

# BALLINASLOELIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 9 Issue 3: Aug '19 - Sept '19

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Photo by Robert Riddell

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# REAMHRA

Welcome to Volume 9 issue three

## Articles and Photos Welcome

**NEXT ISSUE**  
**Deadline 11<sup>th</sup> Sept.**

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The year was 1988, Radio Kandy was winding down, CJ Haughey was winding up, Paddy Hillary came to town and officiated at the re-opening of a 30-month ANCO refurbishment and renovation of the Town Hall, the major firms of the era had some 650 employees merrily about their business and in St. Brendan's Cathedral, a tall, rugby mad Garbally College President was consecrated Bishop on the 9th of April.

The then 49 year old Athlone man, who had been a teacher on the staff of the Diocesan College since his ordination and Principal since the late and loved Dr. Joe Cassidy was made Coadjutor of Clonfert in 1982, probably never thought as the Chrism was being rubbed, he would maintain his mitre in service of an active ministry for 31 years.

Ballinasloe – is one of the three deaneries of the smallest diocese of Ireland – due in no small part to the Ui Maine Kingdom on whose lands it rests. The Parish of Kilclooney and Creagh has never had a Parish Priest since Mensal times, only an Administrator, as it is the occupant of Coorheen House (the Dowager House of the Widow Clancarty on the shores of Loughrea) who is the titular P.P.

A point often made at Confirmations, Holy Thursdays and a variety of other spiritual and community occasions by Bishop John, alternating between Our Lady of Lourdes Creagh and St. Michael's, in the schools and especially in Portiuncula and St. Brigid's.

I am conflicted as I write as I have had the privilege of knowing him in our formative years in Garbally and also in later years about town, supporting, leading and shepherding an oft times bewildered flock

The Town enhancement works are due to be completed by April / May 2020. While all the Cables still have to go underground you can see how the streetscape and footpaths are coming together in Dunlo Street.

On completion the visual impact at foot level will be very good but now is the time for the property owners to start thinking and planning about how both occupied and vacant shop premises are going to be enhanced so that we have our Town looking appealing and welcoming to both locals and visitors.

Property owners need to start conversing with one another to have a unified approach so that the Town brand / theme is compatible with what we want to achieve. I ask that the Street Representatives now move onto this phase and get everyone on board so that there is no time lapse when the Contractors move on.

Ballinasloe has a huge history here in the centre of the Hidden Heartlands, on the Crossroads of the Beara / Breifne Way (incorporating the Hymany Way) and Ireland's Greenway from Dublin to Galway.

We have one of the most historic battlegrounds on our doorstep. As you know the Orangemen celebrate the 12th July annually and the

and undoubtedly there are those more qualified than I (within the congregation and without) to trawl through his stewardship with clinical precision.

Nevertheless I think most citizens of a charitable nature will want to thank the human being who accepted a challenge in full public view and to the best of abilities and frailties; gave it his all. We wish the man from Athlone, a retirement of health, happiness and friendship, amongst a community that does not see too often 31 years of personal commitment to a position of community guardianship, and onerous civic leadership.

In the 3 decades of his Episcopal reign the transformation has been brutal for our town but the cycle of progress moves on – the roof is nearly complete on the first Social Housing Scheme in town on over a decade in Dunlo, in Poolboy the Cranes are busy at work building a brand new Western Post Form Factory securing the future of 60 employees, as are Sisk and Co putting on a 3,000 square foot extension and more carparks for Surmodics, with full planning permission for the new Omniplex at the Dunlo Shopping Centre-not to mention application being made for state support to build a €2.5mil advance facility in the IDA Business Park in Parkmore.

Changing and challenging times for us all and the new Bishop!

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



Battle of Aughrim was fought on this day in 1691 whereas the Battle of the Boyne took place a year earlier on the 1st July and gets far more attention from a Historical viewpoint. A visit to the Interpretive Centre locally is recommended to find out more about our local history or attend some of the workshops ongoing for the Summer on site.

While the weather has not reached the highs of last year, the many Summer Camps have experienced huge numbers in attendance with some still to go ahead in the month of August, please support all these local events mainly ran on a voluntary basis.

By the time our next issue is out another tranche of our youth will have moved onto 3rd level education / apprenticeships and we wish them the best of luck with their results in the coming weeks.

**SEAMUS DUFFY**,  
Chairman Ballinasloe Area  
Community Development Limited.



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## WHAT'S INSIDE

### Local News

- 4 Kilconnell Poll Topper
- 5 New Municipal Council
- 6 Big Dig Half Way
- 7 Marie Lyons Launches
- 8 New Transport Training
- 9 Western Postform New Factory
- 10 Movies on Big Screen
- 11 Pulse Club Busy Summer
- 12 Harvest Festival at Beechlaw
- 13 Surmodics Expansion
- 14 Dolan's Service Station
- 15 Local Car Sales
- 16 Divilly's 64 Years Trading
- 17 Unemployed Figures Moving

### Community

- 18 Parent Child Plus Programme
- 19 Hospital Watch
- 20 People of the Year
- 22 New Bishop for Clonfert
- 24 Hidden Heartlands
- 25 Millrace Profile
- 26 New Walks and Trails

### Schools Rules

- 27 Enda Brien Gaisce Award

### 28 Ardscoil Mhuire Awards Day

### 29 36 Countries Feted at Creagh

### Community

- 30 Out and About
- 32 Events Guide
- 34 Celebrations and Events
- 35 Passing of "Pook" Dillon
- 37 Aughrim Music Festival
- 39 Waste Permit Facility

### Culture

- 40 Town Hall Theatre
- 41 Missing Arts Centre
- 42 Aughrim Visitors Centre
- 43 Larry Reynolds Trad Festival
- 44 Dinny Delaney Piper
- 45 This, That and the Other
- 46 Queen of the Fair
- 48 Youth Exchange Camp

### Sport

- 49 Rosway Walking Club
- 50 GAA Underage
- 53 Festival of Soccer
- 55 GELS Annual Golf Day
- 56 Ballinasloe Rugby Club
- 57 Sports Ability Day

### Tourism And Heritage

- 58 Aughrim Church Climate Action
- 60 Professor Gabriel Kiely
- 62 Ballinasloe Histoty Walk



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## KILCONNELL POLL TOPPER ELECTED

Councillor Tim Broderick, who was recently elected for a third time to Galway County Council, was chosen as Cathaoirleach of the Ballinasloe Municipal District Council for the coming year, with Councillor Aisling Dolan elected as Leas-Cathaoirleach.

Son of the late Bob and Joan Broderick, he is a fifth generation publican based in Kilconnell, and has a keen interest in all things GAA. Despite being a poll topper in the previous locals he was frozen out of any roles of leadership at Council level due to a pact with Fianna Fail and Fine Gael. This time around however Fine Gael have formed a co-operation with the Independents on the Council to provide a majority for stability.

Over the next five year term, Councillor Broderick has several aims none greater than rectifying the deficiencies that exist in the district regarding tourism incentives. "Wonderful opportunities exist here with the Hidden Heartlands initiative. We have a wealth of untapped tourism potential that I hope, with the help of my fellow councillors, to bring to the fore not only over the coming year, but over the lifetime of this council."

Other priorities for Tim - include the smooth completion of the Town Enhancement Scheme, which is currently set to undertake work on Main Street after Dunlo Street reopens, and to ensure that discommoded businesses can be supported appropriately.

Even now, weeks after the election, Councillor Broderick is coming up against the same complaints as he met on the campaign trail. "Some of the issues that people are bringing to me are along the lines of housing, broadband, the decimation of mental health services, both in East Galway and nationally, as well as a lack of understanding of rural Ireland, alongside the people living in it."

He continues: "There's a broadband deficiency in over fifty percent of the municipal electoral area, and regarding housing, there's just no proper, joined-up thinking in relation to its delivery in the area. The likes of Rural Link are almost more negative for smaller villages,



Edel Broderick, Cathaoirleach Tim Broderick and Lonan Broderick

rather than offering them advantages. When someone has to travel three miles to avail of the service and then travel those same three miles home? That's not a service. Rural Link should pilot a scheme to make themselves more accessible to all folk - make it sustainable. The pensioner that's living three miles from the urban settlement has the same entitlement to services as the pensioner that's living in the town. Rural isolation is a huge issue, and national authorities should be working with communities to try and combat this."

Councillor Broderick believes that Ballinasloe is not alone in facing these issues, however. "We have huge challenges in the future, like many other towns bordering on the rural and urban line. We're getting no attention from national authorities, and so our opportunities are far too limited. Towns have the potential to become vibrant with support services and national commitment behind them - what both the town and the rural area needs is real regeneration. If the surrounding areas won't prosper, then the town won't - and vice versa."

He is looking forward to working with his fellow Councillors, Officials, National Representatives and the people of the area in his new role.

BY DONOGH MOORE

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## NEW MUNICIPAL COUNCIL GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS

The Ballinasloe District Municipal Council held their first two meetings of their five year tenure recently. To begin, the new Cathaoirleach and Leas-Cathaoirleach for the coming year were elected, in the form of poll-topper Councillor Tim Broderick, and first-time Councillor Aishling Dolan.



Back: Councillors Michael Connolly, Dermot Connolly, Declan Geraghty, Peter Keaveney.  
Front: Leas-Cathaoirleach Aisling Dolan, Cathaoirleach Tim Broderick.

these two moves a year, would be feasible.

As is always the case post elections councillors nominated by their colleague to various different committees and bodies with responsibilities. Councillor Broderick has been nominated to the North and West Regional Assembly, the Local Traveller Accommodation

The scale of the housing crisis within the area was fully exposed with the tabling of a report showing 485 families on the housing waiting list with a further 285 in receipt of the Housing Assistance Payment (HAP).

The housing agency O'Colohan & Co, who are keen to partner with Galway County Council on a pilot scheme for a housing alliance in the area, (which hasn't been done outside of major urban zones before), presented to the councillors. The agency completed a similar scheme in Ardmore, Co. Waterford recently. It was unanimously agreed that this scheme may provide an opportunity for the town to start building, with a mockup of three different types of accommodation being shown. Affordable housing would make up around 60% of the proposed building, with both affordable rental accommodation and social housing taking up around 20% each.

Given the new larger size of the district in terms of scale and sprawl over which the council presides, it was resolved that one council meeting would be held outside of the town every six months. There was broad agreement shown at this proposal, with councillors agreeing that more effort needed to be shown to the communities in the far reaches of the district. However, the decision is now referred by bye law to a corporate policy group, who will then decide whether

Consultative Committee, the Local Rural Water Monitoring Committee, and the Ballinasloe Twinning Committee. Councillor Dolan has been nominated to the Galway Regional Education and Training Board, the Regional Health Forum West, the October Fair Co-Ordinating Committee, and the B.A.C.D. Councillor Dermot Connolly has been nominated to the Galway Corporate Policy Group, and the Twinning Committee. Councillor Michael Connolly has been nominated to the Western Inter-County Rail Committee, the October Fair Co-Ordinating Committee, and the BACD.

Finally, the Municipal District Council put its weight of support behind the town's application to Minister Ring's Department for 'Rural Regeneration' scheme, despite having been denied support three times already. The scheme application this year is a joint application by the local authority, in conjunction with the Ballinasloe Area Community Development team.

Cathaoirleach Tim Broderick said that the grant aid for much needed investment in enterprise and rural economy was a "huge opportunity", and that it was "imperative that we get our slice of this".

BY DONOGH MOORE

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## BIG DIG NEARING HALFWAY POINT

BY DONOGH MOORE



The 'Town Enhancement Scheme' or 'Big Dig' that has been taking place in the town has reached its halfway mark recently. The works, by SIAC Construction and Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers, began their first phase of three at the beginning of the year, and have since reached near completion of that initial phase, with just Main Street left to be worked on.

Phase One works consisted of mostly underground workings around the town centre. This included the laying of sewers, water mains, ducts and all associated connections and fittings. These works were carried out on Society Street, resulting in a full road closure for a number of months, as well as St. Michael's Square and Dunlo Street, where works are just finishing up on the lower portion of the street.

On Dunlo Street, existing paths have been removed, with ducting being installed, as well as new kerbing, paving, street furniture being installed and services being put under ground. As we go to print the main road will be resurfaced and new pavements are a real overture of how the new streetscape will unfold for the next few decades.

Once this section of the works is completed, works will continue towards Hayden's Hotel under a similar road closure. Works are scheduled to be completed in Dunlo Street by mid-September. There is no plan to have works continuing during Fair week.

Post Fair the refurbishments will continue at Central junction and then onto Main Street. These works are scheduled to be completed by January 2020. Once completed, the upgrading works will then proceed in Society Street again, starting at the Central junction and working out towards the Courthouse.

As well as that, works have commenced to install a combined sewer from an existing manhole at the Civic building to an existing manhole at the Shearwater Hotel, located beside the R446.

Phase 2 of the scheme involves the works outside the town centre area. Throughout this phase, the contractor will continue working during the consolidation period for the town centre area, and works are sufficiently separated so that all works areas can be progressed at the same time. Due to this, no road closures are envisaged in this time. These works will take place by Sarsfield Drive, Bridge Street Outer, Church Street, Hymany Park, Creagh and St. Joseph's Place.

Finally, Phase 3 works entail the completion of street enhancement works, involving laying of kerbs, footpaths, parking bays, road reinstatement, installation of new bins, benches, cycle stands, railings removal of existing lighting columns and overhead lines, installation of new lighting columns and lamps and planting of trees. The works on Main Street are set to take place from September 2019 to January 2020, and Society Street's works will take place from January 2020 to April 2020.

The end goal of the 'Town Enhancement Scheme' is to have a 21st century town that's attractive not only to its residents, but to customers from all over the hinterland. These works will lead to a more pedestrian friendly environment in the town centre, and alongside a traffic calming scheme, as well as a more welcoming streetscape hopefully creating a positive experience for visitors.

For more information on the Big Dig, keep posted to the Ballinasloe Life Facebook page, or visit 'www.ballinasloetownenhancement.ie' for further details.

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## MARIE LYONS LAUNCHES NEW BUSINESS

Originally hailing from New Ross, Co. Wexford, Marie Lyons has recently set up her own counselling practice in the town. Marie is the daughter of the late James Cullen, former business owner and the late Maureen (nee Lyons), who hailed from Portumna, Co. Galway, and is sister to Brendan, who currently resides as an accountant in Attyrory, Creagh, and the late Seán.

Although at first pursuing a nursing career following her training in Jervis Street Hospital, Dublin, Marie came to Ballinasloe in 1988, has one daughter Tracy, and began working in Square D Company, where she remained until its closure in January 2003. From there, she held periods of work in Whyte's Nursing Home, Garbally View and finally St. Brigid's Hospital.

After her brother Seán took his own life, Marie took some time out of work to deal with the tragedy, which had a devastating impact on her life. She obtained a diploma in Drugs Counselling & Intervention Skills, and went on to work in residential addiction treatment Centres and community based organisations throughout Ireland, before returning to education in 2017, where she was awarded an Honours Degree in Counselling & Addiction Studies from the Irish College of Humanities & Applied Sciences. Having struggled with mental health issues herself, Marie believes she is a much stronger person who has a deeper understanding of all issues relating to mental health.

"In my opinion there are never too many therapists in one town.

Since the closure of St. Brigid's Hospital, there are a lot of people suffering with mental health issues and I firmly believe the town has an opening for another counselling service. We're only two hours from Dublin, with a variety of bus and train facilities servicing either side of the country throughout the day. The BEC offers affordable rates whilst also offering great support and encouragement to all new business ventures. The location is easily accessible, as it's only a short distance from town centre and the M6 motorway. It provides free onsite parking. My office is located at the back of the BEC which is very private for my clients" states Marie.

