a really cool way to do that and I just want to say to all involved in the team back then 'Thanks for the inspiration, the motivation and most importantly the memories which really made for a happy childhood.'



BY KEN KELLY

NEW PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL OPERATING



The Ballinasloe Parish Pastoral Council was established in early 2018 at the request of both Bishop John Kirby and Fr John Garvey. At its centre, a Parish Pastoral Council is a consultative body of the faithful, representative of the whole parish community, willing to work in close partnership with the priests of the parish to further the mission of Christ and His Church. There are 14 members on the Council ranging in all ages and backgrounds.

Over the past several years, the church in Ireland has gone through a difficult time. There is now a greater need for the laity to become more involved in the pastoral care of the faithful. At present, the church currently have Readers, Eucharistic Ministers, Choirs, Cantors, Sacristans, Cleaners...etc. all of whom are playing an important role within the church in Ballinasloe. Pope Francis is now calling on all the faithful to become active participants in the Gospel.

The Parish Council wish to help develop a church within Ballinasloe, which will address this call from Pope Francis. They want to reach out to all the people of the town, not just those who attend mass, but also to those who no longer attend. "We have no set agenda or preconceived ideas of how the parish should develop within

a church, which is ever changing. Over the coming months the council will begin a process of consultation in order to gain some insight into what people think and how they believe we can help enhance our church" said Chairperson Seamus McGuinness.

Parishioners are invited to leave suggestions in the boxes, which will remain in both Creagh and St Michael's churches until the end of January 2019. "This is an opportunity for all of us to become more involved in our church and to have a greater say in it. We can no longer remain as a faithful who simply receive the sacraments, but as a people who are called on to become disciples and evangelists in our own right. The future can sometimes feel daunting but with God's grace, and the active participation of us all this can also be a time of enrichment and renewal for our church" continued Seamus.

The members of the new Parish Council are Fr Bernie Costello, Fr Colm Allman, Fr Kieran Danfulani, Seamus McGuinness Chairperson, Mary Courtney Secretary, Darran Finnerty PRO, Padraig Carney, Michael McCullagh, Maura Fahy McLoughlin, Kieran Dowd, Josephine Mulryan, Maureen Casey, Aileen O'Hanlon, Janice O'Grady.

"The Council would also like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a holy and peaceful Christmas" stated Seamus McGuinness.

BALLINASLOE COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY

CHURCH HILL, BALLINASLOE



FRANK KENNEDY
M.SC. PSYCHOTHERAPY

**Anxiety, Hopelessness, Isolation,
Anger, Grief, Trauma, Relationship issues,
and other Life difficulties.**

P: 087 362 3809 (office hours)
E: frank@bcap.ie | W: bcap.ie

Downey's Bar & Restaurant

*We would like to wish all our customers
a happy Christmas and a bright New Year*

Announcing Ballinasloe's **NEW POP UP STEAK HOUSE**

every friday night @ Downeys
Bar open from 6pm with last orders @ 9.30pm

**Chargrilled Steaks, Chicken,
Fish, Vegetarian and Vegan Dish**
Options all available



**To book a table ring 090 9646018
or text 087 2311385 with details**

LOCAL WOMAN SCOOPS NATIONAL AWARD FOR MEDICAL RESEARCH



Triona Waters, daughter of Christopher and Una Waters of Creagh, recently won the Royal College of Physician's Kirkpatrick Medical History research award of 2018.

A PhD researcher in Psychiatric History and Departmental Assistant with the Department of History at Mary Immaculate College, Triona's Doctorate research centres on the history of St. Joseph's Psychiatric Hospital, Limerick, formerly known as the Limerick District Lunatic Asylum. Her supervisors on the project were Dr Maura Cronin (MIC), Dr Úna Ní Bhroiméil (MIC) and Dr Sarah-Anne Buckley (NUIG). Triona was selected among shortlisted researchers from Oxford University, University of Strasbourg, France, and Trinity College.

Her paper was presented at the Royal College of Physicians in Dublin as part of its annual St. Luke's Symposium in front of a large audience and panel of judges which included Ireland's renowned Clinician and Medical Historian, Professor Brendan Kelly.

Titled "Remedying the 'growing evil': the curable and incurable patients of the Limerick Distinct Lunatic Asylum, 1827-1887." Her research not only focused on the nineteenth century records of St. Joseph's Psychiatric Hospital, but also looked at the Mental Health Commissioner reports of 2017 concerning an inspection conducted on Unit 5B of the University Hospital Limerick in August.

By using both the 1800's records and the 2017 reports, she deduced that there is still such a need for mental health care facilities today, just as much as there was in early 1827, when the asylum first opened. Despite the acknowledged best efforts of staffing, poor conditions and overcrowding remain to be most problematic when trying to meet the needs of necessitous Irish families concerning mental health care provisions.

Both Triona's parents were Psychiatric Nurses at St. Brigid's Psychiatric Hospital, Ballinasloe which spurred her to dedicate her Masters' research to her brother Paul (a Senior Psychologist in Oxford, UK). The Kirkpatrick medical research award was an open competition to medical historians and researching practitioners and four finalists were chosen to present at this event.

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH



Supermac's
FRESH RANGE

the Festive 5oz
100% FRESH IRISH BEEF

100% Prime Irish Beef, Caramelised Onion & Mushroom,
Swiss Cheese & Light Peppercorn Mayonnaise
served in a freshly baked Kaiser Bun.

ALWAYS FRESH | NEVER FROZEN

DELIVERING TO BALLINASLOE from MAIN ST. 090 9643151

Dublin Road: 090 9642178
Shannonbridge: 090 9674929

Sarsfield Road: 090 9643814
Mac's Diner: 090 9643444

orderOnline
supermacs.ie

HOT MUFFIN
• & ICE CREAM •

Choose from
Double Chocolate Chip Muffin or Blueberry Muffin
embellished with cold creamy 100% Irish Dairy Ice Cream



ONLY €2 WITH THIS COUPON

*T & Cs: Please present this coupon before you place your order. One coupon is valid per order. Not to be used in conjunction with any other promotional coupon or offer. Not exchangeable for cash. Valid at participating restaurants only. Coupon valid until 11.00pm daily. Issued in Ballinasloe Life Magazine.

BALLINASLOE WOMAN IS A LEGEND FOR WORTHY CAUSES IN KILDARE

BY KEN KELLY

A Ballinasloe woman who has been living in Leixlip, Co. Kildare, for the past 43 years, has raised thousands of euro for charity and worthy causes. For Theresa Byrne (nee Fogarty), formerly of St. Michael's Place in Ballinasloe, it has been a labour of love, as she continues to help all ages in her fund-raising events.

Theresa started working in Dubarry Shoes at the age of fourteen, married her husband Robert, a native of Athlone, in 1969 and they couple spent two years in London before living for three years in the Bondi Beach area of Sydney in Australia.

After returning to her native town for a short period, Theresa moved to Leixlip, Co. Kildare in 1976 with her three children when her husband worked in Kelly's Bakery, Kilcock. Almost immediately she got involved in the local community, helping out groups such as the Community Games, Residents' Association, Church Committee, NS Parents' Association, Kildare Youth Services, A Youth Centre, Route 66, Tidy Town's Committee, Lions Club, St. V de P, Leixlip Credit Union, No Name Club and many more as well as initiating the St. Patrick's Day Parade in the Kildare town.

Theresa took the lead by fund-raising for many of the above as well as other deserving causes in a campaign that has lasted more than forty years. She participated in 4 full length marathons (26 miles) as well as 28 Ladies' Mini-marathons, raising thousands of euros. This helped her set up the Leixlip-Confey ARCH Club (4 to 18 years) as well as an Active Social Community Group and a Community Centre for those of all ages. "I love young people and they need facilities and our support" said Theresa.

Her highly popular and charitable disposition as well as her herculean fund-raising feats led her into the political arena. In 1994 she ran as a Fine Gael candidate for the Leixlip Town Commissioners, was elected and remained on the Council for four successive terms-twenty years. In 1995 she was appointed as a delegate to the Municipal Authorities, remaining on that body until 2006; was elected Mayor of Leixlip in 2009 and 2013 and was a special guest in her home town of Ballinasloe in the latter year for the 100th celebrations of the Ballinasloe Town Council. During her Mayoral term she visited France, Norway, Scotland and the USA as President of the Leixlip Town Twinning Committee, to towns with whom Leixlip had twinned. She was honoured with the Leixlip People of the Year award in 2013 and said she will continue to help worthy causes in the area "for as long as I am able." Retiring from politics in 2014, Theresa said she now looks back with pride on her achievements and hoped she was a good ambassador for her adopted town.

But Theresa has also fund-raised for other deserving causes outside Leixlip. They include the Irish Cancer Society, The Marie Keating Foundation, a new Scanner for Our Lady's Children's Hospital in Crumlin in 1993, St. Francis Hospice in Blanchardstown in 2018 and many more.

"I have a vision to set up a centre for Cancer survivors, especially for people in the Leixlip and surrounding areas, where they can meet,



have a cup of tea and a chat. At present those people have to travel into Dublin for treatment and we need a centre where they can meet and communicate their problems to fellow survivors. We run coffee mornings regularly for the Irish Cancer Society but we need to do more to support these people. I would love to see a cure for cancer" stated Theresa. She also expressed a wish that for the festive season "I would love to see more homeless families housed for Christmas and pray there will be less tragic deaths over the period."

Recounting her forty-odd years involved in the Leixlip Community, Theresa said "I was a home carer for 19 years with the HSE and that's where I got the inspiration to help others. It started with a Community Social Club and just snowballed from there and I got immense pleasure from it. For me it's all about volunteering, helping, respect and welcoming. I was so proud to represent Leixlip, at

home and abroad, and I want to thank so many people for their help and generosity over the years."

A local resident praised the fund-raising efforts of the mother of three. "I don't know where she gets the time or the energy. She is out nearly every day campaigning for some cause and she definitely has to be admired. There are very few that are as committed to helping the less well off than Theresa. Maybe Ireland could do with another few committed volunteers like Theresa" he remarked.

Theresa Fogarty is still a Galway Girl at heart and loves to keep abreast of the happenings in her home town of Ballinasloe. "I love going back and meeting and chatting with old friends. Sadly the numbers are getting smaller but it's nice to reminisce over a cup of tea or coffee" she explained. However her charitable exploits in Co. Kildare have won her the admiration of many deserving bodies where she is now a household name and still continuing to create an awareness for the community of all ages.



Theresa Byrne, Mayor of Leixlip in 2013, was a guest at the opening of the October Fair in Ballinasloe pictured with former Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Queen of the Fair.

GARBALLY CLASS OF 1993 REUNION-25 YEARS ON

Former Garbally students from as far away as San Francisco, Chicago, Athens and London were among the attendees at a 25th anniversary reunion for the class of 1993, which was held recently in Ballinasloe town. Almost 70 alumni attended the successful event, which was open to anyone who started in Garbally in 1987 or did their Leaving Cert in 1993.

The day began with a tour of Garbally House, kindly provided by College President (and resident) Fr Colm Allman. The journey back in time offered former boarders the opportunity to revisit their old dorms – and to recall some of the antics that went on in them – as well as dayboys, to admire rooms that were strictly out of bounds during their schooldays.

Before the party hit for town to celebrate the reunion proper, Bushmills ambassador Seamus Lowry, treated his old classmates to some of his best whiskey, professionally served by Conor Ryan, in front of the house. After a much-needed pitstop in Ryan's Bar, guests reminisced over a meal in Gibbon's Pillar House, which was an ideal location for such a gathering. As the evening progressed, more and more classmates arrived. Former teachers also attended, including Fr Allman, Brian Derrane, Frank Fahy, Johnny Farrell, Gerry Fitzgerald, John Molloy and current Garbally principal Stephen Reilly.

Four of those present came especially from overseas, where they've



Back row: Barry Minnock, Damian Mac Con Uladh, Ray Divilley, Colum McCann, Seamus Lowry, Alan Kelly, Declan Flanagan, Lloyd Boulger, Mike Day.
Middle row: Martin Nunan, Baruch Scully, Barry Naughton, Bryan Monaghan, Paddy Murphy, Sean Finn, Liam Gately.
Front row: Kevin Moylan, Keith Neary, Shane Farrell, Liam Kelly, Damien Ó Neachtain, Conor Ryan, Tim Crowe. Special Guest: Rian Kelly.

now laid down their roots. Kevin Moylan clocked up the most air miles, flying in from San Francisco to be at the event. Another transatlantic guest was Declan Flanagan, who came all the way from Chicago. From Greece came Damian Mac Con Uladh and from London Tim Crowe. Apologies were also received from classmates as far away as Sydney, New York, Florida, Singapore and Taughmaconnell, who regretted they couldn't make the event.

The class also remembered four of their classmates who are no longer with us: Oisín Allman (d. 2017), Barry Brennan (d. 1993), David Macklin (d. 1999) and Aidan Murray (d. 1989).

The success of the event

is a credit to the organisers – Mike Day, Damian Mac Con Uladh, Martin Nunan, Damien Ó Neachtain and Conor Ryan – who began poring over class lists and photos in order to look up all 181 former classmates during the summer. Thanks to Facebook, LinkedIn, WhatsApp and Cathal Croffy's extensive address book, 143 classmates could be traced, of whom 66 turned up, making the reunion one of the most successful Garbally reunions, if not the biggest.

This was the second reunion of the Class of 1993. After the success of the 20th and 25th gatherings, everyone is looking forward to doing it all over again in 2023.

By Damian Mac Con Uladh



The reunion was organised by Martin Nunan, Damian Mac Con Uladh, Conor Ryan, Damien Ó Neachtain and Mike Day.



TONY DOLPHIN STONEWORKS

Tristane, Aughrim, Ballinasloe.

- Granite and Quartz Kitchen Worktops
- Bathrooms • Bar Counters
- Reception Counters
- Hearth Stone for Under Stoves
- Headstones in all Colours and Sizes
- Additional Names Added

087 260 8055

E: tonydolphins@gmail.com



SARSFIELDS CELEBRATE OPENING OF NEW PITCH



A historic time for the Sarsfields GAA Club when their new Grounds in New Inn was officially opened by their long-standing President, David McGann. Although founded in 1966 and winning successive Club All-Irelands (1993, 1994) as well as seven County Cups, the Sarsfields Club did not acquire their own grounds formally until this September

Club President David McGann officiated at the official opening of the GAA Grounds along with a blessing from Very Rev. Pat Kenny. This followed Killimordaly versus Turloughmore in Round 4 of the Galway Senior Club Hurling Championship 2 underaged games.

Michael Cooney, Chairman of the Sarsfields pitch development, said "For over fifty years the officers and members of the Sarsfields club

had a dream that one day they would own their own ground. That dream was realised this year when their splendid sand-based pitch set in sylvan surroundings was officially opened."

Hundreds of hours of free labour were provided by volunteers from the local community along with much of the €450,000 investment required. Michael commented "A committee of past officers and members

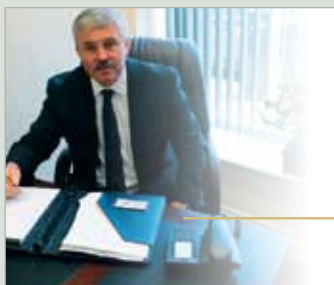
undertook the task of realising the dream of owning their own playing field and dressing rooms. Special mention must be made of the three men who gave of their time and talent to the furtherance of the project to its completion. The club will be eternally grateful to Michael Cooney, Michael Kenny and Joe McGrath."



