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BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 9 Issue 2: June '19 - July '19

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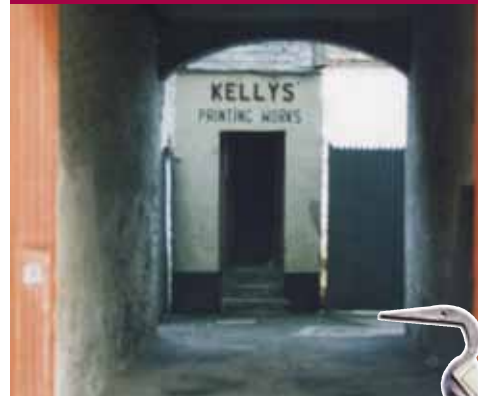


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Welcome to Volume 9 issue two

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This –is my 50th Editorial of this Magazine on the week where we held the 20th AGM of the Development Company that produced, promotes and provides for this publication.

The cynic in me still would like to string up the countless among us who still think a deadline is rough tidal zone that can be navigated with a pant and a call to Duffy! Some publication production we will record and broadcast an edited version of the antics of Lou Grant et al.

On a serious note it was encouraging to hear Liam Scollan state at our AGM that in 40 Development Company AGM's he had not heard a more comprehensive reporting of a year's activities or ambitious plan for the future.

As this hits the streets our new shiny Council will have been elected ready to implement all their promises: we will, as they shall learn, that you campaign with poetry but must govern with prose. We wish them well in their endeavours and hope they will have the ability to co-operate for the betterment of all.

Reflecting on the town 20 years ago when an Enterprise Centre and a Development Company was being frowned upon by some and laughed at by others. The vision and persistence of a few gutsy and determined community activists in the Credit Union Boardroom and the business community, aided with some generous cash support from

Firstly congratulations to our six newly elected Councillors for Ballinasloe Municipal District and well done to all of those who were prepared to put their name forward in the contest. Many thought provoking ideas were put forward and work can still be done on those in a voluntary capacity within the Community.

Organisations are crying out for new people to come on board which always brings new impetus to ongoing projects.

Ballinasloe Area Community Development is celebrating its 20th Anniversary. Put the clock back 20 years and imagine approaching a financial institution for a loan of €500,000 to buy a rundown hospital with over 250 broken windows with the wind howling through and no sign of a single tenant in sight. Thanks to Ballinasloe Credit Union who said Yes to that request.

The loan is now cleared and the Building is fully upgraded, 95% occupied and with over 170 people working here.

The Company has expanded into many other Community

the Creagh Community Council and tacit approval and cash from the then UDC saw a vehicle sputter life into the old Chronic and weave a success story from 240 broken windows to over 60 firms and 750 jobs supported and created.

Yours truly was present for the early horrors, knows where the hatchets are buried and perhaps more importantly where a few handles are still sticking up. Our failure as a community in the 80s and 90s (when all around us was economic wasteland) was to cooperate, work together and maintain and add to what we had.

Foreign Investment is fickle as we found out; State support and engagement should not be – 26 teaching and support staff posts in a special school under threat over an 800% in an insurance premium should be more of a wake-up call to be more vigilant!

Every service benefit and additional post we can retain for employment and attractability is key, we all hope St. Teresa's gets the positive outcome they, their students and their families deserve.

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



projects and working in conjunction with Galway Co. Council are now close to filling the 4,000 square feet office space over the new library building.

Our primary focus is to build an Advanced Technology Unit on the IDA site and a new Grant Application is in the process of being done.

Thanks to all the people who attended our AGM recently and especially to our Guest Speaker Liam Scollan, who as former CEO of the Western Development Commission and Knock Airport, has a wealth of experience working with rural communities.

SEAMUS DUFFY,
Chairman Ballinasloe Area
Community Development
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WHAT'S INSIDE

Local News

- 4 Newly Elected Councillors
- 6 Western Development Commission
- 7 Two Ex-Pats Launch

Business

- 8 Remote Local Workers
- 9 Cystic Fibrosis Cycle
- 11 Newton Energy Team
- 12 New Compliance Team
- 14 KPW Celebrates 70 Years
- 16 National Young Entrepreneur

Community

- 18 Shearfitness Gym
- 19 GELS Annual Fundraiser
- 20 St. Teresa's School Crisis
- 21 Fifth Tour D'Shams
- 23 Bumps and Babies Group
- 24 Development Company 20th Year
- 25 Local Defeated Candidates

Schools Rules

- 27 Think You Can Recycle
- 28 Garbally College
- 29 Aughrim School and Ardscoil Mhuire

Community

- 30 Out and About
- 32 Events Guide

34 Celebrations and Events

- 35 Darkness into Light
- 36 Sports Ability Day
- 37 Voluntary Transfers
- 39 Ballinasloe Man Leading The Way
- 40 Late Fr. James Keane

Culture

- 42 Aughrim Visitor Centre
- 43 All Shook Up
- 44 In-Step Stage School
- 45 This, That & The Other
- 46 Local RAF Gunner's Family

Sport

- 48 125 Years of Golf
- 49 Ballinasloe Rugby Football Club
- 51 Gold Medal Swimmers
- 52 Athletes Progress in Track & Field
- 53 Soccer Club's Season Ends
- 54 GAA Easter Camps
- 55 Pearses GAA Busy Summer
- 56 Tennis Summer Season
- 57 McDonagh Aims for European

Tourism And Heritage

- 58 Aughrim Man Commemorated
- 60 Liam Mellows
- 62 Ballinasloe History Walk



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NEWLY ELECTED MUNICIPAL COUNCILLORS 2019 - 2024



Timmy Broderick "I am proud, elated. It's my third time to be elected as a county councillor. I found it, by far, to be the toughest campaign" said Tim.

He criticised the redrawing of the electoral area, saying "The electoral area is spanning from Banagher Bridge up to Ballymoe. There's no thought being put into that. I thought it would have been far more beneficial having five seats to the south of the electoral area. I thought it would've been more effective to take a seat out of the Ballinasloe electoral area. We're now looking like we may be in the situation where we have three councillors in the North representing six and a half thousand people, and three in the south, representing seventeen thousand – there's an imbalance there. This has been reflected nationally, with the absence of any real thought being put into any proper rural regeneration. I thought I would be in a battle for the fourth or fifth seat – I never in my wildest dreams thought I'd top the poll."

Regarding his future plans: Rural broadband, rural isolation, and the demise of Ballinasloe are firmly in his sights "we need to revitalise Ballinasloe. We need to have people sitting around a table, devising and having a look at how we can make Ballinasloe the great town it once was."

"Thanks to all those people that came out and supported me, and those who canvassed with me night after night."



Michael Connolly "I see a huge opportunity for Ballinasloe. I see we have medtech companies coming to this country, to places like Galway, which is very positive. With the Big Dig soon to be completed, I think we're going to be a very modern town that's open for business. The town is right in the middle of the country. It's connected by road, rail, and has broadband, modern storage facilities, and modern water facilities – there's a new state of the art building about to be built; the planning permission has been granted. I believe when those type of services are delivered, you provide a plan for clean room facilities that companies are looking for now. We can't be dwelling on the past. We need to start looking to the future. I'd love to see the 50 bed unit built in Portiuncula Hospital. All of these new, modern developments to the area would not just give the town, but the outer regions like Kiltormer and Clontuskert a boost."

The two biggest issues I faced on the doorsteps were poor broadband services and the dire state of the roads. Irrespective of where people live now, be it in an urban or a rural area, or they live on a country botharín, they're paying their taxes; fuel taxes and carbon motor taxes – they're all equally entitled to services, and I think service is going to have to be provided.

Biggest issue in terms of Co Galway – we get €2.8 million from the equalisation of the property tax. Mayo get €13 million, Tipperary get €19 million, and Donegal get €21 million. We're paying more in LPT than those areas, and we should be getting our fair return. More pressure is needed to be put on our Oireachtas members.

Very special thanks to my director of elections, my son Patrick, and my wife who keeps me on the straight and narrow. To all the people who voted for me – a very special thanks."



Dermot Connolly "People are finding it difficult as regards to services being delivered. With roads being very poor, there's a lot of issues in the rural part of the constituency. Broadband was a big issue that we found, and it needs to be delivered in areas where it currently can't be achieved. In other areas, agriculture was an issue – it's increasingly difficult to survive on small to medium holdings – there are uncertain days to come in the times ahead. We have a big need to provide the services that Galway County council can deliver, and to get our staff complement up to the proper level that's required."

When asked what his plans are for the next five years, Councillor Connolly said: "I hope to be able to engage with all the colleagues in Galway Council to try and force the funding issue to the fore. Whether that's for crossroads or housing, for example

in Ballinasloe town we have the roads network being upgraded now. Rates is a big issue for us small to medium businesses, and to ensure that we don't impose any heavier sanctions on those, to try and increase a situation where businesses can thrive and town centres can develop. Roads network in rural areas is brought up to a proper standard. For transport, route 20 was recently downgraded, and that needs to be made a public service obligation. Flooding is another issue we heard about; communities like up in Clonfert are more or less being forgotten about, and we need to address their issues.

"It was a great relief to get across the line, in a hard fought campaign with a small team of dedicated people, no more so than Gerard O'Reilly who lead us from the front. People really put their shoulders to the wheel and engaged with us, and for that I'm thankful. My wife Kaitija who has kept the home fires burning with three small kids. There were 12 candidates who put their name forward for election, and I salute every one of them for doing so."

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Peter Keavney Peter earns his living as a farmer and an Agricultural Contractor. Married to Mairead, they have a young family and a very busy household. He is the chairman of the Clane festival committee, President of the local drama group the Players, and also a member of Glenamaddy Musical Society as well as former chair of Glenamaddy Community Council and the IFA. Peter is interested in promoting the interests of the youth and of local families.

"Rural towns have taken a hit, particularly over the few years in the economic downturn. Rates that apply to business people in those towns have been a major financial burden. At Council level we must work hard at influencing National Policy on rates. Ability to pay and a more equitable rate must apply to reduce this burden from businesses. We need a policy whereby the turnover and size of the business be taken into consideration rather than the current blanket charge which is unfair and inequitable. It is my intention to further this policy by mobilizing support at National Level within the Fine Gael party to get the appropriate changes made at Government level.

I am delighted for my supporters, family and friends and look forward to working with all for the next 5 years."



Declan Geraghty "This means an awful lot to me. It's a fantastic achievement for all the people who were involved with me, the people who canvassed, the team, the community, and not only for me but for everybody in the area. To come from Williamstown, to get the chance to branch out, meet people and talk to them about their difficulties - I'm so excited and looking forward to it. I'd like to thank Marty Ward, outgoing councillor Des Joyce, Michael Fitzmaurice, as well as my wife, son and brother, my godmother Peggy, and everybody that helped out.

"I was met with a lot of issues on the doorsteps. Broadband is a massive one, especially in the rural areas. In some villages, we heard that reception is available on one side of a house and not on another. Portiuncula Hospital was another huge issue and Roscommon Hospital also, alongside the overcrowding in University Hospital Galway. I don't know if we can do anything to change that, but what we can do is try and influence how things get done.

"Road and landscape maintenance were another problem that people brought up on the doorsteps. Byroads not being tarred, potholes, hedges and trees needing clipping - the usual stuff that goes on with the County Council. There's an awful lot of work to be done, and hopefully by me getting elected, I may be able to bring a different change of view as to the way we can go about things. Hopefully, if we can all have the same vision then we can all do the best for our communities - I think that's what it's all about. Another thing that's out there is the community manifesto - it's a thing that's not talked about. It's where the community comes together, with little workshops around in different areas, based upon things the area requires. People need to come together and say "Look, this is what our community would like to learn about."



Aisling Dolan "This is for everyone in East Galway, in Ballinasloe and Pollboy. It's been a team effort. We've had thirty people or more working on our team, but it's been everyone. We knocked on everyone's door. I think that people who listened to us realised that what we were saying is what they wanted as well. In other words - how to bring jobs to the area we live in, how to save Portiuncula Hospital, how to make it a place to live, a place to work, a place to visit - this is what people want. It's a love for what we have in the area, and I think that's what made people join our team. How do we attract tourism, how do we tap into hidden heartlands. We have heritage, we have landscape, we have peatlands. We are going to have a greenway coming into Ballinasloe. We are going to have an option to attract people in and show them what a unique community we have. Community spirit, and just a great sense of people volunteering.

People want to keep their towns and villages alive, and they want to have the jobs and the income to do it - it's about things like flexible working, broadband, being able to work from home, being able to support farm incomes, as well as other ways to approach ecotourism, and how to help catering and accommodation in the area.

My major priority is the 50 bed unit in PUH. It's been promised and it hasn't arrived yet. We have to protect that, and how we fight for that is huge. It would mean myself and our other councillors working with our national TDs to ensure we can get this across the line. I want a greenway in the town and that's going to come. I suppose tapping into hidden heartlands, would involve working with all the businesses in Ballinasloe, with other heritage groups to showcase what a wonderful space we have. With that, building a business association in the town would be one of the key things I would like to see happen."

The following were elected to the Loughrea Electoral area: Michael "Moegie" Maher (Fine Gael), Jimmy McClearn (Fine Gael), Shane Curley (Fianna Fail), Ivan Canning (Fianna Fail) and Pat Hynes (Ind.).

BY COLM CROFFY

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WESTERN DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION PLAN LAUNCHED

The Western Development Commission held an official launch in the office spaces above the Library on Society Street recently.

The 2019 – 2024 strategy, titled "Work Smarter, Live Better" is focused around growing and developing the Western regions of Ireland by investing in tech, connecting digital working hubs, and promoting the area's unmatched quality of life.

The strategy has three pillars: Regional Promotion, Regional Leadership and Sustainable Enterprise, with short-term, medium and long-term goals respectively.

Regional Promotion will focus on the further development of the WDC's jobs and lifestyle portal, called lookwest.ie, and engaging with communities in Clare, Galway, Mayo, Roscommon, Sligo, Leitrim and Donegal.

Regional Leadership will see the continuation of WDC policy analysis, as well as supporting the WDC's role as co-ordinating agency for the Atlantic Economic Corridor (AEC) project, as set out in Project Ireland 2040. The AEC covers the spine of Ireland's western coast, and includes all the counties from Donegal to Kerry. BACD Manager Lynn Donnelly and Director Billy King are Ballinasloe's representatives to this working group.

The launch was attended by various members of Galway County Council, local politicians, members of the Western Development Commission, as well as members from the Ballinasloe Area Community Development clg.

The plan seeks to maximise Ballinasloe Town as the County Town – as one of a key number of strategic investment locations.

Under the strategy, almost €50 million in structured supports will be offered in investment and lending to companies and businesses, with a focus on innovative or tech businesses that are developing or have the potential to develop a global niche. Alongside this, Minister of State for Community Development, Natural Resources and Digital Development, Sean Canney TD, also announced that €1m in Dormant Accounts Funding will be made available to create a network of Enterprise Hubs and Digital Spaces from Co Donegal to Co Kerry. The centres, powered by fibre broadband, will support the growing trend towards remote working, community hubs, and offer a lifeline for early stage rural-based companies and entrepreneurs, such as the likes of the Pulse Club and Grow Remote here in the locality.

Senator Maura Hopkins, attending said "It is very positive to see the first client company operating from this space in recent weeks. This is a very good example of what can be achieved in our enterprise hubs. We need to see further hot desk facilities developed and this WDC strategy seeks to support such development."

BY DONOGH MOORE



Picture L to R:
Senator Maura Hopkins,
Kevin Kelly CEO Galway
County Council,
Lyn Donnelly Manager
Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre,
Seamus Duffy Chairperson
BACD,
Tomas Ó Siachain CEO
Western Development
Commission,
Dr. Deirdre Garvey
Chairperson Western
Development Commission,
Minister of State at
Department of Rural and
Community Development,
Sean Canney TD.

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TWO EX-PATS LAUNCH NEW BUSINESS SERVICES FIRM

Araya Business Support Services is the brainchild of Niamh Creaven-Connaughton and Honoria Mitchell-Black, who, on returning from overseas have created a business dedicated to help unburden clients from administrative heartache.

Niamh, a Creagh native and daughter to Paddy & Margaret Creaven, moved abroad to Switzerland shortly after school with her husband, Phil Connaughton. She studied Bookkeeping and Accounts, later Business Administration and lastly Office Management. Niamh's latest role was as an Executive Assistant in Jet Aviation, Basel - a global company specialising in VIP cabin interiors and VIP Aircraft maintenance. After 13 years abroad and following the birth of their second son, the family decided to return home.

Honoria hails from Kilconnell and is the daughter of Bridie and Miceal Mitchell. Having worked in the family Construction firm, she quickly learned the fundamentals of business from an early age. She went on to graduate from NUIG with a Masters in Business and Marketing, and prior to leaving Australia was Marketing Campaign Manager at Deloitte in Sydney, which involved managing the firm's major marketing campaigns for over 9 years.

She also recently returned from Sydney with husband Paul and family in tow after 14 years.

Both women explained that with parents still living in Ireland, they felt it made great sense to return to their homestead so their children could be close to their grandparents and extended family.

Their business goal is to provide high quality, professional and complete business solutions across administration, accounts, marketing, social media, web design and events and project management, all the while providing best in class support to business owners and busy professionals.

Upon in-depth market research, they quickly realised that was a gap in the market for their services that no other business was offering. "Entrepreneurs can often find it challenging to focus on growing their business, when the day-to-day activities consume

their time leaving little scope for anything else" says Niamh.

"Many small business owners probably won't have the resources to pay for someone in house or want the hassle of hiring, training and managing staff when you they have other pressing matters to focus on" commented Honoria.



Niamh Creaven-Connaughton and Honoria Mitchell-Black

Around the same time, The Pulse Club was just launching and provided the girls the support and motivation to get the business off the ground faster. "It is refreshing to see so many like-minded individuals in the same space on a Tuesday evening, raising each other up and giving each other the confidence and determination to move forward" says Honoria.

Honoria and Niamh are also members of The Pulse Club Steering Committee, and enjoy the challenge of creating a platform that provides the members with the support, advice and networking opportunities to move forward. Already, they have partnered with other local experts within the Pulse Club - working alongside each other on various projects showcasing local capability.

They are also members of the local Grow Remote chapter.

More information about Araya and their services can be found on their website www.araya.ie

BY DONOGH MOORE

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NEW CHAPTER FOR REMOTE LOCAL WORKERS LAUNCHED BY D MOORE



Renate Kohlmann, Chapter Lead of Grow Remote Ballinasloe.

In Ireland, remote working is growing in popularity but from a relatively small base. Grow Remote organisers estimate that there are around 220,000 people working remotely in Ireland currently.

Some of the international companies with operations here have already started implementing these policies. Shopify now has employees working in all 26 counties and has grown rapidly by outpacing the targets it set for the Irish operation. The Canadian e-commerce company started with basic frontline business and customer support positions but has since expanded its workforce by adding many more roles.

Wayfair announced it was launching a "virtual workforce" of more than 200 new jobs around Ireland, aiming to tap into an even broader talent pool and provide employment opportunities to a wide range of qualified candidates.

The ESRI has noted that job stress owing to commuting times and other factors has doubled from 2010 to 2015 – all leading to workforce seeking changes to work remotely from home and leave the gridlock of commute behind them. It's estimated that 50% of the workforce will be remote by 2040.

Grow Remote opened its 60th Chapter in town recently when Renate Kohlmann launched the branch at the Library. Over 30 people, presenters, trainers, funders and potential workers interested in learning more about the sector and the concept were delivered a full Information and Induction evening into a new "Cottage" style industry of the 21st Century.