Marie, like many other new business owners, is a member of the Pulse Club. "It is a great asset to the town for excellent networking and mentoring service and workshops on how to start your own business, managing finance etc. There have been many guest speakers which were all very informative, including presentations by entrepreneurs above the Library on the first Tuesday of every month. Personally, I felt very welcome when I first joined the group, and have been supported by fellow members. It is a very positive group which gave me the initiative to start up my own business" added Marie.

Marie Lyons' Personal Counselling and Addiction Therapy offers the following therapy services: Addiction (Alcohol, Drugs, Gambling), Bereavement/Loss, Relationship difficulties, Anxiety, Stress, Depression, Self-Esteem, Anger, Emotional/Physical Abuse. The business is open from 9:30am to 7:30pm Monday to Friday, and Marie can be contacted at 087 782 6020.



BY DONOGH MOORE

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# NEW TRANSPORT TRAINING BUSINESS SETS UP LOCALLY

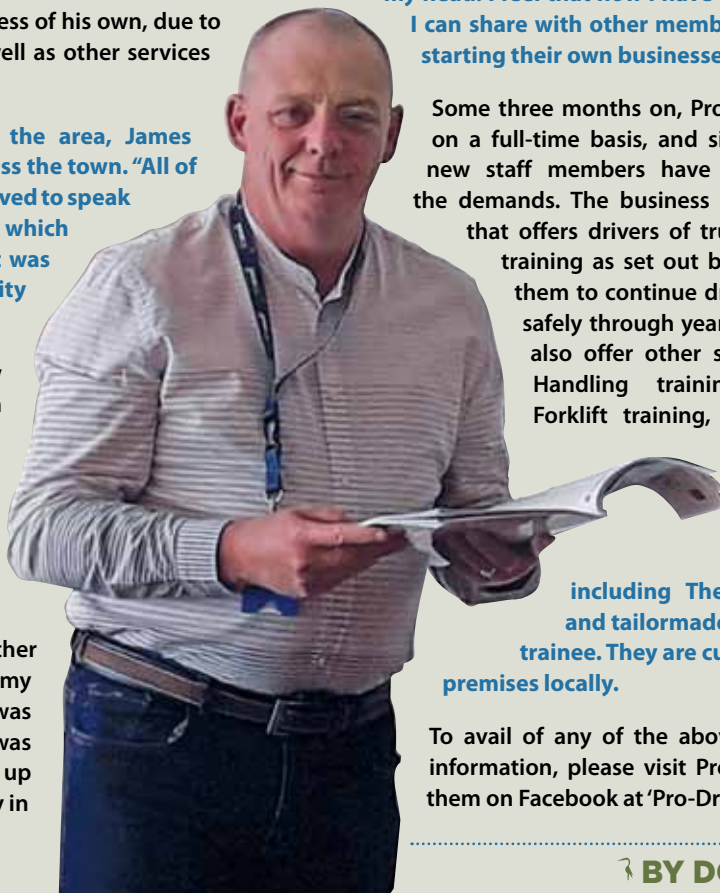
A new transport-educational service has been set up in the town recently, in the form of Pro-Drive Ireland.

James Folan, originally from Newbridge, Co. Kildare, moved to town over three years ago, after stints spent both in the UK and Galway City working in various jobs in the transport industry. After spending two years in Galway, he relocated to Ballinasloe as he felt the town would be an ideal location to set up a business of his own, due to its far-reaching rail and road network, as well as other services the town had to offer.

After spending some time settling into the area, James quickly made friends and connections across the town. "All of these people that I met had a passion and loved to speak about the local community and its history, which I hadn't seen the likes of in a long time. It was truly welcoming, to be part of a community that really loved their town."

It was then that James heard of the new group establishing itself, to help both budding entrepreneurs and established businesses as they encountered different issues in their day-to-day transactions. "The Pulse Club offered a place where people, all at different stages of their business careers, could meet up and chat to like-minded individuals, whether it be to discuss issues they've faced or ask each other about different techniques. At the time of my joining, the idea for a company that I had was just that – an idea. I, like many others, was reluctant to take that first big step, to give up a full-time, paying job, and set up a company in my specific area of expertise."

"At one of the meetings, I spoke up and explained my situation to the group. All of the other members, who ranged from being employed, self-employed or company owners, told me to follow my idea and "go for it! What have you got to lose?" Without the help, support and guidance of not only the leaders, but also the members of the Pulse Club, my business would still be a thought in my head. I feel that now I have a lot of information that I can share with other members on the intricacies of starting their own businesses."



Some three months on, Pro-Drive Ireland is trading on a full-time basis, and since its beginning three new staff members have joined James to meet the demands. The business is an education service, that offers drivers of trucks and buses periodic training as set out by the RSA, which allows them to continue driving professionally and safely through yearly in-class training. They also offer other services such as Manual Handling training, Safepass training, Forklift training, CPC Case Studies and Driver ETB training..

Training is delivered through a variety of venues in the midlands including The Creggan Court Hotel and tailored to suit the needs of the trainee. They are currently seeking suitable premises locally.

To avail of any of the above services, or for more information, please visit [Pro-DriveIreland.ie](http://Pro-DriveIreland.ie), or find them on Facebook at 'Pro-Drive Ireland'.

BY DONOGH MOORE

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# WESTERN POSTFORM BREAK GROUND ON NEW FACTORY

A longstanding business in the town, Western Postform Limited, has begun the process of relocating. The furniture manufacturer is leaving its current location in Brackernagh, and has begun to build, across from the Poolboy Industrial Estate.

The business was established back in 1979, and while primarily a manufacturer of bespoke fitted furniture and washroom systems, over the years it has now grown to be one of the country's leading suppliers to the educational, healthcare, pharmaceutical, hospitality and commercial sectors.

The business was established originally by John Hurley, although within a year of its creation, it was bought by Michael O'Grady and Seamus Shinnors. Nowadays, the company is run by Alan O'Grady, husband to Olivia and father to Saoirse, Simon and Madison. Alan, who's from Gort, has been with Western Postform Ltd for 25 years, when he first took up a post there in 1994.

At present, the firm employs around fifty people, with forty of those based in the factory in the town, and another ten fitters on the road travelling around the country each day. There are currently six members of staff who have given over thirty years' service with another fifteen members having contributed over twenty years of service in the manufacturers.

With nearly forty years' experience in working with architects, designers, contractors and clients, Western Postform Limited have earned a reputation for delivering a quality product, within various time constraints and under budget. From the small one off projects, to the typical large scale industrial and commercial project they have dealt with in the past, the business has the experience, capabilities and flexibility to handle all requirements.

With their extensive knowledge of all aspects of a project from start to finish, including design, manufacture and fitting, Western Postform Limited are well placed to deliver most clients' proposals from initial concept to finished project.

The business is set to move into their new 40,000 square foot facility located in Pollboy in March of next year. Managing Director Alan O'Grady said: "Due to the current levels of output we have going on, we have simply outgrown our current location on the Galway Road, and so we have had to look at a new green field site. However, we are remaining in the town, as it is well-positioned for access to most of the country. This is a huge investment for both Western Postform Ltd as well as Ballinasloe, and we will be investing nearly €5 million in this project."

The main contractors for this new build are Fitzgibbons Contractors, from Ennis. O'Neill O'Malley, hailing from Galway, are the architects involved in the project, alongside Tobin's Engineering. In an effort to account for renewable energy, the business is planning to install an extraction, filtration and storage system with an automatic feed to a biomass boiler, which will in turn generate all the heat required for the factory. Alongside this, all of the lighting will be LED.

At this stage, up to thirty staff will be employed throughout the construction phase.

The business is selling mostly to the commercial sector, with projects ranging from the fit out of hotels, schools, student developments, and hospitals, to the likes of having a few large housing projects on their



North Eastern View

books too. For more information, see WPF Ltd's Facebook Page at: 'Western Postform Limited', or check out their website at: [westernpostform.ie](http://westernpostform.ie).



O'Grady Family



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## MOVIES ON BIG SCREEN SET TO RETURN

BY DONOGH MOORE

After almost three decades since the demise of Swanwick's Cinema, which outlived the Aisling incarnation in the Town Hall Theatre by about five years, it seems that movie fans in the town and surrounding areas will no longer have to trek elsewhere for a film night out.

In a major boost to the night time economy, full planning permission has been granted for a new five screen cinema in the town. The plans for this ambitious build were first submitted to Galway County Council in October last year. These were submitted by Omniplex Holdings, and the proposed site is located by the Aldi supermarket, in Dunlo Shopping Centre.

**The application was granted for a five screen, single storey Omniplex, approximately just under eight metres in height, with additional car parking facilities. The gross floor space of the proposed build would come in just under 1,125 metres square.**

This will place the facility slightly larger than Roscommon, slightly under the Athlone Omniplex which currently has 6 but has got permission to develop to 10 screens in spring of this year.

The owners of the land, Limehill Esker Limited, operated by Claregalway man Denis O'Connell, had come to an agreement with Omniplex last year, which saw them seek planning permission last November, with a decision expected in December, only to have the decision delayed by Galway County Council.

The council sought more information regarding the potential traffic



the build could cause, as well as any archaeological impacts the build might have on the land. The planning permission was granted under several conditions – the most notable being that all ground works within the site must undergo archaeological monitoring throughout the build. As well as that, the hours of operation on site must be agreed with the local authority before the start of any development.

**It was reported last year that the cinema would be but one part of a grander plan for the site in question, which provisionally included almost one hundred homes, a nursing home, a childcare facility, office spaces, retail units and a drive-through restaurant.**

While this will in time prove to be a major investment for the town, only the cinema has received definite permission at this moment.

**For more information on the cinema's development as it progresses, keep an eye on the Ballinasloe Life Facebook page.**

## EANNA TAKES M6 GENERAL MANGER ROLE

**M6 Motors, based in Kilgarave have announced the arrival of a new member of management at their car sales business in Ballinasloe.**

As they approach the anniversary of their 8th year in business, Eanna Ryan has come on board as a member of their management team. Eanna has a wealth of experience in the industry, having spent years working with various different companies, such as BMW, Ford and Volvo.

With a new premises due to be built this year alongside

the arrival of Eanna, M6 Motors hope to grow the business long into the future.

M6 Motors' new forecourt and commercial offices will be built at their current site, located at Dolans Circle K Service Station at Kilgarve. The automobile enterprise currently has over one hundred different quality used cars now in stock.

**"With the level of growth we have been experiencing over the last few years, and a team of twelve people now employed full time at M6 Motors, we hope to grow the business to new heights, especially with Eanna Ryan now on board as General Manager" stated founder and owner of M6 Motors, Alan Naughton.**



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## PULSE CLUB ENJOY BUSY SUMMER NETWORKING



Pictured at the launch of the New Brewery Lane Beergarden on Main St. were Pulse members Marie Lyons, Brian King, Niamh Creaven-Connaughton, Honoria Mitchell-Black, Joe Glennon, James Coyle, Peter Garvey, Renate Kohlmann, Ann Victoria Mulcahy, Sarah Kilduff.

The business community were recently treated to a presentation & networking evening on what more the town can offer as a commercial entity in the Shearwater Hotel. 'Future Business Trends' - a seminar was organised by The Pulse Club, in conjunction with the Ballinasloe Area Community Development (B.A.C.D.) and sponsored by Shearwater Hotel.

Brian King and Seamus Duffy of the BACD, facilitated the presentations by the two main speakers from Hidden Heartlands and Galway County Council. Pulse founder and BACD Board Member Brian highlighted current business trends that more could capitalise on, including the gig economy, remote working, co-working, sustainability, tourism and artificial intelligence as well as all the key positives Ballinasloe town has to offer in terms of community (accommodation, healthcare education etc.) and business (location, infrastructure etc.). He, like many other of the local speakers on the night called on the business community to draw two red lines under

the past recent decades of transformation. "Nobody would think at times that we are fortunate to have some 500 of a well paid workforce in the new industries and firms such as Aptar, Surmodics, Easy Fix, The Enterprise and Technology Centre, The Library, and nearly 900 fulltime posts in Healthcare between the Hospital and HSE West",

**William Burke, General Manager of the Shearwater Hotel** spoke on the phenomenal progress since being taken over by the Comer Group last year. Since then, extensive works have taken place on the ballroom, as well as the gym and pool both being subjected to a full refurbishment. The hotel's spa won RSVP Magazine's 'Best Spa in Connacht Award 2018'. He outlined how the Hotel was implementing an aggressive marketing strategy and was commencing a phased refit of the bedrooms next year, whilst providing to the town some 220 seasonal and full time jobs.

Mark McGovern, Manager of Irelands Hidden Heartlands followed, sharing details of the recently launched campaign by Fáilte Ireland. Following the success of the 'Wild Atlantic Way' and 'Ireland's Ancient East', featuring on exciting development possibilities for towns like Ballinasloe to capture some of the 1.6 million a year visitors to Galway, or the 1.8 million to the Cliffs of Moher or even to get 1/50th of the nearly 6 million International visitors that Dublin attracts!

**Ciaran McAlary from Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers**, overseeing "Ballinasloe Town Enhancement Project", gave an update of progress to date and plans for the future - resulting in future proofed facilities and time table for finish in late Quarter one 2020 for town centre.

Closing the networking evening was a panel discussion chaired by Joe Glennon, co-founder of Shuul Colours and a founding member of the Pulse Club. Joining him were fellow Pulse Club members; Niamh Creaven-Connaughton and Honoria Mitchell-Black from Araya Business Support Services, Dorothy Scary from Next Step Forward, James Folan from Pro-Drive Ireland and Ana Victoria Mulcahy Millenary, who all shared their success stories and experiences of starting a new business venture within the town. They all cited the Pulse Club as offering a huge wealth of support and understanding to them in their early business days. Brian King stated that: "The Pulse Club has become an important platform where early stage start-ups can exchange ideas, discuss and be challenged by members. We encourage anyone who is interested in the business and economic growth of the town to come along and network with like-minded people."

For more information on The Pulse Club, such as when they meet and upcoming talks, find them on Facebook at: The Pulse Club Ballinasloe.

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BY DONOGH MOORE

# ANNUAL HARVEST FESTIVAL AT BEECHLAWN

BY D. MOORE

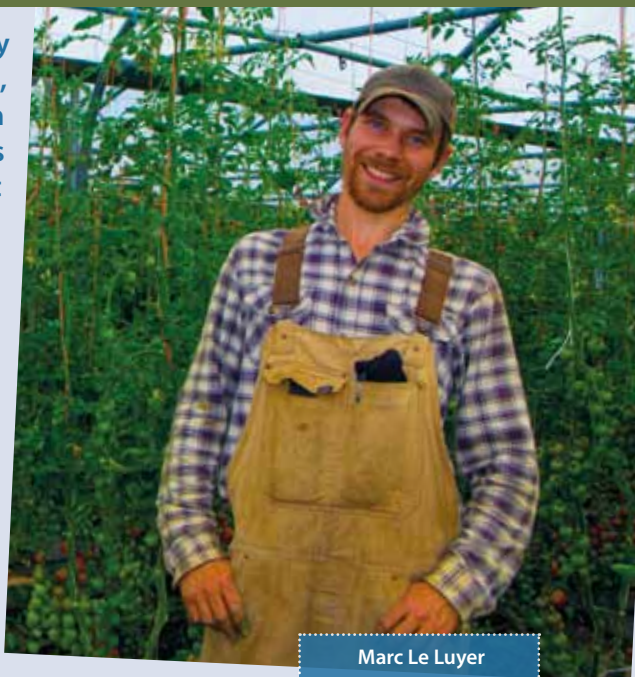
Marc Le Luyer, who originally hails from Brittany, France, is currently working on Beechlawn Organic Farm, as a horticulturalist throughout their summer season and will make a presentation on Bio Diversity during the farms Harvest Festival in September.