Adjacent to the pitch is a limestone wall designed by Brendan Dervan and Daniel McLoughlin. On this wall are carved the names of over 400 people each of whom contributed €250 towards the cost of the entire project. There are names of people as far apart as Gloucester and Glasgow, Chicago and Colorado. The club will be forever grateful to these generous people.

Michael stated "This project did not happen overnight. The assistance of past officers, Sean Fahy and Pauline Cooney as well as our present officers Michael Hynes (chairman) Ruth Mulkerrins (secretary) and Mary Fox (treasurer) should be recorded and noted," he added "Special mention must be given to Coillte who provided the area which was transformed from a forested area to a playing pitch and surrounds."

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH



Sinclair

FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Tel: 090 9644328 / 087 9963510

E: info@sinclairfuneraldirectors.ie www.sinclairfuneraldirectors.ie

Full funeral services available from Serenity Funeral Home, Main Street Ballinasloe.

MERCY DAY CELEBRATIONS IN ARDSKOIL MUIRE



Ardscail Mhuire recently gathered to celebrate Mercy Day, the anniversary of Catherine McCauley, the foundress of the Sisters of Mercy who opened her first House of Mercy in Baggot Street, Dublin.

Ms Jackson and Ms Loughnane directed the school choir and traditional music group alongside members of the congregation of the Sisters of Mercy to open the celebration.

Principal Patricia Kilgallen commended students who have achieved the highest results in both the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate in the last academic year. Laura Hession received the award for achieving the highest results in her Leaving Certificate class and was also presented with a Laptop by Helen McCarthy, on behalf of the Parents Council in recognition of her outstanding results. Abby Downey was presented with her award for achieving the highest results in her Junior Certificate this year.

After the celebrations, students and staff enjoyed a novelty sports day, where classes bonded together in wheelbarrow races, bale climbing, tag rugby and many more events. A wonderful day was had by all.

EXCELLENCE IN MATHS AND SCIENCE

Transition year students, Aoife Castle, Aoife O'Connor and Abby Downey have been



Student Council Representatives for the 2018-2019 year



Abby Downey with Principal Patricia Kilgallen.

identified by the State Examinations Commission as high achievers in Maths and Science in the Junior Certificate exams in 2018. The three were invited to participate in the National Olympiad competition in November, in DCU, with the chance to represent their country in the European finals in Portugal in May. Principal Kilgallen commented "We wish the girls all the best in the competition. We are very proud of you. Thanks to their Maths and Science teachers for their hard work."

BUSINESS AWARDS

Business students recently attended an Awards Ceremony in NUIG in recognition of having achieved an A grade in higher level Business in the Junior Certificate exam 2018.

HUTCHINSON DAVIDSON & SON Solicitors

Principal: David C. Colbert, B.A. L.L.B.

Elaine Bannerton, B.A. LLB.

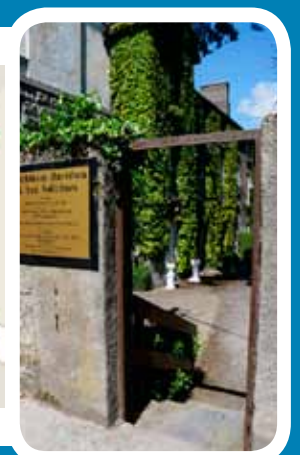
Louisa C. McKeon, B.A. M.A.

Bridge Street, Ballinasloe,
Co. Galway, Ireland.

Tel.: + 353 (0) 90 96 42143

Fax: + 353 (0) 90 96 44077

Email: info@hutchinsondavidson.ie



www.hutchinsondavidsonsolicitors.ie

GAELSCOIL FEATURE IN TWO EPISODES OF NEW TG4 ÁR SCÉAL



Gaelscoil Uí Cheithearnaigh in Ballinasloe are to feature in two episodes of *Ár Scéal*, a new Irish language live action series produced by local Galway production company, Meangadh Fíbin, for TG4.

This ambitious series follows presenter, Úna Ní Fhlatharta, in her funky art-filled van, as she visits 52 primary schools nationwide to collect delightful stories, lovingly illustrated by the children themselves. All stories are newly written by the award-winning children's author Patricia Forde.

Each episode sees Úna and the children draw inspiration from their unique story to create imaginative and innovative artwork that

will allow the story to come alive. Both Úna and the children enjoy creating and making before they eventually listen to the story being told in full by one of the schoolchildren. These beautiful art projects can easily be attempted by the young audience at home or in the classroom.

Meangadh Fíbin are also delighted to introduce Niamh Ní Fhlatharta, a fresh new animator from the Aran Islands, who has taken the children's artwork and created a wonderful animation to complement their story.

Ár Scéal encourages both reading and creativity in its young audience and reflects TG4's commitment to producing indigenous content for its Young People's schedule. The series airs in Spring.



GARBALLY COLLEGE LEAVING CERT STUDENT OF THE YEAR

At the annual Graduation Ball held this year in Gullanes Hotel Ballinasloe, Leaving Cert student, Abuzar Jawad was presented with the 'Student of the Year' award by Mr. William Staunton of Staunton Accountants, Athlone.

Abuzar received over 600 points in his Leaving Cert and is now studying Medicine at NUIG

Pictured are L to R: Ms Jacinta Deady-Henry (Deputy Principal), Mr. Stephen Reilly (Principal), Abuzar Jawad, Masib Jawad, Mr. William Staunton, Staunton Accountants (Sponsors of the Student of the Year), Dr. Muhammad Jawad.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD



Former Garbally student Aaron McGreal received an Entrance Scholarship Award from UCD. Aaron was awarded this scholarship in recognition of his fantastic Leaving Cert results.

He is pictured here with his parents Kieran & Claire McGreal from Shralea, Creagh and Professor Mark Rogers Vice President Academic Affairs, UCD

SCOIL MUIRE DEBATING SUCCESS

Sixth year student at Ardscoil Mhuire, Bríd Kenny, was one of four Irish students representing Ireland in the European Youth Parliament event in Portugal in late November. She was joined by 50 other young people from across Europe to gather and discuss current European political issues.

Congratulations to Alana Mulry TY, who came first in the Soroptimist

Public Speaking competition in Gullane's Hotel recently and will represent the region in the next round in Ennis in January. Well done to students Rachel Whyte and Eve McCarthy who also took part. Thanks to Ms Lohan for preparing our students for this competition.

Alana Mulry, Aisling Hoey, Eve McCarthy and Rachel Whyte have won the first 3 rounds of the Concern debating competition by unanimous decision each time. All the team thanked Ms Conwell for her untiring work with the team.



Alana Mulry, Aisling Hoey, Eve McCarthy and Rachel Whyte Concern Debating Team

OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE

Christmas Lighting Up Ceremony



Credit Union Members car draw winner Angie Carrick
L-R: Maria Boyle, Katie Colohan, Angie Carrig,
Acting Manager Shane McNeill and Chair Adrian Ahern.



Pictured at the Pride of Place Awards in Cork recently were the Ballinasloe Fit Town team who received runners up in the Community Wellbeing Initiative.

Viewpoint successfully completes Cycling Programme



Pictured Recently at Viewpoint with Stephen Roche of Accessibility Ballinasloe 7 week cycle programme.



Kevin Heffernan presenting Stephen Roche of Accessibility Ballinasloe with a Thank you gift for his time and dedication in running Viewpoint Cycle programme.



Karen Breen receiving her Medal after completing Viewpoints amazing.

OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE



Pictured at a P.T.A.A. Social 50 years ago were, seated: Paddy Egan and his sister Annie, Church Hill. Standing: Rev. Jimmy Egan, Sr. Bosco and John Fletcher.



At the Girls football presentation evening in Gullane's Hotel, Ladies Chairman Padraig Fahy made a presentation to Kathryn Gibbons who has stepped down as Ladies Secretary after 10 years in the role. Kathryn's great work over that time has been a major factor in the Ladies section of the club being in such a strong and healthy position today.



17-year-old Ben Halpin from Glentaune, Creagh told President Higgins he would vote for him, if he had a vote, when he met the President and his wife Sabina at the October Fair. Ben will not be eligible to vote until later this month (Dec.) when he has his 18th birthday.



Some members of the Aughrim Cemeteries Committee at the presentation of a Certificate of Merit in the Cleaner Communities Awards, organised by Galway Co. Council. From left: Anna Dolan, Helen Mannion, Sean O Tuairisg, Cathairleach Co. Council; Teresa Loughrey and Pat Dolan.

DECEMBER EVENTS GUIDE

Saturday 1st		
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm
Eoin Maher	An Tain	10:00pm
Goodfellas	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
DJ Finnerty	Downey's Bar	10:00pm
Hickory Wind	The Pillar House	10:00pm
Ken Live	Bar Shearwater Hotel	10-12pm
Finegans Fury	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Des Egan	Joe Kelly's	10:00pm
Chillbillies	Killeens Shannonbridge	10:00pm
The Suspects	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Sunday 2nd		
Roscommon Solstice Choir	Town Hall	8:00pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6:00pm
Live Music	An Tain	7:00pm
Rob & Brian	Brewery Lane	8:00pm
Shane Moore	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Mike Denver	Shearwater Hotel	10.30pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10:00pm

Monday 3rd		
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm

Tuesday 4th		
Lego Club	Ballinasloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8:00pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9:00pm

Wednesday 5th		
Knitting & Crochet Group	Ballinasloe Library	11-1pm
Unislilm	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm-7.00pm
Trad & Folk-Bobby & Frank	An Tain	9.30pm
Blood Transfusion Clinic	Gullanes Hotel	5pm-8.30pm

Thursday 6th		
Cake & Christmas Sale	B'sloe Social Services	All Day
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Ger Long	Downeys Bar	10:00pm
Blood Transfusion Clinic	Gullanes Hotel	5pm-8.30pm

Friday 7th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Music For Kids	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Christmas Karaoke	Lukers	8:00pm
Small Deal Live	Shearwater Hotel	10-12pm
The Hoppy Bar Stars	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Na Riadoiri	An Tain	10:00pm
Pop Up Steak House	Downey's Bar	6-9.30pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
Small Idea's	Auld Sod	10:00pm
AT Cross Staff Reunion	Gullanes Hotel	10:00pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Saturday 8th		
Amazing Apples & Rofi James	Lukers	8:00pm
Bingo	Kilconnell Hall	8.30pm
Turning on of Xmas lights	Aughrim Village	8.30pm
John Molloy Live	Shearwater Hotel	10-12pm
Split	Killeen's Shannonbridge	10:00pm
Pacifica	The Pillar House	10:00pm
Red Tape	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
DJ Crazy Chris	Downeys Bar	10:00pm
Shane Moore	Valerie's Of Aughrim	10:00pm
Crossroads	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Laker	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Brendan Loughanne	Joe Kelly's	10:00pm

Sunday 9th		
Christmas Concert	St. Catherine's, Ahasragh	7.30pm
Robert Mizzel	Shearwater Hotel	10.30pm
Maiden Heaven	Brewery Lane	8:00pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6:00pm
Live Music	An Tain	7:00pm
John Shannon	Joe Kelly's	9.30pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10:00pm
Ken Solo	Auld Sod	9.30pm

Monday 10th		
Aladdin Ballinasloe Panto	Town Hall	7.30pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm

Tuesday 11th		
Ballinasloe Social Services	Xmas Mass in Day Centre	2:00pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
Aladdin Ballinasloe Panto	Town Hall	7.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8:00pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm-12pm

Wednesday 12th		
Cuidiu Breast feeding Gp	B'sloe Library	9.45-11.45am
Knitting & Crochet Class	B'sloe Library	11am-1pm
Unislilm	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm-7.00pm
Aladdin Ballinasloe Panto	Town Hall	7.30pm
Live Trad and Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Play Cards	Downey's Bar	10:00pm

Thursday 13th		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11:00am
Aladdin Ballinasloe Panto	Town Hall	7.30pm
Singers Circle	Dunlo Tavern	9.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
John Molloy	Downey's Bar	10:00pm

Friday 14th		
Ballinasloe Jumper Day	Ballinasloe	All Day
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Story Time	B'sloe Library	10.30-11.30am
Board Games	B'sloe Library	3.40-4.40pm
Aladdin Ballinasloe Panto	Town Hall	7.30pm
Abba Tribute Night	Lukers	8:00pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
Small Deal	Shearwater Hotel	10-12pm
Loose Roosters	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Liam's Country Road Show	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Paul Watchorn	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Saturday 15th		
Town Band & Carols Concert	Church Gallery	12.30am-1.30pm
Mack Fleetwood	Lukers	8:00pm
Aladdin Ballinasloe Panto	Town Hall	2.30pm/7.30pm
Bingo	Kilconnell Hall	8.30pm
Adrian Rabbit	Shearwater Hotel	10-12pm
The Noshowband	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
DJ Crazy Chris	Downey's Bar	10:00pm
Matt Keane	The Pillar House	10:00pm
Cold Porter	An Tain	10:00pm
Off The Wall	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Live Music	Joe Kelly's	10:00pm
Sum Craic	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Sunday 16th		
Santa's Visit (kids)	Lukers	3:00pm
Comhaltas Trad Music	Gullanes Hotel	5:00pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6:00pm
Aladdin Ballinasloe Panto	Town Hall	2.30pm/7.30pm
Live Music	An Tain	7:00pm
The Gringo Stars	Brewery Lane	8:00pm
Daid Mills	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Small Deal	Joe Kelly's	9.30pm
Patrick Feeney	Shearwater Hotel	10.30pm
Take Time	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10:00pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10:00pm

Monday 17th		
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm

Tuesday 18th		
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30pm-5.15pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8:00pm
Social Dancing Xmas Party	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm

Wednesday 19th		
Knitting & Crochet Group	B'sloe Library	11am-1pm
Unislilm	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm-7.00pm
Magic of Xmas Concert	Saint Michael's Church	7.30pm
Live Trad and Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Play Cards	Downey's Bar	10:00pm

Thursday 20th		
Ballinasloe Social Service	Xmas Dinner in Day Centre	12.30pm
Community Carol Service	Woodlawn Church	7.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Steve Reilly Live Music	Downey's Bar	10:00pm
Garth Brooks Tribute	Shearwater Hotel	10-12pm
Xmas Party-Shane Moore	Joe Kelly's	10:00pm

Friday 21st		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Lego and Duplo Fun-Kids	B'sloe Library	3.30pm-4.30pm
Pop Up Steak House	Downey's Bar	6-9.30pm
Pat Shortt	Shearwater Hotel	8:00pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
Live Line		10-12pm
Loose Roosters	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
DJ Jeff Collins	An Tain	10:00pm
Paul Burns	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Live Music	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Shane Moore	Joe Kelly's	10:00pm

Saturday 22nd		
Bingo	Kilconnell Hall	8.30pm
Bagatelle	Lukers	8:00pm
Rod O' Neill	Shearwater Hotel	10-12pm
The Tav Jam Band	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Colin Kenny Live	Downey's Bar	10:00pm
Jockstrap	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10:00pm
Take Time	The Pillar House	10:00pm
Luke Warm James	An Tain	10:00pm
Live Music	Valerie's of Aughrim	10:00pm
Treblemakers	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Jiggers of Erin	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Lucid Blue	Joe Kelly's	10:00pm