Grow Remote was founded on Whatsapp by a couple of Irish Remote Workers in Autumn of 2019 and has now grown in 18 months to over 60 groups in 4 countries. The Volunteer led and owned network is to 1) help Community find employment 2) Help Repopulate their local area 3) Help remote workers engage locally.

The evening had passionate presentations from a cofounder Tracey Keogh of Kinvara, and Gary Mullin who is a team leader with Shopify working remotely out of Athenry. Tracey reflected on the trajectory of the REMOTE network and the power it is having in remote rural places like Achill, Valentia, Ballymahon and Cootehill in getting young couples from the Irish and UK Cities to return or resettle to locations they are happier having a healthier work life balance in.

She reported that everyone in Government circles was very positive about the impact these jobs could have in rejuvenating rural Ireland – alongside (of course) access to broadband. She spoke of Seminars, Conferences and Town or Area Visits that different Chapters were promoting around the country to get people to lessen the isolation of working remotely. She wished Renate and the Chapter well in getting established in Ballinasloe.

Gary told it as it was and surprised many with the range of companies looking for entry level and specialist remote worker. The jobs package and specs on offer were from anywhere between a median salary of €29,000 for a 35 hour week, training,

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE...

Summer Tanning Tips

Andrea & Breda from the Front Room

- Gently exfoliate well a few days before application.
- Our best buy exfoliator for the body is BELLAMIANITA GLYCOLIC SCRUB.
- Do not have any perfumes, oils, moisturisers on the skin before applying tan.
- Put a very light coat of moisturiser on your ankles, knees and elbows before application.
- Be extra cautious if you have recently tinted your brows and apply vaseline over the brow before tanning....tint + tan = green or orange! Not a good look!
- If tanning at home our secret weapon of choice for hands, feet and face is a foundation brush. A Blank Canvas F20 is my fav....I mix a small bit of my tan with some moisturiser and brush it on gently. Hands, feet and face should always be slightly lighter than the rest of the body.
- If your tan has been open a while and looks like its changing colour do not use it...it has oxidized!
- If having a spray tan make sure to come to your appointment with some loose, dark, oversized clothing that you can pop on afterwards. Avoid flip flops as they sometimes leave a mark on the tan so we prefer a fluffy, loose sock and a loose trainer or slippers.



- As soon as your tan is applied wipe the palms of your hands and your nail plates with a wet wipe.
- Stay well covered for the following 6 to 12 hours (depending on what brand of tan you are applying) and DO NOT get wet.
- You can even out your tan after showering off the excess by applying moisturiser. An Oil - Free Moisturiser will help maintain your tan for longer and help it wear off evenly.
- For tan removal we love Cocoa Brown Tough Stuff and Bellamianta Glycolic Scrub in the shower. After your shower apply an oil based body product all over the body..we love Waxperts Body Oil for this or Baby Oil works well too! Leave it on the skin for 10 or 15 minutes and get a damp towel and rub over in circular motions. Jump back in the shower to wash of the excess...works a treat on those stubborn areas! We suggest you nominate an old towel as your Tanning Towel for this as it does leave the towel stained!!!

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LOCAL CYCLIST IN MALIN TO MIZEN - CYSTIC FIBROSIS CYCLE

BY DONOGH MOORE

The 5th annual Cystic Fibrosis Cycle from Malin Head in Donegal to Mizen head in Cork was undertaken by 40 amateur volunteer cyclists recently, with local amateur cyclist Brian King undertaking the challenge for the first time this year. Brian was seen around the local highways and byways in the past few months training for the event.

The cycle which is 620 km long, is a real test of stamina for volunteer cyclists and it is broken down into 4 manageable sections with lengths varying from 147km to 168km daily. The group of 40 amateur riders also require outriders on motorcycles and a support staff to transport the cyclists "gear" from place to place over the 4 days in late May.

In this respect Cystic Fibrosis Ireland was hugely appreciative of the assistance of Fred Kilmartin, Ford Dealers who sponsored a new Ford Transit van for the duration of the cycle.

Cystic Fibrosis (CF) is an inherited disease that primarily affects the lungs and the digestive system. It affects 1300 individuals in Ireland. Funds raised by the cyclists (circa €100,000) will be used by CF Ireland to support families during periods of illness and/or hospitalisation, as well as research and equipment.

The photo shows Michael Kelly, Micheal Dean and Teresa Kilmartin, of Fred Kilmartin Motors Ltd., presenting the van to Noel Madden and Mary Madden from the Ballinasloe Branch of CF Ireland. Noel has been a volunteer support driver for the duration of the Malin to Mizen challenge.



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CONTINUED...

allowances and up to 25 day holiday allowance with flexible working hours and fixed levels of client or customer interaction - upwards.

There were then some perspectives on leading innovative educators who recognise that not everyone can come to this work zone without some training. There were insightful presentations from Nuala McGinn NUIG, Patricia Farrell from the GRETB who spoke about the range of courses, CPD opportunities and certification processes that they are developing to cope with demand for these type of new posts.

Renate, in wrapping up the evening, spoke about how a dedicated Remote working Hub in the locality would be a huge asset in raising awareness and getting more people to join the Remote Chapter and seek out new opportunities.

Examples of where to find remote working opportunities are: employmum.ie, freelancer.com, abodoo.com, remoteur.com, dynamitejobs.co, or LinkedIn, Indeed, Google or the EU Remote Jobs Facebook page.

For more information on the branch email or visit the link - <http://bit.ly/GrowRemoteBsloe>

GALWAY RURAL DEVELOPMENT



The Galway Rural Development Office in Ballinasloe offers a range of services to the local community, including employment and enterprise support and assistance, community development and TÚS, a community work placement scheme.

Training courses include CV & Interview Skills, Manual Handling, Safe Pass, HACCP, First Aid Responder, Driver Theory and in collaboration with GRTEB we also offer community education classes including cookery, hairdressing, upholstery and many more.

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Funded by the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Department of Employment Affairs and Social Protection. The Social Inclusions and Community Activation Programme(SICAP) 2018 – 2022 is funded by the Irish Government and co-funded by the European Social Fund under the Programme for Employability, Inclusion and Learning (PEIL) 2914 - 2020

NEWTON ENERGY TEAM UP WITH KLOSS OIL

BY DONOGH MOORE

Newton Energy is an oil and fuel provider, and have recently opened an office on Main Street in Ballinasloe, beside the Vodafone shop and just across from Supermacs.

They provide a range of goods and services, such as Home Heating Oil, Kerosene, Agri-Diesel, Auto Diesel and more to the townlands and beyond. Not only that, but they also supply fuel to commercial, agricultural and domestic customers too.

The business was originally established by George Newton, and began operating over ten years ago, although they only recently situated themselves in the town. Son of Arthur and the late Kathleen Newton, George has always had ties to the locality, as he was educated in Aughrim. Not only that, but he, his wife Beatrice, who works in Portiuncula University Hospital and their four children all now reside in Persse Park, which is located just outside the town. It was over twenty years ago that George took on a keen interest in the oil business, and he has been working in the industry since.

In recent times, the business has become a Klass Oil distributor. Klass Oil is an independent oil delivery company, which serves high quality oil at competitive prices. This offers an extra assurance to customers when choosing whom to buy their oil and fuel from. Both Newton Energy and Klass Oil hold themselves to a higher standard when it comes to delivering their goods, and so all deliveries are metered in accordance with the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI), to guarantee that customers get the exact quantity of fuel that they are paying for.

George himself said: "Being in the Oil Business around the



George and Kieran Newton.

Ballinasloe and surrounding areas, we have been very lucky with our customers, and we are incredibly grateful to them. Our main priority is to provide competitive pricing with a prompt, reliable and efficient service in which customer care is very important to us all at Newton Energy."

Newton Energy's new central office is open from Monday to Friday, from 9:00 am to 6:00pm. Outside of these hours, they are contactable by both phone and email. To get in touch with the business, ring George on 087 906 3431, or contact him via email at: georgenewtonaughrim@gmail.com



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CULLIAGH NATIVE HEADS UP NEW COMPLIANCE TEAM

FIRM **BY DONOGH MOORE**

Since 2012, Eoghan Kenny has actively been working with a wide range of clients across many sectors including public sector, pharmacies, home care providers, medical device distribution and maintenance, IT Providers, software, construction, and retail among others.

In mid 2018, the Culligh native took the decision to move full time into the compliance, advisory and solutions space and from January 2019, he began to provide a range of expertise through the newly formed company, The Compliance Team Ltd. – based at the Enterprise and Technology Centre, Creagh.

Eoghan decided to do this as he saw a market need, with busy business owners experiencing more compliance requirements than ever, and existing offerings through large consultancy companies being far too expensive for the SMEs that were in need of help. The individual consultant offering that Eoghan himself practiced for so long was also not capable of providing a full solution to these clients, as no one person can have all the expertise and solutions needed to deal with ever-growing compliance requirements.

The Compliance Team has a team of experts and professionals available to call upon as needed, without the cost of hiring in the expertise on a full-time or even part-time basis as PAYE workers, which is a great solution to the SME sector. Along with the expertise, Eoghan and the team have curated and assembled a range of software products that the team acts as an approved reseller or managed services partner for. This, combined with strategic alliances with training providers, ensures that they can offer a complete solution, at a reasonable price.

The Compliance Team can help companies in areas such as certification to all ISO standards, business efficiency improvements,

cybersecurity and data protection (GDPR), business continuity and disaster recovery planning, quality assurance and quality management systems, environmental management systems, health and safety management systems, plus a wide range of training services.

The team work to ensure compliance is seen as something that must be done for the benefit of the business rather than something that should be done just for the sake of it, or because the company has to. They do this in a way that can add value and not just prevent an undesirable event or outcome. At the core of compliance is better business.

The Compliance Team not only lend businesses a helping hand, whatever their compliance needs, but do so in a way that can help achieve better processes, reduced administration and overall add value to the business. The team strive to work with businesses, not just for them.

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BIG DIG GRINDS ON TO END OF YEAR CONCLUSION

The 'Big Dig' town restoration works still continue in the town centre with St. Michael's Square fully complete. Society Street, while not fully open yet, has been considerably freed up from the heavy works that have been taking place there all year, which are set to reach completion in the coming weeks.

Once these provisional works are completed on Society Street, Dunlo Street will then face a partial road closure, when resurfacing works are being carried out there. Pedestrian access will however be available throughout.

When these works are finished the resurfacing project will then proceed onto Main Street, as outlined to the Municipal District Council last month. These works on Main Street are anticipated to take place from September onwards, and reaching completion near Christmas time.

For more updates on the Big Dig, keep an eye on 'www.ballinasloetownenhancement.com' and watch the Ballinasloe LIFE Fbook Page.

Please Try and Make an Effort to Support Businesses Affected !



BY DONOGH MOORE

BALLINASLOE BUTCHER RETIRES AFTER 35 YEARS IN BUSINESS

BY KEN KELLY

Ballinasloe butcher, Kevin Reynolds, will close his doors for the final time on Saturday, 1st June after being 35 years in business in Brackernagh. The Westmeath native opened in February 1984, renting a property from the late Tim Divilly. Five years later he purchased a house belonging to the late Ambrose and Lily Broderick, which he renovated to a high standard and has traded very successfully there since.



Kevin explained "Consumer demands for better quality food at cheaper prices and the increase consumption of ready-meals/food in the younger generation, are all having an

affect on business. The growing influence of the discounter stores and increasing costs, particularly insurance and rates, are creating a very difficult climate for small businesses in Ballinasloe."

However, Kevin Reynolds is not hanging up his apron just yet. Being an experienced craft butcher he intends to continue his profession on a part-time basis. "I would like to thank my loyal customers, friends, family and suppliers who have supported me

over the last 35 years and I would urge people in the Ballinasloe and surrounding areas to support small and local businesses" concluded the popular butcher.


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Kelly's Printing Works or KPW as it is now known, was founded by the late Sylvester Kelly in St Michael's Square in 1949. Starting in a 200 sq. ft. workshop, the business purchased the old "East Galway Democrat" premises in Society Street in 1950 and in 1983 they moved to Poolboy Industrial Estate where they now operate from a 30,000 sq. ft. unit, catering for all types of printing for the home and international markets. Now trading under the name KPW Print Management with Brendan and Michael Kelly as directors, the company now employs over 30 people and it proudly boasts the third generation of the Kelly family employed in the business.

Celebrating its 70th Birthday this year is truly a momentous milestone in the history of Ballinasloe after a 33-year-old man had the foresight to establish a "New-look Printing" outlet. Unfortunately Sylvester passed away inside six months of its



Entrance to the Printing Works in Society Street.

opening but his brother Michael took over the reins when he purchased "The Democrat" in 1950. He was joined by his sons, Ken in 1955, Michael S. in 1969 and Brendan in 1980 before modern technology forced the family to seek more space. They became the first occupants on the new Poolboy Industrial Estate, when in November 1983, they moved into a 5,000 sq. ft. specially designed plant.

Soon the company was employing for the first time and as the business grew they were forced to add new equipment and enlarge their factory space to a massive 30,000 sq.ft. over a few years. They became the first printers in the West of Ireland to introduce computer continuous printing, with the installation of

a £1.2million machine, which attracted customers from every county in Ireland as well as overseas. KPW was even contracted to print Electricity Bills for the Ugandan Government as well as customers in South Africa and Australia.

Now employing over thirty workers, the company have six graphic designers to meet the needs of its medical and corporate customers nationwide. "Customer relationships are paramount here in KPW" said MD, Brendan Kelly. "We have a great team here who can cater for all types of designs, printing and delivery. Our 24-hour express colour printing service is in big demand while our range of Memoriam, Wedding and Baby Cards is comprehensive" he explained.

Brendan further added "Printing has changed a lot over the past seventy years and we have moved with it. We have now one of the most modern plants in Ireland, producing everything from a raffle ticket to programmes, hard-bound books, cheques, continuous stationery, all-weather outdoor signs, roll-up display signs etc. The recent elections saw up print for candidates in ten constituencies which was an indication of our quality service."

KPW have kept abreast with many changes in its industry – an industry that has claimed the demise of so many print companies over the past 12 years. KPW has invested wisely and conservatively over the same period and has made crucial decisions to partner with like-minded companies where they share expertise and particular types of work that is to each other's satisfaction. While KPW now boasts a major producer in the production of Pharmaceutical and medical life instruction leaflets to many of Ireland's leading companies, it still relies on commercial print work and continues to design, print and stock hold products for Ireland's biggest hotel chains, supplying not only their Irish sites but also their UK outlets. To meet the needs of their loyal customers, five years ago KPW made a significant investment in the production of sign making equipment. In particular for the past month they have been very busy producing Election signage for all the parties in the Local and European elections.

"KPW wishes to acknowledge the loyalty shown by so many politicians who continue to support their local printer. Likewise we are fully aware of all the local businesses who have supported KPW since 1949. The company makes every effort to support local businesses and to buy locally and to always offer our own customers any business we can" concluded Brendan Kelly.



Sylvester and Michael Kelly on O'Connell Bridge in Dublin, on their way to buying their first printing machine in 1949.



Early employees in the Poolboy plant, from left: Seamus Brennan, Valerie Cahill, Geraldine Weir and Anne Keogh in 1984.

Ken and Michael Kelly in the Society Street Premises in 1956.



Michael Kelly at his Linotype machine with his grandson Mark in 1986.

The three Kellys: Michael, Ken and Brendan checking a print in 1989.



Third generation Kellys - Alan and Mark.

Long serving employees, l-r: Seamus Brennan, Larry Rohan (Production Manager), Brendan P. Kelly and Brendan Dooley.

LOCAL BUSINESSMAN SHORTLISTED FOR NATIONAL YOUNG ENTREPRENEUR FINAL

BY DONOGH MOORE

Although Raj Lyons-Chohan was born in London, he moved back to Ballinasloe aged 5 alongside his mother Anne-Marie and younger sister Zoe.

His mum, coming from Quansboro, Killimor, brought Raj and his sister up in Hymany Park. He attended primary school in Creagh, under the guidance of the principal Tony Broderick, and from there furthered his education in Garbally College.

Once he left school, Raj got involved in the automotive industry and after spending over 15 years working in both the British and Irish market, he now specialises in Electric vehicles.

From a very early age he was exposed to the world of entrepreneurship, thanks in no small part to his grandfather, Michael Lyons, running a highly successful trophy shop-Lyons Trophies. It was from him where Raj learned the most important fundamental aspect of any business, "The Customer Experience", and this is the foundation on which Raj plans to build all his future businesses.

When an advertisement for 'Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur' caught his eye, Raj decided to submit an idea that he had been thinking about, under the 'Best Business Idea' category. Raj himself said "This has honestly been one of the best decisions I have ever made. The support I have received from the Local Enterprise Office in Galway has been excellent. It truly was a great honour to be shortlisted from hundreds of applications to compete for the title of Ireland's Best Young Entrepreneur 2019." These awards offer huge incentives for budding entrepreneurs. With an IBYE investment fund of €50,000 each, every local enterprise office will award up to six investments to three category winners and three runners-up at county level.

The business idea, titled 'EV ENERGY – Your Electric Car Partner' has high ambitions. It hopes to be the Booking.com and AirBnB equivalent to the electric car charging network. EV Energy hopes to give drivers the ultimate charging experiences, all the while

promoting businesses, towns, cities and tourism pathways that have electric car charging stations and services.

Having Ballinasloe as the base of the business is the plan for the foreseeable future. Citing several reasons for this, Raj said "I would strongly recommend the area for other businesses - not only to set up base in the town but also to existing business that are expanding; look into Ballinasloe. The town is ideally located beside the motorway plus the local train station has a very strong link with regular journeys to various stations around the country coming through every day. With a good population in the area, recruitment and more importantly staff retention can be achieved with relative ease."

Finally, Raj has some words of advice for anyone young or old, that has a business idea. "Don't keep them in your head. Don't be afraid to speak to people about your idea, 1% is the idea, and 99% of your success comes from the execution. Get in contact with the local support groups, as you would be amazed by what help is out there."



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KEVIN AND ANNE BRODERICK RETIRE FROM BRODERICKS PHARMACY

Last year, after 24 years in business in Ballinasloe, Kevin and Anne Broderick retired from their Pharmacy and wish to thank all their customers, staff and local support over the years.

They both qualified as Pharmacists from the Liverpool School of Pharmacy in the late 1980's. But "due to the constant changes in pharmacy over the past few years and the demands of modern day pharmacy (meaning less time to spend with and advise customers) and due to family commitments, we made the difficult decision that we needed to move on in life".

The Pharmacy is now owned by McGorisks Pharmacy and we wish Philip McGorisk continued success in the future.

We have so many people and organisations to thank for their valued custom and support during our years in business. We are so grateful to every customer who stepped into the Pharmacy over the 24 years.



We could not have provided the service without the help from our hardworking staff, both past and present. We thank them for their friendship and assistance. A special thanks to Margaret Colohan, who retired around the same time as ourselves. "We wish you all well in the future".

To all the local Doctors (past and present) and all their staff, for their professionalism and expertise, "Thank you so much". Our appreciation to Nuala and Mike Cormican of Hillside Nursing Home for their invaluable support over the years. Many thanks also to the local Dentists, Portiuncula Hospital, St. Brigid's Hospital, Ballinasloe Health and Day Centres, Brothers of Charity and all of the staff of the above.

To all the local businesses and Gearoid Geraghty Solicitors, David O'Connell Accountants, Mike O'Reilly Business Services, thank you for all your

help. Please continue to support your Ballinasloe town centre businesses.