After studying Farming in college for four years, Marc has now undertaken a course in 'Organic Agriculture' in Germany. As part of that course, he is required to spend six months on a farm, as part of his placement.

"It's a way to get experience, like the feeling of what it's really like to work on a farm and I know here at Beechlawn there's a very dynamic farm. There's a lot to learn" states Marc. Picking the local farm wasn't an uninformed decision for Marc however, as he actually spent a summer working there over six years ago. "It was actually my first experience on a farm. I really enjoyed it, so six years later I thought, 'Why not?' I don't regret the decision at all" he explained.

Marc cites the atmosphere on the farm as being one of the biggest difference he's seen between the Ballinasloe farm and local farms back in France. "It feels more like a family run business, and the atmosphere is a lot warmer than I would be used to. Sometimes, it's not the best organised with weather – but we're succeeding at what we're doing!"

While he's working at Beechlawn, Marc is living in Ballydangan, some 10km from the farm. "I love the various landscapes you can



Marc Le Luyer

find here, in the West and in the Midlands. They're so varied and beautiful, unlike what you'd see in France" he replied when asked why this region for him?

Originally hailing from a beekeeping farm back home, he fully intends to take over in the future. However, Marc has planned to take the wealth of knowledge he's gained at Beechlawn and apply it to his own farm back home, by planting some of the various crops he has dealt with in his time here.

Beechlawn Organic Farm will be holding their annual Harvest Festival from 2pm – 5pm, on Sunday September 15th. On the day farm tours will be available from Padraig Fahy and Una Ní Bhróin, as well as a biodiversity talk given by Marc himself. He'll discuss steps which

farmers and gardeners alike can take to promote biodiversity in their gardens and farms.

As the business is coming into its main harvest time, there is an abundance of local and farm produce now being harvested. So, they are now offering a 'Galway Box', full of items grown only within the county, so buyers can experience the best of what the county has to offer.

For €20 a box, you get the following:- Cucumbers, courgettes, potatoes, carrots, cherry tomatoes, lettuce, scallions, beetroot bunch, spinach, broccoli and onions.

For more information on Beechlawn Organic Farm, find them on Facebook at: Beechlawn Organic Farm, or check out their website at 'www.beechlawnfarm.org'.

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# SURMODICS PLANT EXPANSION UNDERWAY BY DONOGH MOORE



Construction work has recently begun at Surmodics Medical Ltd, in the IDA Business Park, Parkmore. Planning permission was granted to the company by Galway County Council earlier this year, for an external commercial building to be constructed in the IDA Business Park. This is set to accompany the already established and world-class design, development and high-volume 30,000 square feet manufacturing facility located there.

This facility, formerly known as Creagh Medical Ltd, was bought by the American company in November 2015, and since the acquisition the company has invested nearly €10 million into the Research and Development on site with IDA backing.

The local facility, and Creagh Medical before it, is regarded as a leading developer and manufacturer of balloon catheters, as well as having unique expertise in PTA balloon technology and producing the highest-pressure conventional balloons and most deliverable low-profile catheters on the market.

Killian Consulting Engineers, from Athlone, applied for the planning permission on behalf of Surmodics, to construct a new double height extension, with a net floor area of 269 square metres, to the east of the existing factory along with provision of new car parking, alterations to existing compound and all associated ancillary site works. The development will add about 10% of floor space to the plant.

Although the facility is located on a site of 1.55 hectares, the proposed ancillary works will more than double the company's parking spaces, adding 119 spaces to the building's existing 117, for a total of 236 parking spaces – for current and new staff use. The new building will also connect to both the existing public water mains and sewer.

The company which has approximately 130 employees are still in expansion and recruitment mode, hosting a very successful recruitment event during last Winter.

  
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## DOLAN'S SERVICE STATION – 5 DECADES IN BUSINESS



Front Row: Megan Glynn, Maryanne Finnerty, Mike Dolan, Mary Dolan, Amanda Finnerty, Naomi Glynn.

Back Row: Fred Lynch, Gerald Caulfield, Christopher Johnston, Ryan Keighery, Pat McDonagh.



Mike Dolan, Una McDonagh, Pat McDonagh.

The shop has recently introduced a new scheme which should see customers encounter less queues inside the building. Piloting a new 'Beat the Queue' service on the official Centra App, this will allow users to both order their items, as well as pay for them before their arrival

to the shop, so all they need to do is collect their shopping. This new service will benefit people rushing on their lunch break, as well as casual shoppers alike.

Dolan's Service Station, located in Kilgarve, recently hosted a family fun day for all of their customers. The event was held to mark the anniversary of the shop's fiftieth year in business. Various promotional items and deals were available in the store throughout the day, as well as face painting and activities around the forecourt. This family fun day was unique to Dolans', as it brought all of their services and facilities together in celebration, including Supermacs, Supersubs, Centra and Circle K. Supermacs founder Pat McDonagh, and his wife Una McDonagh were both in attendance.



Front Row: Odeta Suokiene, Lisa Marie Larkin, Amanda Finnerty, Maryanne Finnerty.

Back Row: Abbie Hynes, Ryan Keighery, Mike Dolan, Pat McDonagh.

This family fun day came off the back of last year's Forecourt and Convenience Retailer Awards, where Dolan's Service Station was a finalist in the 'Best Customer Service' category. Whilst not winning outright the nomination was a commendable feat, considering they were in the same category as much bigger forecourts, such as the Tipperary Town Plaza.

For more information on any events and special offers, be sure to visit the business' Facebook page at: Centra Ballinasloe – Dolan's.



Front Row: Charlotte Burns, Mary Dolan, Nancy Killilea.

Back Row: Patricia Burns, Pat McDonagh, Mike Dolan.

They currently have a roster of nearly sixty staff, with many of those having served the business for lengthy periods of time. In fact, ten members of staff have been with the business for anywhere between 15 and over forty years. These team members include Proprietor Michael Dolan, Founding Proprietor Mary Dolan, Nancy Killilea, Mary Johnston, Christopher Johnston, Amanda Finnerty, Kathleen Fogarty, Mary Burke, Patricia Glennon and Gerald Caulfield.

The Station is a franchisee of both Circle K and Centra, meaning that they offer exclusive discounts not found in other stores, as well as having competitive prices on their fuel. Aside from that, they are also home to a full hot and cold deli, as well as having both a Supermacs and SuperSubs facility inside the shop. Not only that, but the store have recently installed a Moo'd Ice Cream and Milkshakes machine, to service customers whether the weather is sunny or bucketing rain.

Other services include a Payzone ATM, a full Car Wash and Mini Car Valet, Washing and Drying services, an electric car charging point, Frank and Honest Coffee services, and both disabled toilet and baby changing facilities.

BY DONOGH MOORE

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## LOCAL CAR SALES SHOW VARIATION

BY DONOGH MOORE

The Society of the Irish Motor Industry recently released their official half yearly statistics, which tracks new and used car registrations from dealerships around the country.

For the first half of 2019, new car registrations have fallen by over 7%, based on last year. 2018 saw 87,116 passenger vehicles being registered in the first six months, while this year's figures show 80,704 new cars being registered. While the negative trend began at the start of the year, with new registrations falling month on month by 12%, 11% and 5% in January, February and March respectively, the following April, May and June saw figures higher than their counterparts last year, with new registrations up by 10%, 4% and 12% respectively.

However, in the Galway and Roscommon regions, the first half of this year is performing a little worse than the national average, with total sales falling by 9.6%. The two local dealerships, Tom Raftery Car Sales and Fred Kilmartin Ltd, have noticed that some national trends seen in the last six months apply to their own sales, while others don't.

Tom Raftery has seen a big surge of motor purchasers swing towards cars with petrol engines. This doesn't necessarily follow the national trend, as petrol cars are recorded as having fallen just under 1%, based on last year's figures.

On the contrary, Michael Kelly of Fred Kilmartin Ltd, noted that they had not seen much of a swing to petrol cars, and rather that their diesel motors were selling at the same rate as previous years. This most certainly does not fall within national averages, as sales of diesel motors are down a whopping 20.8%. However,



Tom Raftery

neither business could attest to the astronomical rise in sales of electric cars, which saw the vehicles rise in popularity by nearly 270% from last year.

According to Michael Kelly, "Electric cars are ideal for people located in cities, as there are many charging stations. When you're travelling from the likes of Ballinasloe to Athlone every day, you don't have much of an opportunity to charge your car."

Raftery Car Sales have seen that motorists in general are switching to SUV type vehicles, preferring to be higher up on the road. Tom mentioned that "hatchback cars are dying a death at the moment. Everyone wants an SUV, the likes of a Kia Sportage or a Peugeot 3008." This again lines up with trends, as sales of hatchback-type cars have fallen by over 8% in Galway.

Fred Kilmartin Ltd have noted a drop in passenger car sales, although sales on their commercial range remain as strong as ever. When asked about the trends they've seen in buyers, Michael Kelly notes "In recent times, consumers have made a gradual change over to the Ford Kuga, although the Ford Focus range still remain as one of the biggest types of sale.

Younger people will go for practical, yet sporty type cars, such as the Ford Focus Titanium. There's a steady market for good, quality used vehicles – while the new registrations market has fallen behind a bit, the used sales more than compensate for that."

Both businesses agree that the future is uncertain for the industry. Brexit is on the mind of a lot of dealerships, with more private imports occurring in the country now than new registrations at dealerships, according to Raftery.

For more information on either dealerships, check out their websites at: [www.fredkilmartinltd.ie](http://www.fredkilmartinltd.ie) and [www.tomrafterycarsales.ie](http://www.tomrafterycarsales.ie)

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## DIVILLY'S 64 YEARS CONTINUAL TRADING

BY DONOGH MOORE

Willie & Anne Divilly started their business life in Ballinasloe in 1955, when they opened a grocery store in a rented shop in Dunlo Street. Anne Geraghty was a Ballinasloe native, sister of well-known Councillor Patsy Geraghty, and their other sister Margaret was a talented local seamstress. Willie and Anne were 11 years in the rented shop, when the opportunity arose to purchase O'Connor's Bar and Grocery across the road in Dunlo Street. They opened the first supermarket in Ballinasloe, and joined the Niland group trading as VG for many years before becoming independent and trading as Divillys.

When her husband passed away in 1984, Anne, with the support of her four children Mairead, Dominic, Aine and Regina, continued to run the business. In response to the advent of home drinking, the family took the decision to change to trading as an independent Off Licence. In 2009, they joined the Carryout Group and the business continued to prosper with the support of many loyal customers. The Carryout Franchise is owned by The Barry Group from Cork and has over 100 stores nationwide. They provide a pricing structure to help compete with the multiples, and have an excellent marketing service and nationwide presence. Celebrating the shop's 10 year anniversary will be Carryout Brand Ambassador Brent Pope, who will be instore on Thursday 15th August from 5pm to 7pm, with lots of specials on the day.

Nowadays, the business is run by Regina Divilly, who is ably assisted by Michael Keighery and June Hurley, as well as Kathy Walsh. Regina took over the running of the shop when her mother passed away in 2004. She said: "I was part of the 'Yes Equality Ballinasloe' team who campaigned for and secured a Yes Vote



Regina Divilly



Michael Keighery

for Marriage Equality in the area in 2015. I came out as gay to the community during the campaign and they offered me nothing but support throughout that emotional time".

"Ballinasloe has gone through very tough times, losing three major factories and a hospital.

The Celtic Tiger passed the town on its way to the cities. However, we've managed to recover and its asset is its huge community spirit. I am proud to call myself a local woman and I love my town. "Over the years the Divilly family had many loyal customers and generations of townspeople have walked through the doors. Regina continued: "My mother's mantra to us was 'keep the door open', and the door has stayed open now for 64 years!"

The Divillys have had great staff down through the years, but none so loyal as Michael Keighery, who has been with the family business since he left school. Michael was a great support to Anne, after the death of her husband and to Regina since Anne passed away in 2004.

Regina believes that Ballinasloe has huge potential, "it's in the centre of Ireland and has great road and rail links. It's a great place to live and bring up children. The town has great schools, sporting facilities, cultural and community groups" states Regina.

The business is open from Monday to Saturday, 10.30am to 10pm, and Sunday 12.30 to 10pm. They offer a huge range of Beers, Ciders, Wines and Spirits, and specialise in International and craft Beers and high end Wines. For more information, as well as online competitions, find them on Facebook at: Carryout Ballinasloe.

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# UNEMPLOYED FIGURES MOVING IN RIGHT DIRECTION

The most recent detailed analysis of unemployment in the country on a county basis report shows there are now 10,067 people out of work in Galway, 60 less than the Live Register figure at the end of January and 14 % drop on last year's figure.

Clifden saw the largest decrease - 765 people without jobs at Clifden Social Welfare Office. In the city, in February, 15 people came off the Live Register leaving its unemployment figure at 5,140.

Gort saw a similar decrease in its unemployment figure last month, with 6 people coming off the Live Register. The only area to experience an increase in unemployment figures was Tuam where two extra people joined the Live Register. In Ballinasloe, the Live Register numbers fell by 8 in February, meaning there are now just over 11 hundred people without work locally.

These figures come with a warning however as Live Register is used to provide a monthly series of the numbers of people, with some exceptions, registering for Jobseekers Benefit or Jobseekers' Allowance at local offices of the Department of Social Protection. These numbers also account for those who are registering for various other statutory entitlements, such as the Carer's Allowance.

While it gives an indication as to how many of the populace are registering for Jobseekers Benefit or Jobseekers Allowance, the Live Register is not designed to fully measure unemployment. It includes part-time workers (those who work up to three days per week), as well as seasonal and casual workers in its figures, who are all entitled to these statutory benefits.

Based on the numbers signing on at the local social welfare office in Ballinasloe, trends have begun to show that the number of people registering for these benefits has been decreasing with each successive year in recent times.

Of the 1,192 people who received their statutory benefit from the local office in January of this year, 74 of those were men under the

age of twenty five, whereas a further 611 were over the age of 25. This means that men accounted for over 57% of the registrations that month, with just over 6% and 57% representing the men under twenty five and over twenty five, respectively. For the same month, 72 women under the age of twenty five were accounted for on the Live Register, as well as 435 women over twenty five. These two age groups combined account for just under 43% of the total registrations, with the younger variety again accounting for around

6% total, and the over twenty five year old women accounting for nearly 37% of the total.

These trends have remained roughly the same throughout the year, although the numbers have fallen slightly over recent months. June of 2019 saw 1,131 people on the Live Register for the Ballinasloe office - the lowest number recorded by the office since May 2008. In the ensuing years, numbers began to rise and rise, and reached their peak in August 2010, where 2,759 people were recorded on the register.

The national unemployment rate is 4.5%, with Galway City 5.9% and County 6.3 % and the Ballinasloe Office catchment -16.5 %.