Sunday 23rd		
Ballinasloe Carol Service	St. John's church (noservice)	10.30am
Pacifica	The Pillar House	10:00pm
Live Music	An Tain	7:00pm
Anchorman	Brewery Lane	8:00pm
Dollar Daly	Shearwater Hotel	10-12pm
Jimmy Buckley	Shearwater Hotel	10.30pm
Legends	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10:00pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10:00pm
40 Watts	Auld Sod	10:00pm
DJ Finnerty	Downey's Bar	10:00pm
Damien Butler	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Ken Solo	Joe Kelly's	10:00pm

Monday 24th		
St Michael's Folk Choir	Outside Gullanes	1-5pm
Xmas Eve Communion	Adrahan Church	3.30pm
Christmas Eve Eucharist	Holy TrinChurch Aughrim	6:00pm
Christmas Eve Mass	Portiuncula Hos. Chapel	6:00pm
Family Mass	St Michael's Church	6.30pm
Christmas Eve Session	Valerie's of Aughrim	8:00pm
Acoustic Session	Lukers	9:00pm
Joe Wynne	The Pillar House	7:00pm
Sprise	Killeen's of S'Bridge	9.30pm
Midnight Mass	Creagh Church	10:00pm
Midnight Mass	St Michael's Church	11:00pm

Tuesday 25th		
Christmas Day Mass	St Michael's Church	9.15am
Christmas Day Mass	Portiuncula Hos. Chapel	10:00am
Christmas Day Eucharist	St John's Church, Bsloe	10.30am
Christmas Day Mass	Creagh Church	10.30am
Christmas Day Mass	St Michael's Church	12:00pm

Wednesday 26th		
Acoustic Session	Lukers	9:00pm
Live Trad and Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Live Music	The Pillar Bar	10:00pm
DJ Crazy Chris	Downey's Bar	10:00pm
DJ John	Joe Kelly's	10:00pm
Pacifica	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Blurring	Killeen's Shannonbridge	10:00pm
Live Music	Valerie's of Aughrim	10:00pm
The Live Wires	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Thursday 27th		
Acoustic Session	Lukers	9:00pm
Beggars Velvet	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Off The Wall	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Take Two	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Friday 28th		
Acoustic Session	Lukers	9:00pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
Happy Bar Stars	Shearwater Hotel	10-12pm
Toxic Twins	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Chris Nash	The Pillar House	10:00pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10:00pm
Dusty Bloom	Auld Sod	10:00 pm

Saturday 29th		
Bingo	Kilconnell Hall	8.30pm
Acoustic Session	Lukers	9:00pm
Steve & Friends Live	Shearwater Hotel	9:00pm
Brego	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
DJ Crazy Chris	Downey's Bar	10:00pm
Small Deals	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10:00pm
DJ John Finnerty	The Pillar House	10:00pm
Live Music	Valerie's of Aughrim	10:00pm
Night Owls	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Damien Gormley	Joe Kelly's	10:00pm
Hickory Wind	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Sunday 30th		
1st Sun. Family Service	St. Catherine's Ch.Ahasragh	11:00am
Live Music	An Tain	7:00pm
The Noshowband	Brewery Lane	8:00pm
Christmas Gala Show	Gullanes Hotel	8:00pm
Acoustic Session	Lukers	9:00pm
Derek Ryan	Shearwater Hotel	10.30pm
Hickory Wind	The Pillar House	10:00pm
Ken Solo	Dunlo Tavern	10:00pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10:00pm
Street Wise	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Paul Byrns	Joes Kelly's	9.30pm

Monday 31st		
Candle Lit Steak Night	Lukers	
Acoustic Session	Lukers	9:00pm
TBC	Shearwater Hotel	10-12pm
Pacifica	The Pillar House	10:00pm
Red Tape	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
New Years Eve Party	Dunlo Tavern	10:00pm
Live Music	Auld Sod	10:00pm
DJ John	Joe Kelly's	10:00pm
New Years Fancy Dress	Killeen's Shannonbridge	10:00pm
Live Line	Valerie's of Aughrim	10:00pm

JANUARY EVENTS GUIDE

Tuesday 1st		
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8:00pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm-12pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10:00pm
Wednesday 2nd		
Knitting & Crochet Group	Ballinasloe Library	11-1pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm-7.00pm
Live Trad & Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 3rd		
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Steve Reilly	Downeys Bar	10:00pm
Friday 4th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Music for Kids	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Pop Up Steak House	Dunlo Tavern	6-9.30pm
Small Idea's	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10:00pm
Saturday 5th		
Bingo	Kilconnell Hall	8.30pm
Legends of America Country	Shearwater Hotel	9:00pm
Live Music	Killeen's Shannonbridge	10:00pm
John 34	An Tain	10:00pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Dave Dolan	Downeys Bar	10:00pm
Shane Downey	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Laker	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Sunday 6th		
Nollaig na mBan	Gullanes Hotel	3:00pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	8:00pm
TBC	Shearwater Hotel	
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6:00pm
Live Music	An Tain	7:00pm
Dusty Bloom	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10:00pm
Monday 7th		
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Operation Transformation	Moore Hall	7-9pm
Tuesday 8th		
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8:00 Pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm-12pm
Wednesday 9th		
Cuidiu Breastfeeding Gp	B'sloe Library	9.45-11.45am
Knitting & Crochet Class	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm-7.00pm
Live Trad and Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 10th		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11:00am
Singers Circle	Dunlo Tavern	9.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Live Line	Downey's Bar	10:00pm
Friday 11th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Kids Board Games	B'sloe Library	3.30pm- 4.30pm
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Pop Up Steak House	Downey's Bar	6-9.30pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10:00pm

Saturday 12th		
Mummers Festival	New Inn Comm. Centre	All Day
Bingo	Kilconnell Hall	8.30pm
Live Music	Killeen's Shannonbridge	10:00pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Live Music	Downey's Bar	10:00pm
Pink Shirt	An Tain	10:00pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Pacifica	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Sunday 13th		
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6:00pm
Live Music	An Tain	7:00pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	8:00pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10:00pm
Pub Fiction	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Monday 14th		
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Tuesday 15th		
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30pm- 5.30pm
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8:00 Pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm-12.00pm
Wednesday 16th		
Knitting & Crochet Gp	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm-7.00pm
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Live Trad and Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
The Three Amigos	Shearwater Hotel	9:00pm
Thursday 17th		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11:00am
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Live Music	Downey's Bar	10:00pm
Friday 18th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Lego and Duplo Fun-Kids	B'sloe Library	3.30pm- 4.30pm
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Pop Up Steak House	Downey's Bar	6-9.30pm
David Mills	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 19th		
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Bingo	Kilconnell Hall	8.30pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Live Music	Killeen's Shannonbridge	10:00pm
DJ Finnerty	Downey's Bar	10:00pm
Na Riadoiri	An Tain	10:00pm
Take Two	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Night Owls	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Sunday 20th		
Comhaltas Trad Music	Gullanes Hotel	5:00pm
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6:00pm
Live Music	An Tain	7:00pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	8:00pm
Liam's Country Rd Show	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10:00pm

Monday 21st		
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Tuesday 22nd		
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30pm- 5.30pm
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8:00pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9:00pm
Wednesday 23rd		
Cuidiu Breastfeeding Gr	B'sloe Library	9.45-11.45am
Knitting & Crochet Gr	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm-7.00pm
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Live Trad and Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 24th		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11:00am
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Live Music	Downey's Bar	10:00pm
Friday 25th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Don Stiffe Live in Concert	Valerie's of Aughrim	9:00pm
Comhaltas Trad Session	Emerald Bar	9.45pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 26th		
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Bingo	Kilconnell Hall	8.30pm
Live Music	Killeen's Shannonbridge	10:00pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
John Finnerty	Downey's Bar	10:00pm
Cold Porter	An Tain	10:00pm
40 Watts	Auld Sod	10:00pm
Jiggers of Erin	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 27th		
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6:00pm
Live Music	An Tain	7:00pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	8:00pm
Ken Solo	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10:00pm
Monday 28th		
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Tuesday 29th		
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30pm- 5.30pm
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00 Pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8:00 Pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9:00 Pm
Wednesday 30th		
Knitting & Crochet Group	B'sloe Library	11am- 1pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5.30pm-7.00pm
45 Stories Exhibition	Church Gallery	6:00pm
Live Trad and Folk Music	An Tain	9.30pm
Thursday 31st		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11:00am
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10:00pm
Live Music	Downey's Bar	10:00pm

To advertise your events here contact: ballinasloelife@hotmail.com or Call **090 964 5831** by January 10th.

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS

In November We Remember

A community commemorative event recently took place in Gullane's Hotel followed by a Remembrance Walk around Ballinasloe to remember the dearly departed.

The event, in aid of the Bethany Bereavement group, commenced with a candle lighting ceremony, capturing the spirit and life of those who had passed. Eleven candles were lit in memory of grandparents, parents, children, siblings, family relations, husbands, wives and members of the general community. Remembrance verses were recited by Maura Hughes as each candle was lit by a family member while uilleann piper, Christopher Feeney and flautists Frank Kennedy and Katya Connolly performed reflective music befitting of the occasion.

Brian Derrane, MC, introduced Maureen Casey, Chairperson of the Bethany Bereavement group, who outlined the services that Bethany volunteers provide to the bereaved within the community. Fr Declan McNerney and Rev John Godfrey, representing the two major faith groups within the community, spoke briefly and prayerfully.

Brian then delivered an allegorical speech, comparing the grieving

process to a car journey. He stated "November has for centuries been associated with remembering our deceased, what with Hallowe'en, All Saint's day and All Soul's day, so this November we remember our dearly departed but in so doing we must be mindful of the bereaved and the grief that they experience."

Everyone was then invited to don their reflective Hi-Viz jackets, courtesy of the Road Safety Authority, to witness Christy Smyth and John McDevitt planting a remembrance tree in Gullane's Hotel Garden, as Pat Donoghue symbolically released doves with trumpeters Martina Doherty, Damian Naughton and Evan Rafter playing the "Last Post."

The crowd then walked the 2.2km route through the streets of Ballinasloe before returning to the hotel for light refreshments.

The organising committee of Brian Derrane, Christy Smyth, Annette McDevitt and Aiden Lonergan wished to sincerely thank Thomas and Caroline Gullane and the staff of the Hotel, Fr Declan McNerney, the Gardaí, Galway County Council, and all the volunteers and contributors to the ceremonies as well as all those who attended a very memorable event.



Under Age Girls Football Year End Presentation Night



The Under 12, Under 14 & Under 16 Girls had a great end of year presentation evening in Gullane's Hotel. They were presented with their medals by special guest Galway Senior Football and Camogie player Caitriona Cormican, who is also a practicing GP in Galway. Following the medal presentation Caitriona did a one to one interview with Damien Clarke where she discussed both her sporting and professional careers and how she manages to combine both. It was a really interesting discussion which engaged, not just the girls, but also the parents and coaches in attendance.

FUNDRAISER FOR DÚN LAOGHAIRE REHAB

BY KEN KELLY
to all who dressed up for...

Two local men who attended the National Rehabilitation Hospital in Dún Laoghaire, along with their families and friends raised money for the hospital in a local fundraiser on the Bank Holiday weekend, 28th October 2018.

25-year-old Alan Scott from Clonfad, Ballinasloe and Sean Duignan from Clonellan, Ballydangan, spent some time in the hospital in 2017. Alan attended the Brain Injury Programme and Sean attended the Prosthetic, Orthotic and Limb Absence Rehabilitation (POLAR) Programme.

The two men, their families and friends and the local community, wanted to give something back, by organising a fundraiser for specialist equipment and specific projects that will help to make a difference to the lives of adults and children attending the hospital.

A 5K Walk/Run took place from Millars Bar, Ballydangan on Sunday 28th October followed by a function and fancy dress in Millars Bar later that evening, with the entire proceeds going to the National Rehab Hospital.

Alan's mother Carmel, who was on the organising committee, said: "Alan and Sean have availed of the service and they wanted to do the fundraiser to say thank you to them. We wanted to give something back. They are both indebted to everyone at the National Rehabilitation Hospital for their great work"

Both Alan and Sean wish to extend their gratitude to everyone who supported the fundraiser. "Thanks to the ticket sellers, those who donated Auction Items and Spot Prizes, donated money, bought tickets, the 200 plus people who took part in the 5K Walk/Run, to all who attended the function in Millars and

the Fancy Dress, which added to the entertainment on the night. Well done to our families, friends and the committee for all their help in making this event such a success. We are amazed at the support from everyone. A massive sum of €16,620.80 was raised" said Alan.

The cheque was presented to Ms Edel Lambe, Fundraising Manager, National Rehabilitation Hospital Foundation, Dún Laoghaire in Millars. Edel said they are indebted to everyone for raising such a huge amount and that all donations are very much appreciated and the money donated will be used for the benefit of the Patients in the National Rehabilitation Hospital, Dún Laoghaire.



Alan and Sean with family and friends after the fundraiser.

THE HAIR GALLERY

Merry Christmas

Wishing all our customers
A Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year!

Thank you for your continued
support in 2018!

Don't forget to book early for your
Christmas appointments!

Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe | Tel: 090 96 43921

@tinashairgallery

BALLINASLOE TYRE CENTRE

Find us on: **facebook**

Book your FREE WINTER HEALTH CHECK

Thank you for your loyal custom and safe motoring.

**FOR MORE DETAILS CALL THOM FOX
@090 9646956**

TRIBUTES TO RETIRED TEACHING NUN

BY KEN KELLY

The Bishop of Clonfert, John Kirby, led the tributes at the funeral mass of Sister Michael Connaughton in St. Michael's Church, Ballinasloe, for all she had done in the parish and the diocese over the years.

Sr. Michael, known to her family as Cait, was born in Clostoken, Loughrea and attended Carrabane Primary School and later St. Raphael's Secondary in Loughrea. Following her Novitiate in the Mercy Convent, Loughrea in 1955, Sr. Michael trained as a Primary School teacher in Carysfort Training College, Dublin. During her full-time teaching career of 43 years she taught in all of the Mercy primary schools in the Diocese of Clonfert: Loughrea, Woodford, Portumna, Eyrecourt and Ballinasloe.

The late Sr. Michael has been described by her past pupils and colleagues as "a great teacher" who showed special interest in her classes. She distinguished herself as a gifted musician, started many school marching bands and even participated in the Dublin St. Patrick's Day parade as well as other parades in the locality.

When Sr. Michael retired from teaching she simply moved from the classroom into other areas of ministry. One such ministry was with the Folk Choir in Ballinasloe while for many years she attended the Church Music Summer School in Maynooth, where she was exposed



to the best liturgical music. The present Folk Choir in St. Michael's is testament to her training and vision and following in her footsteps, they are a wonderful example of Church Music, at its best, enhancing the liturgy of the Eucharist. They excelled at her funeral mass, as did her niece Madeline and nephew Padraic.

In her earlier years, Sr. Michael worked with the Pioneer Total Abstinence Association, No Name Club, Emigrants and the Legion of Mary, which included visits to London for a few summers. She was also a frequent visitor to the Brothers of Charity Services in Ballinasloe where she made many friends.