The local Primary and Secondary schools, Sports Clubs, Organisations and Societies in Ballinasloe, we much appreciated your support.

Finally, we would like to thank all of our family and friends, especially our children Ciaran, Niall, Niamh and Ronan for their continued support over the years. "We are forever grateful" Kevin and Anne.

BY KEVIN & ANNE BRODERICK



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NEW SUPERHERO TEAM LINES OUT AT SHEARFITNESS GYM

BY DONOGH MOORE

Jay Mulligan, the Manager of ShearFitness Gym, moved to Galway from Dublin three years ago. With an extensive background in strength and conditioning and more performance-based sports, he has been coaching since he was a young teenager and has always enjoyed improving those around him – which coincidentally, is his plan for members in Ballinasloe.

The team at ShearFitness Gym and Leisure Centre is comprised of many individuals, both from the local area and newer residents to the town. Jay said: “The aim when assembling this team was to provide the people of the area with both friendly and highly qualified instructors, both in the pool and on the gym floor. The fitness industry today has so many different types of training and coaching, and we wanted to make sure we covered most, and if not all of these.”

Jack Curley is the Leisure Centre Supervisor, as well as the centre’s Swim Lesson Coordinator and Health and Safety Officer. A native of the local area, Jack and his younger sister Jess both teach swimming lessons in the centre, with Jess focusing on weekend and private lessons, as she studies Early Childhood Learning, in Limerick. Rachel Greene is another of the centre’s swim instructors. Whilst juggling a nutrition degree in Cork during the week, Rachel oversees swimming classes at the weekend.

Donogh Flannery, a Limerick native, used to work on the Munster Rugby coaching panel. He oversees most of the centre’s morning classes and has an extensive knowledge in the strength and conditioning field. Donogh has proven to hold a wealth of knowledge that any attendees of his classes can attest to. Paddy McHugh, another team member, devotes his time between the leisure centre and his Physical Therapy studies. As a long serving member of the team, he specialises in high intensity workout classes. Niall Clerkin, who is the newest member of staff, has a high interest in strength training and Powerlifting, and he coaches both members and himself in the sport.

Denise Gill is the centre’s highly qualified first aid responder, which works quite well in tandem with the intensity of some of classes. Another long serving member of the team, Denise is on-hand to react and deal with any injuries that may arise as members are participating in classes, or just training on their own. Inga Budrevicute joined the leisure centre’s team in January of this year, and with her brought an army of followers. The classes she



Jay Mulligan, Manager



Niall Clerkin, Rachel Greene, Donogh Flannery, Jay Mulligan



Rachel Greene, lifeguard



teaches are always near capacity, and she leads these by example in an engaging and helpful manner. If Inga is not teaching a class, then she can often be found training in the gym herself.

While these are the centre’s main group of superheroes, as affectionately referred to by their manager, there are more staff that work hard to ensure that ShearFitness provides as high quality a service to their members as they can. The hotel’s ‘Kids Zone’ staff are constantly helping out around the gym and leisure centre, and are often found working at the reception. Jay said: “We



Donogh Flannery and Niall Clerkin

are still currently training their super powers, but they are an invaluable piece of our crew and most of whom have progressed so well over the last few months.”

Jay’s stock in trade response to How do I tone up and lose weight? is: “Everybody has their own individual calorie number in which they need to hit to maintain bodyweight. For example, 1000 calories would be that number for someone. If you go over this number, you put on weight, if you go under this number, you lose weight. It’s relatively simple - just be at a caloric deficit. Eat less, become more active and stop having weekend binges” states Jay.

The team in ShearFitness is always growing and looking for new member. News, both regarding the centre and new hires, is always being updated on the centre’s social media channels, which can be found on Facebook at: ShearWater Leisure Centre.

GALWAY EAST LIFE SUPPORT - GELS ANNUAL FUNDRAISER

BY DONOGH MOORE

Galway East Life Support, the locally based Suicide Prevention charity are looking forward to their 3rd Annual 3 Ball Golf Scramble taking place on Friday and Saturday 28th and 29th June.

This year's event returns once more to the local Golf Club. GELS Chairman Arthur Carr said "Bringing this event back to our local club means a lot to us. We were well looked after there previously and if we could guarantee the same amazing weather that we had last year in Loughrea we'd be very happy."

Irish Country Music's Entertainer of the Year and GELS Ambassador, Mike Denver will be playing on the Friday, along with his manager Willie Carty. Mike has been a great supporter of GELS and is delighted to endorse GELS saying 'Suicide continues to affect so many people and knows no boundaries. The GELS pillars of Education, Prevention, Awareness and Support means that this local charity is of great benefit to the community and are only a phone-call away when needed.'

The main sponsor this year is Michael Ward's Menswear in the heart of the town, who are sponsoring the first prize of 3 vouchers for €400 each to spend on the fabulous range of fashion they stock, as showcased on Virgin Media One's show Weekend AM.

Again this year there will be a draw for a fabulous Campotel holiday in either Spain or France, valued at €1,700 and kindly sponsored once more by Keller Travel. Galway Bay FM's Baycaster will be



Willie Carty and Mike Denver

broadcasting from the Club all day on Saturday 29th.

On display at the Golf Club is a solid oak cabinet made by local craftsman Patrick Kelly, showcasing 2 clubs that belonged to Christy O'Connor Snr, one of which he used at his 10th Ryder Cup. The O'Connor family generously gifted them to GELS as a means of raising funds. Interested parties should contact GELS at 085 123 7878

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ST. TERESA'S SCHOOL CRISIS NEARING END

BY D. MOORE

As we go to print there is a little more positivity from St. Teresa's Special School about the future. As readers will know the school is awaiting the acquisition of a site for its new facility in the town.

The Minister has said that his Officials are negotiating the purchase and the County Manager has said the matter rests with the Department. We hope to be able to report, in future issues on the progress of this development. After two years of an inexplicable wait, it appears that the 25 jobs directly associated with the school will be maintained in Ballinasloe. More importantly, it means that those children in our communities that are most disadvantaged will be able to avail of their educational rights in a modern, secure and well managed school. The realisation of the school will be a credit to all involved.

However, it emerged in early April that the school was facing an increase in its annual insurance premium from €3,000 in 2017, to €26,000 in 2019, an increase of over 700%.

St. Teresa's receives Capitation funding from the Department of Education to run its daily activities and all the maintenance of the school, but it still finds itself reliant on the generosity of local funding and initiatives. The capitation grant would not cover even half the cost of the insurance alone. The school's fundraising events throughout the year are used to enhance the children's education. However, all that money would have to go towards paying for insurance, if this



Kathy Winters, Simon Heavey, Sharon Horan, Thelma Cohen, Deirdre Finnerty, Pauline Tumbletee, Madeleine Blake, Maevé Garvey, Elaine Sheridan, Bernadette O'Halloran, Anita O'Reilly, Geraldine Clarke, Carmel Dillon, Anne Robinson, Geraldine Deane, Grace Dooley.

situation cannot be resolved.

A recent meeting with the department, to discuss the crisis and the implications if the school were to close was both positive and productive. The school has sought an interim solution to their insurance crisis with a permanent resolution to be in place before next year and a route to be clearly mapped out for the new purpose-built school.

The centre caters for those with severe and profound special needs. The school's pupils typically are on the autism spectrum with multiple complex special needs. Its pupils come mainly from Ballinasloe, Loughrea, Ballygar, Portumna and the surrounding areas also

As a full national School, there are four teachers as well as 11 special needs assistants with nursing staff, care assistants and bus escorts. There are multi-disciplinary services provided to the school by Ability West and various other early intervention teams.

"We are overwhelmed by the good will and support from the community and every Councillor, TD, Senator, MEP and candidate from all shades of political opinion who rallied to our help in recent weeks" stated Principal Anita O'Reilly.

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BY DONOGH MOORE



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Ballinasloe Cycling Club held their hugely successful annual Charity cycle recently in aid of the Special Care Baby Unit in Portiuncula Hospital.

"2019's 'Tour d'Shams' saw that over 165 cyclists were treated with fantastic weather on the day and there were two separate races to cater for all abilities of cyclists. Setting off from the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre, on the Creagh Road, beginners and slower cyclists were brought on a 50km round cycle, and more seasoned cyclists and sprinters tested their mettle against the longer 105km track.

Chairman of the cycling club Noel Slevin, mentioned how important the local community's efforts and help were in ensuring the event was successful. He said: 'From the cyclists to the sandwich makers, as well as all the marshal, it's these people that help shape events like this. It's great to see those newer members, who only started cycling with us recently through our new 'Couch to 50k' programme, undertaking their first ever 50km in the Tour D'Shams. It's a great achievement, whether it's your first tour, or your fifth.' A sum in the order of over €3,500 has been raised so far, with some donations still yet to arrive.

The club are still undertaking cycles every week. They meet on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings at 6.30pm, and also on Saturday and Sunday mornings outside Barry's Cycles, on Society Street.

For regular updates on the club's upcoming events and fundraising efforts, check out their Facebook page at: Ballinasloe Cycling Club.

FESTIVAL QUEEN ENJOYS GALWAY ROSE EXPERIENCE



2018 festival Queen Kathy Colohan represented Ballinasloe at the Galway Rose Selection over the past few weeks. Kathy was overwhelmed with the experience "To say it was a great night with Ollie Turner in the Clayton Hotel would be an understatement. There were 29 girls in the running. It was just like a mini Rose of Tralee. The lead up to the night was also a brilliant experience. There were many events and meet ups organised. These outings allowed the girls and myself to get to know each other and form friendships. Overall, it has been a fantastic experience and a great privilege to represent my hometown."

Kathy will be handing over her sash to a new local lass in the Gullane's Hotel Queen of the Fair selection night, which is scheduled to take place on Friday the 20th September – a short four months away.

With planning already under way, Festival Chairman Mal Croffy said: "The Ballinasloe Horse Fair is the oldest in Europe, and the

greatest celebration of the horse, and equine culture in Ireland. Any town in Ireland would love to have a weeklong festival. The Fair and Festival generates much needed business and revenue for the town, this year we have a huge number of activities planned from the traditional equine elements to a wide range of activities to cater for families and tourists".

He noted that it was getting more and more difficult to organise the festival element of the Horse Fair. Primarily financial ones - in 2019 it will cost in excess of €15,000 to insure the F&F events and with no source of income the event is totally reliant on sponsors

This year's Fair Week and Festival runs from Sunday 29th September to Sunday 6th October. Volunteers are always welcome to attend festival committee meetings which take place over the next couple of months. New sponsors are always welcome and for those interested in supplying accommodation over the festival weekends please contact the festival secretary @ 0872071869.

For further info on the 2019 events check out the official website www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com of the festival facebook page Ballinasloe fair

6TH ANNUAL LARRY REYNOLDS FEILE CHEOIL

Preparations are under way for the 6th Annual Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds, which takes place from Thursday, 5th to Sunday, 8th September 2019. Many events taking place over the weekend including Singers Circle on the Thursday night, School Art Competition, Traditional Irish Music sessions over the weekend in various locations.

On the Saturday there will be crafters exhibiting their goods and services on the streets with other street entertainment, something for everyone.



There will be Intermediate Workshops in Fiddle, Flute, Concertina, Button Accordion and Banjo also.

The 2019 Open All-Ireland U18 Fiddle competition takes place on the Saturday. Entries now being accepted for workshops and Fiddle Competition by email to seceilecheoilarrareynolds@gmail.com. On Saturday evening we have Céili with Ui Bhriain Céilí Band in Gullane's Hotel.

Check out www.larryreynoldswkend.com or follow us on Facebook/Instagram for more details.



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BUMPS AND BABIES NEW GROUP

BY DONOGH MOORE

A group has been established recently for all new mothers, mothers to be and experienced mothers. "Bumps and Babies", who formerly operated under the name Cuidiu Ballinasloe, are a breast feeding family group and are open to help and support any mothers, new or old, in the local area.

The group acts both as a place to socialize and make new friends, while also offering a non-judgemental support group where women can share and vocalize their experiences with other people who understand exactly what they're going through.

Not only that, but children are welcome at the group meetings, and every meeting is breast feeding friendly, with a trainee BF counsellor always in attendance. One of the group members, Grace Daniels, has recently become a 'Friends of Breast Feeding Mum2Mum peer support group Host', and so she will be available to chat at each meeting also.

Taking place in the Church Gallery above Ballinasloe Library, located on Society Street, the group meet twice a month, on the second and fourth Wednesday of each calendar month. Meetings usually take place from 9:45 am to 11:45 am, and while the library is usually closed at these times, attendees are advised to just pull the automatic door open, and if that proves unsuccessful, then just knock.

The group has already proven to be a very valuable resource to the members who have availed of its services, whether they're seeking advice or just looking to have a chat with people who understand the problems they face. Group member Grace Daniels said that "This group has been a valuable resource for me for not only breastfeeding help, but friendship and just tea and a chat when needed since I had my first child four years ago." Another member, Niamh, mentioned how great it was to have such a support network in the town, saying: "After years living abroad, I was so glad to join a group like this with a ready made support network."

Ruth McCormack, group leader, said: "Bumps &



Babes welcomes moms to be, new moms and experienced mothers for friendship and support. We are so happy to be involved in continuing the great work, which was started by our Breastfeeding Counsellor Cherise Gavin, of supporting breastfeeding mothers in the area."

The group are set to meet in Ballinasloe Library on the mornings of the 12th and 26th June, as well as the 10th and 24th July. For more information on the group, visit their Facebook page at: 'Bumps & Babies Ballinasloe', or give them a ring at (087) 191 7690.



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DEVELOPMENT COMPANY REVIEWS 20th YEAR

The Board of Voluntary Directors, led by Chairman Seamus Duffy and Manager Lyn Donnelly and over 45 members of the company, reviewed progress on their 20th year of activities, in Gullane's Hotel and Conference Centre recently.

Apologies were received from Kevin Kelly Interim CEO Galway County Council, Alan Farrell, Director of Community & Enterprise, Denis Naughten T.D. Present (on the last night of their own busy respective canvasses) were Councillors Aidan Donohue, Michael Connolly, Michael Finnerty; Candidates Harriet Bruce, Aisling Dolan and Senator Maura Hopkins. Eimear Dolan of the Economic Development Department of Galway County Council also attended.

Opening the meeting, the Chair celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the formation of BACD and again he congratulated the vision of its founders some of whom were present at the meeting.

"Its' Mission from day one was job creation and we have achieved success but let's go back 20 years and imagine a group of people going to a financial institution looking for a €500k loan to buy a practically derelict building with over 250 broken windows and no sign of a tenant, but the money was sanctioned and well done to Ballinasloe Credit Union for their Social Fund and their leadership at the time. Fast forward now and we have the loan cleared, a modern building with over 170 people working in it and a Company that has seen over 350 sustainable jobs created over the years and still in the Community" stated Seamus.

Highlights of the last year were taking on a management agreement with the Council for the Hub space upstairs in the Library - within the next few weeks this space will be fully utilised. A new expanding company has set up on the first floor and we are at an advanced stage in securing a quality tenant for the upper floor.

The Pulse Club has evolved under the guidance of Director Brian King; essentially it is the bringing together of individuals who are self-employed and networking and upskilling internally. 10 of these people did a start your own business course with the Local Enterprise Office.

Ballinasloe GROW REMOTE club was launched by Renate Kohlmann, which effectively is facilitating P60 employees to

work remotely and again this is a project well suited to our town as more and more companies facilitate remote working.

The main priority continues to be to build an Advanced Technology Unit on the IDA site and while it was a set-back in not securing funding on the last round of Rural Regeneration Funding, they are more determined than ever to secure capital grant of €2m.

Thanks to Denis Naughten TD, who co-hosted a symposium on St Brigid's Hospital last Summer and hopefully the outcomes of same will be valuable into the future. "As it stands our hands are totally tied in regarding to moving forward as we cannot be putting money into a project where the HSE will not work with us on the site. This requires Ministerial intervention" stated Seamus.

He paid tribute to the people on the Town Team, under the stewardship of Jacinta Divilly, who have ongoing projects like the Leaflets, the Business networking, the Window Competitions, the Zombie Walk, The People of the Year Awards and of course the Christmas Lights and Festival. As a team most of the short term goals have been achieved but are struggling with our longer term ambitions which will get renewed focus in the next few weeks.

He also thanked the various funding agencies, like GRD, Galway County Council, Lyn, Manager and Paula her Admin Assistant, Town Team members and of course the voluntary directors.

The Manager, Lyn Donnelly, gave a detailed overview of the stats behind the LIFE Magazine, the rebranded and new look town website Ballinasloe.ie.- led by Sinead Collieran, the Investment Brochure, the various conferences and networks that the Company and its team continually push for investment and focus on the town.



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OF SUCCESS

BY COLM CROFFY



She noted that there are some 25 organisations using some 90% of space employing some 170 people locally in the Enterprise Centre.

She mentioned that the Heritage and Tourism Working Group had been joined by the newly created Ballinasloe Walks and Trails Groups which along with the Tidy Towns would provide a serious amount of activity and focus in positioning the town as a key Hidden Heartlands Town.

Auditor James Coyle of Coyle and Co., gave a detailed audit presentation of the financial results showing certified income at €320,544 and Expenditure at €260,317.

The Auditor reported that the building and the company were now debt free and in a very healthy position to invest again in a capital project. The Audit was moved for adoption by Pearse Keller and seconded by Sean Tully.

Coyle and Co. were re-appointed Auditors. There was one vacancy for Director with the stepping down of Ann Conlon and the meeting approved of Catherine O'Connor being nominated to succeed her. Catherine was President of the Chamber, one of the founding Directors at the startup period and has her own Audit and Accountancy practice in Dunlo Hill. The Directors for the next 12 months are:

Seamus Kelly (Credit Union), Dan Dowling (Creagh Community Development Council), Michael Connolly (Galway County Council), Seamus Duffy (Membership), Valerie Dolan (Membership), Paul Hargadon (Membership), Joe Lyons (Membership), Kevin Broderick (Membership), Pearse Keller (Membership), Marina Downey (Membership), Noel Madden (Co-opted), John McKenna (Co-opted), Catherine O'Connor (Co-opted), Brian King (Co-opted).

Guest Speaker for the evening was former CEO of the Western Development Commission and Director of Knock Airport Liam

Scollan, who gave a passionate and animated insight into 3 decades of working in the non profit sector in the UK and West of Ireland.

He had some observations on the proceedings and outcomes he had been briefed on "I can safely say that in attending some 40 odd AGMs of community development groups countrywide I have never heard or seen a better summary or as comprehensive of positive activity. Social Enterprise like you are practicing here is the future for Rural Ireland. I have witnessed the future of our island here tonight – total transparency, action, achievement, promises made and delivered, strong management, accountability and civic minded leadership from within the community."

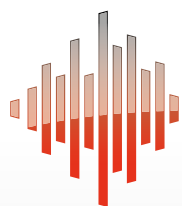
He went on to explain how in his analysis "throughout Europe and the world Big Government and Big State or Regional led solutions are failing us all, the answer no longer lies in the big but in the sanity of small groups with an ethos of community."

He detailed some of his travails in both the Airport and the Development Commission over securing funding and dealing with various state bureaucracies concluding that if a community "can find and harness the right people first, the right projects will eventually follow and he was confident this will happen for Ballinasloe."

A general Questions and Answers session followed about funding of local Government, volunteerism, state regulations and finding new investors for the town.



Retired Nurses Sean Tully and Wille O'Rourke helped produce a look back video of St Endas before it was transformed into a Enterprise and Tech Centre. Available on Life Fbook Page.