Location	Population	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
Clifden	1,597	765	47.90%
Tuam	8,767	1,500	17.11%
Gort	2,994	776	25.92%
Ballinasloe	6,662	1,100	16.51%
Loughrea	5,556	1,154	20.77%
Galway City	78,668	5,140	6.53%
Galway County	179,390	10,600	5.91%
Overall			
TOTAL	258,058	21035	8.1%

BY DONOGH MOORE

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## PARENT CHILD PLUS PROGRAMME - BUSY AUTUMN

The Parent Child + Programme, formerly known as the Parent Child Home Programme, is a well-evidenced, US-based scheme, The basis of which is for the child to have fun learning through play, focused on working one to one with parents and toddlers over a sustained period (School Term) in their home environment.

This initiative is free to anyone in the locality who wishes to participate, and it was brought to Ballinasloe back in January of 2016, and they've been based in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre, on the Creagh Road ever since, with Debra Grennan acting as the Programme Co-Ordinator.

The PC+P model is based on bi-weekly home visits (sessions of 30 minutes), on school term only, by trained home visitors. Educational books and toys are provided at no cost to participating families, only the group asks for their commitment of times during weekly sessions. The books and toys are for the family to keep and use again and again and to get as much learning as possible from them during playtime with the child. Each week, the home visitor brings a book or toy, and uses it to model play and interaction activities for parents (or sometimes grandparents) and children to do together.

Their 'home visitors' team receive initial training and ongoing support in the following areas: child development; parental engagement; building respectful, trusting relationships with families and communities; the ethics of home visiting; and cultural competence.

The programme addresses a range of outcomes for parents, including a child's cognitive gains, social and emotional gains, and home environment outcomes. PC+P has a strong evidence base of effectiveness in the US. Children on the programme are 50 per cent more likely to measure ready for Pre-school; they score



L-R: Debra Grennan (Programme Coordinator), Regina Tyrrell, Francisca Conway, Yvonne Dunne, Nadine Murphy & Eileen Kelly.

**2.5 times higher on social-emotional skills assessment than their peers, and they enter school performing 10 months above their chronological age.**

The service is free to families who are taking part in PC+P, as the educational books, toys and art supplies are given to the family as a gift to use again and again. They only ask for participants' commitment of 2 x 30 minute sessions a week on the school year calendar.

Every two weeks the Parent Child Plus Programme holds Parent & Toddler groups in the Ballinasloe Library, on Society Street. All members of the public are welcome with their babies and toddlers, and dates and times are regularly updated on their Facebook page. From mid-September onwards the Parent Child + group will be holding Story Mornings, alongside other special events for the above groups in the library. Dates will be posted on the group's social media closer to the time.

If you would like more information please contact the Programme Coordinator Debra Grennan, at [pchpballasloe@gmail.com](mailto:pchpballasloe@gmail.com) or (089) 236 2889. Alternatively you can find them on Facebook, at 'Parent Child Home Programme Ballinasloe'.

**BY DONOGH MOORE**

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## HOSPITAL WATCH - PORTIUNCULA CRITICISED BY MEDIA

Portiuncula University Hospital was recently cited as having the country's second highest mortality rate for heart attack patients. The National Healthcare Quality Reporting System showed the local hospital as having a high mortality rate for cardiac patients, where around one in twenty patients don't survive.

The NHQRS Annual Report 2019 also further delved into Portiuncula's treatment of its patients, through various surveys conducted across last year; these results were not shared by the national media. 44% of patients believed their treatment and care was 'very good', 33% thought it was 'good', and 23% measured it in the 'poor to fair' category.

When patients were asked, "While you were in the Emergency Department, did a doctor or nurse explain your condition in a way you could understand?" 58% of patients responded that the ER staff were always clear and helpful. 27% answered that the staff were clear in their explanations only some of the time, 6% cited staff as offering little to no explanation, with a further 9% being too unwell or having no need for an explanation.

68% of patients felt as though the hospital staff did everything they could to help control their pain and responded that the staff definitely did all they could. A further 13% answered that they thought the staff were helpful to some extent, 5% thought the staff hadn't tried to help them at all, whereas the final 14% abstained as they were never in any pain.



Finally, when asked whether they felt they were treated with respect and dignity throughout their stay in PUH. 78% of patients surveyed felt that staff had treated them with the utmost respect, with 18% believing that they were treated with

dignity most of time, and finally 3% believing they were not treated respectfully.

When news of these statistics were shared on the Ballinasloe LIFE Facebook page, past patients and family members related their own cardiac experiences in Portiuncula, with the vast majority of them being very positive.

Lorraine Duane mentioned: "We are very fortunate and so lucky to have a fantastic teaching hospital on our doorstep, fantastic doctors, surgeons, nurses, midwives, care assistants, other staff, kitchen staff, cleaners etc, ambulance crews, and a fantastic maternity service."

Fiona Monaghan said: "My dad too would not be here without PUH. The wonderful and dedicated staff in A&E and ICU saved his life. He would not have made it to UCHG. That was 10 years ago and dad is doing fantastic. We are forever grateful for our hospital in Ballinasloe."

Mary Lynch commented: "Only for the A&E department and ambulance crew I would not be alive today." Peter Madden told of when his father went into cardiac arrest. "Were it not for the response of ambulance crew, the AE there and the doctors and nurses in ICU my father would not be with us today. He is 7 weeks out of ICU, 8 weeks home from hospital and thriving. This hospital is vital in the area, and its medical staff are second to none."

The National Treatment Purchase Fund Summer Report for six months of 2019 gave PUH with a total of 255 on the inpatient waiting period, with 15 of those being on the list for over 12 months, and 3,887 on the outpatient waiting list, with 465 being on the list for over 12 months.

These stats compare most favourably benchmarked against Roscommon (4182 outpatients waiting and 418 in patients) and the worst hospital for Inpatient waiting list with 8918 and outpatient standing at 42,246-second worst in the country Galway University Hospitals.

These positive statistics attracted no national media attention. According to the INMO Trolley Watch statistics, PUH also had only 4 patients on trolleys at the end of July.

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## PEOPLE OF THE YEAR AWARDS IN NOVEMBER

The Town Team revived the old Mayor's Awards in 2015 and agreed to run them organised by the BACD and sponsored by the Ballinasloe Credit Union every two years.

2019 means that we have to look back over the past 24 months for those individuals who have, through their own efforts, made a significant positive contribution to the lives of their community.

The Project team have announced the 8 Categories:

1. Arts, Culture and Heritage Award, 2. Sports and Recreation Volunteer Award, 3. Sports and Recreation Team Award, 4. Sports and Recreation Individual Award, 5. Young Person's Award, 6. Social, Community & Civic Special Recognition Award, 7. Business Community Spirit Award, 8. Hall of Fame Award (Lifetime Achievement Accolade).

Nominations can be made only by downloading the nomination form from ballinasloe.ie, and emailing or posting it back. Each nomination requires a proposer and a seconder to validate the nomination. Extra information can be supplied. All nominees must be nominated for volunteering work undertaken only. Any paid roles will not be considered. The Closing date for receipt of nomination forms is 5pm on Thursday 10th of October 2019.

Awards will be independently assessed after the closing date and winners will be chosen. All Shortlisted nominees will be invited to The People of the Year Awards Ceremony on the evening of the 14th



Group Photo of 2017 Winners

Denis Naughten TD, Cll Aidan Donoghue, Adrian Ahern (Chairman BCU), Tomas Gullane (Gullanes Hotel), Leo Mulvaney (Ballinasloe Itosu-Kai Karatedo Ireland), John Donnelly (Ballinasloe Cycling Club), Colin Ryder (Lawrencetown Community Development), Seamus Duffy (BACD Ltd), Darren Frehill (RTE), Heather Payne (Soccer), Julianna Green (Young Person Award), Liam Kelly (Hall of Fame), Laura Frehill (Young Person Award), Teresa Coughlan (Ballinasloe Social Services).

of November 2019 at the Shearwater Hotel, where the winners will be announced and presented with their Awards.

All Shortlisted Nominees from each Category will be presented with a Scroll of Achievement and each category winner will be presented with a specially commissioned prestigious Award.

## ADVANCE TECHNOLOGICAL UNIT BUILD KEY ASK FOR GOVT. FUNDS

As we go print the finishing touches are being made to a third application for Minister Michael Rings Rural Regeneration Round which promises to bring investment and job creation to rural communities.

Prioritised in the application will again be some 80% of the finance required to build the 15,000 square feet Advance Technological Facility in the IDA Business Park by BACD which is a shovel ready project.

The new approach to the process involves Galway County Council and the Development Company sharing the engagement of a professional specialist company who lead on regeneration projects and EU supported investments.

The plan has three over arching pillars – 1) A Healthy and Enterprising Town 2) Hidden Heartland Region Hotspot 3) Connected & Healthy Community.

Under the first pillar the new build, allied with development of 1st floor premises in the town centre, additional PULSE actions and a suite of supports for retail are earmarked for support. Pillar 2 sees – Cultural Experiences, Recreational Trails and a Climate Action Tourism Charter as priorities and Pillar 3 encourages the community to look at Footpaths, landscaping, health and Wellbeing and Sports and Lifestyle as key items for development.

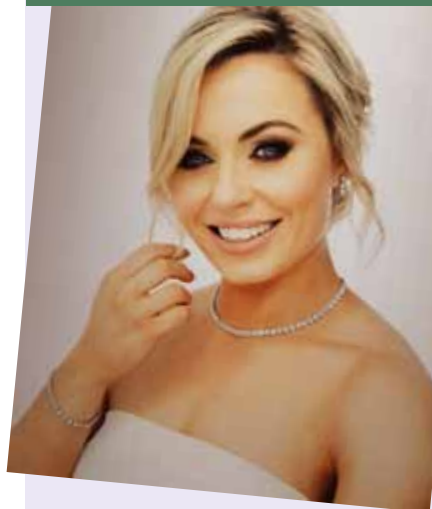
It is hoped that the community will learn of our third application to this scheme in mid to late Nov of this year.

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Today at Cahalan Jewellers run a pay plan for some valued customers. This year comes the BIG announcement that from **August 1st** this year they are opening the **Pay Plan** up to every customer who wishes to be part of it for their **Christmas Gifts**. All their Christmas stock will be here early this year to avoid any disappointment to any of the past, present or future customers.

This plan can be used for large purchases like Engagement and Wedding Rings too.

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### HOLE IN ONE FOR WILLIE

Willie O'Rourke had a "hole in one" on the tenth hole at Ballinasloe Golf Club recently. Willie is not the only member to have had a hole in one this year but at 83 he is the oldest member to do so. Willie, a retired psychiatric nurse has been a keen golfer for over 50 years and this was his third time to have a "hole in one". He joined the club in 1967 and was Captain in 1977 & President in 2008. He was also a founder member of St. Brigid's Golfing Society in 1975. Willie plays golf up to five times per week and to relax he plays the odd game of pitch & put. Willie says that golf is a great form of exercise and relaxation for all ages and he would recommend joining the club to everyone.

# NEW BISHOP FOR CLONFERT DIOCESE

BY KEN KELLY

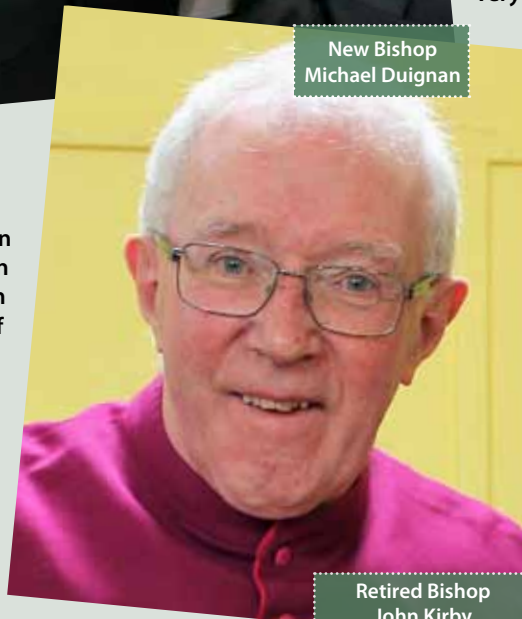
The new Bishop of Clonfert, Fr. Michael Duignan, has been warmly welcomed by the retired Bishop, Rev. John Kirby, whose resignation was accepted by Pope Francis on 16th July last. Both clergy come from the same parish, St. Peter's, Athlone, with Bishop Kirby being born in Athlone and Fr. Duignan coming from Bealnamulla, which borders the parish of Taughmaconnell in the Clonfert diocese.

The 49-year-old incoming Prelate has been involved in education and administration in Elphin Diocese for the past 25 years, having been ordained in Rome in 1993. He was Director of Education in St. Angela's College, Sligo and was Chairperson of the BOM of Summerhill College, Sligo. Last August he chaired the Liturgy Committee for the visit of Pope Francis to Knock Shrine.

A former student of Garbally College, Bishop Kirby was ordained to the priesthood in 1963 (the year JFK visited Ireland) and for 25 years was on the teaching staff of the College



New Bishop  
Michael Duignan



Retired Bishop  
John Kirby

before being appointed Bishop of Clonfert in April 1988. For the past thirty one years Bishop John has served the Diocese, saying on his retirement "Within Clonfert, I enjoyed the duties of diocesan and parish life-visiting parishes and church communities on a regular basis. This is one of the advantages of being bishop in a small diocese-you get to know people much better.

"The support of the Religious of the diocese has always been significant. I thank the Redemptorists in Esker and the Carmelite priests in Loughrea, the work of the Mercy Sisters, Franciscan Sisters and the Carmelite Nuns for their kindness to me. I was helped very much by various clerical and lay bodies and I worked closely with the Priests' Council. Among groups I was personally involved are the Clonfert-Lourdes Committee, the Clonfert Finance Committee and the Clonfert Child Safeguarding committee" said the retired Bishop.

Concluding, Bishop Kirby said "Most of all I thank the priests of the diocese for their support and commitment. It has been my privilege to work with them as priests initially and as Bishop over the past thirty one years. I have always felt welcome in the parishes and pastoral councils of the diocese and I appreciate the commitment to gospel values on the part of priests, religious and laity alike.

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## PRESIDENT'S PRIZE AT THE BRIDGE CLUB

The Bridge Club held their President's Prize night recently, which saw the club fill over 15 tables. There were many prizes to be won and first place prize went to Helen Carrick and Teresa McGann, second place to Phil Kelly and Angela Lyons, gross winners were Michael Connolly and Sean Cleary, and third place to Mary Ryan and Maureen Carr. Second gross winners were Benny Jennings and Frank Kavanagh, and fourth and fifth place went to Clive Robinson and Ann Healy and Cecilia Aylward and Margaret Creaven respectively. First and session winners were Tom McLoughlin and Martin Loughnane, and Meta

Cunningham and Laura Naughton.

The club welcomes summer players on Tuesday and Thursday nights at 8pm, in their premises at Sarsfield Road. Subscriptions cost €5 per hand, including hospitality. The club will hold their AGM on September 19, in the club premises.



Teresa Mc Gann & Helen Carrig receiving 1st Prize from President Leo Flynn

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## TREASURED HEARTLANDS?



Both the town itself and its surrounding hinterlands have a lot to offer a visitor – we know that but how about the overseas visitor who is searching for things to do and see, 14 months out from touching down?

With a wonderful new marketing focus on the hidden Heartlands - the LIFE team did a bit of research through a tourist's iPad of what we may have hidden.

Official Hospitality here in our catchment area is 3 hotels with 338 Beds, 11 Air B & B operators with 39 rooms and 1 only Failte Ireland approved B&B. There are - No Apartments, No Serviced Campsites, No Glamping, No Dormobile parking spots and no designated Coach/Bus/Car parks in our town currently.