Mons. Cathal Geraghty and Fr. John Naughton concelebrated the Requiem Mass with Bishop John Kirby and Fr. Bernie Costello, together with many priests who had known the popular nun over the years. Her funeral was

large and representative, evidence of her popularity among all sections of the community and remembered by so many people who had crossed her path in life.

Sr. Michael was laid to rest in the Convent Cemetery in Loughrea. She will be sadly missed by the Mercy Sisters, her family, teaching colleagues, members of the Folk Choir, friends and her many past pupils. May she enjoy the light, peace and joy of Heaven.

HAVE YOU GOT A STORY FOR BALLINASLOE LIFE?

We're inviting all to send us in articles and good-quality photos from the Ballinasloe catchment area.

Home or abroad, send us in your stories and we'll voice it to the community.

You can submit your article to:

ballinasloelife@hotmail.com or you can call our office on 090 9645831



COYLE & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

- Sole Trader Accounts & Tax Returns
- VAT Returns, Payroll & PAYE returns
- Company Financial Statements, CRO Filing & Corporation Tax Returns
- Capital Gains Tax (CGT) and Gift Tax (CAT) Returns
- Monthly / Quarterly Management Accounts
- Advice and guidance for start-ups including company formation and tax registration
- Business Plans and forecasts for finance



Chartered
Accountants
Ireland

Society St., Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, H53 FD35
090-9642995 | info@coyleco.ie | www.coyleco.ie



There's
always
time for
cake!



Open
Monday - Saturday
9am - 5.30pm
Last Orders 5pm
Closed Sundays



Tel: 090 964 4830

www.karibas.ie • 7 Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Outside catering a speciality for all occasions

MAUREEN CAHALAN'S DIAMONDS ARE A GIRL'S BEST FRIEND....!

When Marilyn Monroe sang "Diamonds Are a Girl's Best Friend" in the 1953 film 'Gentlemen Prefer Blondes', this had the effect of a catalyst which had women all around the world aspiring to own and wear the most brilliant diamonds in existence.



Anna Geary, Cristallo Millano ambassador.

This tune is a favourite of the celebrated Jeweller and Diamond expert, Maureen Cahalan, as it reminds her of the commitment and care she shares by guiding her customers in the right direction. Aiming for perfection and being loyal to her customers is Maureen's guiding force and ethos in business.

Maureen has an infectious sense of humour, a good deal of tact and natural gift for diplomacy – all qualities which have made her into the respected business woman she is today. 2018 sees Maureen celebrating her 43rd year as a Professional Jeweller. As the first lady ever to be appointed as President of Ireland's Jeweller Association, it is clear to all who cross her path that Maureen's work ethic and community spirit are what set her apart from the pack. A graduate from NUI Maynooth, Maureen is an active member of the community in Ballinasloe and across Ireland.

Many years ago Maureen signed a contract with one of Antwerp's main Diamond Source which has given her the opportunity to sell diamonds competitively on the island of Ireland. With this opportunity certainly comes a challenge, and Maureen admits that it is these kinds of challenges that motivate her and provide a happy balance in her daily routine.

One of Maureen's great achievements is in establishing her global network which allows her to source any piece of Jewellery from around the world be it - bespoke, modern or antique.

Her ability to go the extra distance for her customers has rewarded her year on year, as she is about to start her 44th year in business. This winter sees various new styles selected by Maureen for her customers ranging from

The Paul Costello, The Waterford and The Cristallo Milano collections and some rare and beautiful antique pieces in both silver and gold.

"We welcome every customer and appreciate their business during those trying times in Ballinasloe as it goes through its enhancing programme. Cahalan Jewellers is less than 3 minutes from any car park so do try to support Cahalans and all the other Business Houses in Ballinasloe, we are a very supportive community and appreciate all our customers", states Maureen.

Advt. BY IAN O'BOYLE



Wishing You All A Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Eugene Murphy TD

Roscommon - Galway



Constituency Offices Details

<p>Ballinasloe Office Tel: 087-4353834</p> <p>Dáil Éireann, Leinster House, Kildare Street, Dublin 2 Tel: 01-6183056 Email: eugene.murphy@oireachtas.ie</p>	<p>Elphin Street Stroketown, Co. Roscommon Tel: 071-9633000</p> <p>The Square Roscommon Town, Co. Roscommon Tel: 090-6625722</p>
--	--

Please ring Constituency Office in advance to make appointment

FAIR AND FESTIVAL 2018



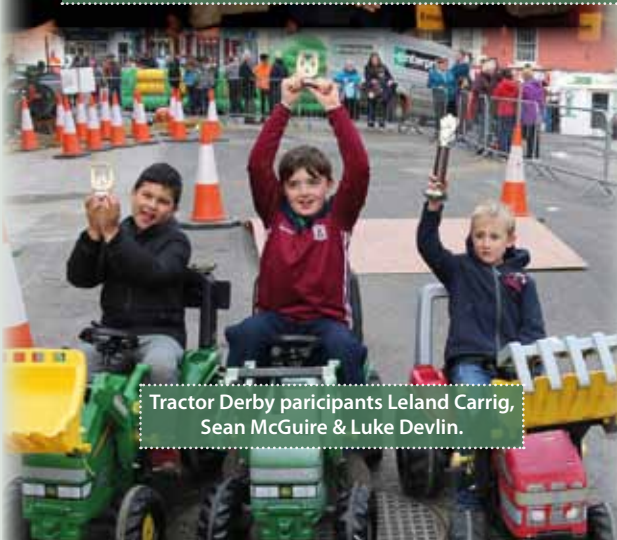
President Michael D Higgins with Pat McDonagh Supermacs, Kathy Colohan the festival Queen & Adrian Ahern Chairman of Ballinasloe Credit Union.



Craft and Model Finalists



Participants in the Apache Pizza Bakery competitions.



Tractor Derby participants Leland Carrig, Sean McGuire & Luke Devlin.



President Michael D Higgins with members of the Ballinasloe Fair & Festival Committee.



Local • Loyal • Lending



Affordable Lending Designed Around Your Needs

Ballinasloe Credit Union Ltd. ☎ 090 9643179

Gort Credit Union Ltd. ☎ 091 631250

Naomh Breandan Credit Union Ltd., Loughrea ☎ 091 841773

Terms and Conditions apply.
Credit Unions are regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland.

BRIAN CASEY'S BOOK LAUNCH

BY KEN KELLY

Ballinasloe-born Brian Casey was praised by the Bishop John Kirby of Clonfert, for the work he had done, researching archives of the Diocese of Clonfert, when he launched his new book "Class and Community in Provincial Ireland 1851-1941" in the Ballinasloe Library. The youngest son of Maureen and the late John Casey, Portnick, Ballinasloe had spent two years delving through the Clancarty era, when the Earl owned both the present Garbally College and the Bishop's residence at Coorheen, Loughrea.

Dr Conor Mulvagh, lecturer in history, University College Dublin, launching the book, said it was based on Brian's PhD thesis from Maynooth University. "The book explores the experiences of small farmers, labourers and town tenants in Ballinasloe and its rural hinterland in the aftermath of the Famine until the eve of World War One" Dr Mulvagh told a large audience, describing it "as a labour of love that is a very good read – which cannot be said of all history books!

He said "The books goes beyond the handed down stories of parents and grandparents and is the story of many people living in Ballinasloe and beyond today". Dr Mulvagh told the audience that Brian had given voice to formerly forgotten historical actors, people that resisted evictions as best they could, referring to the opening story of a crowd in Woodford repelling an eviction party with weapons including beehives – something that was not



Brian Casey with his mother Maureen and Dr. Mulvagh of UCD, who launched Brian's book in the Ballinasloe Library.

necessarily taught in school history books.

"Class and Community" is a dissection of power and control and shows some of the complex relationships that existed between town and country. Dr Mulvagh praised Brian's willingness to do the heavy lifting necessary to create the picture, calling him 'one of the great grafters of the historical profession' while describing the book as elegantly subversive in its arguments as he put names and faces to the crowds in the book. "The book shows that there is no such thing as a typical town and Ballinasloe was exceptional in many ways. It is a book that will interest those with a connection with the town and also with an interest in learning something slightly different about Irish history." Concluded Dr Mulvagh.

Brian Casey, who was accompanied by his mother and many other relations at the event, said he was very happy that the book was launched in his home town. "I would like to thank all those who helped me along the way and hope they find the book both interesting and stimulating" added Brian.



Brian Casey with some cousins and extended family at his Book Launch.

HEALY'S PHARMACY



Society St., Ballinasloe
Tel/Fax 090 9642252

Pick the perfect Christmas gift at Healy's Pharmacy

HAMPERS MADE TO ORDER:
"YOU PICK, WE PACK"

*Sincere thanks to all our customers
as we celebrate 20 years
in business 1998-2018.
Serving the local community*



Open 9.15am to 6pm through lunchtime. Tel/fax 090 9642252

REMEMBERING THE FALLEN AND THE BRAVE LOCALS

To coincide with the Centenary of Armistice, Ballinasloe WW1 Heritage Group published their book entitled *Ballinasloe & District Remembers 1914-1918*, which was officially launched by well-known author and Irish Times journalist, Ronan McGreevy in the local Library. He complimented the group on the multi-generational attendance, saying the book was done from the heart involving local people and stated, the level of local participation in the war would equate to losing all of the local Minor, Junior, Senior and Intermediate Hurling teams from this town in four years.

Official proceedings opened with Private Niall Kelly 6th Infantry Battalion who played the pipes as he made his way through the crowded room. Master of Ceremonies, Brian Casey introduced the guests, including a song from Jimmy Stone, poetry from Michael Glynn & Eamon O'Donohue, a talk by Brendan Smith of the Insight Centre for Data Analytics at NUI Galway outlining communication, censorship, foods of the time, photography, music, healthcare, drug addiction and racism.

Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer with Galway County Council spoke of the incredible achievement of the group in producing the book and of the legacy for all to understand more on those who gave their lives to World War 1 and how it affected their families. She complimented Douglas Rafter on the rescue of the restored Roll of Honour. She also complimented Gerry Devlin who designed the cover of the book and all the members for their dedication and hard work to get it to publication.

Brian Casey paid tribute to the deceased members, thanked everyone who attended and complimented all those involved in the project and book launch. Sean Glennon gave a most moving rendition of the song "Christmas 1915 in No Man's Land" finishing it in German and proceedings came to an end with

members of Ballinasloe Town Band Martina Doherty, Evan Rafter and Damian Ó Neachtain playing The Last Post, a very fitting close to the evening.

A week long military exhibition was held at Ballinasloe Library with visits by pupils from local schools who were given talks and also allowed to have hands on experience with the soldier's uniforms and memorabilia provided by Aidan Darcy and the Irish Military War Museum, Gerard O'Meara, Anthony Merrigan of Athlone Historical Society and Loughrea Memorial Group. Ivan O'Grady was on board to show how it was 100 years ago and displayed a hand embroidered tapestry stitched by his great grandfather, Michael Hillary and also the death plaque issued to the Hillary family after his death. Talks were also given by Douglas Rafter, Gerry Devlin, Gerard O'Meara and Renate Kohlmann. The restored Roll of Honour can be viewed



WW1 Memorabilia.



WW1 Roll of Honour.



HIRE • SALES • SERVICE

www.domachire.com

Est. 1990

Poolboy Ind. Est. Ballinasloe – 0909642888 – sales@domachire.com

Full range of tools and equipment for hire or sale

GARDEN EQUIPMENT SERVICE

Hire • Sales • Service

Lawnmowers / Chainsaws / Strimmers / Hedgtrimmers etc...

POWERWASHERS

Sales • Service • Repair/rebuilds

Petrol / Electric / Hotwashers



Free local Delivery / collection of equipment.

WITH WW1 BOOK LAUNCH

BY EVELYN DONELLAN



Gerry Devlin and Ronan McGreevy.



Members of Ballinasloe WW1 Heritage Group

Back Row l-r: Douglas Rafter, Oliver Donellan, Gerry Devlin, Brian Casey, Paula Kennedy, Ivan O'Grady, Aidan Darcy, Padraic Moran, Brendan Donelan, Frank Kelly.

Front Row l-r: Ronan McGreevy who launched the book, Evelyn Donelan, Úna Kelly, Manager Europe Direct Library Ballinasloe, Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer Galway Co. Council, Margaret Moran.



Full Crowd at WW 1 Launch.

in the History Room at Ballinasloe Library. The 625-page book, priced at €25 is an ideal Christmas present and is available for sale locally in Salmon's, Main Street, and Kelly's Shop, Brackernagh, Moran's Shop, Shannonbridge Charlie Byrne's, Galway, and Kenny's Bookstore, Galway where it can be purchased on line to send **anywhere in the world, shipping free at www.kennys.ie**

Ballinasloe WW1 Heritage Group thanked everyone who attended their book launch, visited the exhibition, all those who have helped out in any way from the restoration to publication including the military exhibition and especially like to thank the sponsors.

Chairman Douglas Rafter stated "A huge amount of praise goes to our researchers Evelyn and Oliver Donellan. Evelyn as sub editor and collaborator, with the aid of modern technology, was able to work with our Editor Damian Mac Con Uladh based in Greece, who did a excellent job of the final editing. This work was then forwarded to KPW Print Management who produced the highly finished and excellent publication we have today".



NEW IRELAND
ASSURANCE

Why Invest with New Ireland? Because Choice Matters

At New Ireland, our customer is at the heart of everything we do.

We understand that **'one size does not fit all'** and why choice is at the very core of what we do...

We are one of the leading providers of investment solutions in Ireland and have a long track record of helping people reach their financial goals.



NEW IRELAND
Securing your future

100
1918 2018
Years



To find out more, talk to **Seamus Duffy** today.



087 250 6431



seamus.duffy@newireland.ie



www.newireland.ie

Warning: The value of your investment may go down as well as up.

New Ireland Assurance Company plc is regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. A member of Bank of Ireland Group. Seamus Duffy is a Tied Agent of New Ireland Assurance Company plc.

Terms and conditions apply. While great care has been taken in its preparation, this document is of a general nature and should not be relied on in relation to specific issues without appropriate financial, insurance, investment or other professional advice. Exit tax (up to 41% currently) applies to gains on life assurance investment policies. A Government levy (currently 1% of the premium amount) applies to all premiums paid to a life assurance policy.

TOWN BAND'S 50 NEW ROOKIE MUSICIANS LEARNING TO PLAY



manager of the Artane Band. In addition to the recorder classes the town band has provided 30 band instruments – flutes, clarinets, saxophones, trumpets, trombones and tubas to a “new Junior Band” which is currently in the making. Group tuition is provided and all of this activity augurs well for the future of the Town Band.

The “senior” band is busy preparing for Christmas and a very busy season with four performances in the next three weeks leading up to the New Year.

The new year began for the Town Band in September 2018 – a few months earlier than everyone else!

For in September the band recruited 50 plus new musicians. From 7 to 70 the beginners have started to read and play music. There are a few pairs of parent and child, and many couplets of siblings. There are twenty students learning to play the recorders – in a playful atmosphere led by Keith Kelly.