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Galway County Council

THE LOCAL DEFEATED CANDIDATES

REACTION



Harriet Bruce

"If anything it has been an amazing experience, running for the council. I'm a strong woman because a strong woman raised me.

Great news-one door closes and another one opens. I took a risk and was brave – nothing can diminish the passion I have for my town. New things to get working and to get focused with now for most wanted salon of the year for the Irish Hair and Beauty awards 2019.

Last year we came home in second place for customer service of the year 2018 and got listed on the top 100 salons Hair and Beauty guide..A huge to thanks to those who voted for me, supported me, canvassed for me and encouraged me"



Ken Campbell

"As a first time candidate. I'm a person of action with a track record of getting things done. I'm an ardent activist for those with disabilities, and I believe in a society where everyone can live a healthy and independent life regardless of age or disability.

First and foremost, I want to thank my incredible team who went above and beyond for me in this campaign, it's been a long haul with a lot of miles covered, I tried to get to as many doors as I could and to those of you I did get to speak to Thank you for your hospitality and to those homes I didn't get a chance to knock on I'd like to apologise, it wasn't for the want of trying.

I have given of my best... either way I am still the same person I was when this election started and will continue to be the same person tomorrow... Best of Luck to those who got elected."



Aidan Donohue

"After 34 continuous days and nights on the road meeting the people of the Municipal District, I want to thank all the people who both my canvass team and myself met and for the very positive reception we received. I want to sincerely thank all the members of

my canvassing team who gave up their valuable time and put huge energy into my election campaign. It was a privilege to represent you on Galway Co Co for the past 5 years and I am disappointed for you all that our efforts were not successful on this occasion".



Mike Kelly

"As a native of Brackernagh, educated in St Grellan's and St Joseph's College Garbally, I also have a strong community commitment and great love of the arts. Public representation was not new to me. For 10 years I served as an elected member of Ballinasloe Town Council and was elected to the position of Mayor on three different occasions

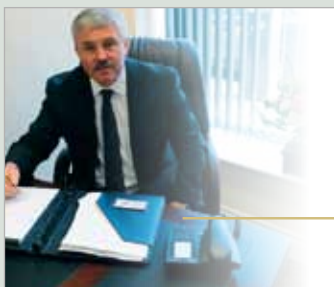
Unfortunately on this occasion it was not to be. My thanks to those who voted for me, those who supported and took time to canvass for me, especially my wife Ann and my family. Whoever gets elected please remember that there is one of the finest theatres in the country sitting beside a free car park in our constituency!"



Michael Finnerty

An experienced and capable public representative he has so far given 29 years' service to public life, as a member of Galway County Council since 1991, (co-opted twice, once in 2008 to take Councillor Joe Tierney's seat upon his retirement and subsequently in 2011 he was co-opted into Councillor Michael Mullins' seat). He had 19 years' service on the Urban District Council (1985 – 2004).

"This is an end of an era for Mike Finnerty, when one door closes, another one may open – who knows? I want to congratulate all the 6 who got elected. We have found out in these elections that the new municipal area is not a fit, it doesn't suit the layout of people living in the area. I want to thank all my supporters, canvass team and those that voted for me. A special word to my wife Mary and family. If I can be any addition or help to those members elected – all they have to do is ask. My role is finished today but who knows what will happen in the future."



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On the same day Ireland made history by being the second country in the world to declare a Climate Emergency, the Minister for Communications, Climate Action and the Environment, Richard Bruton visited St. Augustine's National School, Clontuskert outside Ballinasloe.

This small rural school has spent the past two years researching Ireland's Waste Management Systems and has discovered a major issue with packaging and waste separation. They wanted to alert the Minister to this problem personally and appeal to him to action change. Minister Ciaran Cannon set up the meeting, following the ESB Science Blast event at the RDS, where the students had explained the issues and their solutions, and asked him to work with the government on their behalf.

The problem arises with the Green Dot symbol. In Ireland this European award is given by Repak. It is NOT a recycling symbol. It means that the company who made the product contributed financially towards a recycling fund in Europe and does not necessarily mean that the packaging can be recycled. These funds are used for worthy projects across Ireland; however, problems arise with the system as the Clontuskert students discovered.

In a survey of adults, designed by the students of St. Augustine's, they found that 84% thought the Green Dot was the Recycling symbol. Furthermore, following an invite to Dunne's SuperValu in Ballinasloe students were shocked to find that over 17% of packaging only had the Green Dot on it and could not be recycled. The findings in other supermarkets and shops are similar to this. Because the Green Dot is perceived to be the Recycling Symbol this waste goes into the recycling stream and contaminates the rest of the recycling in the bag. In some waste management companies once a bag is contaminated, it all goes into Landfill.

The students found that while 25% of products had both the Green Dot and recycling symbol, 10.5 % had no symbols at all and 60% of products with more than more two layers, were not labelled correctly! In Ireland there is no system wide synchronisation of waste symbols on packaging which leads to confusion when householders are separating their waste. This is not only an issue in Ireland but in Europe also, compounded by the fact that 84% think the Green Dot is the recycling symbol.

At Galway Science and Technology Festival in November, led by teacher Kathy Colohan, students showcased their work and sought to educate people about their recycling and waste separation. The Project won the Overall Schools' stand Award for their work. Dr. Anne Dolan of Mary Immaculate College and Nóirín Burke of Galway Atlanticaquaria, connected with the class and developed their understand of the effects



Minister Bruton visits Clontuskert I-r: Kathy Colohan (Teacher), Kate Murray (Principal), Rebecca Bleahen, John Madden, Cormac Frehill, Minister Richard Bruton, Nadine Whyte, Eimil Scott (Deputy Principal), Mariam Melaadi, Jeannine Schutze (Teacher), Jack Scannell.

of climate change.

Clontuskert students have linked with other schools across the world to empower them to create change. They are currently members of the #NoMorePlastic project involving 416 schools across 68 countries. Here they explore, brainstorm, discuss, create, connect, reflect and share their findings via weekly videos on <http://www.no.moreplastic.info/> Collaboration with their global peers leads to a deeper understanding about global problems with plastic, microplastics and the plastic soup in our oceans.

The students received a letter from President Michael D. Higgins who encouraged them in their work. He wrote; "As President of Ireland, I am very proud of the many young citizens in this country who are constantly willing to rethink, reimagine and re-consider the way we live in order to that real difference can be achieved. The pupils of St. Augustine's are such young citizens and I would like to thank you for your commitment to working together, to explore the many ways in which we can address the critical challenge of climate change."

The students created a website called www.soyouthinkyoucanrecycle.com with a short animation to explain the problems with waste symbols in Ireland and especially with the Green Dot.

They are now working with parent and graphic designer, Caitríona Murphy to design an app that will scan packaging and inform the householder of what can and cannot be recycled. This app will be linked to each householder's own waste management company, as what can be recycled varies in different companies. Campbell Finnie of Barna Waste came to the school to help the children with their project and gave tips and ideas for the app.

Principal teacher, Kate Murray said, "The students want their work to have an impact on the way packaging symbols work in Ireland, to make it clearer for people and to raise awareness of the issues. Now, they hope, following Minister Bruton's visit and enthusiasm for the project that a coordinated approach will ensure positive change for the future."

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TY GRADUATION GARBALLY COLLEGE

Award winners on the night were

Enda Craughwell (Overall TY Student of the Year)

Eric Luwaga (TY 1 Student of the Year)

Dara Hession (TY2 Student of the Year)

Cian Connolly (TY3 Student of the Year)

Photo - Back, l-r: Stephen Reilly (Principal),

Ms. Jacinta Deady-Henry (Deputy Principal),

Ms. Sarah Kennedy, Mr. Paul Walsh (Programme Coordinator)

Front, l-r: Eric Luwaga, Dara Hession,

Cian Connolly, Enda Craughwell



St Joseph's Day awards, which awards students in the academia, sports and arts.

4th Row, l-r: Niall Cunningham, Conor Coleman, Joseph Gibbons, Mark Jennings, Cian Reynolds, Daniel Farrell, Seán Horkan, Stephen Mannion, Daniel Greal, Odhrán Dooley, Darragh Leonard, Jack Delaney, Dillon Hopkins.

3rd Row, l-r: Eoin McManus, Niall Collins, Shane Jennings, Cormac Finn, Oisín McCormack, John Coughlan, Patrick Grehan, Cillian Ryan, Oisín Duffy, Paul Reddy.

2nd Row, l-r: Joshua McCarthy, Tufazzall Ahmed, Luke Walsh, Cathal Ó hAnluain, Shahed Patwary, Adam Fogarty, Solomon Jiju, Adam O'Carroll, Ronan Chin, Shane Fitzpatrick, Adam McGreal.

Front Row, l-r: Jakub Bednarczyk, Eoin Grehan, Jordan Downey, Mr. Stephen Reilly (Principal), Bishop John Kirby, Ms. Jacinta Deady-Henry (Deputy Principal), Michael Tully, Seán Ronaldson, Hugh Killeen.



Garbally won the Connacht Junior B Title with a scoreline of 1:23 to 3:15 to bring home the Cup.

Back Row, l-r: Cathal Ó hAnluain, Adam Fogarty, Dara Hession, Adam Mulry, Kealan Glynn, Tom Fitzpatrick, Josh Dolan, Michael O'Grady, Daithí Ward, Conor Goode, Cian Connolly, Eoin Collieran, Liam Hession, Liam Collins, Ben Daly

Front Row, l-r: Jack Finn, Eric Luwaga, Adam Potter, Evan Clancy, Rory Lyons, Cormac Kenny, Evan Hayes, Ciaran O'Reilly, Eoin Coleman, Seán Canning, Luke Walsh



Pupils of St. Catherine's NS at the Launch of their Buy a Brick campaign.

After 30 years campaigning for a new school, St. Catherine's National School in Aughrim are celebrating the completion of their new education facility. However, much more needs to be done and to help raise vital funds the school have decided to create a Memory Wall. Anyone connected to the school, pupils, teachers, friends and families, past and present, will have the chance to publicly declare, in a permanent way, that they've donated to St. Catherine's N.S. in the form of an engraved brick.

School Principal, Gary Shine, said "We are inviting you to purchase your very own top-quality black granite brick or bricks, professionally engraved with your name and years of attendance (optional) in silver lettering. This will become your permanent legacy to the school and will be displayed for generations to come. We have priced the single

bricks at €50.00 each in the hope that everyone will participate.

"You can buy dedicated bricks as an individual, couple or family and can choose up to 2 lines of text, 16 characters long. We also have a corporate sponsorship opportunity (double size brick) at €100.00 each. You can choose up to 4 lines of text, 16 characters long. Available to businesses or larger families" he explained.

To order your engraved brick and to find the full details of the "Buy a Brick project" please see our website, www.aughrimprimary.ie or you can contact the school directly on 090 9673635.

"Every single person connected to our beautiful new school would like to thank all the people over the last 30 years who have put their heart and soul into seeing this school built, the community deserve it and most of all, the children deserve it" concluded Gary.

Help us to Realise Our Dream - One Brick at a Time!

ARDSCOIL MHUIRE WINS RUGBY DOUBLE

Ardscail Mhuire Junior and Senior rugby teams had a momentous achievement in the Sportsground in Galway recently, when both teams won the finals of the Inaugural Connacht Girls Schools' Rugby League. The display of rugby talent from our teams over the course of the league and in particular at the finals was simply outstanding.

The school's junior rugby team started out the league in February with victories against Sacred Heart Secondary School, in Westport and Scoil Mhuire, Roscommon, on scorelines of 35 - 20 and 24 - 5 respectively. The juniors then progressed on to face Gortnor Abbey in the final, where they emerged victorious with a score of 25-0, with outstanding displays from the captain Emma Mitchell and the entire team. Emma said: "It was a great honour

to be captain of the victorious Ardscoil Mhuire Junior rugby team in the first year of the competition. We defeated Gortnor Abbey in a hard fought final, ending in a score line of 25-0. And I can't wait for our school to be the first name on the cup. It was great to see all the hard work the team put in all year pay off in the end".

The victorious junior team members are: Captain: Emma Mitchell, Vice-captain: Aoife Keighery, Blathnaid Kelly, Ciara Lohan, Emma McGreal, Lauren Ruane, Mia Walsh, Niamh Keighery, Sarah Russell, Aoife Burnell, Emma Keane, Mia Costello, Ruth Manning, Shauna Mitchell, Ella Greene, Niamh Kerr, Alida Cleary, Rebecca McGuirk and Aimee Egan.



Ardscail Mhuire Senior Rugby winners

Back, l-r: Dermot Tierney, Hannah Gullane, Rachel Larkin, Jo Ann Curley, Sarah Lyons, Orlaith Brennan, Leah Hogarty, Hannah Flynn, Niamh Kenny, Rebecca Galvin, Gearoid Finneran, Ann Conlon.

Front, l-r: Angela Flaherty, Shauna Finneran, Martha Frehill, Roisin Fahy, Emily Galvin, Meabh Deely, Leona Larkin, Clodagh Powell, Beibhinn Parsons, Avril Deely.



Ardscail Mhuire Junior Rugby winners

Back row l-r Amy Egan, Niamh Kerr, Aoife Burnell, Alida Cleary, Ruth McGuirk, Ruth Manning, Niamh Keighery, Ciara Lohan, Lauren Ruane, Ella Greene, Sarah Russell.

Front row l-r Shauna Mitchell, Mia Costello, Aoife Keighery, Emma Mitchell, Blathnaid Kelly, Emma McGreal, Emma Keane, Mia Walsh

Ardscail's senior rugby team started out the league before their junior counterparts, when they beat Gallen Community School in January on a scoreline of 17 points to nil. From there they faced Sacred Heart, Westport where they had the only loss of their campaign, losing 25-17 to the Mayo school. They went on to beat Scoil Mhuire, Roscommon

comprehensively, finishing up 60-0. It was in the final at the Sportsground, that the local school met the team that had handed them their only defeat of the season, Sacred Heart, Westport. However, they emerged victorious, beating them 41-29. Commenting on the victory, captain Meabh Deely said: "I think for a team that came from so many different year groups, we really clicked together in the final to produce a winning performance".

The team members of the Senior side are: Captain: Meabh Deely, Vice-captain: Hannah Gullane, Beibhinn Parsons, Rebecca Galvin, Emily Gavin, Aoibheann Reilly, Leona Larkin, Shauna Finneran, Niamh Kenny, Hannah Flynn, Joann Curley, Rachel Larkin, Martha Freehill, Orlaith Brennan, Avril Deely, Clodagh Powell, Roisin Fahy, Sarah Lyons, Leah Hogarty.

These victories could not have been attained without the dedicated management team of coaches, comprised of Dermot Tierney, Ann Conlon, Angela Flaherty, Gearoid Finneran and Natasha Walsh Sheppard, as well as all in Ballinasloe Rugby Club.

OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE



Credit Union members car draw winner Elizabeth O'Connor with Tom Raftery & Joan Dervan BCU.



Liam Hogan, Attyrory, (centre) winner of the KPW Print 70th Anniversary Easter Hamper competition with Darran Finnerty, Sales and Marketing Manager and Diane Dolan, Graphic Designer.



Kathleen Croffy, B'sloe Fair & Festival; Carol Moloney Nott, Audrey Morgan Fund; Ana Victoria Curley, B'sloe Fair & Festival presenting a cheque of €1,800 to Audrey Morgan fund from Fair & Festival Fashion Extravaganza Night .



Bill Keller MD with Una Donohoe long-serving staff member with Kellers, commemorating 40 years of continuous service with founder Liam Keller at the Main St premises.



Creagh Training Centre's Green Schools committee members Johanna Lahart, Brendan Murray, Damien Naughton and John Igoe, receiving the Centre's 6th Green Flag for Global Citizenship: Waste & Litter. Also pictured is Caitriona Cunningham, Green-Schools Travel Officer.



Front: Mike Glynn, Treasurer and Christy Warde Chairman. Back Row: Michael O'Hehir, secretary; Des Harney, PRO; Ronnie Cobban, Ballinasloe & District Vintage Owners Club; Graham Gullane, Gullanes Hotel Handing over Cheque to the value of €1,930.00 which were the proceeds of the club's recent Fundraising run.

OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE

Pictured at the Ballinasloe RFC Awards Presentation Night to Under Age Players



Ballinasloe RFC Boys Awards Winners, Tiernan Finn (U14 Player of the Year), Sean Power (U14 Most Improved Player), Hugh Killeen (U15 Most Improved Player), Michael Power (U15 Player Of the Year).



Ballinasloe RFC U14 Girls Awards Winners, Ella Green (Most Improved Player) and Ciara Lohan (Player of the Year).



Ballinasloe RFC Awards Winners, Samuel Almieba (Boys U16 Most Improved Player), Shauna Finneran (Girls U16 Most Improved Player), John Devine (Boys U16 Player of the Year).



Ballinasloe RFC U16 Girls Awards Winners, Ruth Manning (Player of the Year) and Aoifa Burnell (Most Improved Player).



Ballinasloe RFC Boys U18 Most Improved Player Awards Winners, presented by Angie Burgoyne to Luke Dunne, Seamus Egan and Padraic Galvin.



Ballinasloe RFC U13 Boys Awards Winners, Luke Manning (Player of the Year) and James Clancey (Most Improved Player).



Ballinasloe RFC Awards Presentation to International Players, l-r Tom Horkan (President), Aoibheann Rielly, Colm Reilly, Shane Jennings, Oisín McCormack and Mossy Moran (President Connacht Branch IRFU).