There are 4 monastic heritage sites (seasonal), lots of parks, canals, walks and scenic trails, iconic buildings and heritage and culture galore but 90% have no listings, opening times, access advices, no guides, no ghillies, no signposting.

The vast majority of visitors to the island will have an itinerary planned online before they ever set foot on Irish soil. Trip Advisor and Google have replaced tourist boards as go to's for information. Trip Advisor's first top ten things to do in town is to visit St. Brendan's Cathedral, and the second is to stop by Flowerhill Equestrian Centre. Another 6 results are in Athlone and Galway. !!

There is no mention of any of the following; our current cycleways, the Beara Breifne Way, the Hymany Way, the Marina, Garbally House, the Golf Club, the Driving Range, Coral Leisure Centre, the Town Hall Theatre, St. Michaels, St. Johns, The Church Gallery, or the Horse Monument. None of the five principle events that are currently on schedule in the town are listed, such as St. Patrick's Day, the Larry Reynolds Festival, Piper Dinny Delaney Festival, the October Fair, nor the Zombie Halloween Walk.

As an aside any visitor wishing to holiday here in 2020 must be bewildered; as there are no confirmed dates for any event in a 20 km radius of St. John's Clock tower.

The town doesn't even exist on the official Hidden Heartlands' website – Ballinasloe is nowhere to be seen on the map, instead favouring Carrick-on-Shannon, Athlone and Lough Derg as key staging posts. The Discover Ireland website yields four official results: just the Suck Fisheries, the Golf Club, a cycling tour provider, and a boat hire company in Ballinamore.

On Google Maps, the top twenty things to do in the town only highlight four activities that are actually within the precincts of the town – with the majority being found in Athlone, Birr and Portumna.

In other aspiring tourism trap towns along the Ancient East and Wild Atlantic Way – these sites, this information is regularly refreshed by those in the hospitality trade – those who run the restaurants, the coffee docks, the bars, the hotels, the specialist service providers – taxis, beauticians etc. etc. and venue operators.

The spine of Hidden Heartlands focus will be the Beara Breifne Way and the Shannon-Erne Corridor - we lie smack in the middle of this cross roads and the M6 and a Marina on the waterway. A Tourism Hub group under BACD is being formed to tackle some of these issues, keep an eye out on BallinasloeLife Facebook page for further updates.

BY DONOGH MOORE

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# MILLRACE NOW A FACILITY OF DITCHELY GROUP

BY DONOGH MOORE

The Millrace Team

Millrace Nursing Home is a purpose built two-storey facility which can accommodate a maximum of 60 residents. Built by local man Vincent Earls, on the Telecom Eireann site in 2008 on Bridge Street, it is a mixed gender facility catering for dependent persons aged 18 years and over, providing long-term residential care, respite, convalescence, dementia and palliative care. Care for persons with learning, physical and psychological needs can also be met within the unit.

Within the nursing home up to three persons of low dependency can be accommodated for, and daycare is from 10am – 5pm, Monday to Friday. Millrace provides nursing care for a variety of residents, including those suffering from multifunctional illnesses, and conditions that affect memory and differing levels of dependency. Respite care is provided to facilitate temporary relief for primary caregivers. This service may be provided for varied periods of time, agreed upon by the HSE (where applicable), the caregiver, the person requiring care, and Millrace Nursing Home.

**They provide convalescent care for people who, are assessed to require a further period recovering or recuperating following surgery, major illnesses, hospital procedures and accidents.**

Palliative care is given to residents who are long term in the nursing home, as part of their ongoing care, as required. The quality of life of residents, as well as their families facing the problems associated with end of life care, is met through the prevention and relief of suffering. This is achieved by the early identification of symptoms, assessment and treatment of pain and other associated problems, including physical, psychosocial and spiritual needs.

**In addition to 24-hour nursing care, there are three dedicated activities coordinators in Millrace Nursing Home, who plan and**

**facilitate activity programmes, dictated by the residents' wishes, needs and interests.**

Staff are responsive to the choice of the residents in relation to the types of activities in which they would like to participate and strive to meet their physical, social and psychological needs. Indoor and outdoor activities are provided, such as a variety of games, exercise classes, musical entertainment, gardening, baking, flower arranging, quiz sessions, poetry, etc., as well as also arranging regular outings and day trips.

**The nursing home actively encourages involvement from the local community; this includes the local library, local schools, religious groups, musicians etc.**

Millrace Nursing Home employs 64 staff, offering excellent career opportunities and are always looking for employees that will enhance the quality and skill mix they already have. Administrator and local woman, Roisin Waters, states "Millrace Nursing Home strives to meet the needs and wishes of all the residents. We believe in person-centred care. We want the residents to feel as if this is their home from home, and we encourage family to bring personal items such as photographs, ornaments and pictures to make it more homely for them."

**The facility and retirement homes went on the open market in 2018 with a guide price from Savills of €4.25 million. It was acquired by the Ditchley Group, founded in 2014 by Noel Creedon (Executive Chair). It manages seven long-term nursing homes, (Conna, & Cramers Court in Kinsale, Coral Haven in Galway City, Stratmore in Callan and Oceanview in Camp, Co. Kerry) as well as various hotels around Ireland and according to Industry sources is worth €40 million. Brian Woods is CEO and they are busy acquiring property and opportunities in Ireland's private healthcare market.**



## The Compliance Team

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## €3 MILLION GREENWAY PROJECT GOES TO TENDER

The planning and design of a new greenway linking Athlone to Galway has taken a significant step forward, with the announcement of the tendering competition for the project recently. Westmeath County Council is now seeking tenders for the project, which will form part of a 270km cycling route from Galway to Dublin, via Athlone and Ballinasloe. The contract, worth €3 million, will see the tender carry out all planning and development stages of the Galway-Athlone cycleway. The route heading east from the town is being progressed separately.

It is estimated that it will take 36 months to complete the planning and design phases of the project, which includes a new bridge over the River Shannon. The final 130km stretch of the Dublin to Galway greenway had development halted back in 2018, when local landowners opposed the build, as they felt they were not sufficiently consulted on the project. However, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport Shane Ross TD, announced last year that the Athlone to Galway portion would recommence, following the publication of the 'Strategy for the Future Development of National and Regional Greenways'. This strategy set out best practices for engagement with stakeholders on the tourism amenity project.

The tender documents also outlined the provisional route the cycleway would take. "The cycleway will run westwards towards Moore, northwest of Clooniff Bog, and before moving south the route crosses the R357 north of Shannonbridge, allowing cyclists the option to continue onto Clonmacnoise on their travels. From this point, the route runs westward as far as Oldtown Wood. It is then proposed to cross the River Suck at Correen and follow the disused canal as far as Poolboy, before making its way into



Diarmuid Doherty and Elis Williams, who walked from Ballinasloe to Dublin via parts of the proposed Greenway recently.

Ballinasloe town along the old canal, before moving west towards Aughrim, to Kilreekil and onto Loughrea, Clarinbridge and Oranmore before making its way into Galway City."

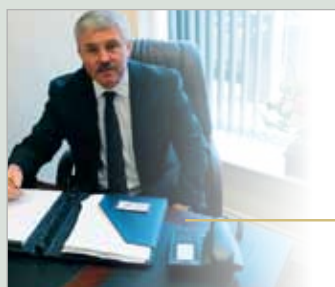
A project office for the Athlone-Galway greenway will be set up in Ballinasloe, the tender documents also reveal. This office will be staffed by both council staff, as well as staff from the successful candidates who win the tender.

Minister of State for the Office of Public Works, Kevin 'Boxer' Moran TD stated "It is very important that we capture our share of this growing tourism market, as it will bring significant economic benefit to the surrounding regions."

The aim of this project is to create a world-class, traffic-free greenway that will tap into the growing global cycling tourism market. It is set to form part of an international touring route from Moscow to Galway, via Ballinasloe, and the EuroVelo network of long-distance cycling routes in Europe. The Galway-Dublin cycleway is expected to boost annual tourism by €13.4 million for local economies, based on visitor numbers of 13,600.

However the Athlone to Ballinasloe Greenway group are dubious of the Minister's approach: "west of Ballinasloe is where the problems may start, holding up everything. This next phase is expected to take 3 years, that's another 3 years that Ballinasloe will be without a safe and sustainable transport, tourism and health amenity. Add the inevitable delays to the west and we will get lucky to have a Greenway by 2025! We hope we are wrong but the project should be broken into sections and not this all or nothing approach that was abandoned 4 years ago in failure" stated a spokesperson for the group.

BY DONOGH MOORE



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# ENDA BRIEN SCOOPS GAISCE AWARD



Enda Brien on his graduation night.

Mr Enda Brien from Killimor, alongside his family and friends, celebrated his graduation from St Teresa's Special School, recently. The graduation event, themed in a "James Bond," style was held in Gullane's Hotel, and was attended by a large crowd to support Enda.

President of Ireland, Mr. Michael D. Higgins.

To achieve his Gaisce Award, Enda undertook many different challenges. He dedicated more time to his physiotherapy programme, investigated the accessibility of the town of Ballinasloe for people who use wheelchairs and buggies, and finally he improved his own communication skills through his personal iPad device.

Enda also embarked on an Adventure Journey as part of his Gaisce Award, which saw him set off on a trip to Garbally College with the support of both his President's Award Leader, Mr. Paul Walsh, and Transition Year students at the College.

Enda's commitment, dedication and hard work in all of his achievements is a testimony to not only the man himself, but also of the work and care being done by all of the staff in St. Teresa's Special School, located in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre. This confident, determined, good humoured, kind and witty young man has proven to not only be an inspiration to those close to him, but should serve as one to all of those in the wider surrounding community.

Ms Anita O'Reilly, Principal of St Teresa's, spoke of Enda's school life, as well as his determination and hard work, and with that the many awards he had achieved over his years in the school.



The Brien Family:  
Back, L-R: Darragh, Padraig, Jenny.  
Front, L-R: Amanda, Enda and Katellyn.

These awards included the likes of Echo Ranger, Asdan, ESB Science Blast and a Bronze Gaisce award, to name a few. Ms Yvonne McKenna, who is the CEO of Gaisce, presented Enda with his Bronze Gaisce President's Award on the night, and read a letter of congratulation to the young man from none other than The



Yvonne McKenna CEO Gaisce, Geraldine Deane, Simon Heavy, Mr Enda Brien, Sharon Horan, Thelma Coen and Anita O'Reilly, Principal.

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# ARDSCOIL MUIRE'S AWARDS DAY



Students were honoured on Ardscoil Mhuire's Awards Day, which was held in the school recently before the summer holidays. The awards were presented by Aoife Conneely, a past student, who spoke about her time as a student and her progression into the busy business world of aeroplane leasing.

She was also on hand to launch the new school magazine "Echoes." Awards were achieved for full attendance, academic excellence, sporting endeavours, Green Schools Committee work, Health Promoting Schools committee, Friendship/ Cara awards, Creativity and Music, Public Speaking and Debating, Realt and Ceist Awards as well as the prestigious Student of the Year Award.

The Student of the Year Award is sponsored by Bank of Ireland each year and is presented to a 6th year student who has, over her years in the school, stood out as

an example to all, in her commitment to her studies, her attendance, her school spirit, as well as her friendship and respect to all in our school community.

This year's very worthy winner is Angel Cunningham. The school also presented Angel with a Links pendant as a memento to mark the occasion and the contribution she has made to the school community in the 6 years she has been there.



Bank of Ireland Student of the Year Angel Cunningham with Principal Ms Kilgallen



Aoife Conneely\_ special guest at Ardscoil Mhuire Awards Day with Principal Ms Kilgallen



Eileen Burke, Sheila Hynes, Phyliss Burke



Front Row L-R: Marie Connors, Bridie Hurley, Marie Colohan. Back Row: Rita Mulvihill, Eileen Burke, Sheila Hynes, Carmel Finn, Mary Kelly, Emma Walker, Pauline McDonnell, Bridie Cleary, Maura Carthy, Rita Jordan.

## SPORTING ACHIEVEMENTS IN KILTORMER SCHOOL



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Triple celebrations in Kiltormer school as we win camogie and hurling finals along with the Golden Jubilee GAA celebrations.





# PUPILS FROM 36 COUNTRIES FETED AT CREAGH NS



Scoil Muire Gan Smál, Creagh held two Intercultural Days before the holidays, to acknowledge and celebrate the staggering thirty-six different countries and cultures that are represented by the students of the school.

There was huge preparation in the weeks running up to the event as staff, students and parents arranged displays, cooked food and presented artefacts and videos for their respective country or culture. Halla Uí Bruadair was a sea of colour for the event.

The days began with an Olympic style parade of nations, where students from each country and culture entered the hall to their national anthems and placed their respective flag on the Creagh 'Culture Sculpture' - a piece of traditional bog oak.

This was followed by renditions of Creagh's own 'Diversity Code', and the song 'World in Union', performed by Erin from 3rd Class.

Finally, school principal, Mr. Noel Lohan officially opened the days' events. As well as displays from each country and culture, there was traditional food and music to be enjoyed by all.

Saheel whose parents are from Afghanistan and Pakistan said, 'The Intercultural Days were really great. I loved the displays, the parade and how everyone dressed up. I loved representing my country at the display.'

Aaron from Ireland said, 'I loved the scavenger hunt where we learned about all the different countries.'



Creagh NS' Cultural Sculpture, showcasing all the countries and cultures represented in the school.

Sean from the Travelling Community proudly stated, 'I loved how I got to show a picture and video of my Grandad when he worked as a tinsmith. He was one of the last tinsmiths of the west.'

Dania, whose family hails from Libya declared, 'I felt proud of my country and I loved all the colour in the school hall. Trying food from other countries was really nice.'



School principal Mr. Lohan officially opens Intercultural Days.



Pakistan Stall

The cultures and countries currently represented in Creagh NS are: Romania, Brazil, Russia, The Travelling Community, Portugal, Lithuania, Malaysia, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Syria, St. Lucia, Jamaica, Belarus, India, Libya, England, Australia, Slovakia, Wales, Ukraine, Argentina, Bangladesh, South Africa, Thailand, France, Algeria, Italy, Scotland, Canada, Spain, Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Philippines, Moldova, Poland and Ireland.

## SCOIL AN CHROÍ NOAFA CELEBRATED ITS FIRST EVER MULTI-CULTURAL DAY





# OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE



Local Karate Club attending a three day Karate seminar in Sweden;  
Standing L-R: Marcus Doherty, Gavin Daly, Josh Judge, April Curran, Aaron Fortune, Karen Dolphin, Danny Coen, Niall Costello & Ayumu Oda. Seated L->R: John Dolphin, Marie Dolphin, Claire Harte, Soke Sadaaki Sakagami, Leo Mulvany, Tony Dolphin & Kevin Case.



The National Secretary of the Retired Nurses Association of Ireland Mr. Eddie Kelly making a presentation to Mr Tom Quinn - former nurse in St. Brigid's Hospital Ballinasloe on the occasion of Tom's 100th Birthday.



Michael Ward Captain Ballinasloe Golf Club with his wife Kathleen presents his Captains Prize to the overall winner Conor Murphy.



Enda Lyons from Mackney, Ballinasloe with his son Eanna, who played on the Laois team that beat Dublin in their historic SHC Quarter Final. The trainer on the Laois team is Niall Corcoran from Meelick-Eyrecourt and Tommy Fitzgerald, a selector, has a Galway dad from Fohenagh side, his father Seamus a former garda!.



Fergal Lenehan (Birchgrove), Lecturer at the University of Jena, Germany, meeting Irish President Michael D. Higgins during his state visit to Germany in July. President Higgins was visiting the nearby city of Leipzig, where he gave a speech entitled "The future of Europe – making new connections between ecology, economics and ethics".