Keith is a former Army band musician and also the former band



BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

oneills

NEW GALWAY 2019 HOME JERSEY

Supermac's

NOW AVAILABLE AT



SPORTSWAREHOUSE

JOIN THE TRIBE

No. 3 Marina Point, New Road, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
T/F: (090) 9646763 M: 086 2528110
E: circularsports@eircom.net

Paul Byron Shoes
BRANDED FOOTWEAR

20 Shops Country Wide

*Wishing all our Customers
a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
from Tara & the Team*



Marina Point, New Road, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
T: 090 964 6815 www.paulbyronshoes.com

ANNUAL MUMMERS' FESTIVAL IN NEW INN

Lovers of Traditional Music, Song, Dance and Storytelling will be pleased to learn that the New Inn Annual Mummers' Festival will be staged on the weekend of the 12th January 2019, in the Leisure Centre.

Following the highly successful 40th Festival, there is renewed interest in the event, and some new groups are expected to participate. There will be prizes for winning groups, and for the best Musician, Singer, Dancer, Flute Player, Storyteller and Most Outstanding Entertainer provided by local sponsors.

Chairman, Michael Mullins commented "The Mummers Festival is



a real Community event, and over the years it has generated funds for the Leisure Centre and other Projects, as well as supporting a number of charities. The Festival Committee look forward to welcoming you to Festival and you are guaranteed a great night of traditional

entertainment in a comfortable venue."

Entries are now open for the event and participants can contact Festival Secretary, Michael Finnerty on 087 3828281 to secure your place.

Nollaig na mBan Annual Evening

Nollaig na mBan has become a popular fixture on Ballinasloe's social calendar and it will be celebrated this year on Sunday, January 6th from 4-6pm in Gullane's Hotel, where ladies from town and country, young and old and in-between, will gather for afternoon tea and entertainment and to carry on a tradition that is timeless.

The twelfth day of Christmas, Little Christmas or Nollaig na mBan, is traditionally seen as a day-off for all women, after all their hard work over the festive season. Ballinasloe ladies are continuing the custom and using it as a gesture of solidarity with less fortunate women in Dar

as Salaam, Tanzania. The funds raised will go directly to Sr. Annette Farrell for her ongoing education projects in that city. She commented "We are very grateful for the support from Ballinasloe."

While women are looking forward to a lovely social afternoon, their menfolk have generously responded with raffle prizes, music and song and a few other surprises on the afternoon. Organiser, John Johnston said "It is hoped that many will take up this invitation to continue the wonderful tradition of Nollaig na mBan and also to help their sisters in Africa gain a brighter future through education."

Tickets are €5 and are available on door or phone 086-3689134 or 086-0897928 for details.

Wishing you all a very Happy Christmas



TOM RAFTERY CAR SALES

Clonfad, Ballinasloe, Tel: 090 9642686

**SERVING THE WEST AND MIDLANDS
FOR OVER 20 YEARS**

For your next KIA, Peugeot or Isuzu give us a call for a quotation.

Join our Service Club and get €120 off your fourth service on all models. Your car can be collected and returned to your place of work or home.

View our extensive range of quality used vehicles on our website

www.tomrafterycarsales.ie

Member of the Society of the Irish motor industry



ISUZU



PEUGEOT



KIA MOTORS
The Power to Surprise™





At the recent organisers support meeting with Roscommon Solstice Choir were Johnny & Pat Johnston from Girls4Girls, Ballinasloe. Photo shows: James Hoban, Catherine Murray and Siobhán Menton, Solstice Choir Committee, Eimear & Andrew Reynolds, Choir Musical Directors, Johnny & Pat Johnston.

Girls4Girls Education have the privilege of hosting Roscommon Solstice Choir for a Christmas Concert in the Town Hall, Ballinasloe, on Sunday, December 2nd at 8pm.

Roscommon Solstice Choir was formed in 2013. The choir performs for pleasure and the proceeds of their concerts go to charity. They have sung all over Ireland, as well as in the United States and in England, but this is one of their rare appearances west of the Suck.

The Choir is an amateur, voluntary, community-based choir, under the expert direction of Eimear and Andrew Reynolds from Rooskey in Co. Roscommon. It provides an outlet for people to come together in harmony to sing, to socialise and to raise money for charitable causes. Membership opens twice a year, usually in February and September.

Anybody can join the choir in order to help others and to date have raised almost €250,000 for charitable causes throughout Roscommon and further afield. Membership is open to anyone, irrespective of

age, class, creed, gender or ability, with no auditions and no musical expectation. Current membership hails from counties Galway, Leitrim, Longford, Roscommon and Westmeath. Practices are held in Kilbride Community Centre, Four-Mile-House, Co. Roscommon on Sunday evenings during Spring and Autumn and two programmes of up to five charity concerts each are performed in June and December each year.

The Choir was honoured by Roscommon County Council with a Civic Reception in November 2017 in recognition of its commitment to the community and the new year started in style when the choir won a Silver Award in the "Best Community Based Initiative" category of the All Ireland Community & Council Awards held in Croke Park in February 2018.



Girls4Girls Education is a small Ballinasloe group that fundraises to support education projects in Dar-es-Salaam and among the Daalit children in India. Throughout the world 130 million girls do not have access to basic education but through local fundraising efforts, for over thirty years, have given hope to many individual girls.

They will be joined on the night by the choir of Creagh N.S. This school commitment to the work in Africa.

has a long term

For over 30 years senior pupils in Creagh have fundraised and donated part of their Confirmation money to help build classrooms in Tanzania and indeed the names of Churwi, Pwani, Saku, Maji Matitu are familiar to them all.

Meanwhile the group look forward to hearing the stories from Ms Éilis Treacy, Principal of Eyrecourt NS, which also supports these projects, and Ms Agnes Hurley, who have spent time working with the school students in Dar es Salaam this year.

Tickets are on sale and for those who buy tickets and cannot attend they will be included in a spectacular raffle on the night. Tickets are €10 and can be got at www.ballinasloetownhall.com, at 086 3689134/089 4191885 or from local shops.

Garbally View Nursing Home

25 Years in Business

Family run business providing convalescent, respite and long term care for over 25 years in Ballinasloe.

Current Resident Services Provided:

- **Hairdresser**
- **Chiropody**
- **Mass (Weekly)**
- **Community Visitors**
- **Bingo**
- **Physiotherapy**
- **Music Therapy**
- **Full time Activities Coordinator**
- **Movie night**
- **Sonas Program**
- **Dietician**



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

"ALADDIN" RETURNS FOR 10TH ANNUAL PANTO SEASON

This year Ballinasloe Panto are celebrating their tenth consecutive Christmas pantomime. Over the last 9 years they have brought a whole host of characters to life on the Town Hall stage, from classic princesses like Cinderella and Snow White, to a boat load of pirates, a hungry wolf and a cat with a flashy pair of boots just to mention a few.



To honour their tenth production they have decided to return to the show that started it way back in 2009 - "Aladdin". Their reimaging of "Aladdin" for 2018 is set to run from the 10th to the 16th of December in the Town Hall Theatre.

Ballinasloe Panto's production crew have been working tirelessly since September to bring their tenth show from an idea to the stage. There are costumes to source, sets to design and build, special effects to be brought in from London, routines to be choreographed, posters to be printed, tickets to sell, the list goes on and on, and that's all on top of countless rehearsals!

This year's cast sees the return of a few of the original 2009 Aladdin cast, along some new talent and familiar faces. Zara Campbell, a 5th year student in Ardscoil Mhuire who has taken part in almost all previous pantos as a member of the chorus groups, is now joining the main cast as Princess Jasmine. This follows on from her successful run as one of the leads in last year's TY production of "Little Shop of Horrors". Emma Greally plays Princess Jasmine's best friend, So Shy. Her job is to look after the princess and keep her safe, a big change for Emma after playing the wicked Maleficent in last year's show.

The title role of Aladdin, a loveable rogue whose heart is stolen by the princess, has fallen on panto veteran Enda McGrath. His mother, Widow Twanky, who has her hands full keeping Aladdin out of trouble

while running her own laundry business, is being played by Louise McEvoy. Louise is delighted to be returning to Ballinasloe Panto after time away from the stage last year. Mike Kelly is returning to the role he played in 2009 as the Emperor, Princess Jasmine's father. Another member of the original 2009 cast returning is Pat Vaughan, this time instead of playing the Genie he will be playing Aladdin's best friend, Wishee Washee. This time around the magic man in the lamp is being played by Seamus Ferrick - he'll be blue for weeks after the

show! No Panto is complete without a good panto villain - Dave Hardiman, someone who has been involved in panto both as cast and crew over the years, will be playing the sneaky Jafar. He'll be enlisting the help (or is it hinderance) of the Slave of the Ring, Mike O'Reilly.

Ria Purcell who, after very successfully working with the Red and Green Groups last year, is the Choreographer. Ria is a very experienced performer and choreographer having worked in Greece for 10 years as a professional singer and dancer before moving home in 2016 to set up her own dance academy, Milkshake Dance & Performance Academy. Eoin Croffy returns to take the helm as director and the production crew is finished off by the very talented musical direction of John Roe, who is delighted to be working with the Panto crew of 130 youngsters once again.

"Aladdin" will be running from December 10th to 16th in the Town Hall Theatre, the show begins nightly at 7.30pm with two fancy dress matinees on Saturday and Sunday December 15th and 16th at 2.30pm, where both children and adults alike are invited to come in outfits fit for the Panto stage, with prizes for the best dressed! Tickets (€16 each and €55 for a family of four) are available online (www.ballinasloepanto.com) and from the booking office at J&S Photos on Society Street, drop in or call (09096) 31566 to get yours! They will also be available on the door. However, pre-booking is advised.

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH



BOOK your

2019 Holiday Now

to Avail of

HUGE SAVINGS

SEE www.kellertravel.ie or

CALL 090 964 2131

KellerTravel

VALUE • SERVICE • EXPERIENCE

60

YEARS

Keller Travel Main Street, Ballinasloe

E: info@kellertravel.ie | www.kellertravel.ie | www.campotel.com

worldchoice

Government Licence & Bonded: TA0148

THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER.....

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

Christmas Hampers will be among the prizes at the Clontuskert Thursday night's Progressive 25, held weekly in the National School. Organised by the Parents' Association, the game starts at 8.45 pm and the proceeds are in aid of Clontuskert N.S. The admission fee includes a raffle ticket as well as refreshments.

Mattie Kenny is the new manager of the Dublin senior hurling team. A native of Abbey, Loughrea, he was a former employee of Square D in Ballinasloe. As manager of Dublin county champions, Cuala, he won back-to-back All-Ireland club titles with them. Mattie is expected to include former Galway hurler Greg Kennedy in his backroom team.

Louise Finn, youngest daughter of Peggy and the late Louis Finn of Creagh, Ballinasloe together with her husband Stephen Murphy now operate a successful bicycle security company "Cyc-lok" in Carlow which provides secure parking for bicycles. They have won several awards, including the innovation prize at this year's National Enterprise Awards and have expanded to Norway, Denmark, Switzerland and the USA.

Rachel Staunton from Creagh has been commended by the ISPCA for looking after a stray lurcher dog she found near her home. The dog had disappeared from its home in Kildare in June last and mysteriously arrived in Ballinasloe months later where Rachel took the animal into her care before bringing it to the Animal Centre in Killimor. The family pet was later reunited with its Kildare family who praised Rachel for her loving care of the animal.

Aughrim Village will officially light up their first ever Christmas Tree on 8th December at 8 pm. The 20-ft. high tree will be illuminated in the Heritage Park, where local schoolchildren will participate in carol singing while those attending will be provided with refreshments. The large open-air Crib will also be a feature for the festive season and will be blessed by the local clergy.

The Duggan Park in Ballinasloe was officially opened in July 1934 by Fr. James O'Dea, chairman of the Connacht Council and blessed by Bishop Dignan, Bishop of Clonfert. Solicitor Hutchinson Davidson was thanked for obtaining the grounds from the Clancarty Estate. An estimate 4,000 people attended to see Galway draw with Kerry, 3-2 to 2-5 in a football challenge while Dublin had a 1-6 to 0-2 win over Galway in the hurling game.

Social Dancing classes continue every Monday night in the Shearwater Hotel and in Fohenagh GAA Centre on Thursday nights. No partners are needed and all ages are catered for. More details from 087-2351290 or 087-7517205.

Des Mullan, formerly of Church Hill, Ballinasloe and a retired journalist, has now recalled his reporting on the famine and civil war in Nigeria fifty years ago, in a new online podcast documentary series. Des (86) who now lives in Dublin was the Ballinasloe correspondent for the "Midland Tribune" in Birr before joining Independent Newspapers in Dublin where he was later appointed News Editor of the "Evening Herald."

Fr. Christy McCormack, Parish Priest of Fohenagh/Killure has been bereaved by the passing of his father Paddy, Beechlawn, Ballinasloe. The late Mr. McCormack was a native of Westmeath and was a retired ESB staff member. He came to Ballinasloe in the mid 50's when the Rural Electrification Scheme was being installed and married Aughrim girl, Eileen Dolphin. He is survived by his three sons Pdraic, Fr. Christy and Brendan as well as many other relatives and friends.

Aughrim Apple Juice is the latest product for sale on the Christmas market. The organic health drink is a product of the Church of Ireland orchard in the village of Aughrim. The bottled juice is now available in local shops and country markets, with the proceeds going to the Church of Ireland funds.

UTAH

DEPARTMENT STORE



HIGHER STANDARDS - LOWER PRICES



MENS • LADIES • KIDS • HOME

BARGAIN BASEMENT

ALWAYS UP TO
60% OFF



Society Street, Ballinasloe | Tel: 090 9649000 | utah.blinds.ie



CHRISTMAS CONCERT FOR MIDLANDS CANCER SUPPORT



Local Soprano, Rachel Goode, will be hosting a concert "The Magic of Christmas" in St. Michael's Church, this December.

Rachel will be performing classic Christmas songs accompanied by tenor Tom Smith, baritone Kevin Neville, bass baritone Conor O'Meara and accompanied by Marie Power on instrumentation.

Specials guests will include

the Ballinasloe Town Band and the Ard Scoil Mhuire Choir. Rachel recently made her debut role as High Priestess and company first appearance with Irish National Opera recently at the Bordgais Energy Theatre with RTÉ Concert Orchestra!!, with the INO's acclaimed production of AIDA.

This is not the first time the Birchgrove native has performed in St. Michael's but it is a historic first for the Royal Welsh College Masters of Music and Drama Graduate who as well as starring, is producing the concert. Rachel commented "The concert will feature loads of Operatic hits plus all the festive favourites. It's certainly not a night to miss."

All donations will be going towards East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre.

"The Magic of Christmas" will take place in St. Michael's Church on Wednesday, 19th December at 7.30 pm sharp. Admission is free, and all donations raised will be towards East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre.

For more information contact Rachel on 090 964 2088.

MURRAY'S OF RIVER STREET

John Murray (Ballinasloe) Ltd.

Tel: (090) 9642138 Email: johnmurrayltd@gmail.com

**Try The Rest
DEAL WITH
THE BEST**

Hardware

Garden Fertilisers

All Your Gardening Needs

Huge Range Of Pet-Food & Bedding

Gas - Coal - Briquettes

Work-Wear

**Wide Range Of Veterinary
(Sheep, Cattle, Equine & Pets)**

Bulk Feeds

Cement Now In Stock



NEW REPORTER TAKES UP HIS DUTIES



After toiling at the Reporter's bench for a record 9 months and for five editions, the young Fedamore man, Ian Boyle, has taken his leave of this parish and is now enjoying the warm Mediterranean sunshine on his Erasmus studies in Malta. The proud Mayo native's good humour, patience, forbearance and tenacity in the teeth of the tedium that is the recurrent nonchalance of most; to any deadline, will be sorely missed.