JUNE EVENTS GUIDE

Saturday 1st		
Champions League Final	Joe Kelly's	4pm
Liverpool V Spurs	Joe Kelly's	7.45pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8pm
Joe Hession	Canal Bar	9pm
Boithrin	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
The Colours	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Lorcan Live	An Tain	10pm
Tav Jam Band	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Johnny F	Downeys Bar	10pm
Nightowls	Auld Sod	10pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	10pm
Paul Burns	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 2nd		
Donkey Derby	Lukers S'Bridge	3pm
M. O'Connor & F. Curry	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	7.30pm
Adam	Brewery Lane	8pm
Kings of Connaught	Lukers S'Bridge	8pm
C. Dancing P. Feeney	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Bumble Bee Honey	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valeries Of Aughrim	10pm
Off the Wall	Auld Sod	10pm
DJ Mike Darcy	Downey's Bar	10pm
DJ John	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Too Tall Paul	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Monday 3rd		
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Tuesday 4th		
B'sloe Regional Novena	St Michael's Church	7.30am,10am ,8pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GROW Meeting	B'sloe Library	6-8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 5th		
B'sloe Regional Novena	St Michael's Church	7.30am,10am ,8pm
Knitting & Crochet Group	B'sloe Library	10am-1pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live Trad and Folk Session	An Tain	9.30pm
Paudgheen	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 6th		
B'sloe Regional Novena	St Michael's Church	7.30am,10am ,8pm
Giorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Sacrament of the Sick	St Michael's Church	4pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live acoustic session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Social Dancing	Downey's Bar	10pm
Trad Night	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Friday 7th		
B'sloe Regional Novena	St Michael's Church	7.30am,10am ,8pm
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall	9-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.30pm
Steak Night	Downeys Bar	6-9pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
Niall Rutledge	Canal Bar	9pm
Toxic twins	Brewery Lane	10pm
Small Ideas	Auld Sod	10pm
Trad Session	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 8th		
B'sloe Regional Novena	St Michael's Church	7.30am,10am ,8pm
Baby Massage Class	B'sloe Library	10-11.30am
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8pm
Dave Milles	Canal Bar	9pm
Small Deal	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Shane & Sarah Doolin	An Tain	10pm
GoodLife	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Crazy Chris	Downeys Bar	10pm
Laker	Auld Sod	10pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	10pm
The Dunican Sisters	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 9th		
B'sloe Regional Novena	St Michael's Church	7.30am,10am ,8pm
Mass Blessing of Children	St Michael's Church	12pm
Social Dancing Showbud	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	7.30pm
No Showband	Brewery Lane	8pm
C.Rosney support S. Moyles	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Liam's country road show	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Lyrical	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valeries Of Aughrim	10pm
Monday 10th		
B'sloe Regional Novena	St Michael's Church	7.30am,10am ,8pm
Rite of Reconciliation	St Michael's Church	7.30am,10am ,8pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Flan Lillis Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Opening Hours

Tuesday 11th		
B'sloe Regional Novena	St Michael's Church	7.30am,10am ,8pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GROW Meeting	B'sloe Library	6-8pm
Flan Lillis Art Ex Launch	Church Gallery	6-7.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 12th		
B'sloe Regional Novena	St Michael's Church	7.30am,10am ,8pm
Flan Lillis Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Knitting & Crochet Group	B'sloe Library	11-1pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live Trad and Folk Session	An Tain	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 13th		
Flan Lillis Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Parent Child Home Prog.Story	B'sloe Library	10-11am
Giorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live acoustic session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Steve Reilly	Downey's Bar	10pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Singers Circle	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Friday 14th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall	9-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Flan Lillis Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Steak Night	Downey's Bar	6-9pm
Riverfest S'Bridge	Lukers S'Bridge	From 6pm
M.Heetwood,Splendid Isolation	Lukers S'Bridge	All Day
Riverfest	Shannonbridge	7pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9.00pm
Dollar Daly	Canal Bar	9pm
Hippy Bar Stars	Brewery Lane	10pm
Sugar Candy	Auld Sod	10:00 PM
Chris Nash	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 15th		
Baby Massage Class	B'sloe Library	10-11.30am
Cruinnúnanóg Multi-Sensory	Church Gallery	12-1pm, 2-4pm
Flan Lillis Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Riverfest S'Bridge	Shannonbridge	From 1pm
Hudson Taylor	Lukers S'Bridge	7pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8pm
Dollar Daly	Canal Bar	9pm
Red Tape	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ	Downey's Bar	10pm
Blessed	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
An Other	An Tain	10pm
Pacifica	Auld Sod	10pm
Take 2	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 16th		
Riverfest S'Bridge	Lukers S'Bridge	From 1pm
Riverfest	Lukers S'Bridge	From 1pm
Sodal Dance Michael Collins	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Eyrecourt vintage Rally	Eyrecourt	5pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Chasing Abbey	Lukers S'Bridge	7pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Beggars Velvet	Brewery Lane	8pm
M. Denver sup M. Regan	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Pub Fiction	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valeries Of Aughrim	10pm
C.D. Solo	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Monday 17th		
Flan Lillis Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Tuesday 18th		
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GROW Meeting	B'sloe Library	6-8pm
Flan Lillis Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 19th		
Knitting & Crochet Group	B'sloe Library	11-1pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3:00pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Flan Lillis Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live Trad and Folk Session	An Tain	9.30pm
Paudge	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 20th		
Flan Lillis Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Giorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live acoustic session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Social Dance	Downey's Bar	10pm
Irish Music	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Gerry Carthy	The Pillar House	10pm

Friday 21st		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall	9-1.30pm
Flan Lillis Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Steak Night	Downey's Bar	6-9pm
Adrain Rabbitt	Canal Bar	9pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
Goodfellas	Brewery Lane	10pm
Small Ideas	Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 22nd		
Baby Massage Class	B'sloe Library	10-11.30am
Family Event(Fundraiser)	Ballinasloe Town Hall	11-5pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8pm
Flan Lillis Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Alex Roe	Canal Bar	9pm
Loose rooster	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ	Downey's Bar	10pm
Small Deal	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Bothrin (The Blaggards)	Lukers S'Bridge	10pm
Na Riadoiri	An Tain	10pm
Wood Rush	Auld Sod	10pm
Jiggers of Erin	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 23rd		
Jimmy Hynes & Crusaders	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	7.30pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Live music	Brewery Lane	8pm
R. Mizzel support A. Feery	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Dave Mills	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Chill Billies	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valeries Of Aughrim	10pm
Monday 24th		
Flan Lillis Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Tuesday 25th		
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GROW Meeting	B'sloe Library	6-8pm
Flan Lillis Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 26th		
Knitting & Crochet Group	B'sloe Library	11-1pm
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Flan Lillis Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live Trad and Folk Ses	An Tain	9.30pm
Thw P.B. Show	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 27th		
Parent Child Home Prog.Story	B'sloe Library	10-11am
Giorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live acoustic session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Social Dance	Downey's Bar	10pm
Trad Night	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Friday 28th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall	9-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Steak Night	Downey's Bar	6-9pm
Small Deal	Canal Bar	9pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
Rob & Brian	Brewery Lane	10pm
Ken Solo	Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 29th		
Baby Massage Class	B'sloe Library	10-11.30pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8pm
Dollar Daly	Canal Bar	9pm
Live music	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Dave D	Downey's Bar	10pm
Happy Bar Stools	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Boppy Beats Dolf	An Tain	10pm
Finnegan's fury	Auld Sod	10pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	10pm
Hickory Wind	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 30th		
Social Dancie Andy Ferry	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	7.30pm
Brego	The Pillar House	8pm
D., & B. Kirwan sup O. Douglas	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Shane Moore	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Brego	Brewery Lane	10pm
Jock and Davy	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valeries Of Aughrim	10pm

JULY EVENTS GUIDE

Monday 1st		
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Tuesday 2nd		
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GROW Meeting	B'sloe Library	6-8pm
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 3rd		
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live Trad and Folk Session	An Tain	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 4th		
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Social Dance	Downey's Bar	10pm
Trad Irish	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Friday 5th		
Ballinasloe Country Market	Town Hall	9-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Steak Night	Downey's Bar	6-9pm
Celtic Swing	Canal Bar	9pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9.00pm
Small ideas	Auld Sod	10pm
Beggars Velvet	Brewery Lane	10pm
Trad Session	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 6th		
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Baby Massage Class	B'sloe Library	10-11.30pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8pm
Joe Glynn	Canal Bar	9pm
Tav Jam Band	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ John Finnerty	Downey's Bar	10pm
Daitthai & Co	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Ros for Sam	An Tain	10pm
Laker	Auld Sod	10pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	10pm
Crowbar Hotel	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 7th		
P. McKenna & Glenshane C'try	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	7.30pm
Nó Showband	Brewery Lane	8pm
D. Ryan sup Stuart Moyle	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Shane Moore	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Bumblie Bee Huny	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Monday 8th		
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Tuesday 9th		
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GROW Meeting	B'sloe Library	6-8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 10th		
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live Trad and Folk Session	An Tain	9.30pm
Pauriceen	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 11th		
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
J.Molloy & Friends(Jackie Dolan Benefit Night)	Downey's Bar	10pm
Irish Music	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm

Friday 12th		
Ballinasloe Country Market	Town Hall	9-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Steak Night	Downey's Bar	6-9pm
Dollar Daly	Canal Bar	9pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9.00pm
Sugar Candy	Auld Sod	10.00pm
Toxic Twins	Brewery Lane	10pm
Alan Lawlor	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 13th		
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Baby Massage Class	B'sloe Library	10-11.30am
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.00pm
Red O'Neill	Canal Bar	9pm
Loose Rooster	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Crazy Chris	Downey's Bar	10pm
Happy Bar Stools	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Average James	An Tain	10pm
No More Mossies	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Wood Rush	Auld Sod	10pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	10pm
Boithrin	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 14th		
Social Dancing John Molloy	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	7.30pm
Live music	Brewery Lane	8pm
P. Feeney sup John Molloy	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Ken Solo	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Blessed Be	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Sessions Front Bar	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Monday 15th		
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Tuesday 16th		
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GROW Meeting	B'sloe Library	6-8pm
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 17th		
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Joyce Little Art Therapy Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live Trad and Folk Session	An Tain	9.30pm
Paudge Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 18th		
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Steve Reilly	Downey's Bar	10pm
Trad Night	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Friday 19th		
Ballinasloe Country Market	Town Hall	9-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Steak Night	Downey's Bar	6-9pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9.00pm
T.B.C	Canal Bar	9pm
Small Ideas	Auld Sod	10pm
Goodfellas	Brewery Lane	10pm
Live Music	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 20th		
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8pm
Billy Garvin	Canal Bar	9pm
Goodlife	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Mike Darcy	Downey's Bar	10pm
Boithrin	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Na Riadoiri	An Tain	10pm
Pacifica	Auld Sod	10.00pm
Live Music	Lukers S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 21st		
M. Collins, L. Mannering	Shearwater Hotel	5.30-12.30pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	7.30pm
Gringo Stars	Brewery Lane	8pm
Dave Mills	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Dave n Eric	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Sessions Front Door	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm

Monday 22nd		
Helena O'Connor Art Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Tuesday 23rd		
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GROW Meeting	B'sloe Library	6-8pm
Helena O'Connor Art Exh	Church Gallery	6-7.30pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 24th		
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Helena O'Connor Art Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live Trad and Folk Session	An Tain	9.30pm
Paudge B	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 25th		
Helena O'Connor Art Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Social Dance	Downey's Bar	10pm
Schiddelai	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Friday 26th		
Ballinasloe Country Market	Town Hall	9-1.30pm
Helena O'Connor Art Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Steak Night	Downey's Bar	6-9pm
Small Deal	Canal Bar	9pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9.00pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm
Saturday 27th		
Helena O'Connor Art Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8pm
Alex Roe	Canl Bar	9pm
Beggars Velvet	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Dave D	Downey's Bar	10pm
Lyrical	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
You alright, are ya?	An Tain	10:00 PM
Nightowls	Auld Sod	10.00pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	10pm
Crowbar Hotel	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 28th		
B. Magee & E. Cunningham	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Live Music	An Tain	7.30pm
Live Music	Lukers S'Bridge	7.30pm
Brego	Brewery Lane	8pm
M.English sup. Andy Feery	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Liam's country road show	Auld Sod	9.30pm
Chillbillys	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Sessions Front Door	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Paul Burns	Dunloe Tavern	10.30pm
Monday 29th		
Star Camp Summer Camp	Ballinasloe Town Hall	9-2pm
Helena O'Connor Art Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Galway Races	Joe Kelly's	4pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8pm
Tuesday 30th		
Star Camp Summer Camp	Ballinasloe Town Hall	9-2pm
Helena O'Connor Art Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Parent Child Home Prog	B'sloe Library	10-1pm
Galway Races	Joe Kelly's	4pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GROW Meeting	B'sloe Library	6-8pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Wednesday 31st		
Star Camp Summer Camp	Ballinasloe Town Hall	9-2pm
Helena O'Connor Art Exh	Church Gallery	Opening Hours
Active Retirement	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Galway Races	Joe Kelly's	4pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Live music	Lukers S'Bridge	8.30pm

To advertise your events here contact: ballinasloelife@hotmail.com or Call **090 964 5831** by July 12th.

CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS



Mary Coffey and family at her 90th birthday recently.



The winner of the 2019 Douglas Rees Memorial Young Opera Singer of the Year is Soprano Rachel Goode! Our winner receives £2000 and the Crystal Trophy, sponsored by Fred Rees Garages SKODA Haverfordwest.



The Catering Department staff at Portiuncula University Hospital who were awarded the Irish Heart Foundation Gold Happy Heart Award for promoting healthy eating in the workplace, from left: Hanoria Riddle, Chef; Jack Kelly, Head Chef; Helen Glynn, Chef; Patricia O'Donoghue, Catering Manager; Josie McGrath, Catering Assistant; Marita Fogarty, Director of Nursing; Anna Mannion, Catering Assistant; and Karen Ward, Chef.



Downey's Bar and restaurant welcomes new executive head chef Jim Russell, pictured with the team. The restaurant also announced new service hours, with a full food menu until 6pm on Monday and Tuesday, and until 8pm from Wednesday to Sunday.

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POWER OF HOPE IGNITED BY DARKNESS INTO LIGHT DAWN EVENT

Darkness into Light Ballinasloe hosted its fifth successful flagship fundraiser for Pieta House recently, when at 4:15 am over 650 people from the area and its hinterland joined over 200,000 people nationwide on the unique 5km walk from Darkness into Light.

Each participant proudly wore the iconic DIL T-shirt, creating a sea of yellow as the waves of people wove their way from the Emerald Ballroom up through the lit streets of Brackernagh and Mackney, walking, talking, listening and engaging. They then entered the darkened reflective kilometre along the avenue to Ard Scoile Mhuire, remembering loved ones lost to suicide, before entering the wondrous section of the walk through Garbally College, flanked by candle-lit lanterns, accompanied by atmospheric live music, played by Paul Drysdale and Katia Connolly.

As morning began to dawn they walked the impressive tree-lined avenue lit with yellow night lights, experiencing the dawn chorus of the birds twittering in the canopy of trees, before emerging at the important point of HOPE, a large brightly lit sign on the crest of the avenue, reinforcing the power of Hope in everyone's journey. Turning once more onto Brackernagh they returned to the Emerald Ballroom for refreshments, feeling elated, energised, empowered, emotional, exhausted. and slightly overwhelmed.

In the last five years Darkness into Light Ballinasloe will have



Some of the volunteers awaiting on the walkers to return



Liam Jordan puts himself in the DIL Frame of mind by donating the use of his Premises as a pop up registration station.

contributed a combined total of over €100,000 to the coffers of Pieta House, allowing them to assist those in a mental health crisis and to help the bereaved families and friends of those that have died by suicide. More importantly it ensures its doors stay open, especially in the

centres closest to Ballinasloe - in Athlone, Tuam and Merchant's Road in Galway

Brian Derrane, Chair, was delighted with the turn out again this year. "The local people have been very loyal to this special event.

They realise it is a fulfilling experience with an important purpose, providing

an opportunity for the community to come together to dispel the stigma of suicide, to raise valuable awareness of the help available and to learn about the supports Pieta House provides free to its service users. Many experiencing distress may be more comfortable accessing the services of Pieta House via their text-line. - text HELP to 51444."

He hugely thanked the businesses of Ballinasloe, from the local Credit Union, to Dolan's Centra, Tesco, Bank of Ireland and Liam Jordan Photography, as well as all those who volunteered participated on the walk itself.

BY DONOGH MOORE

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PLANS FOR INAUGURAL SPORTS ABILITY DAY



Left to right: Alex, Ruby, Seamus Murray, Coral Leisure Centre, Stephen Roche, Kasia Skowron.

On Sunday June 9th Accessibility Ballinasloe are set to host the town's first 'Sports Inclusive Ability Day', which has been established to promote sports and physical activity for people of all abilities in the town.

The event will take place in the Emerald Ballroom and the Fair Green from 11am onwards. The Sports Ability Day is an inclusive event which will showcase a huge range of activities and clubs that are available in and around the local and surrounding areas of the county, designed for people of varying capabilities.

The event is supported by Galway County Council as well as Ballinasloe Fit's Town Association, with a further focus on promoting more physical activity in the town's community. A number of local business have joined the project as sponsors,

such as Dunne's Supervalu, Downey's of Society Street, Barretts of Ballinasloe, and Gerry Croffy Lawnmowers. The fact that so many local businesses have backed the project only bolsters the notion that the town is a welcoming and inclusive place.

A fundraiser for the day was held recently in Coral Leisure Centre. The 'Sports Ability Exercise-athon' allowed participants to try out the facilities offered in the leisure centre, from swimming to weights to cardio, with all proceeds going towards the upcoming Sports Ability Day.

Visitors will have the opportunity on the day to try a wide range of activities, and to meet clubs and groups who provide physical activity opportunities around Ballinasloe. The concept of the Sports Ability Day is to encourage people to come out and participate in the various different activities planned on the day, make new friends and to have lots of fun while doing so.

The aim of the day is to demonstrate that, regardless of ability, there is a sport out there for everyone to get involved in, and that the many different clubs and associations in the locality can cater to these needs. Small changes have been taken in the town recently to help improve the approachability of various businesses, such as the implementation of 'picture menus' in Downey's Bar & Restaurant, or the introduction of an 'Autism Aware' evening once a week in Lidl.

Entrance is free on the day, and every person of all ages and abilities are invited to participate.

For more information on Accessibility Ballinasloe's inaugural 'Sports Ability Day', contact the group via email at 'accessibilitybsloe@gmail.com', visit their Facebook page at: Accessibility Ballinasloe, or follow the hashtag: #BallinasloeSportsAbility.

BY DONOGH MOORE

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VOLUNTARY TRANSFERS - GIFTS OF PROPERTY



BY SHARON PENNICK

A voluntary transfer is a transfer of lands or property to another as a gift or for a reduced amount. They are commonly used by parents to transfer a site or a farm to a child.

The first step is to consult your solicitor so your title deeds can be reviewed and any prior consents (e.g. from a charge holder) can be

arranged. They will advise you on your options, how to protect your interests and they will prepare the documentation.

You must be solvent at the time of the transfer. You cannot use it to avoid your creditors' claims. To do so will undo the transaction.

You will need a map of the property and an open market valuation of the property (to be dated within 6 months of the transfer).

Stamp duty, capital gains tax (CGT) and capital acquisitions tax (CAT) can or may apply to a voluntary transfer.

Stamp duty is calculated at the open market value of the property at the date of the transfer. It is payable by the beneficiary of the gift. The present rate of stamp duty is 1% for residential property and 6% for commercial property (i.e. agricultural land). There are reliefs and exemptions available, namely young trained farmer

relief, consanguinity relief and farm consolidation relief. These exemptions and reliefs are limited. Clawback of the relief can occur if the beneficiary fails to satisfy the requirements of the relief.

Capital Gains Tax at a rate of 33% may be charged on a gain made by the transferor. There are certain reliefs available namely farm re-structuring relief, retirement relief and relief on transfers of sites from parents to children. Each relief has its own qualifying criteria and clawback of the relief can apply.

Capital Acquisitions Tax at a rate of 33% may be payable on the total of all gifts and inheritances a person receives during their lifetime. It depends on the open market value of the property at the date of the gift (i.e. the valuation date) and the relationship between the parties. There are tax free thresholds for various degrees of relationship. Once the open market value of the property exceeds the relevant threshold, CAT will apply on the excess amounts. All gifts or inheritances received are aggregable since 5 December 1991.

There are reliefs from CAT which can be used in addition to an individual's tax free threshold. The most common reliefs are agricultural and business relief. Both reduce the taxable value of the qualifying assets by 90%. Other reliefs include favourite nephew relief and dwellinghouse relief. All reliefs are subject to clawbacks if the beneficiary fails to meet the qualifying criteria.

All tax rates, reliefs and clawbacks are subject to change and it is advisable to pay close attention to any announcements made to these taxes in the annual budget.

If you are considering a voluntary transfer, contact Patrick Hogan offices for more detailed advice on this topic.

This article contains general information about Irish law. The information contained in this is not intended to provide, and does not constitute or comprise legal advice and is for general information purposes only.



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BALLINASLOE MAN LEADING THE WAY GLOBALLY IN CROWD & EVENT SAFETY

BY KEN KELLY

Mark Breen from Kilgarve, Ballinasloe, a former lifeguard at the Ballinasloe Swimming Pool, is now a Director of Cuckoo Events which is responsible for keeping people safe at large social events. Together with his business partner, Martin Cullen, they specialise in crowd and event safety all over Ireland and abroad.