Adeline Naughton, Lady Captain, Ballinasloe Golf Club presents her Captain's Prize to the overall winner Mary Goode.



Ballinasloe Tidy Towns, with the support of volunteers from all communities, gather at the Marina in Ballinasloe to go in different directions around town to collect rubbish. They invite, encourage and ask that people join on the first Saturday of each month at 10am to grow this drive and awareness to restore pride in the town. Enquiries to Tom Madden 0868179580



# OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE

## Local Karate Club attending the ONAKAI National Junior Karate Championships held in Dublin



Front row L-R: Kevin Duane, Nathan Blair, Philip Costello, Mia Shanley & Laura Costello. Middle row L-R: Lily Hurley, Eoghan Duane, Cathal Duane, Ava Shanley, Niamh Costello, Aisling Keighery, Joe Hurley, Zach Lawless. Back Row L-R: Michael Duane, Leo Mulvany, Faye Mulvany, Tony Dolphin, Danny Coen, Gavin Daly, Jaoquin Solis, Leona Donelan, April Curran, Niall Costello, Sarah O'Quigley, Shane O'Quigley, Eimear Porter, Evan Donelan, Shane Hyland, Josh Judge, Kate Kelly, Marie Dolphin & John Dolphin.



Members of the Beal Atha na Slua Camogie Club which included the Management Team of the U6 and U8 age group along with many of the U6 and U8 players met with the General Manager of the Shearwater Hotel William Burke and the Proprietor of Billy's Pharmacy Billy King for a photo-shoot to showcase the clubs new U6 and U8 Jerseys.

Back L-R: Lisa Casey, Aine Hall, Ailish Coughlan, Emer Delaney, William Burke (GM Shearwater), Aoife Clarke, Greg Cunningham.

Second Row: Katelyn Caulfield, Eimear Flynn, Ashlin Coughlan, Cara Cox, Siofra Naughton, Caoimhe Cox, Emily Clarke, Maggie Friel, Tyler Garvey, Sarah Ward, Maeve Campbell, Sarah Loughane.

Front Row: Kellie Sheanon, Saoirse Johnston, Molly Casey, Abbey Flannery, Kallie Garvey, Emilia Noone, Ayla Howley, Tegan Fahy, Lilly Mae Coughlan, Paige Stephens, Aine Clarke, Aine Campbell, Zohra Konsar, Zara Konsar.



# AUGUST EVENTS GUIDE

Thursday 1st		
Pa Sheil	Brewery Lane	10pm
Seamus Moore	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Friday 2nd		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Pop Up Steak house	Downey's Bar	6-9pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Acoustic Ninjas	Brewery Lane	10pm
Joe Hession	Canal Bar	10pm
Texas Holdem Poker	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 3rd		
Rebel Fest / Rebel Hearts	Lukers S'Bridge	from 6pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm
Billy Garvin	Canal Bar	10pm
The Tav Jam Band	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Crazy Chris	Downey's Bar	10pm
Small Deal	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Simon Bordy	An Tain	10pm
Dessie Egan	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Pacific	The Auld Sod	10pm
Boithrin	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 4th		
Soc. Dance-Blue Ridge Co.	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
The Goodlife	Brewery Lane	8pm
Table Quiz-Cappa Juv Club	Valerie's of Aughrim	9pm
John Finnerty	Joe Kelly's	9pm
R.Mizeelle sup. B. Jermyn	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Boithrin	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Joe Wynne	The Pillar House	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Trad Bobby Frank & Friends	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Off the Wall	The Auld Sod	10pm
Jiggers of Erin	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Monday 5th		
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Tuesday 6th		
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B' room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Wednesday 7th		
Bumps and Babes	B'sloe Library	9.45-11.45am
Active Retirement Meet	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislím	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Trad & Folk Bobby & Frank	An Tain	9.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Paudge	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 8th		
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Downey's Bar	10pm
Friday 9th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Pop Up Steak House	Downey's Bar	6-9.30pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
Niall Ruttledge	Canal Bar	10pm
Toxic Twins	Brewery Lane	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Pub Fiction	The Auld Sod	10pm
Texas Holdem Poker	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Paul Watchorn	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 10th		
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm
Small Deal	Canal Bar	10pm
Red Tape	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ John Finnerty	Downey's Bar	10pm
Blessed	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Mitchell Drum	An Tain	10pm
Laker	The Auld Sod	10pm
Blue Tax	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Ken Solo	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Sunday 11th			
Dance- B. Heaney & Boz	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm	
Live Music	An Tain	7pm	
The Noshowband	Brewery Lane	8pm	
Double Up	Joe Kelly's	9pm	
J. Buckley Sup. M. Regan	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm	
Cruiscin	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	
Trad Bobby Frank & Friends	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm	
Dave Mills	The Auld Sod	10pm	
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm	
Monday 12th			
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm	
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm	
Tuesday 13th			
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm	
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm	
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm	
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm	
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm	
Wednesday 14th			
Active Retirement Meet	Gullanes Hotel	3pm	
Unislím	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm	
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm	
Trad & Folk Bobby & Frank	An Tain	9.30pm	
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm	
P Bennett	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	
Thursday 15th			
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm	
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm	
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm	
Steve Reilly Live	Downey's Bar	10pm	
Irish Music	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	
Friday 16th			
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm	
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm	
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm	
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm	
Dave Mills	Canal Bar	10pm	
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm	
Hoppy Bar Stars	Brewery Lane	10pm	
Pop Up Steak House	Downey's Bar	10pm	
Small Ideas	The Auld Sod	10pm	
Texas Holdem Poker	Joe Kelly's	10pm	
Chris Nash	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	
Saturday 17th			
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm	
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm	
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm	
Live Music	Canal Bar	10pm	
The Goodfella's	Brewery Lane	10pm	
DJ John Finnerty	Downey's Bar	10pm	
Sprise	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	
Matt Keane	The Pillar House	10pm	
Eoin Maher	An Tain	10pm	
Dusty Bloom	The Auld Sod	10pm	
C. Hagan & M.Collins	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm	
Back To Basics	Joe Kelly's	10pm	
Hickory Wind	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm	
Sunday 18th			
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm	
Michael Collins	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm	
Live Music	An Tain	7pm	
Brego	Brewery Lane	8pm	
Split	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm	
Trad Bobby Frank & Friends	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm	
Liams Country Roadshow	The Auld Sod	10pm	
Monday 19th			
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm	
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm	
Tuesday 20th			
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm	
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm	
18th Century Ballinasloe Lecture & Booklet Launch	Church Gallery	6.30-7.30pm	
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm	
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm	
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm	
Wednesday 21st			
Bumps and Babes	B'sloe Library	9.45-11.45am	
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm	
Active Retirement Meet	Gullanes Hotel	3pm	
Unislím	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm	
Trad & Folk Bobby & Frank	An Tain	9.30pm	
Paudge and Noel	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm	
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm	

Thursday 22nd		
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Music Festival (Marquee)	Valeries of Aughrim	8.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Live Music	Downey's Bar	10pm
Schiddileye	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Friday 23rd		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
Music Festival	Valeries of Aughrim	9pm
Adrain Rabbitt	Canal Bar	10pm
Sugar Candy	The Auld Sod	10pm
The 20's	Brewery Lane	10pm
Pop Up Steak House	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Texas Holdem Poker	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 24th		
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Heritage talk	Aughrim Visitor Centre	11.30-5pm
Family Fun Day	Valerie's of Aughrim	3-6pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Canal Bar	10pm
Loose Roosters	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Dave Dolan	Downey's Bar	10pm
Lyrical	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Average James	An Tain	10pm
70s/80s Fancy Dress Disco	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Nightowls	The Auld Sod	10pm
Small Deal	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Crossroads	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 25th		
RISE THE DUST Ceili Band.	Valerie's of Aughrim	4-7pm
T Bone Country	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Beggars Velvet	Brewery Lane	8pm
Shane Moore	Joe Kelly's	9pm
P. Feeney sup John Molloy	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Small Deal	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Trad Bobby Frank & Friends	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Ken Solo	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Monday 26th		
Bsloe Says No Public Meet	Gullanes Hotel	7pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Tuesday 27th		
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Wednesday 28th		
Art Exhibit by Deirdre Carr	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Active Retirement Meet	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislím	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Trad & Folk Bobby & Frank	An Tain	9.30pm
P Binit	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 29th		
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Live Music	Downey's Bar	10pm
Trad Session	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Friday 30th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm
Pop Up Steak House	Downey's Bar	10pm
Small Ideas	The Auld Sod	10pm
Texas Holdem Poker	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Paul Burns	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 31st		
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Chill Billies	Killeen's S.Bridge	10pm
Kevin Corry	The Pillar House	10pm
Drive for Five	An Tain	10pm
Live Music	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Live Music	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ John Finnerty	Downey's Bar	10pm
Finnegans Fury	The Auld Sod	10pm
Take 2	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm



# SEPTEMBER EVENTS GUIDE

Sunday 1st		
Soc Dancing John Molloy	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Thunderslap Duo	Brewery Lane	8pm
Double Trouble	Joe Kelly's	9pm
G. Guthrie sup J. Molloy	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Happy Bar Stars	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Trad Bobby Frank & Friends	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Shane Moore	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Monday 2nd		
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Tuesday 3rd		
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Wednesday 4th		
Active Retirement Meet	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Trad & Folk Bobby & Frank	An Tain	9.30pm
Paudge	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 5th		
Larry Reynolds Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Steve Reilly Live	Downey's Bar	10pm
Seisuin	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Friday 6th		
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Larry Reynolds Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
Féile Cheoil L. Reynolds	Pillar House	9pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
The 2 Q's	Brewery Lane	10pm
Pub Fiction	The Auld Sod	10pm
Texas Holdem Poker	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 7th		
Larry Reynolds Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Larry Reynolds Talk	Church Gallery	2pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm
Bagatelle	Lukers of S'Bridge	8pm
The Tav Jam Band	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Crazy Chris	Downey's Bar	10pm
Smaill Deal	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Féile Cheoil L. Reynolds	The Pillar House	10pm
An Other	An Tain	10pm
Finnegans Fury	Auld Sod	10pm
Paul Byrnes	Joe Kelly's	10pm
The Live Wires	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Sunday 8th		
Féile Cheoil La. Reynolds	The Pillar House	10pm
Pat McKenna & Glenshane Co	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Keith & Shane	Brewery Lane	8pm
Ken Solo	Joe Kelly's	9pm
J. Glen Supp Andy Feery	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Split	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Trad Bobby Frank & Friends	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Dave Mills	Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Trad Session	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Monday 9th		
Bumps and Babes	B'sloe Library	9.45-11.45am
Larry Reynolds Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Tuesday 10th		
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Wednesday 11th		
Active Retirement Meet	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Trad & Folk Bobby & Frank	An Tain	9.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Paudge	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm

Thursday 12th		
Deirdre Carr Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Singers Circle	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Live Music	Downey's Bar	10pm
Seisuinta	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Friday 13th		
Deirdre Carr Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
Small Ideas	The Auld Sod	10pm
Hoppy Bar Stars	Brewery Lane	10pm
Pop Up Steak House	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Texas Holdem Poker	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Shane Downey	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 14th		
Deirdre Carr Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Toxic Twins	Brewery Lane	10pm
Dave Mills Live	Downey's Bar	10pm
Boithrin	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Joe Wynne	The Pillar House	10pm
Live Music	An Tain	10pm
Des Egan	Joe Kelly's	10pm
The Dunican Sisters	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Dusty Bloom	The Auld Sod	10.30pm
Sunday 15th		
Stuart Moyles	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
The Noshowband	Brewery Lane	8pm
The Blue Tax Band	Joe Kelly's	9pm
M. English Sup S. Moyles	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Bumble Bee Honey	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Shane Moore	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Monday 16th		
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Tuesday 17th		
Deirdre Carr Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Wednesday 18th		
Deirdre Carr Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Active Retirement Meet	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Trad & Folk Bobby & Frank	An Tain	9.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Paudge	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 19th		
Deirdre Carr Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Steve Reilly Live	Downey's Bar	10pm
Trads	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Friday 20th		
Deirdre Carr Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
Queen of the Fair	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
D. Delaney Piping Festival	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Dinny Delaney Trad Ses	Brewery Lane	10pm
Pop Up Steak House	Downey's Bar	10pm
David Burns	The Auld Sod	10pm
Texas Holdem Poker	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Ken Solo	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm

Saturday 21st		
Deirdre Carr Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm
Dinny Delaney Piping	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Dinny Delaney Trad Ses	Brewery Lane	10pm
DJ Dave Dolan	Downey's Bar	10pm
Blessed	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Eoin Maher	An Tain	10pm
Sugar Candy	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Crowbar Hotel	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Pacifica	The Auld Sod	10.30pm
Sunday 22nd		
Dinny Delaney Piping	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Showbud	Shearwater Hotel	5-8pm
Trad Session	The Pillar House	6pm
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Dinny Delaney Trad Ses	Brewery Lane	8pm
Live Music	Joe Kelly's	9pm
D. Ryan Sup Olivia Douglas	Shearwater Hotel	9.30pm
Small Deal	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Trad Bobby Frank & Friends	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Ken Solo	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Monday 23rd		
Bumps and Babes	B'sloe Library	9.45-11.45am
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Tuesday 24th		
Deirdre Carr Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Lego Club	B'sloe Library	4.30-5.15pm
Deirdre Carr Exh Launch	Church Gallery	6pm
GAA Bingo	Emerald B'room	8pm
Social Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	9pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Wednesday 25th		
Deirdre Carr Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	opening hours
Active Retirement Meet	Gullanes Hotel	3pm
Unislim	Gullanes Hotel	5-7.15pm
Trad & Folk Bobby & Frank	An Tain	9.30pm
Paudge Arais	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Thursday 26th		
Deirdre Carr Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Ciorcal Comhra	Gullanes Hotel	11am
Live Acoustic Session	Brewery Lane	10pm
Live Line	Downey's Bar	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Friday 27th		
Deirdre Carr Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
B'sloe Country Market	Town Hall Theatre	9.30-1.30pm
Kids Friday Fun	B'sloe Library	3.30-4.30pm
Pop Up Steak House	Downey's Bar	6-9.30pm
Find the Joker	An Tain	9pm
Sugar Candy	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Beggars Velvet	Brewery Lane	10pm
Texas Holdem Poker	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Alan Lawlor	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Saturday 28th		
Deirdre Carr Art Exhibition	Church Gallery	11-1pm & 2-5pm
Bingo	Kilconnel Town Hall	8.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Chillbillies	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Howya Horse	An Tain	10pm
John Finnerty	Joe Kelly's	10pm
Jiggers of Erin	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Nightowls	The Auld Sod	10.30pm
Sunday 29th		
Live Music	An Tain	7pm
Shane Downey	Dunlo Tavern	7pm
Back To Basics	Joe Kelly's	9pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Bojangle	Killeen's of S'Bridge	10pm
Trad Bobby Frank & Friends	Valerie's of Aughrim	10pm
Liams Country Roadshow	The Auld Sod	10pm
Live Music	Dunlo Tavern	10.30pm
Monday 30th		
Line Dancing	Gullanes Hotel	8.30pm
Live Music	Lukers of S'Bridge	10pm
Shane Moore (Horse Fair)	Joe Kelly's	10pm

To advertise your events here contact: [ballinasloeife@hotmail.com](mailto:ballinasloeife@hotmail.com) or Call 090 964 5831 by September 6th.