Highlight for his year was watching his adopted county of Limerick stave off the Tribesmen in their first All-Ireland hurling win whilst in a confined space with the Editor - during the Rose of Tralee Festival in Kerry! His productivity and concern for the groups he served bode well and we thank him hugely! We wish him well with his future studies in U.L., his career and hope that his days as a Limerick, Mayo and Liverpool supporter will always be MIGHTY!

Hailing from the home of hurling, in Thurles, Co. Tipperary, Reporter number 14 Donogh Moore is obviously a massive fan of sports. Whether it's hurling, football, or particularly rugby, he's always reading or listening to the latest news or speculation.

When he's not watching Munster play, he can be found taking part in various hobbies; from photography to writing, with particular love for all things technological and pop-culture. Donogh is currently studying English and Irish in the University of Limerick.

He will be taking the Reporter's baton from early Jan till the Autumn and will cover the next four editions -- we wish him well and hope that he does not find our annoying ways too discomforting!

EDITOR



BALLINASLOE GOLF CLUB PRIZEWINNERS



The Ballinasloe Karate Club Team who were the Overall Winners of the Ballinasloe Golf Club "Inter Clubs Golf Competition" pictured front row l-r Michael O'Hehir, Leo Mulvaney, Tony Dolphin presented with the winner's cup by Johnny Farrell Cub Captain, Jackie Cunningham and Aideen Bergin. Back row Mattie Croffy, Murt O'Neill, Gerry Fitzgerald, Aiden Coyne, Pat Harney and Johnny Hurley.



Photo left: Ballinasloe Golf Club Matchplay Winners Presentation:- Gary Egan (O'Connor McHugh), Johnny Farrell (Captain) & Brian Geraghty (Golfer of the Year). Back Declan Flannery & Declan Murphy (Fourball), Conor Murphy & Mary Goode (Mixed), Eamon Staunton (Foursomes) Club President.



Brian Geraghty presented with the Golfer of the Year Trophy by Johnny Farrell Captain.



Pictured at the presentation to the prize winners in the Ballinasloe Golf Club Witches & Wizards Competition were front l-r Michael Ward (Captain), Brian Geraghty (Dubarry), Conor Murphy, Jack Coughlan, Gerry Barrett and Adeline Naughton (Lady Captain). Back Teresa Coughlan, John Hurley, Bernie Geraghty, Mary Goode, Noreen Kenny, Andy Fenton and Des Harney.

U13 FOOTBALL COUNTY CHAMPIONS



The young team recently defeated Headford in Mountbellew.

Manager Joby Kelly stated, "We got exactly what we deserved, we trained hard and worked as a team. We had a very serious approach and that's what you need to do if you want to be successful as a Team."

"Everyone played a major part all year and I have no doubt if this team can stick together, they can go places," said Joby.

There will be a medal presentation and a awards night hosted by the club and details will be released through their Facebook page, Ballinasloe GAA.

PADRAIG PEARSES GIRLS U 14 COUNTY CHAMPIONS '18



Back Row (L to R): Eimear Hynes, Chloe Costello, Aiveen Curley, Ava Mulry, Abbie Goode, Rosa Monaghan, Aoife Cruise, Keira Keogh, Aoife Keogh, Rebecca Cruise, Katie Murray, Ella Rose Greene, Hannah Farrell, Katie Mulry, Katie Curly & Ella Greene.

Front Row (L to R): Nicola Curly, Arlene Cunningham, Hana Kelly Burke, Amelia Halpin, Amy Costello, Emily Martin, Emma Mc Greal, Ciara Lohan, Mia Walsh, Charlotte Blackweir, Bláthnaid Kelly, Ava Shanley, Jennifer Downey, Lorna Cruise & Marianne Monaghan.

Personal Injury* | Property Law | Wills and Estates | Family Farm Transfers

Your Local Law Firm

Serving Ballinasloe & East Galway since 1930

Visit **www.phogan.ie**
and claim a free consultation

Trust. Integrity. Expertise.

Our Address
Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe,
County Galway, H53 YR91
Open 9.30 a.m - 5.30 p.m

+353 (0)90 9642110
+353 (0)90 9642107
info@phogan.ie

*In contentious business, a solicitor may not calculate fees as a % of any award/settlement.



PATRICK HOGAN & CO.
SOLICITORS

GAA OSKARS SET TO PROVIDE A MEMORABLE NIGHT

Strictly Come Dancing, and Who Wants a be a Thousandaire have all had their day but the new Megga Fundraiser format is now the very popular and fun Oskars Night which is taking place in the Shearwater on Friday 7th December – with a limited number of tickets are still available.

The format for the evening, which is sponsored by Ballinasloe Credit Union and Supermacs, will see live music from Ballinasloe Town Band from 7pm and a mulled wine reception on arrival. The ballroom will be laid out in Cinema style and people will be asked to take their seats from 7.20pm, show will start at 7.35pm. While there is no dress code, to add to the occasion Black Tie is optional.

All 7 films which will be 10/12 mins long will be shown. Those films are The Snapper, Calendar Girls, Sister Act, The Field, Rocky, The Full Monty & Shawshank Redemption. These have been filmed all over Ballinasloe in the last 2 weeks and the cast are all well known locals.

There will be an interval of 10 mins after the first 4 films. There will be a free draw for all entrance ticket holders at 11pm for several thousand euro worth of prizes. To speed the process up have your name and

The cast of "The Snapper" featuring John Mitchell as Dessie and Kevin Cuniffe as the friendly neighbour Georgie Burgess with the film director Pat O'Sullivan.

"The Field" in full flow with The Widow (Una Ni Bhroin), The Bull McCabe (Jim Lally), son Tadhg (Aidan Lonergan) and The Bird (Seamus McGuinness). Aidan Lonergan directed this film.

Some of "Sister Act" accosting GAA Treasurer Mark Ward. Film Directed by Brendan Naughton

Some of the Calendar Girls enjoying a well earned "Supermac" meal. Film Director Stephen Kerr is absent from photograph as is Miriam Murphy and Diane Dolan.

phone number written on back of ticket as you hand it in.

Following this the Judges (chaired by Galway Bay FM's Valerie Hughes and including well known Theatre Director Eamon) will announce the

winners of the various OsKaR awards.

Finger food will be served at 11.30 and a live Band and Disco will commence. Fun & crack is guaranteed into the early hours of Saturday. Tickets €30 for everyone, available from East Galway & Midlands Cancer Care, Brackernagh (chosen Charity partner), Shearwater Hotel, cast Members and Club Secretary Gerry Seale on 087 237 6976

It is hoped that over the coming weeks the movies will be placed on the GAA Facebook page as part of the Xmas build up .It is also hoped that the event will secure good revenue for the club and its charity partners for the project.

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

BALLINASLOE LIFE

Christmas Cards



Ballinasloe LIFE in an effort to reach out to our Diaspora and remind them that they can stay in contact throughout the year and that we would love to help them with a business or investment idea - are producing a limited set of local themed Xmas Cards - designed by KPW Print with photography by Robert Riddell. Priced at €4.99 (plus postage and packing if ordered by telephone from KPW Print) they will be available from late November in the LIFE Magazine outlets - Salmons, Dolans, Town Hall Theatre, Corrib Oil and Edel at KPW Print 090 9642297. **Please support if you can**

PAUL KEIGHERY WINS GALWAY CLASSIC SNOOKER CUP



Ballinasloe's Social Club snooker and billiards member, Paul Keighery, recently won the Galway Classic in The Eglinton, Galway city. In a close-matched final, against top ranked player Hughie O'Donnell, Paul took the title by three frames to two.

In a game that could have gone either way, Paul secured the win by potting the brown ball to ensure silverware was coming back to Ballinasloe. Paul has now moved up to number two in the County Galway ranking.

Club Chairman, Barry O'Connor, commented "The Final featured high-quality all-round play from Keighery and O'Donnell. It had everything, including a great tactical battle as well some great break building and high breaks."

Paul had a hard run to the final with close games. He beat former number one Ollie Martin in the last sixteen, then had a great comeback victory against fellow club member Gerry Daly. Paul met Noel McCarty in the semi-finals, using all his experience to get him through on a score line of three frames to one.

Barry stated "It was a great day of snooker with so much talent on show with very little between all the players. A player can beat another player on any given day, but Paul was top of the lot and brought the cup back to Ballinasloe" adding "Well done to all the other club members who played in the competition. Snooker is alive and kicking in Ballinasloe."

The Club recently held their AGM for the 2018/2019 season to reflect on the year's successes and to discuss the future developments of the club. Club Secretary, Joseph Kelly gave a detailed account of all the activities within the club and gave a special mention to the club Sponsors which included Joe's Bar, Divilly's Carry Out, David Keighery and Sons Painting, Cormac Lyons, Tesco and Gerry Daly. Joseph commented "Without their sponsorship it would be very difficult to run competitions and tournaments and we are very grateful to them all."

The committee also marked the sudden passing of Ger McGrath who captained the club in the Galway Championship, the Connacht Championship, and their largest team in the All-Ireland Championship in Killarney. Joseph commented "It was a very sad occasion. He was an inspiration to every member and he will be deeply missed."

The following people were elected to the committee for the 2018/2019 season.

Chairman: Barry O'Connor, Vice-chairman: Paul Keighery, Secretary: Joseph Kelly, Treasurer: Joey Walsh, PRO: Dara Jordan, Club Presidents: Pasty Finn, Thomas O'Connor and Mickey Murray. Committee members include, Adam O'Connor, Alf Walsh, Declan Colohan, Colm Keighery and Gerry Daly

The Snooker Club is open Monday-Friday from 5pm-9pm, and Saturday and Sunday 5pm-7pm. Annual membership costs €20 for a senior member, €10 for a youth member aged under 18, and €10 for an associate member. For more information contact Barry on 086 8427576, or Joseph on 0876317817. You can also follow the Club on Facebook by searching for "Snookerclub Ballinasloe".

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

J&S PHOTOS

**AMAZING OFFER:
100 DIGITAL
PRINTS
ONLY €20**

**Your one-stop photo shop
in the heart of Ballinasloe**

- ▶ Digital & Film Printing
- ▶ Photo Restoration
- ▶ Picture Framing
- ▶ Camera Equipment
- ▶ Video Transfer
- ▶ Studio Photography

- ▶ Passport & ID photos
- ▶ Canvas/Poster prints
- ▶ Photocopying
- ▶ Laminating
- ▶ Photogifts
- ▶ Safe Pass Photos

10 Society Street, Ballinasloe • Tel: 090 9631566
Email: jskodakexpress@gmail.com

TALKING HEADS

HAIR & BEAUTY

Opening Hours

Tuesday to Saturday
9.30am-6.00pm

Late Opening
(By Appointment)
Thursdays & Fridays

(090) 9642189

(087) 2989492

info@talkingheads.ie

Find us on: **facebook.**

- All In One Wedding Packages Available •
- Out Of Hours Appointments • Colours •
- Cuts • Up-Styles •
- MAC Make-up Application •

WISHING ALL OUR CUSTOMERS A MERRY CHRISTMAS & PROSPEROUS 2019

NEW TEMPORARY HOME FOR TENNIS CLUB

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH



Club members and committee after the final day's play at the rugby club.

Ballinasloe Tennis Club has recently left its long-term home, to allow for the Rugby Club to expand their facilities. The club has moved to a temporary location at Ard Scoil Mhuire where it is business as usual. To mark their departure, an open day and barbecue was held and an official handing over of the courts back to the Rugby club.

The club are awaiting the outcome of the current round of Sports Capital Grants in order to be able to utilise their new facilities above the running track in Brackernagh, for the 2019 season Planning permission to build four courts with artificial surface and lights was obtained over eighteen months ago. Longer term plans are for a covered court and a multi-purpose indoor sports facility.

Once established, the club plans to expand all activities and invite residents to participate in free sessions at the courts and offer reduced membership rates to job seekers and pensioners. Due to complications with the lease it has only been possible to apply for the lower level of sports funding, which means the club will only be

able to build two tarmac courts with lights.

"We are grateful to Galway Council for the site, but this has been a frustratingly slow and complicated process" said club spokesman, Garry Zancanaro. "We are now counting on getting close to the full amount we have applied for to have the new facilities in place for our members for next season. Unfortunately, we are going to have to wait until the next round of funding to build the other two courts and to install the synthetic surface that we had planned to build as part of the first stage," he explained.



Official handover of tennis courts with Tennis Club Chairman Joe Staunton (right) to Rugby Club Chairman Tom Horkan, with committee members (l-r) Garry Zancanaro, Sarah Doherty, Ellie Finn, Declan McKeon.

From long before the club was offered the site, they have been in contact with Councillors, TDs, Ministers and Senators and they are grateful for the invaluable support offered, with a special mention for Councillor Tim Broderick, without whose help it may not have been possible to overcome the final hurdles to making the grant application.

Garry commented "We are most grateful for the support of the people of Ballinasloe and the elected representatives who have helped us.

Also huge thanks to Ard Scoil Mhuire, local representatives and Fr Bernie Costello for the use of the Emerald Ballroom during this period of transition."

The club is very active with over one-hundred-and-twenty members. In addition to local activities, members regularly participate in interclub competitions, with a men's team recently reaching the finals of the Midland League. The very successful long-term Special Needs programme in conjunction with Brother of Charity is now operating in the Emerald Ballroom.

For further information see facebook.com/bsloetennisclub or call Garry 085 112 4197 or Joe on 087 252 1424 for junior and coaching queries.

FIRST FOR VALUE

HOGARTY'S

FLOORING AND DIY

Find us on:
facebook

DECEMBER CHRISTMAS SPECIALS

*Thank you to all
our Customers for their
continued support
and wishing you all
a peaceful Christmas
and all the best for 2019!*

20% OFF
Lighting

20% OFF
Wallpaper

20% OFF
Rugs

Hogartys for all your decorating needs
Carpets, Laminate Flooring, LVT Flooring, Vinyl Flooring,
Skirting, Fleetwood Paints, Wallpaper, Lighting

Hogartys, Birchgrove, Creagh, Ballinasloe
Tel: 090 964 3109

YOUNG PLAYERS SHINE IN SCHOOL'S INTERPROVINCIAL SOCCER

Garbally College students, Oisín Duffy and Jordan Carr, became the first players to win a soccer schools' Interprovincial title, beating Ulster in a tense final. The players were recently selected to represent the Connacht under-eighteen's squad after two competitive trials.

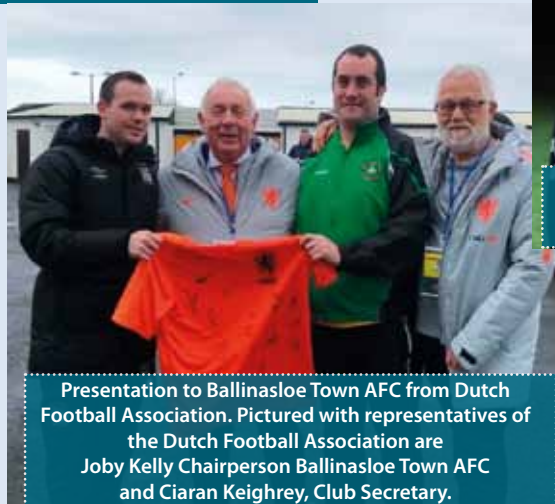
In the first of a series of three games, Connacht faced Leinster with a four-one victory. Oisín Duffy was influential in Connacht's second goal. The second game ended in a one-one draw for the squad against Munster.