Mark Breen grew up in Kilgarve Park in Creagh, attending Creagh NS and Garbally College, before heading to the University of Limerick in 1999 - like so many others from Ballinasloe.

Having worked as a lifeguard in the pool in Ballinasloe, Mark did similar work in UL and also became involved in training lifeguards over the years there too through Irish Water Safety.

Nowadays, Mark is Director of Cuckoo Events and Safe Events and he continues to work hard to provide a safe environment for people, but now he does so at a wide variety of events, domestically and internationally.

With Safe Events responsible for the planning and management of events including Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann this year and last in Drogheda, Wild Lights at Dublin Zoo since its inception, Dublin Pride since 2015, Arts Festivals in Saudi Arabia and many more, Mark and his full-time Team of five people are kept busy in their office in Dublin city centre.

"In 2018 we ran a new festival in Galway City Airport on behalf of some clients, who run licensed premises in Ballinasloe and Loughrea. This was our first time running an event in Galway and we're glad we waited for that one. We also quoted to work on the Ballinasloe October Fair & Festival in 2018, but it seems we were a little too expensive" said Mark.

Mark and his business partner, Martin Cullen, set up Cuckoo Events

(Safe Events is a relatively new brand within the company) back in 2012, while Mark was in London working at the London Olympics in a Safety Management capacity.

He was recently named one of Health & Safety at Work's '40 Under 40', being recognised as an outstanding achiever and among the best and brightest of the younger generation in health and safety management globally.

He was also recently upgraded to a Specialist Fellow of the International Institute of Risk & Safety Management, on foot of his commitment to his craft and efforts to develop the industry he loves so much.

"Worldwide Crowd and Event Safety industry is a relatively young one. From our work internationally as well as our digital and social media activity, we've developed a very strong global network of like-minded professionals. We're keen to do what we can to help the industry develop and to help people running events of all sizes to run them more safely. Free resources, industry seminars, Practical Skills Workshops for students and more are all elements of our efforts in that regard" he stressed.

Mark and his Team generally occupy the Event Controller and Safety Officer roles on the events they plan and manage. Those are the roles with the ultimate responsibility for the safe delivery of the event. You may not even see them on an event they're running, as they'll likely be in the Event Control unit, coordinating everything.

The future looks bright for Mark and his Team, with 2019 looking like another crazy busy one. The Team in Safe Events are having to turn down work at certain times of the year. There are only so many large events they can work on and deliver to their exacting standards.

It's a good problem to have, according to Mark.



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BALLINASLOE PRIEST DIES IN ENGLAND

BY KEN KELLY

Ballinasloe-born Fr. James (Jimmy) Keane, who ministered in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle for over fifty-four years, passed away after a short illness in Freeman Road Hospital, Newcastle. His late brother, Fr. Michael, who died in 1972, also ministered in the same diocese.

Following his early education in St. Grellan's Boys' National School, where he was a brilliant scholar, and later Garbally College, Fr. Jimmy studied for the priesthood in St. Patrick's College in Carlow. He was ordained on 6th June 1964 and two months later was appointed Curate of Our Lady and St. Edmund's Church in Backworth, in Newcastle. He later spent eleven years in St. Bede's in Jarrow and five years in St. Patrick's in Felling.

In November 1981 Fr. Keane was made Parish Priest of St. Joseph's in Highfield before being moved to St. George's in Bell's Close in October 1993, where he ministered up to his death.

A cousin of Galway's 1956 All-Ireland corner back, Sean Keeley, Fr.



Jimmy practiced football growing up in Cleaghmore, demanding to be the goalkeeper in the wide turf-shed. He played in the Town league with Derrymullen, both in goal and centre-field and had the honour of playing on the Ballinasloe senior team on a number of occasions. He always valued the two East Board medals that he won with the senior black and amber side.

Fr. Keane's remains were received into St. George's, Bell Close where a special Requiem Mass was celebrated by Bishop Robert Byrne before his body was taken back to Ballinasloe. Following his reposal Fr. John Naughton was the principal celebrant of Fr. Keane's funeral mass in St. Michael's, which was attended by the Bishop of Clonfert John Kirby and nine priests. Afterwards Fr. Jimmy's remains were buried in Creagh cemetery alongside his parents, brother Fr. Michael and his sister Maureen.

The late Fr. Keane, who was in his 79th year, is survived by his sister Kathleen Glynn, Fohenagh; brother-in-law Frank, nephews, nieces-in-law, cousin Sean Keeley as well as many other relatives and friends.

NEW OUTDOOR GYM LAUNCHED

The new Outdoor Gym in Dunlo Recreational Park, was officially opened in recent times. Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Comh. Sean O Tuairisg and Cathaoirleach of Ballinasloe Municipal District



5 tips for EU citizens travelling in Europe.

Health: The **EHIC card** gives access to medically necessary state-provided healthcare during a temporary stay in EU/EEA countries and in Switzerland. The card is **free** and is issued by the HSE either online or at your Local Health Office.

Passenger rights. If your air or rail journey does not go as expected download the '**Passenger rights**' app to get instant information on your rights and entitlements.

Help for consumers: For information on EU consumer rights, air travel, car rental etc, and for advice and assistance with cross border complaints contact your local European Consumer Centre. Call on (01) 8797620 or email info@eccireland.ie.

Roaming: The EU "roam like at home" rules mean that when travelling in any EU country don't have to pay any additional roaming charges for mobile phone use.

Car hire: Ensure you know how much you will be liable for in the event of accident. Inspect the vehicle carefully with a rental company employee present during the pick-up and return stages. Before leaving, request a written statement that the car was returned in good working order.

If things go wrong the European emergency number is 112

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L-R : Eamon Lydon Ballinasloe Area Engineer, Marian Donohue, Galway County Council, Cllr. Michael Connolly, Cathaoirleach of the County of Galway, Comh. Sean O'Tuairisg, Marion Ruane, Ballinasloe Fit Towns, Mick Curley, Galway Sports Partnership, Cllr. Dermot Connolly, Katie Codyre, Galway Sports Partnership, Cllr. Donal Burke, Chair of Ballinasloe Municipal District.

Cllr. Donal Burke, did the honours and launched the new adult outdoor gym facility with Katie Codyre, Galway Sports Development Officer, providing a demonstration of the equipment.

The outdoor gym is made up of eleven separate exercise stations. The implementation of all of these different stations offer adult users the opportunity to avail of eighteen exercises targeting different areas of the body. These outdoor facilities, much like the Dunlo Running Track, are a local public resource and are free to use and available to all the public.

The project was a joint initiative between Ballinasloe Fit Town, Galway Sports Partnership and Galway County Council. This is a legacy project following the success of Ballinasloe in the Fit Town competition and was made possible with financial assistance from the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport's National Sports Capital Programme.

GEMSTONES.....SUNSHINE.....COLOURS

The arrival of summer brings sunshine and magical colours. In Jewellery we also have a beautiful array of colours in Gemstones. In metals we have white/silver colour, rose colour and yellow colour with and without stones. This is across the full range of Earrings, Pendants, Bracelets and Rings.

The summer months bring great colours into our Jewellery stock.

May the Birthstone is Emerald and it comes in a beautiful Green. The colour is described as Lush, Exotic & Untamed. Emeralds came to European countries for the first time after the Spanish Conquest.

Then we have June with the beautiful Pearl or in more recent time Alexandrite. Nowadays we have a choice. Pearls are very traditional and always give an outfit and the wearer a regal look. Pearls like most stones comes with their own uniqueness i.e. Lustre, Size, and Shape & Colour.

The Alexandrite stone is a highly regarded as a colour changing stone. Its hue in day light can look a greenish blue, while in candle light it can look a pink to a red in colour....the changing of the colour makes it the most famous & popular of all the colour changing stones.

July brings us the Ruby known as the "king of gems". Ruby is one of the world's oldest and most revered gemstone as well as being one of



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BY MAUREEN CAHALAN

the rarest. Their colour is a beautiful Fire or Blood red. The hue of a Ruby will always draw attention.

August visits us with the wonderful apple or lime green Peridot. This stone is a perfect complement to this season's fashion scene. Peridot's freshness of colour delights the senses and finds its appeal across the generations.

Birthstones cover each month from the 1st of the month to the last day of month.



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AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE RE-OPENS FOR SUMMER

Local Councillors and Galway County Council Staff have put in serious efforts, following a public meeting last November, to ensure that the Aughrim Visitor Centre's doors open for the 2019 tourist season and that crucial upgrades have been made.

The centre is now open six days a week: Tuesday-Saturday 10.30am-5pm, and 1-5pm on Sunday. Admission is €5 per adult with special rates available for groups, students and children. Phone 090 967 3939 with any enquiries.

As many have learned from their school history -the 1691 Battle of Aughrim saw 36,000 men clash in the fields near the village, and proved itself a defining point in Irish and European history as James II and William of Orange fought to gain control of the English throne. The centuries between then and now have meant that the Boyne and Derry have become the watch words in relation to this period of history, but if anything, this has made locals more determined to ensure that Aughrim is remembered. At the frequently embattled visitor centre, one group in particular is preparing for Heritage Week.

For the past three years the "Walk About and Talk About" has been a staple of East Galway's heritage week calendar, and this year promises to breathe new life into the event. Entitled "The 1691 Battle of Aughrim: Ireland's Game Changer" this event has been a game changer for the organisers as well.

Michael Riddell, Abbie McGowan, George Geraghty, Hannah Daly,

and Joe and James Tracey want to ensure that this year's event is rooted in the local community, and make sure that the historic battle is on the lips of everyone in East Galway.



The team are more organised, better prepared, and are set to bring new ideas to the table in terms of what each speaker is going to discuss. Organiser Michael Riddell said: "We're always amazed by the interest this Battle generates and hugely grateful for the support of both the County Council, the local community in Aughrim and everyone who attends."

A series of talks are scheduled for Saturday 24th August at 11.30am and will cover many different aspects of the Battle; its background and mechanics, the trials the ordinary soldier would have faced, and the songs and stories that have sprung up around it in the intervening centuries. Refreshments will be provided, along with the opportunity afterwards to walk the Battlefield itself in the footsteps of both armies.

In recent years, the site has typically held a Military Summer School, where visitors are treated to an in-depth discussion about Irish battles and individuals. This summer school is usually held on the weekend of the 13th and 14th July, with further details to be announced.

BY ABBIE MCGOWAN



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"ALL SHOOK UP" TO FOLLOW NUNS FOR B.M.S.

Following on from the successful production of "Sister Act" in March, to which audiences flocked to and took great enjoyment from, Ballinasloe Musical Society held their AGM in Gullane's Hotel, Main Street recently.

The AGM reviewed in some detail the fundraising and profile raising projects that the group's members helped out in with the Sister Fun Run, The Xmas Tree Festive Gathering, The Christmas Eve Carols and of course the very successful Zombie Walk, where nearly 60 cast and crew members got all ghosted up and took the the Garbally Woods for two nights!

A well attended meeting was informed that the club's next production, taking place in 2020, will be the popular "All Shook Up", which features the music of "The King of Rock 'n Roll", Elvis Presley.

The longstanding local musical society has decided to treat audiences to another happy go-lucky musical, as their previous outings have proven very successful, and audiences will be privy to hit classics such as Jailhouse Rock, A Little Less Conversation, Blue Suede Shoes, and Burning Love, as well as many others.

The society has decided to welcome back the entire production team from this year's "Sister Act" - Aoife McClafferty will take the lead as the show's Choreographer, Paul Norton will helm the Director's chair, and Shane Farrell will again act as Musical Director for the show." All Shook Up" is set to run from the 24th to the 28th March 2020.

A new committee was also elected for the next 12 months. Maureen Donohue is the incoming President, Lisa Whyte will retain her role as



Pictured at the launch of a super Fundraisers for both Rugby Club and Musical Society were Cowboys and Cowgirls left to right Lisa Whyte, Ann Conlon, Jacinta Divvilly, Tom Horkan, Pearse Keller, Jacinta Keane, Frances Leahy and Brian Smyth.

Chairperson, and aiding her in that role is Frances Leahy as Assistant Chairperson. Greg Blackwell will take on the role of the society's Secretary, Fiona Flaherty will be the Assistant Secretary, Ellen Egan will take up the position of Treasurer, Magdalena Garcarek is the society's new Public Relation Officer and Gerard Sweeney will assist both Magdalena and Ellen in his new roles as Assistant Treasurer and Assistant PRO. The wider committee consists of members Siobhan Byrne, Eithne Blackwell, Pat McGovern, Jacinta Keane and Robin Newton.

The Musical Society also announced a joint fundraising "Barn Dance", in conjunction with the Ballinasloe Rugby Club. The event, which is set to be held on Friday the 23rd August, will take place in the local Rugby club house, and is set to raise much needed funds for both clubs. The Barn Dance is set to bring down a curtain on a successful and prosperous year both local clubs have had. For more information regarding the Musical Society's activities, find them on Facebook at: Ballinasloe Musical Society, or check out their website at 'www.ballinasloems.ie'.

BY DONOGH MOORE

VIEWPOINT RESOURCE CENTRE SUCCESSFUL RELAY MARATHON

Huge congratulations to all the participants who took part in 'Viewpoint Relay Marathon Challenge' 105 laps at the Dunlo Recreational track recently. Special guest was Olympian Katie Dillion who opened the event to the delight of all!



Congrats to Viewpoint Resource centre on organising a very successful Relay Marathon Challenge 2019



Huge congrats to Fia Nua Centre for completing most laps!



Huge congrats to Nathan for completing most individual laps!

IN-STEP STAGE SCHOOL ANNUAL SHOW WOWS CROWDS IN TOWN HALL

Broadway met the West End in The Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre when the In Step Kids once more treated the audience to an amazing night's entertainment with their 16th production for the town.

The future of youngsters performing without fear and great poise in all of our amateur productions in the forthcoming months and years should be well secured based on the star quality evidence in the Theatre.

"Imagine That" that took all through Neverland with Peter Pan, over the rooftops with Mary Poppins and down the yellow brick road in the company of Dorothy and a real live Toto, was this year's presentation.

Young and old audience members were enthralled and in awe of the collective talent of the energetic cast from the tiny four to six year old Tinkerbells to the agile and acrobatic adolescents. This was a well-conceived show and was evidently well rehearsed under the discerning eye of the student's mentors, Elaine and Ally O'Hanlon.

With the show now sadly over for this year, In Step are looking forward to kicking off once again in September, when the students will be preparing for their Irish School Of Speech and Drama Musical Theatre exams and more performances which will include, the Shearwater Christmas show, the Zombie Walk and of course the end of year show.

With classes now being restructured and more times added for the Ballinasloe School, In Step is now in a position to take bookings for September. As well as the stage school classes, In Step are now running their Ballet Academy where students can undertake the Royal Academy of Dance syllabus and exams.

In the meantime they will be running their summer academy from the 15th of July. The academy covers singing, dance, flexibility, and acrobatics.



BY DONOGH MOORE

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THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER.....

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

FOUR BALLINASLOE PRIESTS have ministered in the Diocese of Hexham and Newcastle, in Great Britain, over the past fifty years. They include recently deceased Fr. James Keane, his brother, the late Fr. Michael as well as Fr. Noel Colohan and Fr. Kevin Cummins.

LAWRENCETOWN COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT GROUP have completed a four-week "Stop Food Waste" seminar about reducing food waste, home composting and reducing unnecessary hazardous chemicals in the home.

AUGHRIM CITIZEN'S GROUP are planning a 5-day trip to Salou, in Spain, from October 12th to 17th. Costing €465 per person, the trip includes flights, transfers and half-board accommodation. There are a few places still left and anybody interested should call Helen Mannion on 086 8893262.

BISHOP JOHN KIRBY will lead the annual Clonfert Diocesan Pilgrimage to Lourdes from 15th to 20th October. Flights are from Knock Airport and further details are available from Society Travel, Ballinasloe.

CALTRA COMMUNITY GROUP are seeking volunteers to train

for a First Responders team following a CPR alert course. They can contact Rosemary McDonnell on 087 9969825 for further information.

AUGHRIM ACTIVE RETIREMENT GROUP have just returned from a three-day coach trip to Kilkenny. Staying in the Rivercourt Hotel, the party were taken on sightseeing tours of the Marble city and county, courtesy of Fahy's Coaches.

GARBALLY COLLEGE'S "THE FOUNTAIN" which is "an outlet to record and to celebrate both our school and the people in it" has just been published. The 222-page annual contains articles by students of events in the College over the past year as well as many photos of students, staff, celebrations and events.

KILTORMER HURLING CLUB'S Golden Jubilee celebrations get under way on Friday 21st June with Mass in the Sports Complex at 7 pm. RTE's Darren Frehill will be MC for the weekend celebrations with present and former players from the parishes of Clontuskert, Kiltormer and Lawrencetown, who wore the blue and white, together with a number of Celebrities, will attend the nostalgic weekend.

BALLINASLOE TOWN BAND

Ballinasloe Town Band were delighted to welcome the trumpet virtuoso Morris Northcutt to the town recently. Morris worked with the club's preinstrumental band, year 1 band, and senior band over the course of two days.

The Band are looking forward to a busy summer in their new premises in the old Parochial Hall and are still hard at work at their fundraising efforts.

The Band were hugely appreciative of a donation from Cllr. Dermot Connolly who allocated a sum of €3,200 from his annual personal allowance budget as a Councillor. He has been the only one so far to do so.

The next major band outing takes place in Gullanes Hotel when the Junior and Senior bands combine for their first performance together on the 20th of June.



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LOCAL R.A.F. GUNNER'S FAMILY ATTEND GRATEFUL VILLAGE COMMEMORATION

BY DONOGH MOORE

Joseph R. (Ronnie) Dowling, a cousin of the Jordan and Beirne families of Dunlo House and Creagh, grew up in the town in the early decades of the last century. Along with his father and uncle he was a keen sportsman and spent many hours fishing and shooting in the countryside around town. These skills were to prove useful in his later career.

In common with many others in Ireland during the economically depressed 1930's, Ronnie emigrated to England. He had developed an interest in the then still novel concept of powered flight pioneered by the Wright brothers only 30 years earlier. Accordingly, he applied and was accepted into the RAF which he joined around 1935, several years before the outbreak of World War II. He rose to the rank of Flight Sergeant and after the outbreak of the war, was assigned to Bomber Command. Due to his proficiency as a marksman during his hunting days in his youth, he was assigned as a turret machine gunner, in a Wellington bomber which had a total crew of six.

On 5th April 1944, just a year before the war's end, Ronnie was on board a New Zealand Air Force Wellington bomber on a training flight over Northamptonshire in Southern England. During the flight the aircraft developed mechanical problems and the crew struggled to maintain control. They rapidly lost altitude and the pilot identified a field, large enough to attempt an emergency landing, just outside the village of Rothersthorpe. The pilot brought the plane around to line up for a landing, all the while losing altitude, when a major fire broke out in the left wing engine. Efforts to quench it failed, as the pilot saw that they were headed straight for the village school, with children jumping up and down waving at the plane.



Joe, Ray and Ken Jordan with cousin Louise James at the propeller of the plane that went down.

Veering sharply away, the left wing sheared off and landed on the road just yards away from the school playground. With a wing lost, the plane immediately went into a spin and crashed in a huge fireball in a field about 100 yards away from the village. There were no

survivors, as all the crew were instantly killed. To this day there is a noticeable depression in the field where it came down.