# CELEBRATIONS AND EVENTS



MC Darren Frehill addressing the guests at the Kiltormer GAA Club's Golden Jubilee celebrations in the Sports Complex.



Married Recently. Justin Lohan and Mairéad Casserly, Beechlawn, Sligo.  
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Andy Fenton with MC Darren Frehill at the Kiltormer GAA Club's Golden Jubilee celebrations.

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# FOOTBALL LEGEND "POOK" DILLON PASSES AWAY

Tom "Pook" Dillon was one of the three Ballinasloe clubmen who commanded the full-back line when Galway won their fourth All-Ireland Senior football title in 1956. The teak-tough "Pook" wore the number four jersey while the teenager Sean Keeley was at no. 2 and Gerry Daly was full-back.

The Ahascragh man, who passed away at the age of 93, helped Galway to win four Connacht titles, a National League and two Railway Cup honours. His inter-county career spanned from the late 40's to the late 50's while he also played for Ballinasloe town team. His proudest moment came in 1956, when playing with his clubmates Keeley and Daly as well as Gerry Kirwan, at corner forward, Galway defeated Cork by 2-13 to 3-7 thanks in particular to the scoring achievements of "The Terrible Twins" Sean Purcell and Frank Stockwell.

A very unassuming dairy farmer, "Pook" received the "Sports Star of the Week" award for his display against Dublin in a league game in 1953, which was a big honour at that time. He was regarded by many of his opponents as "one of the toughest but fairest" in his sport and was highly respected by his teammates and supporters.



Having played minor and junior football with his native Ahascragh, "Pook" played senior with Ballinasloe and even won a Kilkenny senior club medal with Castlecomer, playing under the name of Tommy Mooney. Even after he retired from the game "Pook" served as manager of the local hurling team for many years and remained a staunch supporter right up to his passing.

Many of Galway's footballing greats, as well as former players from many parts of the country came to pay their respects at his reposal and funeral. At his Requiem Mass in St. Cuan's Church, Ahascragh, Fr. Kevin Reynolds described him as "a local hero, a living legend, a treasured parishioner and a man of deep faith who loved his neighbours, family and God." His daughter, Deirdre, also delivered a touching eulogy at the Mass, speaking fondly of her father's love of the land, his spirituality and his strong links with his neighbours and the local parish.

Tom "Pook" Dillon was laid to rest in Ahascragh New Cemetery as Galway football fans from all over the world mourned the passing of a football legend and a true gentleman.

BY KEN KELLY



## CREAGH TRAINING CENTRE OUTING

A group of service users and staff from Creagh Training Centre, Ballinasloe enjoying a day out at Portumna Castle & Gardens. This outing makes up part of a series of weekly outings to heritage, culture and nature sites in the locality. These outings complement the normal work of the Centre, as well as contributing to the social and personal development of service users.

L - R: Rose Moore, Brendan Murray, Christine Kelly, Philip O'Connor, Shane Mc Dermott, Sinnitta Finnerty, Trevor Shine, Nikita Cosgrove, Caroline Lynch and William Connerty.

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## SEAN BROOKS-THREE TIME PRESIDENT OF RFC



The unexpected death of Sean Brooks of Portnick, Ballinasloe and Carrowreagh, Taughmaconnell, came as a great shock to all who knew him. A very quiet and unassuming Roscommon farmer, Sean was a Trojan worker with the Ballinasloe Rugby club, first as a player in the sixties and seventies and later as an official.

He took an active part in all aspects of the club, from the underage upwards and was honoured with the Presidency on three occasions 1981-1982, 1989-1990 and 1991-1992. He was currently a committee member at the time of his

passing and was proud to witness the opening of the Astro-turf training facility recently by the Connacht President, Mossy Moran.

There was a very large and representative attendance of mourners at both Sean's home in Taughmaconnell and his Requiem Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, Creagh. His daughter Linda gave a moving eulogy at his Mass, recounting her father's life of over seven decades and the life and times he enjoyed with his family and especially his nine grandchildren.

Members and officers of the Ballinasloe RFC, both past and present, formed a guard of honour as Sean's remains were carried to their final resting place in Creagh Cemetery, alongside his late wife Imelda (nee Fallon).

Sean Brooks is survived by his daughters Orla, Karen, Linda and Theresa; his brothers Frank, Kevin and Ollie; sister Teresa, sons-in-law, grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

BY KEN KELLY

## TOM PURCELL, AN APPRECIATION

Tom Purcell, resident of Creagh, passed away recently, on the 14th June, following a period of illness.

Though Ballinasloe was home for Tom since 1960, he was born in Barefield, on the outskirts of Ennis in Co. Clare on the 28th May 1942, the eldest of four children, with PJ, Mary and Carmel.

Sport was his abiding passion, his love for Hurling borne on the fields of Barefield, where he afforded every spare minute to learning and honing his craft. He would subsequently play at both Minor and Senior level for his local Club, Doorra-Barefield. He enjoyed a distinguished Hurling Career, playing Club for Ballinasloe also while playing Inter-County Minor and Senior Hurling for both Clare and Galway during the 1960's.

Tom arrived to town in 1960, working in Hogan's Menswear, and as many people have complimented him on over the years, most likely it's where his own sartorial elegance was refined! He met the late Kay Flynn in 1962 and they married in 1971, rearing their family of 3 children, Darragh, Colin and Ria initially in their residence in the Canal House, before moving to the then newly constructed Kilgarve.

Tom's career led him to work as a Veterinary Sales Representative with Beecham (later Pfizer), covering the west of Ireland and with whom he worked until his retirement in 2001. In 2003 he completed

a Certificate in Irish History & Philosophy in NUIG.

It was Sport where Tom's deep and enduring interest lay. As his wife Kay used to say, "there's always a ball hopping!" He became very involved with the Ballinasloe Rugby Club shortly after arriving and played for them as both Flanker and No. 8. He was made Club Captain from 1967 to 1969.

He became involved in coaching, enjoying considerable success with the club's U-20 and U-18 sides, winning several Connacht League and Cup competitions. He represented the Club as President on several occasions and the Connacht Branch appointed him as a Selector for the Connacht Senior Rugby in the mid-80's, as well as being instrumental, with Athlone's David Henshaw, in the formation of the Buccaneers Rugby Club in 1994.

While an ardent Notts Forest fan - he played Golf regularly for and in Ballinasloe Golf Club and Tennis. Up until his recent illness he was still a regular attendee at Clare Hurling and Buccaneers Rugby matches and hugely enjoyed the social occasions arranged by Baireori na Gaillimhe; for former Galway Hurlers.

Tom is survived by his daughter Ria, sons' Darragh and Colin, grandchildren Lauren and Torin and his many relatives. He is fondly remembered by his many dear friends.



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# AUGHRIM MUSIC FESTIVAL

BY DONOGH MOORE



Cherish The Ladies.



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Foster & Allen.

The 2019 Aughrim Music Festival takes place in Valerie's of Aughrim from Thursday 22nd to Sunday 25th August, with a huge line up of music for all ages and tastes.

First up on Thursday night is a Country Concert with the legendary Foster & Allen, Celtic Woman Superstar Chloe Agnew and

Matt Leavy, plus a surprise special guest. The show starts at 8.30pm and tickets are €25. In 2016, Joanie conducted an amazing night of traditional music, song and dance, and so on Friday 23rd August, Joanie Madden and Cherish the Ladies will return, with special guests Don Stiffe and Kate Purcell, will be playing from 9pm onwards, with tickets costing €25.

Saturday sees the special Heritage Event in the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre: 'The 1691 BATTLE OF AUGHRIM - IRELAND'S GAME CHANGER'. This will include lectures, walks and Battle of Aughrim themed music starting at 11.30am. This is a free event and a highlight of the Heritage Week events taking place around the locality. There will be a Family Fun evening in Valerie's, with Bouncy Castles and Face Painting afterwards. On Saturday night, it's the Aughrim Village Fundraiser night. There will be a Fancy Dress Disco with DJ John Finnerty in the Marquee. The theme will be 70s/80s, and there will be prizes for the best dressed. Admission €5.

On Sunday the weekend will finish off with a Monster Celli. Set Dancing will take place from 4pm to 7pm with the mighty 'Rise The Dust' Celli Band, admission €10. For more information on all of these events, call Valerie at 086 283 0673.

# SUDDEN DEATH OF MUGSEY O'CONNOR

BY KEN KELLY

Ballinasloe lost one of its best known characters with the sudden passing of Peter (Mugsey) O'Connor of St. Michael's Place. Though small in stature, Mugsey was giant of wit, humour and knowledge in the company of friends.

After leaving national school, Mugsey went to work in Dubarry and the local Council before spending a short time in England. But the call of home saw him return where he enjoyed the company of his



school pals and neighbours. He was a regular "day tripper" to surrounding towns and villages, surveying the areas as he strolled majestically along, reminiscing of former years.

His sudden passing, in his 74th year, came as a shock to all who knew him and was evident by the large numbers who attended his reposal, Funeral Mass and burial. Mugsey, as he was known by all and sundry, is survived by his wife Marion, daughters Lizzie, brother Bernie, sister Kathleen Moran (Athlone), nephews, nieces and many other relatives and friends.



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# WASTE PERMIT FACILITY APPLICATION- LOCAL CONCERN



Cllr. Aisling Dolan with Orla Dolan, Una Ni Bhroí, Roisin Fahy, Vincent Parsons, Evelyn Parsons, Beibhinn Parsons, Sally Parsons, Mairead Burke, Willie Dolan, Eamon O'Donoghue, Leona Donelan, Caroline Donelan, Nathan Donelan, Niall Donelan, Tony Dolan and Teresa Dolan. Front: Tomás Fahy and Conor Dolan.

**Major concerns have arisen recently about the health and future of the town, following another application submitted to Galway County Council for a Waste Permit Facility at Poolboy.**

The application is by the private operator Sean Curran, and his company Bruscar Bhearna Teoranta. Approximately 80 acres in the same area were purchased by the same operator for purposes unknown.

A permit for infill at the proposed site last year was halted at the High Court under judicial review specifically over the lack of a proper evaluation of the impact it would have to the waterways into the River Suck. The status of this is currently outstanding. This current application is for a second permit, this time to operate the waste transfer facility.

The 'Ballinasloe Says NO' group have united again against this proposed facility, after successfully campaigning last year to put a halt to the landfill site.

Dr. Evelyn Parsons, a member of the group said: "We understand

the need for management of our waste. However, this is not the right location for trucks driving through the largest urban centre outside of Galway city. The impact of air pollution from waste and traffic in a congested area is a massive concern. Hundreds of trucks travelling through the centre of our town to access an inappropriate site is unacceptably hazardous."

Concerns have mounted also about the hazards of increased fire emergencies at Waste Transfer Stations. "No one wants the risk of fire and the smoke of contaminating particulate matter and noxious gases. Ballinasloe is the largest urban centre in East Galway with a population of 6,500, of whom the vast majority live within 3km of the proposed Waste site, with hundreds of residing only several hundred metres away. Many people still remember the stench, flies and putrid air of the past and do not want it back," continued Dr. Evelyn.

This marks the third time Ballinasloe has had to fight against a proposed waste facility. Two previous High Court decisions were found in favour of local residents, one taken by a determined group of locals in 1999 and a second one last year by the Ballinasloe Says No group following over 200 local objections.

Dr. Evelyn continues "Hard battles such as these have been won in the past, but the war is clearly not over as this latest attempt to obtain a waste facility permit demonstrates. The question remains; how many times must local residents travel to the High Court to keep the local population safe?"

A public meeting will be held in Gullane's Hotel at 7pm on Monday 26th August to find out what this means for local families and the town. All are welcome.

For more information find the group on Facebook at: Ballinasloe says No to Toxic Waste Dump, or email: ballinasloesaysno@gmail.com.

**BY DONOGH MOORE**

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# TOWN HALL THEATRE SECURES WELCOME LEADER FUNDS

Currently, the Town Hall Theatre is going through renovations including the installation of a new gas boiler and the refurbishment of the toilets and kitchenette in the foyer, allowing for greater experiences by all future theatre users.

The works are being partially funded through the LEADER grant allocation of €46,213.50, announced recently. It is hoped that the project will be finished before the Autumn calendar commences.

The LEADER programme for 2014 - 2020 includes a budget of €250 million and supports rural communities and their businesses, with €7.6 million having been allocated to East Galway.

Due to a reduction in the budget of about 55% compared to the previous LEADER programme, some changes needed to be implemented in the grant process, including the prioritisation of businesses who have not received funding previously, as well as a more competitive application process having been put in place which includes a public call for Expression of Interest under specific themes and sub themes.

This is the first time that the Town Hall Theatre Board have been successful with an application for LEADER funding.

The overall cost of the works at the Town Hall Theatre will be in excess of €70,000, so any help or support towards the funding of the project is greatly appreciated.

Contact can be made at [www.ballinasloetownhall.com](http://www.ballinasloetownhall.com) or via email:



Jamie Curley, Eric Luwaga, Jade Curley, Aoife Castle, Catherine Hogan, Kayleigh Holahan, Alana Mulry, Grace Byrne, Aisling Hoey.

[ballinasloetownhalltheatre@gmail.com](mailto:ballinasloetownhalltheatre@gmail.com) Tel. (090) 964 6540 (9.30 – 1 pm).

A great Family Fun Day was had recently, filled with colouring on giant corrie boards. It was very well supported. The corrie boards were upcycled from recent elections with the sketches for the boards having been drawn by local artists Nicola Bowes, Rosemary Carty, Mary O'Regan-Barber, Emel Osman and Kate Madden over the previous weeks. The finished corrie boards can be seen at the Emerald Ballroom, where they have been given another upcycle.

On the day, Transition Year students (Grace, Mark, Kayleigh, Aisling, Jamie, Eric, Catherine, Aoife, Alana, Jade and Jack) volunteered with the preparation and helped the children with pavement art and jenga, the grounds for the event were prepared by Gerry Moloney (supervisor) and participants of the Community Employment Scheme.

The event was sponsored and supported by Harriet Bruce (Wonderland), as well as Dermot Salmon who provided acrylic paints for the day.

The weekend was finished off with the first visit by Symphonic Waves - a youth orchestra, comprising young people aged 14 - 19 from all over Connacht. A return visit is planned for later in the year.

BY JEJE BEGRAOUI

## MEP's 2019 - 2024

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## OUR MISSING ARTS CENTRE ?

Ballinasloe, and the county as a whole, have come under fire recently due to their severe lack of available arts centres. In a recent national report conducted by the Arts Council of Ireland, it was found that County Galway had on average 0.6 arts centres per 100,000 people. This is almost five times below the national average, which recorded 2.9 arts centres per 100,000 people. According to the report, Co. Leitrim has 12.5 arts centres per 100,000 people.

Áras Éanna, located on the Aran Islands, is the only full time arts centre in the county, meaning that the only full time centre isn't even located on the mainland. The Galway Arts Centre was also the only arts centre located in the city. This is an incredibly shocking statistic, given that Galway will be the European Capital of Culture in 2020, alongside the Croatian city of Rijeka, who have already reportedly published a programme of over 1,000 events for the year. The report itself cites a lack of accommodation and capacity issues as being a reason as to the lack of centres in the region.

It's difficult to follow the rationale for excluding any of the performance based venues in Clifden, Tuam, Athenry, Loughrea, Portumna and indeed Ballinasloe which has two public venues – the Town Hall Theatre and of course The Convent Church Gallery in the Library, both venues in the past recent years have received grant aid from the Dept of Arts, Galway County Council and indeed have hosted shows and performers funded by the Arts Council.