In the final, the team needed triumph over an unbeaten Ulster to claim silverware. Club Chairman, Johnny Walsh, commented "It seemed ominous for Connacht after receiving a red card and their competitors scoring an early goal. With their back to the wall, they secured a two-one, famous victory and a schools' interprovincial title."

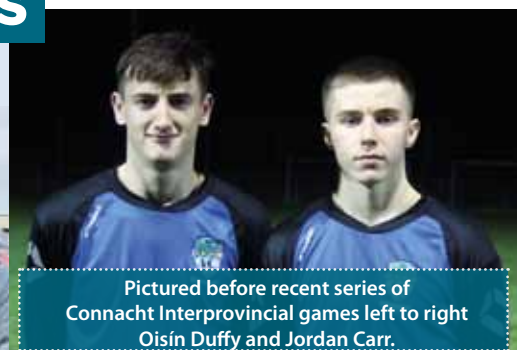
Youth Player Selected for International Academy

Ballinasloe Town AFC youth player, Cameron Keighrey, has recently been selected for the under-thirteen International Soccer Academy after numerous trials. Johnny stated, "The future looks bright for this very promising young player," he added, "We are very proud of Oisín, Jordan and Cameron on their recent fantastic achievements."

International Dutch Squad at the Curragh Grounds



Presentation to Ballinasloe Town AFC from Dutch Football Association. Pictured with representatives of the Dutch Football Association are Joby Kelly Chairperson Ballinasloe Town AFC and Ciaran Keighrey, Club Secretary.



Pictured before recent series of Connacht Interprovincial games left to right Oisín Duffy and Jordan Carr.

Ballinasloe Town AFC soccer club recently played host to the Dutch under-nineteen international squad for ten days while they were in Ireland competing in the UEFA Qualifiers. The young team played in qualifiers against Ireland, Holland, Bosnia and the Faroe Islands.

The Squad utilised the recently revamped Curragh Grounds prior to and after each competitive game for training and tactical sessions. A spokesman for the Dutch team stated "The facilities available here are top-class. We are very grateful to the team's officials for their hospitality."

Club development coordinator, Johnny Walsh, commented "We are not resting on our laurels with our development. We have recently submitted a detailed club development grant application to the Department of Sports Capital Scheme."

The Club are now seeking local public representatives and Oireachtas members to make strong representations for a sizeable allocation to be awarded to the local soccer club.

For more information and latest information about the club, visit the Facebook page [Facebook.com/ballinasloe.townafc/](https://www.facebook.com/ballinasloe.townafc/) or contact Johnny on 087 6317817.

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

Dolans Service Station

Dublin Road, Ballinasloe

CENTRA

TOPAZ

Supermac's

**Full Off-Licence
Hot & Cold Deli**

**2 Car Washes
Mini Valets**

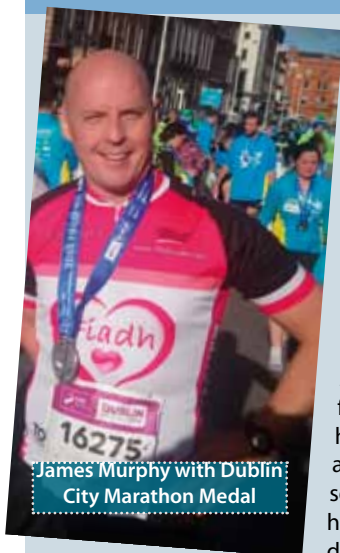
**Call & Collect:
090 964 3177**

Tel: 090 9642178 Email: dolanscentra@eircom.net

OPEN 24 HOURS, 7 DAYS

Serving the People of Ballinasloe for over 50 years

JAMES MURPHY FINISHES FIRST MARATHON FOR BROTHERS OF CHARITY



James Murphy with Dublin City Marathon Medal

James Murphy, (from Mayo), recently completed his first Marathon in Dublin with fellow co-workers from Viewpoint Resource Centre. This follows his recent charity fundraising cycling event "Miles in Their Memory" from Dublin to Belmullet.

James works as a Social Care Worker for Brothers of Charity and has played a huge part in the lives of the people who avail of the Viewpoint Resource Centre's services. His specialised area is sport, health and fitness. James has recently developed a Caltra fitness programme for the people with disabilities.



James proudly wearing this year's Dublin City Marathon Medal with the gang from Viewpoint

Viewpoint team leader, Carol Pender, commented "If you asked him two weeks ago, he was only going to do it once in his lifetime, but rumours have it he has already signed up for Dublin City Marathon next year. The work he does is just fantastic and he keeps finding ways to raise much need funds and awareness for the organisation."

For more information about the Viewpoint Resource Centre contact Carol on 0872158711.

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH



MAIN STREET,
BALLINASLOE

Phone:
090 96 44514

DAILY SPECIALS: SEE IN STORE

*Try out our
healthy brown breads
FREE FROM ADDITIVES*



GEAROID GERAGHTY & COMPANY SOLICITORS



www.gearoidgeraghty.ie

PERSONAL INJURY, CONVEYANCING,
CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LITIGATION, WILLS, PROBATE,
COMPANY, FAMILY LAW, LEGAL AID

Gearoid C. Geraghty, BA, LL.B • Mary Jennings, BA, LL.B
Joseph W. Fahey, B.C.L. • Martina Moran, B.C.L. • Aoife O'Brien, LL.B

BALLINASLOE OFFICE

Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Tel. 090 96 50000 Fax: 090 96 50050
DX 62 002 Ballinasloe
info@gearoidgeraghty.ie

DUBLIN OFFICE

24 Upr Ormond Quay, Dublin 7
Agency No. G050

MOUNTBELLEW OFFICE

Co. Galway.
Tel. 090 96 79680
Fax: 090 96 79681
mountbellew@gearoidgeraghty.ie

SUCCESS AT CONNACHT SCHOOLS SWIMMING

The Club recently competed in the Connacht Minor School Championships in Athlone with four medals being taken back to Ballinasloe.

Five swimmers will now compete in the National Finals in Dublin next February. Both Liam Martin and Kayla McKeon won silver in the under-twelves butterfly, with Kayla also qualifying for the freestyle event. Evan McKeon won gold in the under-eleven's individual medley and bronze in the breaststroke while Matilda Kelly and Sarah Dolan also swam qualifying times, joining their team in February.

Head coach, Fiona Flynn, commented "We are very proud of our team. Everyone showed full determination and it is testament that all the training is paying off," she added, "Well done also to Ethan



Mahon, Philip Costello, Vivienne Naughton and Maia Donnellan who all had personal best performances and also to relay team Maia Donnellan, Matilda Kelly, Roxy Garvey and Lauren Doran who competed for Creagh National school.

"Ballinasloe Swimming Club always welcomes new members and is a great way for those who enjoy swimming to improve their fitness and technique. We offer flexible options of swimming one, two or three

days per week" said Fiona. For all queries contact club secretary, Sinead on 0879109909.

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

CYCLING CLUB REVIEWS 4 YEARS

They have covered many miles around Ballinasloe and most counties around Ireland.

And with the help of their sponsors this year they upskilled and trained a large amount of members with Club first aid and CPR Training. They also got trained up with members taking part in Child safeguarding courses 1-2 and 3, and got 10 members trained in group leader coaching course while 3 members having done a cycling Ireland coach so they will be able to help out more club cyclists and youth next year.

They have lots of plans for next year. With couch to 50km and lady's and youths Cycles planned, all thanks to support from our sponsors Dubarry, Barry's Cycles, Kelair, Dillon's Tyres, and McKeons Sand & Gravel.

Keep checking on our Facebook for all cycles and events



John McDevitt, John Donnelly, Noel Slevin, Gary Devlin, Annette McDevitt, Micheal Blehine, Helen Gavin, Ronan Campbell, Aidan Dolan, Daniel Gleeson.

BALLINASLOE GARDEN CENTRE

DEERPARK, BALLINASLOE. PH: 090 9643787. MOB: 086 0673167. PROP: BARRY WARD

YOUR LOCAL BOARD BIA AWARD WINNING GARDEN CENTRE & SUPPLIERS OF QUALITY IRISH PRODUCTS

At Ballinasloe Garden centre you will find.....

Mix and match offers on winter Bedding
€3.99 or 3 for €10.00

Fruit Trees- apple, pear and plum
€25.00 or 3 for €50.00

Wide range of Shrubs with a selection for
5 for €25.00

Locally Grown Alpines
4 for €10.00

Standard Trees
€39.99 or 3 for €100.00

Christmas Offers

Christmas Trees starting from
€29.99 to €85.00

Christmas Door Wreaths

Christmas Remembrance Wreaths

Christmas arrangements, pottery, gift vouchers and lots more festive goods.

Professional advice available
at your local garden centre

Give a gift voucher
to spend over the
gardening season

OPEN
7 DAYS

MON-SAT 9-6
SUN 12-6

We would like to thank our customers and friends for their continued support
and wish everyone a merry Christmas and a happy New Year

FIRST DUBLIN CITY MARATHON FOR TEN LOCALS



Front row (L-R): Éilish Treacy, Caroline Kennedy, Annette Jennings, Margaret Connaughton, Kitty Tuohy.
 Second row (L-R): Karen Reynolds, Noel Kenny, Antoinette Beegan-Gallagher, Sorina Nutu.
 Third row (L-R): Vicky Costello, Caroline Gallagher, Gerry Bruen, Helen Leyden.
 Back row (L-R): Brian Dolan, David Claffey, Ollie Grenham, Claire Dillon, Alan Harney, Gerry Blake, James Kelly.

Ballinasloe Road Runners members recently competed in the Dublin City Marathon during the October Bank holiday weekend last. They had members running marathons for the 113th time right down to our

brave and determined 10 members taking it on for the first time!

Brian Dolan coordinated this year's marathon training for most of the group. He commented "All the hours of training and evenings the crew sacrificed pounding the pavements of Ballinasloe in all sorts of weather have certainly paid off. All reached the finish line happy and healthy and proud of the incredible achievement they have accomplished."

Many of the members running this year started off their running careers with the club's annual "Couch to 5k" programme which will be returning in January next year.

As the 2019 marks the 40th anniversary of the Dublin 26 Mile Marathon endurance race, many of the participants have signed up again for the historic 40th. On arrival back to town on the Sunday night, many of the successful athletes, their families and friends shared a welcome and refreshing welcome home party in Gibbon's Pillar House.

For more information about the club visit the Facebook page "Ballinasloe and district road runners."

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

NOONAN & CUDDY
 SOLICITORS

SPECIALISTS IN
 Personal Injury Litigation & Medical/Surgical Injury

Employment Law,
 Wills/Probate, Conveyancing
 and All Legal Advice

CONTACT AMBROSE CUDDY

Free Phone: 1800 771 688 Phone: 090 964 2344

Fax: 090 964 2039 Email: info@noonancuddy.com

Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Ireland.



UNDERAGE ATHLETES COMPETE IN CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Club recently competed in the first of the Connacht Cross Country Championships which were held in the Sligo Racecourse, with the day being dedicated to the even age athletes.

In the under-twelves, Eva Ruane and Sinead Greene competed in the two-thousand metre race. Eva finished in fourteenth position overall helping the Galway girls' team win a silver team medal. Aoibheann Fitzpatrick finished in ninth position over the longer three-thousand metre distance. She helped Galway win the team silver medal.

Day two of the Connacht completion took place in Beleek, Ballina, with the day dedicated to the uneven age category. In the under eleven's fifteen-hundred race, Sinead Green finished in seventeenth position overall and placed fifth in Galway, helping girls' team win the silver.

The under thirteen's twenty-five-hundred race saw Aoibheann Fitzpatrick, Eva Ruane, Leah Clarke and Aoibhín Coughlan compete as a club team. Aoibheann finished in eleventh position overall and placed third finisher on the County team winning a team silver.

Club spokesperson, Anne Burke commented "The club wishes to congratulate all the Athletes who competed over the two days." The next competitions are the All-Ireland even age and odd age Cross Country Championships.

Even age is scheduled for late November in the National Sports



Campus, Abbotstown, Dublin. Eva Ruane and Aoibheann Fitzpatrick will represent Club and County on this day. Odd age is scheduled for mid-December in Navan Racecourse, Co, Meath. Sinead Green, Aoibheann Fitzpatrick, Eva Ruane and Leah Clarke will fly the flag for Ballinasloe and District Athletic Club and Co Galway.

"Best wishes to all these Athletes in the All-Ireland Cross-Country Championships on both days" stated Anne.

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

KPW Memorial

10% OFF
your order total
with this advert

- friendly staff
- custom designs
- fast turnaround
- memorial cards
- bookmarks
- wallet memorials
- acknowledgement cards
- thank you cards
- brochure available

Specialists in Custom Designed Memorial Cards



Poolboy Ind. Est., Ballinasloe. Tel: 090 9642297 Office hours 9am - 1pm & 2pm - 5pm

BEIBHINN'S FIRST IRELAND RUGBY TEST CAP



History was made in Donnybrook Stadium last month when Ballinasloe and Connacht Women's Rugby player, Beibhinn Parsons, became the youngest every player (at just 16 years) to take to the field and secure her first cap against the U.S.A. The Beechlawn girl covered wing and full back position from the bench at the start of the game.

"Anyone who has watched her play over the past few months will have seen her physical capabilities and how much she has imposed herself at U18 level," said Ireland Women head coach Adam Griggs. "I was lucky enough to have her through the U18 Sevens, that's where she really stood out to me. I think in the last Home Nations tournament she scored 12 tries. That was an indicator that physically she looked like she could really challenge our senior players. The idea was to bring her in as a development player and see how she coped physically first, but what she has shown in the past four camps is an understanding of the game.

Indeed, the presence of development players Beibhinn Parsons, Aoibheann Reilly and Daisy Earle in the Ireland Women's November squad suggests a new era is being heralded by head coach Adam Griggs and his fellow coaches.

She took to the field in the International game with just seven minutes to the final whistle but Head Coach Adam Giggs was fulsome in his praise "over the past two months, she's been able to experience a taste of senior women's rugby in our camps. We've seen there that she is well able to handle it. I know she has got a smile on her face from a personal side of this even if the result didn't go our way she's an exciting player to have moving forward."

As Alice Hughes the squad's scrum-half readily points out, she is actually a relative novice in comparison to some of these players,

which provides her with great hope for the future of Irish Women's rugby.

"It's mad. I'm only playing six years, but some of those girls are playing longer and they're younger. Beibhinn and Aoibheann, they're playing a hell of a lot longer than I am. Their experience is huge. Again, it's like that. They just need to find their feet. Once they do that, they're going to be unbelievable players" she added.

Moycarn

lodge & marina



BALLINASLOE, Co GALWAY

Tel: 090 96 45050

En Suite Accommodation, Balcony River View
Open for Lunch and Evening Meals
Catering for Weddings, Birthdays, Communion
Confirmations, Christenings & Children's Parties.