The village council organised a church service recently to remember the 75th anniversary of the tragedy and to honour the memory of the young men who gave their lives so that the schoolchildren would survive. George Dickens, on whose father's land the plane crashed some years ago, recovered a largely intact propeller from the plane, and a memorial plaque was created around it. Some pieces of equipment were salvaged, and George gave Ray Jordan a parachute buckle as a memento.

The local Rector conducted a service with Ray, Joe and Kenneth Jordan coming from Ireland, and another cousin Louise James, travelling over from Monmouth in Wales.

The photographs show Ronnie Dowling in his RAF uniform in 1938, and Joe, Ray and Ken Jordan with Louise James beside the propeller and memorial plaque.

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ALL-IRELAND UNDER 10 CHESS CHAMPION

David Cunningham, grandson of Rita and Joe Duane, Duneeda, Ballinasloe, was crowned All-Ireland under 10 chess champion recently – the club's first winner of this prestigious individual award in 10 years, since Billy McKenna won in 2008.

Ballinasloe were crowned Leinster Division 2 League Champions in Dublin. The club won the Heidenfeld Trophy and will now play in the FIDE rated (World rated) Division 1 series for the first time ever next season. The team comprised of John Dunne (captain), Paddy Divilly, Tommy Dunne Jr., Kenneth Higgins, David McCann, George O'Brien, Josef Vezely, Rory Quinn, Denis Rucho, Keegan O'Mahoney and Conor Barrett.

The club ended their 18th season on May 15th with the conclusion of the Junior Club Championships - David Cunningham emerged as A champion, Leah Cunningham as B, Hayden Naughton as B1 champion, Jack Finn as C and Tommy Hughes as C1 champion.



David Cunningham, from Mountbellew, who recent won the title of 2018 U10 Irish Chess Champion. David is a member of Ballinasloe Chess Club. He is also pictured with Billy McKenna, Ballinasloe who won the same title in 2008, the year before David was born.

BALLINASLOE COMMUNITY GAMES

u3 boys - Shane McNeill (BCU) with Will Flanagan, Luke Riddell & Peter Keighrey at the local B.C.U. sponsored Community Games Finals in the Brackernagh Track recently.



u 8 boys 60 m - Shane McNeill (BCU) & Ruairi Watters with Darren Grenham, Conor Hoban & Scott David at the local B.C.U. sponsored Community Games Finals in the Brackernagh Track recently

u12 girls 200 metres - Shane McNeill with Lexi Courtney, Ava Burke & Prudent Nwasa at the local B.C.U. sponsored Community Games Finals in the Brackernagh Track.



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125 YEARS OF GOLF IN BALLINASLOE

BY M. S. KELLY

In 1894 a group of local aspiring golfers approached the 5th Earl of Cloncarty, Viscount Dunlo with a view to setting up a golf club. Ballinasloe at the time had a population of over 7,000 a drop from 10,000 during the famine years. The Earl looked very favourably on their request and granted them lands rent free at Garbally Demesne. On the 10th of November 1894 a meeting was held to form a Golf Club in Ballinasloe. Fourteen members were elected to form the first committee (3 ladies & 11 men) and their names are on display on a plaque in the clubhouse.

On the 9th of November 1923 a general meeting of the club was held in Hayden's Hotel Ballinasloe to discuss the future of the club. After playing golf on lands rent free at Garbally for almost 30 years, Garbally Court & Demesne was sold to the Diocese of Clonfert. At the meeting Mr. William Hession, Club President offered the use of his lands for a golf course at Rosgloss. The meeting was adjourned until the 4th January 1924 to see what support would be forthcoming for the project. Support for the move was most satisfactory with one fifth of the cost to develop the new course handed to the treasurer at the meeting. The land was purchased in 1924 but according to records was not paid for until 1928.

Thanks to local weekly newspapers like the *Western Star*, *The East Galway Democrat* and the *Ballinasloe Advertiser* the club has a very good record of its early years. A very detailed booklet of the club's history was produced for the Club's Centenary and a few copies of this book are available in the club.

In 1984 the club developed an extra 9 holes to make it an 18 hole course. In 1992 the present revised course layout was opened. The clubhouse has also seen many changes since the first tin shed pavilion built in 1924.



Padraic Kelly (Seniors Captain), Carol McCarthy (President), Michael Ward (Mens Captain), Adeline Naughton (Lady Captain) and Conor Rice (Junior Captain).

Over the years the club has had good success in mens, ladies and under age Inter Club Competitions and several members have been selected on Irish Teams for International matches.

The loss of over 2,000 jobs in the town over the years (at A.T. Cross, Square D, Dubarry & St. Brigid's Hospital) saw the membership of the club drop from 850 members in 2007 to 430 members today.

Ballinasloe Golf Course continues to be a great facility, not only for its members but also for the town and it is also used by many local clubs and organisations for fund raising events. Membership is open to everyone with special rates for beginners – if you would like to join the club contact the office for details 96 42126.



Carol McCarthy, Club President cuts the tape to mark the completion of renovation works to the new office, meeting room, mens locker room.

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BALLINASLOE RUGBY FOOTBALL CLUB



Mossy Moran (President Connacht Branch IRFU) and Tom Horkan President Ballinasloe RFC Officially Opening the New Astra Turf Pitch at the Ballinasloe RFC.

Rugby Committee

Front Row L-R: Matt Carey (Asst. Treasurer), Paul Spencer (Asst. Secretary), Geraldine Ffrench Kelly (Trustee), Tom Waters (President), Tom Horkan (Secretary), Pearse Keller (Vice President & Treasurer), Noel Mannion (Director of Rugby).

Back Row L-R: John Glynn (Trustee), David McKeigue (Minis Coordinator), Sean Brooks, Jacinta Divilly, Enda Jennings (Club Welfare Officer), Anne Conlon (Junior Vice President), Siobhán Horkan (Club Welfare Officer), Gerry Kelly (Trustee).

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GREAT SEASON AT BALLINASLOE RFC

The Astro-turf training facility at Ballinasloe Rugby Football Club was opened by Connacht President Mossy Moran and Ballinasloe RFC President Tom Horkan in recent weeks. This was held in conjunction with club's annual youth awards night, with a large crowd gathering in the club for both occasions.

This facility will not only benefit current generations but also future generations and is a positive addition to the local club. Many members, including those on previous committees in the club, all worked hard to bring this project to fruition, which was part funded by a capital grant from the Department of Tourism and Sport, a grant from Galway County Council, a grant from Ballinasloe Credit Union and an Applegreen Grant.

The Awards night is an annual event to recognise players who have excelled and improved during the season. The night was also a special occasion to honour six Irish Internationals who had been capped at various levels throughout the year. Shane Jennings and Oisín McCormack both played for the Irish Schools team, while Colm Reilly played for the Irish u20s, scoring the match winning try against Wales to win the u20's Championship, and more importantly the Grand Slam. Colm's try was very reminiscent of club stalwart Noel Mannion's try against Wales back in 1989.

Beibhinn Parsons also made history by becoming the youngest Irish Senior International at just sixteen years of age, while Maeve Deeley and Aoiheann Reilly, sister of Colm, also represented Ireland over the course of the season. These six internationals represented Ireland with distinction, and having six players capped for various international sides is a notable achievement for the local club.

This success was further built upon during the season with the U18.5 Boys side winning both the Connacht League and Cup. It was fitting that the League Cup, in memory of local youth player Rafeek



Khan, returned to Ballinasloe. The Girls u16s and u18s sides also had very successful seasons, winning both the League and Cup double themselves.

The club have two very important fundraisers in their calendar this year - the Michael Fitzpatrick Memorial Golf Classic, which took place at the end of May in the local Golf Club, as well as a Barn Dance on the 23rd of August, in co-operation with Ballinasloe Musical Society. Be sure to include this event in your diary as it promises to be a great occasion - all taking place in the clubhouse. There is also a Connacht Skills summer camp taking place at the club, from July 29th - August 2nd. This camp, aimed for 6-12 year olds, will focus on both skills, and ensuring players have fun playing rugby. For more information regarding the camp, check out connachtrugby.ie/summercamps.

The Club also held its AGM recently, where outgoing Club President Tom Horkan outlined details of a very successful season. Tom Waters was elected as President for the new season. For more information regarding the club's upcoming fundraisers, and details about the commencement of the new season, find the club on Facebook at: Ballinasloe Rugby Club.

BY DONOGH MOORE

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GOLD MEDAL SWIMMERS SET TO COMPETE AT NATIONAL FINALS

BY DONOGH MOORE

17 swimmers represented the Ballinasloe Club and spectators were treated to some very competitive individual and team performances at the County Swimming finals. The local contingent won four gold medals, three silver and one bronze, with both the boys and girls relay teams also taking silver.

Lea Stehelova, Laura Costello, Felix Kelly and Cian McKeon, all took part in their first competition. Laura and Cian swam the 25 metre freestyle, with Cian making it to the final and taking fourth place overall. Lea and Felix swam in the backstroke with Lea making it to the semi-finals and while Felix unfortunately didn't proceed to the final, he swam admirably in the under 10 competition, aged just seven years old.

In the U12 category, Sarah Dolan took the gold medal home in the freestyle and Vivienne Naughton was fourth in the breaststroke. Matilda Kelly swam in the backstroke, and Conor Costello also competed in the freestyle. Evan McKeon swam in the breaststroke, earning a silver medal in another close race.

In the U14 grouping, Daniel Mooney took home the gold medal in the freestyle, Liam Martin participated in the 50 metre butterfly, earning another gold medal. Leon McKeon was excellent in the breaststroke and took the gold medal. Jenny Murray earned herself a bronze medal after participating in the 50 metre freestyle competition. Anna Trappe came fourth in the under 14 breaststroke, narrowly missing out on a medal. Kayla McKeon received the silver medal for her participation in the 50 metre butterfly, and finally Emily Gillespie earned the silver in the backstroke competition.

The team that represented Ballinasloe Swimming club in the

girls' relay race consisted of Sarah Dolan, Kayla McKeon, Jenny Murray and Vivienne Naughton. The team were successful in the race, and earned a silver medal for their efforts.

The boys relay team was made up of Liam Martin,



Donnchadh Duane

Daniel Mooney, Evan McKeon and Philip Costello. Much like the girls' team, the boys too earned the silver medal in their respective relay race.

The gold medal winners on the day, Daniel Mooney, Sarah Dolan, Liam Martin and Leon McKeon, will now go on to represent Ballinasloe, Galway in the National Finals of

the Community Games which will take place in the University of Limerick. In other competitions, Taughmaconnell native Donnchadh Duane represented Ballinasloe Swimming Club in the Roscommon County Community Games Swimming Final. Donnchadh earned gold in the under 8's front crawl, and will go on to represent the club in the National Finals in UL also.



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LOCAL ATHLETES PROGRESS IN OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD

Ballinasloe & District Athletic Club were well represented at the Galway Outdoor Track & Field Competition in Dangan recently. Under 9 girls Lauren Loughrey and Laura Berrigan ran in the 300mts to win bronze medals in the paired event, and also went on to earn silver medals in the long jump. Lauren also won an individual gold medal in the same long jump event. Aaron Kelly represented the club in the under 9 boys' 300mts and long jump events.

In the under 10 girls, Lisa Herity and Kate Kilkenny teamed up to take home silver in the 60mts, as well as bronze in the 500mts. Lisa also won an individual gold medal in the 60mts and Kate won an individual bronze medal in the 500mts. Caoimhe Hogan, Emily Doran and Carrie Stephenson competed in their chosen events in the same age group, and Kalum Manning ran in the boys under 10 500mts and 60mts events.

In the under 11 girls' bracket, Erin Aru, Aoife Berrigan and Lauren Doran all competed in their events, and Adam Murray competed in the boys under 11 600mts and long jump. Anna Ward, Sarah Manning and Sinead Greene competed very well in their U12 chosen events, and Cillian Ó Tuairisg won silver in the boys U12 individual shot put event, narrowly missing out on the gold. Cillian and Brian Fitzpatrick competed very well in all their other U12 events.

All the clubs relays ran strongly on the day; the U10 girls team included Lisa Herity, Caoimhe Hogan, Emily Doran and Kate Kilkenny; the U11 girls team included Lauren Doran, Carrie Stephensen, Erin Aru and Aoife Berrigan; and the U12 girls team included Anna Ward, Sarah Manning, Aoife Berrigan and Sinead Greene.

The Club had continued success on the second day of the event, with Caoimhe Kilkenny winning Gold in both the girls u14 80mts and 200mts. On his first ever competition with the club, Luke Manning took home the bronze medal in the boys' u14 80mts and



Lisa Herity gold medal winner in u10 girls 60mts



Caoimhe Kilkenny won Gold in the girls u14 80mts and also u14 girls 200mts. On his first ever competition with the club, Luke Manning took home Bronze in the boys u14 80mts and Silver in the u14 Boys 200 metre race/sprint.

Silver in the 200mts. Niamh Dunning also ran to win Silver in the girls u16 80mts.

Eva Ruane represented the u13 girls in both 80mts and 600mts races, while Emma McGreal and Hannah Kelly competed in the u15 100mts. Emma also took

part in the u15 long jump together with Róisín Grealy, and these three were joined by Caoimhe Kilkenny for the girls u15 Relay.

There was huge participation from the club's u16/17 athletes, with Niall Daly competing in boys 100mts, Shane Fitzpatrick in boys 200mts and Hannah Farrell in girls 200mts, and the long jump. Niall and Adam McGreal took on the u16 long jump, which saw Adam taking 4th place overall.

Consequently, the club has had a number of athletes qualify for the Connacht Outdoor Track and Field Competition taking place in early June, which shows both the dedication and success that these underage athletes possess.

BY DONOGH MOORE

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SOCCER CLUB'S SEASON ENDS

BY DONOGH MOORE

The Ballinasloe Town AFC senior team concluded their season recently when they won the Roscommon and District League Premier Division Cup Final. The team claimed their victory over Ballymoe Rangers, with goals coming from the efforts of Liam Lynch and Aidan Dooney. Petie Keighery and Mark Duffy's senior squad had already finished as runners up in the district's Premier League, as well as having reached the semi-final stages of the Roscommon Knockout Cup.

The club's under 18 team, managed by Mickey Burke and Bobby Burke, had a great victory in the semi-final of the Roscommon and District League Shield, when they beat Cloonfad United by a resounding seven goals to two. With three goals from Joseph Rattigan, two from Mac Gerald, and one from Mark Boland and Niall Phelan apiece, the local team faced little resistance as they powered through to the shield final.

In the Athlone and District Schoolboy's League, the club's under 13 and under 13/14 combi teams, managed by Mickey Walsh and coached by Noel Lyons, both reached their respective finals. However, the under 13 team unfortunately went down two goals to one to Temple Villa FC, after taking the game to extra time. The under 13/14 combi



Pictured making a presentation to Cameron Keighrey who has progressed from the Ballinasloe Town AFC u13 team and has now signed with Galway United were L to R Noel Lyons team coach, Cameron Keighrey and Mickey Walsh team manager.



Pictured at a presentation of a new set of jersey's by Tom Fox and Ballinasloe Tyres to the Ballinasloe Town A. F. C. UNDER 13 AND UNDER 13/14 COMBI teams were Noel Lyons (coach), Tom Fox (sponsor), James Kenny, John Ward, Mickey Walsh (manager), Caysan Walsh and Ryan Dowd.

team were also narrowly defeated by St Francis FC, and after the teams couldn't be separated in normal game time, they match proceeded onto extra time, where the local underage team were unfortunate enough to concede a goal. The game finished up at two goals to one, and although both underage teams were defeated in their respective finals, their campaign up to this point will prove a solid foundation on which they can begin from next season. As well as that, Mark Duffy's under 10 club side also reached the final of the Athlone and District Schoolboy's League.

The club have just recently returned from their biennial trip to Hailwood FC in Liverpool, where the club's youths enjoyed three days of football and social activities. As well as meeting their contemporaries in Hailwood FC, the party also were fortunate enough to visit prestigious football grounds, such as Old Trafford and Anfield.

Ballinasloe Town AFC's AGM is fixed for Tuesday July 2, at the club's new clubhouse, and everyone who may be interested in getting involved in any capacity for the coming season is invited to attend. For more information about the club, find them on Facebook at: Ballinasloe Town AFC.

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GAA EASTER CAMPS A HUGE SUCCESS

BY DONOGH MOORE



Photos show participating children from the club's recent Football and Hurling camps, which were held over the Easter holidays.

Ballinasloe GAA held their annual Easter Football and Hurling Camps for underage players recently. This year however, the camps took on a more condensed format, as they were held over a four day period with Hurling over the first two days and Football on the third and fourth days.

The club were fortunate enough to have help from a vast number of volunteers, ranging from local secondary school students, to parents and members of the club itself, such as: Roisín Fahy, Orla Madden, Jack Mitchell, Conor Coleman, Stuart Madden, Fintan Donnellan, Craig Potter, Michelle Creaven, Stephen Kerr, Mairead Mitchell, Ronan Lally, Mike Tully, Colm Browne, Ruairí O Hanlon and Ger

Coughlan. The camp would not have been able to go ahead without the hard work and contributions made by parents' coaches and mentors alike.

While the focus of the Easter camp was to help improve the children's abilities through fun games and exercises, they were also an encouraging visit from Galway GAA players Johnny Heaney and Jason Flynn, who are members of the senior county football and hurling teams, respectively. Johnny and Jason signed jerseys, hurleys and balls for the children, and fielded any and all questions the younger players had for them.

Connacht are Hosting the 'John West Féile Peil na nÓg' from June 28 to 30th this year. Ballinasloe GAA have the pleasure of hosting the Four Masters of Donegal boy's team, and the Bennekerry/Tinryland girls from Carlow over this period. Several games will take place at the local pitches on Friday 28th and Saturday 29th of June.

The weekend is a great opportunity to showcase the local club and its facilities, alongside promoting the town and the amenities and hospitality it provides. Lifetime friendships are set to be forged between host families and their guests and everyone in the locality has been invited to attend and support the club's young footballers over the weekend. On Saturday June 29th, there will be an evening of entertainment and refreshments set out for both the host families, and their visiting guests in Gullane's Hotel, Main Street.

The club's annual Summer Cúl Camps will take place again this summer with both codes being represented over the two weeks. Football will take place during the week of July 1st to 5th, and Hurling will take place the following week, from July 8th to 12th.

All information on fixtures for both Hurling and Football along with the schedule for this year's Féile and Cúl Camp can be found on the club's website -www.ballinasloegaa.ie, or find them on Facebook at: Ballinasloe GAA.



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BUSY SUMMER AHEAD FOR PEARSES GAA

BY SARAH DOLAN



From L-R: Jack Downey, Conor Lohan, Eoin McManus, James Costello, Luke Walsh and Eoin Collieran.

Padraig Pearse's GAA club, Woodmount, Co. Roscommon is heading into the business end of the GAA season. The club has over 750 members from the parishes of Moore, Taughnaconnell and Creagh, and fields 34 teams from underage hurling, camogie and football right up to senior level. Run entirely by volunteers, Pearse's is the only club in the county that is fielding four senior teams across all three codes.

Members can also take advantage of the all-weather walking track which is continuously maintained to a high standard. The track plays host to a number of activities including the Moore Movers & Fit Farmers programme, led by the 2018 Club Person of the Year, Laura Tully - which also attracted some RTE coverage recently. Also ongoing in the club are various card games, darts and pool competitions and ceilis.