Sandy's DOG GROOMING SALON

Experienced & fully qualified dog stylist/groomer

CHURCH HILL, BALLINASLOE

**The BEST Grooming Salon
for your DOG**

- 🐾 Full Grooms and Mini Grooms
- 🐾 Handstripping, de-shedding
- 🐾 Hygiene Care (Nail clipping, Ear cleaning and anal glands expression)
- 🐾 Ultrasound teeth cleaning without anaesthetic
- 🐾 • More info on our page



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

tel: 086 665 4069

[f / SandysDogGroomingSalon](https://www.facebook.com/SandysDogGroomingSalon)
www.sandysdoggrooming.ie

BALLINASLOE ST. V de P CHRISTMAS APPEAL BY KEN KELLY

The St. Vincent de Paul Society in Ballinasloe have appealed for support in the run-up to Christmas as they join with the Lions Club in the distribution of hampers to deserving families in the town and surrounding areas.

The St. Michael's Conference of the V de P is a visitation conference covering a catchment area from Cappataggle, Aughrim, Kilconnell, Fohenagh, Ahascragh, Clontuskert, Killure and Taughmaconnell, as well as Ballinasloe town. Volunteers meet on Monday nights in Oznam House, Jubilee St., where people can contact them with requests for help etc.

Joan Hynes, President, said "We reach out to people in need-whether it's food, fuel, education etc. All requests are dealt with in the strictest confidence. Over the years we have helped through the Maureen O'Connell Fund different schemes around the town. I want to thank the people of Ballinasloe who are always very generous with donations, both financially and with donations to our 'Vincent Shop' at Oznam House on Jubilee St., Phone 086 2307373."

Wishing everybody a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas, Joan said demands for help were increasing daily and she urged support for the Society as they tried to meet the needs of the less well-off in the locality.



The Ballinasloe Society of the St. Vincent de Paul Committee in the 60's.

Front row, l to r: Paddy Kelly, Andrew Staunton, Pat Molloy, Rev. Peter Dunne, Peter Cummins, Charles Molloy and Dan Doran.
2nd row, l to r: Joe Foy, Danny Flynn, Joe Brennan, Eamon Moore, Val Martin, Gerry Corcoran, Dr. Michael Browne, Michael Cody, Hugh Kearney, Michael Shaughnessy.
Back row, l to r: Michael Joe Kelly, Charlie Murray, Vincent Kenny, Peadar Byrnes, Pat Stack, James Holloway, Brendan Walshe.

BRIAN LYNCH **MOTOR FACTORS** Quality Parts & Accessories



Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
(Beside Barrett's Hardware)

T: 090 9646950 M: 087 4181464

E: bplynch63@gmail.com

Opening hours 7.30am to 6.00pm

ROBERT GELETA **MASSAGE THERAPIST**



Holistic massage
Sports massage
Pregnancy massage
Cancer care massage

€30

Bamboo massage
Hot stone massage
Dry needling

€40

Treat your loved ones this Christmas



Contact Robert:

phone: 086 301 0870
address: 30 Rathglas, Creagh, Ballinasloe
facebook: @robert geleta massage therapist
web: www.massagetherapist.ie
email: robert@massagetherapist.ie

Aughrim-Born William MacNevin

BY BARRY LALLY

For some obscure reason the short stretch of roadway connecting Ballinasloe's Harris ("Burma") Road with the Town Hall car park used to be referred to by local wags as "The Gaza Strip". Officially it's MacNevin Avenue, named in commemoration of William MacNevin born near Aughrim on 21st March 1763.

William's ancestors had been wealthy Ulster landowners whose estates were confiscated in Cromwellian times when they were forced to relocate to Connacht. His family occupied a fair-sized holding which provided them with a comfortable living. Both his parents, however, died young, leaving their children to be raised by a widowed aunt.

At the age of ten William was sent to Prague to live with an uncle, Baron William Hugh MacNevin, a court physician. After classical studies in that city, William went to Vienna to study medicine, graduating in 1785. He returned to Dublin where he established a highly successful and extensive medical practice.

MacNevin joined the Catholic Convention, an organisation agitating for the repeal of the Penal Laws, and made two speeches, which were subsequently published, advocating the same franchise for Catholic freeholders as for Protestants. Sworn into the United Irishmen in 1796, he became a member of the national directory and travelled to Hamburg the following year to deliver a memorandum to the French minister seeking military and financial aid to support a planned uprising in Ireland. The French response was equivocal, prompting the United Irishmen to proceed with their plans with or without French assistance.

Together with Thomas Addis Emmet and Arthur O'Connor, MacNevin was arrested in Dublin on 12th March 1798. On finding themselves confronting a capital charge, their behaviour was understandable if less than heroic: given an undertaking that their lives would be spared if they co-operated with the

authorities, they agreed to reveal the plans and organization of the United Irishmen without, however, disclosing the names of those implicated in the conspiracy, which, as it happened, were already well known to Dublin Castle through informers. Before his inquisitors MacNevin declared: "Liberty and national independence being our object, we never meant to engage in a struggle for a change of masters. It was a measure we were forced into, inasmuch as I am now and always have been of the opinion that if we were an independent republic, and if Britain ceased to be formidable to us, our interest would require an intimate connection with her."

Imprisoned at Fort George in the north of Scotland, MacNevin and his co-accused enjoyed a generous measure of freedom under a relaxed regime, and were released in 1802 during the Peace of Amiens on condition that they never returned to Ireland. After his release, MacNevin spent some time travelling in Europe before joining the French Army as a surgeon-captain in the Irish Brigade. He soon, however, grew mistrustful of Napoleon's intentions regarding Ireland, and became disillusioned with military life after he had acted as a second in a duel involving officers that resulted in the death of one of the combatants. He resigned his commission and sailed to America in 1805.

In New York he resumed his medical practice, receiving his M.D. from Columbia College in 1806. He was professor of midwifery at the College of Physicians and Surgeons from 1808 to 1809, afterwards occupying the chair of chemistry from 1810 to 1826. MacNevin established the first chemical laboratory in the city, and is best known for his early recognition of the importance of the atomic theory, which he elaborated in his "Exposition of the Atomic Theory", published in 1820. Amongst his purely literary works may be mentioned "Rambles through Switzerland" and "Pieces of Irish History". A man of wide cultural interests, his first



Cooper

The **No.1** Helmet in Hurling

NEW In Stock

Hurling/Football Rebounder Net

Mini Goals

Cycling Helmets

Hurleys, Sliotars, Grips, Footballs Leisurewear and much more.

1 Poolboy Industrial Estate, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.
Tel. 087 2369665 sales@cooper.ie www.cooper.ie



language was Irish, which he continued to speak in America whenever the opportunity arose. Besides English, he was fluent in French, German and Italian, and had an extensive knowledge of the literatures of those languages.

Throughout his residence in the United States he continued his interest in Irish affairs, holding the presidency of the Friends of Ireland Society to promote Catholic emancipation. In 1816 he was chairman of a

committee for the settlement of Irish farmers and farm labourers on American lands, but this project never came to fruition. In the same year he was instrumental in opening an office for the purpose of obtaining employment for Irish emigrants, who were arriving in New York in large numbers, and in 1827 he opened a free registry office for the benefit of Irish domestic servants.

At various times in his life MacNevin revealed himself as a political moderate who was in no way a doctrinaire separatist. He once informed a Swiss army officer that at first he wished only for Catholics to receive the benefits of the British constitution. Under detention in Dublin he had stated before the Lords' Secret Committee that he favoured a French invasion only to prevent bloodshed, and in France he told an official that the United Irish envisaged for Ireland a government and parliament on the American model, and a federal connection

with England. Shortly before his death he said in an interview: "My views are limited to a domestic legislature for the business of the country, not extending to foreign affairs, continuing to be part of the English monarchy, subject to the king of England, no church establishment, no tithes."

In 1810 MacNevin married a widow of Dutch descent, Jane Margaret, with whom he had four children. He died on 12th July 1841 and was buried at Bowery Bay on Long Island. Some years later a commemorative obelisk was erected in St. Paul's Churchyard, Lower Manhattan.

ATHLONE CHIMNEY REPAIRS

- Chimney Repairs
- Soot & Smoke Problems
- Demolish, Re Build & Re Flue Line
- Chimney Fires
- CCTV Camera Inspection
- Insurance Claims processed

For Professional Advice
Contact John Hibbitt



Tel: 090 9673336

Mob: 086 2678350

Email: info@athlonechimneyrepairs.ie

 **Barna Recycling**
Caring for your Environment

**Local, Reliable,
Affordable.**

Domestic Waste Collection

www.BarnaRecycling.com

(091) 771619



WINTER GARDENING TIPS

The Winter months are a great time to start new gardening tasks and to get organised for the busy Spring ahead. Savvy gardeners know there is plenty to keep busy with in December and January, even if the garden may be buried under ice and snow.

The simplest way to add colour to your garden and spruce up your home for the Christmas season is to plant your winter/spring containers. Adding new bedding and removing old drab summer bedding brings a new lease of life to any garden. It is a good idea to do this in early December as you can avoid the rush of Christmas and enjoy your flowers for a longer season giving you that feel good factor.

If you want good value in hedging now is the time to find Bare Root Hedging. By planting this hedging you give the plant time to root and get established before spring. Bare root plants begin to root underground during the winter months ensuring that your hedge is established come Spring. It is important to use some well-seasoned manure or compost.

Over the winter months you may find bare spots within your garden which once went unnoticed surrounded by colour. A good way to bring colour back into these areas are with Winter Flowering Shrubs. They can also be planted into containers and eventually transplanted into the garden. Some of our favourite Winter flowering shrubs are viburnum thymus, skimmia, the Christmas rose (hellebores) and the



Advt. **BY BARRY WARD**

Christmas box (sarcococca), which has a beautiful scent at Christmas. Spotted laurel aucuba japonica is also lovely as it produces berries and a traditional favourite holly.

Why buy a real Christmas tree? Christmas trees absorb carbon dioxide and emit oxygen while growing. They are grown on farms throughout Ireland. The farmers who grow them plant new seedlings every spring to replace those harvested at Christmas. There are currently

about 5 million trees growing in Ireland. Christmas tree plantations provide a perfect habitat for a wide variety of wildlife. Their dense foliage is ideal for nesting birds and animals, such as deer and hare who love the cover they provide. The tree environment provides a complete ecosystem of its own and plays an important role in enhancing Ireland's biodiversity.

Real Irish grown trees are natural, renewable, recyclable and local, so by choosing a real tree you are helping the environment and your community. As well as all the environmental reasons a real tree provides a beautiful Christmas smell throughout the house and adds that festive feeling to any home.

The best way to maintain a Christmas tree is to cut a small piece off the bottom of your tree and leave the tree standing in water for a few hours before placing it into a tree stand. If possible use a tree stand which can hold water. When recycling your Christmas tree, chop it up for natural mulch in January. Small branches could be used to help insulate plants or they are good to add to a compost pile as they contain carbon which helps break down the compost.

TIMES GONE BY

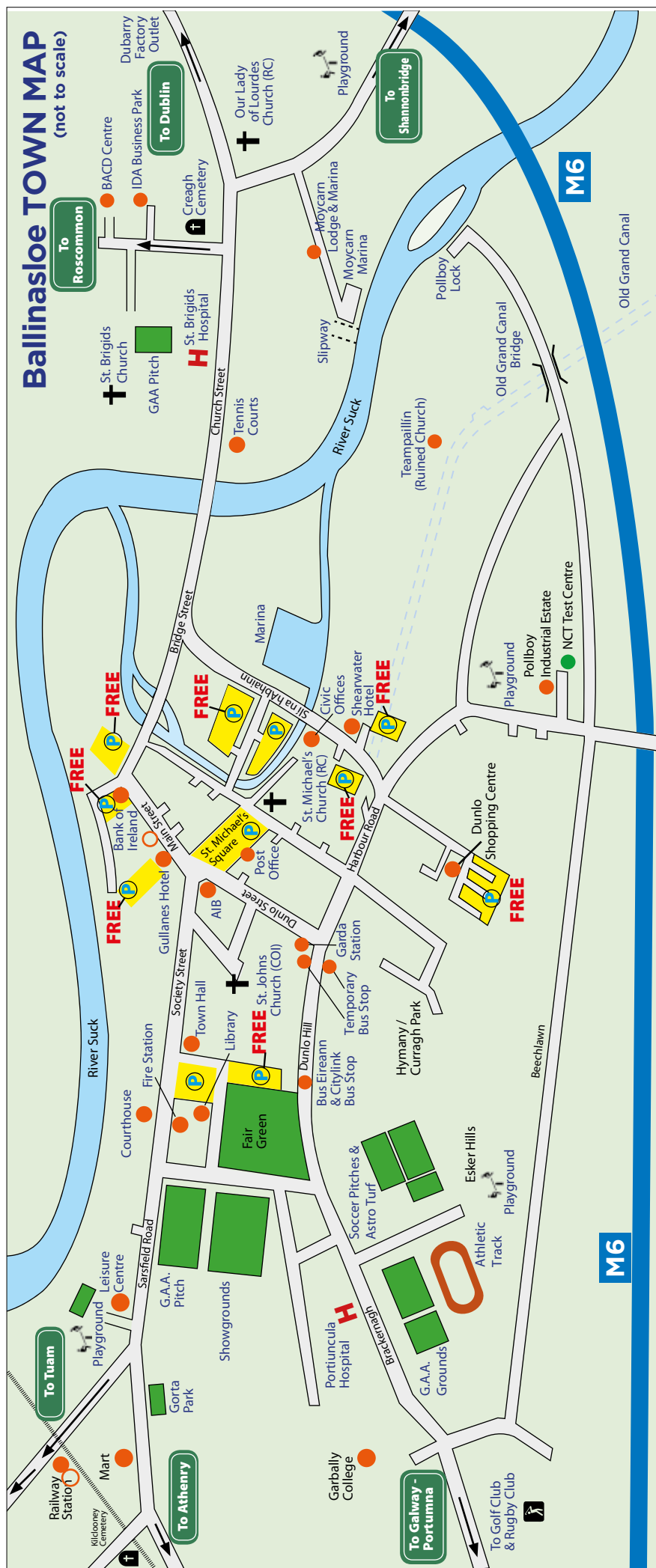


Dubarry Clicking Room Staff 1970's

Back Row, l-r: Johnny Keighrey, Timmy Casey, Thomas Rigney, Brendan Tierney, Kevin Caulfield, Austin Lyons, Paul Egan, Michael Darcy, Christy Griffin, Sean Carrig.

Middle Row l-r: Patsy Finn, Martin McDonnell, Jacko Keighrey, Bernie Loughnane, Des Finnerty, Sheamie O'Neill.

Front Row l-r: Tony Coyne, Paul Lloyd, Brendan McNally, Johnny Curley, Joe Kelly.



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.



Find a wide selection of footwear, clothing, bags and accessories at clearance prices in our Factory Shop


FACTORY SHOP
OPENING TIMES:
Monday - Saturday & Bank Holidays:
11am - 6pm

dubarry 
of Ireland

Factory Shop, Junction 14 off the M6 Motorway,
Ballinasloe, County Galway H53 H6F3

35 College Green, Dublin D02 N271

Visit our website for retail partners in your area or to buy online

dubarry  **com**