The club has a strong representation on several Roscommon county teams, with players of all ages representing Pearse's at various levels. On the county minor girls' camogie team, Michaela Keogh, Sarah Dooley and Leah Dolan all represent the club, with Aoife Murray and Michaela Keogh participating on the football teams. Representing the club on the county u17 football team are Conor Lohan, James

Costelloe, Jack Downey, Eoin McManus, Eoin Collieran and Luke Walsh. Paul Carey is a member of the u20 football squad, and Lorraine Kenny is a member of the county senior camogie team.

David Murray, Niall, Conor and Ronan Daly and Hubert Darcy all represent Pearse's at senior level for the Roscommon Football team - these are less than half of the club's county representatives, with the rest playing on underage teams.

Pearse's has a strong focus on teaching players key skills and techniques early, which perhaps explains why the club is so decorated with county players. Every Saturday morning, u6 to u12 boys and girls train in football, and the girls and boys have hurling training from 6:30 - 7:30pm, on Mondays and Wednesdays respectively. The u14 teams across all codes will take part in Feile 2019, with the hurlers travelling to Cork in early June, and the boys and girls footballers hosting St James from Wexford, and St Brigids from Monaghan at the end of June.

The annual summer camp returns this August 19th to 22nd for 4 to 12 year olds. The camp will take place from 10am to 2pm each day at the club, and no pre booking is required.

The Kelloggs Cùl camp will also take place from July 15th to July 19th. Further details and booking information will be found on <https://www.kelloggsculcamps.gaa.ie>.

The club survives on the work of volunteers, valuable sponsors and various fundraising efforts - the biggest being the local lotto draw. Now standing at almost €15,000, entrance can be achieved through access to Pearse's lotto envelopes, or online at www.padraigpearses.ie.

The club has a very busy schedule, and to keep up with activities each week, or for business or sponsorship enquiries, check out the club notes on their website at www.padraigpearses.ie, find them on Facebook at: Padraig Pearse's, or contact club PRO, Sarah Dolan, at 087 298 8834.

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TENNIS SUMMER SEASON CONTINUES TEMPORARILY

Ballinasloe & District Tennis Club are running their Summer Camps from Monday 8th July for 4 weeks. The camps will take place at Ard Scoil Mhuire, in the mornings between 11- 12 for children aged 5-12. They can attend for 1, 2, 3 or all 4 weeks for €30 per child. The participation fee will include all equipment and they are suitable for both complete beginners and more experienced players.

At the end of the 2018 season, after a close member's vote at the last AGM, left its long term home to allow the Rugby Club to expand their facilities. The rugby club has since completed their new all-weather pitch, using the tennis courts as the foundation of the pitch, effecting some savings to the rugby club's overall development costs.

Moving from their base has not been as positive for the tennis club, as they had expected to have their new facilities, at the site the Council has leased to the club above the running track in Brackernagh, built in time for the 2019 season. Regrettably the Sports Capital Grants required, which were expected to be announced in the early part of this year have now been delayed until at least the Autumn.

The club has moved to its temporary location at Ard Scoil Mhuire where it is now offering regular activities for juniors, teens, adults and special needs, including Junior Coaching on Wednesday at 6pm and Adult open sessions on Fridays at 7pm.

Due to the limited access available to the courts and other facilities, the club has decided to forego membership fees from its 120 plus members for this year. Instead, both members and non-members are welcome to participate in all organised activities without



Participants in 2018 Tennis Camps, the last camps at the club's long time home at the Rugby Club.

paying the annual membership fee.

Although planning permission to build 4 courts with artificial surface and lights at the new site was obtained well over two years ago, it was only this year that the lease on the site was finalised. Longer term plans are for a covered court and a multi-purpose indoor sports facility for the benefit of the whole community.

The club intends to have 'shovel ready' plans and professional images available to use for fundraising and corporate sponsorship in the near future, and to apply for any new grants. Despite the constraints on this season the Club are focused on providing new tennis facilities available by next summer, and in the longer term, a multipurpose facility.

In the meantime, the club is beginning to undertake their next round of fundraising. For more details of the Camps or club activities please see: <https://www.facebook.com/bsloetennisclub> or email bsloetennis@gmail.com or call: Sarah 087 680 0598 (Junior and Coaching queries), Garry 085 112 4197, Joe 087 252 1424 or Louise 087 135 3751.

BY DONOGH MOORE

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McDONAGH AIMS FOR EUROPEAN TITLE

BY KEN KELLY

Ballinasloe's first-ever All-Ireland Powerlifting Champion will attempt to bring a European Title home when he competes in the European WPC, AWPC Championships later this month. 22-year-old Tristan McDonagh from Hymany Park will hope to improve on his All-Ireland record-breaking success in the Powerlifting Bench and Deadlift events in the 67.5kilo class, which were held in Limerick.

Only three years in the sport, and overcoming a serious hand injury, Tristan is self-taught in the unique sporting events that has already won him several medals, two at National Level. "In the All-Ireland championships, the Ballinasloe man competed in the 67.5kilo class where a person attempts the maximum weight they can lift

in Squat, Bench and Deadlift" explained a delighted Tristan.

TREBLE IRISH RECORD BREAKER



Tristan being presented with his national medal by Shane Brody, IPO President after winning the All-Ireland title.

He opened in the Squat event in Limerick with a 172kg lift, then 182kg before smashing the Irish record with a 187.5kg lift. Then it was on to the Bench section where he had an opener of 100kg, then 110kg followed by 112.5kg-taking another Irish record. Competitors can have up to three attempts at each lift and in the third class, the Deadlift, Tristan opened with 195kg before setting another

National record with a lift of 202.5kg.

"I was thrilled to compete with 'the best of the best' in Limerick and delighted to bring back my All-Ireland title to Ballinasloe. I trained hard in the Shearwater Gym, Shear Fitness for the last few years, and winning this title, is beyond my wildest dreams. I would love to see other youths take up the sport. It is a tough fitness regime and very healthy. To achieve such success in such a short time is unbelievable" added Tristan.

SENATOR MAURA HOPKINS



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AUGHRIM MAN COMMEMORATED IN MANHATTAN

BY KEN KELLY

East Galway people living in and visiting Manhattan, in New York City, have a special interest in St. Paul's Churchyard where a 35 feet high obelisk is erected to the memory of Dr. William James MacNeven, who was born in Ballinahown, Aughrim on 21st March 1763.

After studying medicine in Prague and Vienna, the young Galwayman returned to Dublin before emigrating to America where he established the first chemical laboratory in New York. His contribution to American medicine was immense and one of the inscriptions on the monument reads: "An Irish Patriot, MacNeven came to this country in 1805. As Supervisor of Hospitals for New York City, he was instrumental in staving off cholera and smallpox epidemics."



Another side of the obelisk has the inscription: "William James MacNeven, M.D. Born in Ireland, March 21st A.D. 1753. Died in New York, July 12th A.D. 1841. Who in the cause of his Native Land Sacrificed the bright prospects of his youth and passed years in poverty and exile; till in America he found a country which he loved as truly as he did the land of his birth. To the Service of this country which had received him as a son he devoted his high Scientific acquirements

with eminent ability."

He is buried on the Riker Farm in Astoria, Queen's. A road in Ballinasloe's Fairgreen is named after him.

St. Paul's, which is very close to the new World Trade Centre, was designated a historical landmark in 1960, having opened in 1766. President George Washington attended a service there on his Inauguration in 1789, President James Monroe's funeral service was held there in



1831. It was spared from the Sept. 11th attacks in 2001 and became a home for volunteer relief ministry and recovery workers. Bishop Desmond Tutu preached there in 2005 and in 2016 it celebrated its 250th anniversary.

In the churchyard, near Broadway, is a monument to another Irish emigrant, the Honorable Thomas Addis Emmet, who is described as "An activist for an Independent Ireland, he emigrated to America in 1803 and was New York State Attorney General from 1812-1813. He is buried in St. Mark's Church, in the Bowery."



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KEEPING THE SUMMER BLOOMING

BY MIRIAM WARD



As we slip past high summer and towards late, it is tempting to take your foot off the gas. This is a time to enjoy the garden, to relax after the hard work, with maybe the odd push-around of the mower to make room for a blanket or deckchair. But as welcome as the laziness of the season may be, those who give up too early are missing out. The flowers of late summer and autumn are particularly beautiful. They are also long-lasting, perennial and repeat-flowering plants.

We all aim to get the most out of our summer bedding but how is this achieved, the answer is simple food, water and a small bit of dead heading. It can't be stressed how important it is to feed your plants throughout the summer to achieve long lasting blooms. Feeding isn't just for summer bedding, shrubs are often crying out for attention make sure to feed any shrubs and hedges to ensure good growth and healthy leaves throughout the season. We recommend giving your lawn a tonic during the summer this will ensure a green lawn and promote lawn health. Having a healthy

lawn will help keep the weeds and moss at bay throughout the year.

Plan to use plants that thrive in summer as this will save you work and help conserve water. Herbs are fabulous plants, with garden and kitchen uses galore, and are particularly useful in a dry season. Rosemary, sage, thyme, and chives are among our favourites in the garden and the kitchen, and they will do well in a sunny spot even in a drought. Leggy herbs should be trimmed back now as well. Dry or freeze the trimmings from your herbs, so nothing goes to waste.

Many annuals are just reaching their prime blooming period. Keep them deadheaded, and they will continue to give you flowers for a few more weeks. Another fertilizer application will give them the boost they need, especially if the weather has been hot and harsh. Be sure everything is well watered. Check for insect damage, and use appropriate treatments.

During the summer months regularly prune off dead stems on roses to give the optimal care and ensure regular feeds. Finally, August is an ideal month to plant herbaceous perennials, these will provide you with colour though out the summer year after year.

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more!

The camp runs from July 1st to 5th, from 10am – 3pm each day and costs €80, and €70 for each subsequent child, with €30 deposit to be paid on booking. For Further Information/ Booking: Contact Ger on 089 415 4193 or Ita on 087 981 3480.



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LIAM MELLOWS *"The birth of a nation is never the result of an immaculate conception."*

A prominent revolutionary figure in the years from 1916 to 1922, his association with the town of Ballinasloe has been all but forgotten. In the publications of local historians he receives no mention. His name was Liam Mellows, born at Hartshead military barracks, Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancashire, on 25th May 1892.

The son of a sergeant in the British army, after the family had moved to Ireland in 1895 Liam was educated at a number of military schools in Cork and Dublin. On leaving school in 1907 he worked as a clerk in Dublin. Possibly influenced by his nationalist-minded mother, in 1911 he joined Na Fianna, a Republican scouting organization, and was appointed a full-time organizer in 1913 at a salary of 30 shillings a week.

Already a member of the Irish Republican Brotherhood, he joined the Irish Volunteers on their formation in November 1913. After the parting of the ways with Redmond's Volunteers, he was elected to the executive committee and was sent to Galway to rebuild the organization there. He based himself in Athenry where his landlady was Julia Morrissey, a young woman who was a commandant in Cumann na mBan. Sharing a political outlook as well as a love of music, they became close friends. Julia's later life was tragic: she developed a psychotic illness and was committed to Ballinasloe Mental Hospital in the 1930s where she remained up to her death in 1974. Sometime in 1915 Mellows conducted a Volunteers' training camp in a field adjoining St. Joseph's College, Ballinasloe, then located at The Pines in Creagh, the choice of campsite undoubtedly influenced by Mellows's friendship with Fr. Patrick Connolly, an advanced nationalist and member of the college teaching staff.

He was arrested on 2nd April 1916 under the Defence of the Realm Act and deported to Staffordshire. Swapping places with his brother, he managed to return to Ireland in the days before the 1916 Rising disguised as a priest, and assumed command of the Connacht contingent in the Insurrection, the story of which is too well known to be repeated here. Suffice it to say that the Galway Volunteers disbanded at the end of Easter Week without having achieved any of their objectives, after which several hundred local men found

themselves shipped off to internment in North Wales. Mellows went into hiding in a remote part of County Clare, remaining there until October when a plan was devised to smuggle him out of the country via Dungarvan. Posing as a seaman, he boarded a vessel in Liverpool bound for New York, arriving at his destination in mid-December.

In New York he contacted John Devoy, leader of Clann na Gael, the American counterpart of the IRB, and editor of "The Gaelic American" newspaper. Devoy hired him as a columnist to write for his paper; however, in October 1917 Mellows was arrested on a charge of attempting to get to Germany to buy arms and with travelling on a false passport. Eventually he was released on bail, but Devoy dispensed with his services because the pro-German sentiments expressed in his articles had become a source of embarrassment to the Clann now that America had entered the Great War as an ally of Britain and France. Mellows was obliged to find work as a labourer, and soon began to experience serious health problems. Nevertheless, he recovered sufficiently to accompany Hannah Sheehy Skeffington on her successful lecture tour of the States in 1918, and became an indispensable organizer of Éamon de Valera's activities in the US during the following two years. Thoroughly disenchanted with America, Mellows returned to Ireland in October 1920, stating he was "very glad to have shaken forever the dust of the soulless place from my feet."

At a Sinn Féin convention in Ballinasloe in October 1918 Mellows had been selected in his absence to contest East Galway in the forthcoming general election, and was subsequently returned unopposed. It was rumoured that the Sinn Féin national executive was less than enamoured of his candidacy given his known German sympathies, but apparently his popularity in the constituency decided them against exercising their veto. As it happened, East Galway was the only constituency in the county in which the party faced no opposition.

On his return to Dublin, Mellows was appointed Director of Purchases to the Volunteers, thus becoming a member of the GHQ Staff. Michael Collins, Director of Intelligence, saw his appointment as an invasion of his own territory and began to refer to him disparagingly in correspondence as the "little man". The reality was that Mellows found himself caught between two combatants.

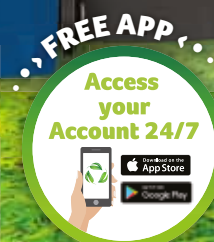


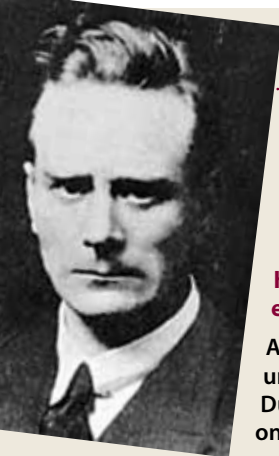
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BY BARRY LALLY

Cathal Brugha, Minister for Defence, was trying to use him to get at Collins. At the same time, Mellows came to distrust Collins so much that he refused to stay in the same house as him. His antipathy to Brugha would eventually be almost as great.

A company had been registered in Ballinasloe under the name of Kenny and Murray Ltd. During the period of the Truce declared on 11th July 1921 its legitimate trade was accompanied by the clandestine importation of arms for the IRA. Mellows visited the town from time to time to co-ordinate plans, and on one occasion when he arrived at the railway station he was met by and inspected a 46-man IRA guard of honour under the command of Jack Keogh, a well-known local Republican activist.

Following the signing of the Anglo-Irish Treaty on 6th December, most of the IRA's rank-and-file were opposed to the settlement, while a majority of the GHQ supported it. Those against were Rory O'Connor and Liam Mellows. On 29th December Mellows attended a Sinn Féin Comhairle Ceantair meeting in Ballinasloe's Town Hall. Only one man spoke out against the Treaty, namely Paddy Beegan, a future Fianna Fáil TD for East Galway. In the event, 9 out of the 27 delegates voted against ratification.

Mellows, who had once again been returned unopposed in the 1921 general election, now stood for the third time as a candidate in the so-called Pact election of June 1922. Addressing a meeting in Ballinasloe on the eve of polling, he said he was in favour of breaking up the ranches and compensating the owners, but condemned any seizures of land as a religious reprisal. There had been instances of this in the neighbourhood. He told the meeting that he preferred a Protestant who believed in the freedom of Ireland to a Catholic who did not. The fight would go on until complete independence was achieved. On this occasion, however, he was to lose his seat.

When the anti-Treaty Four Courts garrison surrendered to

Provisional Government forces at the end of June, Mellows was amongst a group of IRA leaders imprisoned in Mountjoy. The Irish Free State officially came into being on 6th December 1922. The following day, Seán Hales TD was assassinated. Next morning, Mellows and three others were executed by firing squad as a reprisal. Though without any basis in law, the Government's action effectively aborted the IRA's declared policy of shooting Dáil deputies, and arguably contributed to the survival prospects of the newborn state. Ironically, it was the Feast of the Immaculate Conception.

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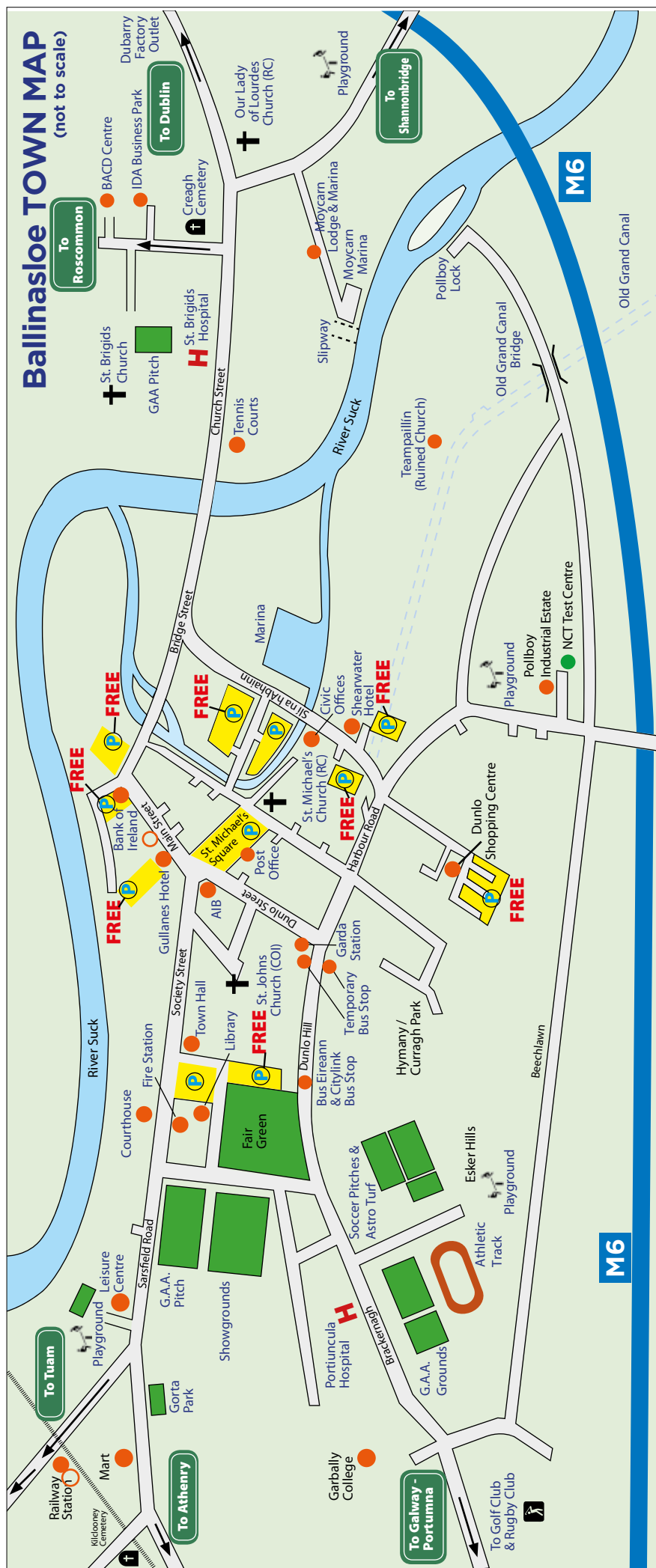
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Ballinasloe History Walk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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