The Irish Theatre Institute cites only two Theatres in the County – the Mick Lally and Aras Eanna. Equally odd is the decision of the Galway County Arts Office to only list three official venues as County Arts venues on its own website – The Mall Theatre, Tuam; Glenamaddy Town Hall Theatre and Aras Eanna !

An arts centre for the purposes of the Arts Council Report is defined as "a functional community centre with a specific remit to encourage arts practice and to provide facilities such as theatre space, gallery space, venues for musical performance, workshop areas, and educational facilities".



Surely exactly what the Library and the Town Hall Theatre have been doing wonderfully in the past few seasons? but alas no, to have a fully fledged Arts Centre you must have full time staff and be in receipt of funding from the Arts Council; it appears.

Granted, the Town Hall Theatre provides a venue for the likes of the local Musical Society and Dance Schools, but it doesn't curate or commission arts centre. Likewise, the Church Gallery located above the Library on Society Street is available for art exhibitions, launches and installations every few weeks, but it doesn't really fall under the category of an arts centre.

The town does its best to nurture its creatives, through the likes of the Town Band, and the Musical Society, Relays, The Choirs, Panto, the Dance Schools, Ceoltas etc. etc. but the lack of a space where they could seek guidance or even draw inspiration from might lead them to wander elsewhere.

Being off the national and county radar-not on the National Map with the existing 3 Arts venues – the 400 seat Town Hall, the 150 seat Church Gallery and of course the 100 seat Band Hall in the old Parochial Hall, is really something that should be fixed a few short months away from the City of Culture festivities.

BY DONOGH MOORE

## SENATOR MAURA HOPKINS



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# BATTLE OF AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE - VIBRANT SEASON

Since opening its doors the Battle of Aughrim's Visitor Centre has seen an uptake in footfall and interest, largely due to support from the local community, as well as the improvements that have been made within the facility, by Galway County Council.



Attending 'Galways Local Places - Local Heritage' Summer Lecture Series in the Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre  
L-R: Ronan Killeen Centre Tour Guide, Dr Christy Cuniffe, Galway Community Archaeologist, Helen Mannion, Mary Hynes, Marian Donohue, Galway County Council; Teresa Loughrey, Michael Riddell, Colman Shaughnessy. Photo by Gerry Stronge Ballinasloe.

Dr. Christy Cuniffe, Galway Community Archaeologist speaking on 'the Heritage, Archeology and Folklore of some Sacred Wells from East Galway' to an attentive audience.  
Photo by Michael Riddell Ballinasloe.

Dr. Padraig Lenihan spent an afternoon recently guiding visitors around the local battlefield. The tour commenced at St. Catherine's Hall in Aughrim, and after their walking tour around, the group returned to the Visitor Centre for a further talk about the historic Battle.

The upgrades have added significantly to each visitor's experience of the Centre: attendees can now get their photos taken in cardboard cut outs of the various warring kings, view the table display, dress up in period-appropriate costumes, and most importantly view the Martin Joyce collection in its entirety throughout the Summer months.

An almost intimidatingly large collection of varying artefacts, the aforementioned "Collection" has now been completely reorganised by staff, and so divided according to theme. Every two weeks the artefacts on display will change around, and will coincide with a talk being held on a particular theme. Throughout August there will be some talks held on Fridays at 2pm in the centre. These talks cover a variety of topics by a range of different speakers: Brendan McGowan, from the Galway City Museum, Dr. Christy Cuniffe, Steve Dolan, Mary Healy, and Claire Doyle (all of Portumna Workhouse), as well as Paul Duffy.

The 2019 Season will be capped off by this year's Heritage Week event. This promises to be the biggest of the season, and it takes place on Saturday August 24th. This year's event will involve an entire day dedicated to the Battle. Talks are set to begin at 11.30am, and will be interspersed with music from the period throughout the day. This fun day is set to give attendees an insight into what life would have been like for the ordinary soldier at that time, as well as being given a full account of the events of July 12th.

For further details on any of these events contact the centre at 090 967 3939, or email [battleofaughrim@galwaycoco.ie](mailto:battleofaughrim@galwaycoco.ie). Alternatively, you can contact the group via social media. They can be found on Facebook at: The Battle of Aughrim 1691, or on Twitter @1691Aughrim

BY ABBIE MCGOWAN



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## 6<sup>TH</sup> EDITION OF LARRY REYNOLDS TRAD FESTIVAL

From Thursday, September 5 to Sunday, September 8, the town will be filled with Traditional Irish Music, Heritage and Culture for the Annual Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds.

Larry Reynolds was a native of Shanboley, Ahascragh, who emigrated to Boston in 1953. Over time he became a highly influential fiddle player, not only because of his East Galway style but also because of the contributions he made to Irish culture in Boston and all over North America. To commemorate Larry, the Festival was established and the festival has grown and is fast becoming an important event on the countrywide Trad Calendar.

Annual School Competition details have been circulated and the winners will be displayed in the Ballinasloe Town Library over the weekend. The Singers Circle takes place on Thursday night in Clarke's Dunlo Tavern. Throughout the weekend there are sessions in various venues throughout town, details of which are on the website. There are also the window competitions for all shops and businesses in town.

The Féile Cheoil will welcome Mícheál and MacDara Ó Raghallaigh to kick off the Friday night concert which takes place in Gibbons' Pillar Bar. MacDara has earned a reputation as one of Ireland's outstanding fiddle players. His playing style is highly individual, personal and deeply rooted in the pure tradition. Mícheál is undoubtedly one of the foremost concertina players in Ireland today. His interpretation and fashioning of each tune to his own liking, building in variation and ornamentation with a great sense of feeling, brings out the most in every tune. The concert will be followed by a session for all musicians.

The festival continues on Saturday and Sunday with a variety of activities for all ages, such as a crafters exhibition on the streets (as well as other street entertainment), workshops for various instruments in the school hall of An Scoil an Chroí Nofa, and the 2019 Open All-Ireland Fiddle competition (entries accepted up until the day of the competition either via email to [seceilecheoil@larryreynolds@gmail.com](mailto:seceilecheoil@larryreynolds@gmail.com) or at reception).

The Ballinasloe Town Library will display the art winners coupled

with a talk on the East Galway style of music by Sean Maloney, followed by a historic walk of town on Saturday afternoon.

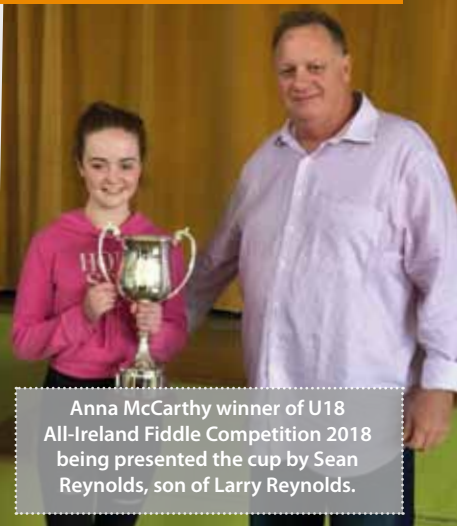
On Saturday evening, Dylan Carlos (fiddle), Céin Sweeney (flute) and John McCartin (guitar) will launch their CD in The Auld Sod, followed by a session. The Céili with Ui Bhriain Céili Band, who are joining for a second year, takes place at 8 p.m. in Gullanes Hotel.

A new initiative for the festival is the introduction of Trad Disco (Trisco) with DJ Lachlan McKibbin in An Táin Bar from 11.00 p.m.

Sunday comprises the annual festival mass in St. Michael's Church, Ballinasloe followed by sessions in various locations throughout the day and night.

Musicians for the weekend include Daithi Gormley, Jack Talty, Páraic Mac Donnchadha, Mick Conneely, Céin Sweeney, Dylan Carlos, John McCartin, Patsy Hanly, Gerry Hanley, Alan Kelly, John Wynne, Sean Maloney, Maeve Smyth, Tiernan Smyth, Vera Craughwell, Steph Geremia, Cuniffe Bros., Pádraic Keane, Bobby Kilkenny, Frank Hession, Alan Colohan, Tony Treacy, Iomar Barrett, Diarmuid Claffey, Declan Rynne, Liam Loughrey, Eilis Treacy, Lily Treacy and many more.

Check out [www.larryreynoldswelcome.com](http://www.larryreynoldswelcome.com) or follow them on Facebook/Instagram for more details. Further information from Secretary of Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds 0877916510 or email [seceilecheoil@larryreynolds@gmail.com](mailto:seceilecheoil@larryreynolds@gmail.com)



Anna McCarthy winner of U18 All-Ireland Fiddle Competition 2018 being presented the cup by Sean Reynolds, son of Larry Reynolds.

BY JEJE BEGRAOUI



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## DINNY DELANEY – CELEBRATING LEGEND UILLEANN PIPER

One of the most illustrious characters in the story of the Uilleann pipe and the indigenous culture that breathes through its bellows is a Ballinasloe native called Dinny Delaney

Born in 1836 (or 1841 depending on the source) in Tulrush, Dinny Delaney, according to legend, was a champion Uilleann Piper, a ladies man, a deliverer of furniture and – by all accounts – an excellent judge of horse and livestock. All while being blind.!

Dinny also wrote his own tunes and is credited with being a major innovator in the East Galway style of the Irish tradition.

In the early years of Ireland's burgeoning Feis Ceol competition, he had to his credit 29 firsts, 12 seconds, 6 thirds, and 1 special prize (according to his own account) from 1897 until 1912. He was one of the first Irish Pipers to be recorded on the wax cylinder. 'The Hag in the Kiln', the tune he recorded, is still a standard in Irish music today and is regularly played wherever Irish musicians gather for a session.

Today, 100 years after his passing, Dinny's tunes are never very far away. And this September, in the town where he lived all his life, a notable new festival and a gathering of Pipers will celebrate his life, his legacy, his music.

Festival Director Frank Owens thinks it's important on many levels that this festival is happening now. "First of all it's the centenary marking the death of a cultural hero, someone who is almost unknown in his hometown. His influence on the music of the Uilleann Pipes and on Irish music in general is remarkable. We all know his tunes when we hear them - even if we can't name them - and yet the man behind them is almost a ghost," states Frank.



The central event of the festival will be a Gala Concert featuring Paddy Keenan and Tríona Ní Domhnaill who first graced the stage together in the famous group "The Bothy Band". They will be joined by Siobhan Peoples on fiddle and Cyril O'Donoghue on bouzouki. Other performers on the night will include Néillidh Mulligan, Leonard Barry, Blackie O'Connell, Eoin O'Riabhagain and Pat Broderick.

On Saturday the festival will host a series of master classes from the attending master musicians, there will be a historical talk on 'The World of Dinny Delaney' on Saturday afternoon and a free Pub trail on the Friday and Saturday nights.

Two special events - also free - will open and close the festival. On Friday afternoon in Gullane's Hotel there will be a rare Piper's Session, featuring up to half a

dozen of the best Uilleann Pipers.

The festival will close on Sunday afternoon with an old tradition: 'The Piper's Chair'; an opportunity for all gathered pipers to perform a solo piece in front of their peers. In the meantime is an open competition for 'The Dinny Delaney Cup' awarded to the emerging Uilleann Piper who best embodies the 'Spirit of Dinny'.

*The Dinny Delaney Festival of Uilleann Pipers runs from 20-22 September 2019 in various venues in the town of Ballinasloe. For full details, tickets and bookings see [www.dinnydelaney.com](http://www.dinnydelaney.com)*

BY JEJE BEGRAOUI

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## THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER.....

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

**THE SPECIAL BABY CARE UNIT** and the Pastoral Care Unit in Portiuncula Hospital have benefited to the tune of €3,022 thanks to a fund-raiser by An Chrinniu Christmas Charity Ballinasloe 12 Pubs. The cheque was presented to Hospital Finance Manager Denis Menton. Over €14,000 has been raised by the group for local charities over the past seven years.

**NIGERIAN-BORN FR. KIERAN DANEOLANI**, who has been CC in Ballinasloe for the past two years, has been appointed Administrator in the Parish of Abbey, succeeding the late Fr. Abe Kennedy. Meanwhile Fr. John Garvey has returned as Adm. of St. Michael's in Ballinasloe following his time in the USA.

**BALLINASLOE RUGBY CLUB** have seen the passing of two former Presidents recently with the deaths of Tom Purcell and Sean Brooks. Mr. Brooks, who was a member of the current committee, was President of the Club in 1981-'82, '89-'90 and '91-'92 while Tom Purcell held the office in 1978-'79 and '95-'96. Both made huge contributions to the club over the years.

**THE MANNION CLAN** will have a Gathering in Menlough on Friday, 16th August. A limestone plaque depicting the Mannion Castle and adjoining "little lake" that gave the village its original name of Mionlach Ui Mhainnin, will be unveiled. There will also be a guided tour on Sunday 17th of the Mannion Clan Historical Trail. Contact [info@mannionclan.org](mailto:info@mannionclan.org) for more.

**ETNA CURLEY-FLYNN** is the new principal of Mountbellew Agricultural College. The Shannonbridge native is a former Lecturer at Galway University, having previously worked at UCD and with Teagasc. She replaces Tom Burke who has retired.

**ROBERT RIDDELL**, Ballinasloe photographer enthusiast, recently achieved his Licentiate Distinction from the Irish Photographic Federation. Robert has been a regular contributor to the front cover of Ballinasloe LIFE since its inception, along with other publications.

**FUND-RAISING WALKS BY GAA CLUBS** in East Galway have raised €15,513 for Cancer Care West. Among the clubs involved were Pearses, Ballymacward; Pearses, Taughmaconnell; Caltra, Ahascragh/Fohenagh and St. Gabriel's, Kilconnell.

**AUGHRIM INTERPRETATIVE CENTRE** will host a series of lectures on August 2nd, 16th and 30th regarding interesting topics relating to East Galway. The lectures are free and further information can be obtained from the centre on 09096 73939.

**ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CHURCH** in Eyrecourt will stage a Candlelight Concert on Saturday, 3rd August at 8.30 pm. Admission is €10 with the proceeds going to the Church Restoration Fund.

**SHANNONBRIDGE BROTHERS** Liam and Kieran Fallon, have spent the last eighteen months restoring, enlarging and modernising the former Flynn's Bar, following the death of Peter (Peadar) Allen. Now they have started trading as "Fallon's Bar" and the local community are delighted to see a landmark premises back in business and life returning to that part of the main street.

**LAWRENCETOWN'S LET'S GET ACTIVE GROUP** will have a day trip to Croagh Patrick on Sunday, 11th August. Children must be accompanied by adults and the cost will be determined by the interest shown in the outing. Further details from 087 7646530.



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# QUEEN OF THE FAIR EVENT SEEKS CONTESTANTS

On Friday, September 20, Gullane's Hotel (Main Street) will once again host the Queen of the Fair event as part of the October Fair and Festival taking place this Autumn.

Promotion for the competition starts in August, and any young girl over the age of 18 is welcome to register to take the chance at becoming the next Queen.

On the night itself, Ollie Turner of Galway Bay FM will be the host, where each girl will get the chance to represent her individual sponsor and will be given time to speak about herself and her interests.

Ollie Turner, the Head of Sports of Galway Bay FM, also hosts the selections of the Rose of Tralee festival for the majority of the country.

The successful girl selected on the night will then become the 'Queen of the Fair' for the year 2019. Apart from the night's show, the judging process also includes individual interviews conducted by a selected panel of judges.

The event is sponsored by Caroline and Tomas Gullane from Gullane's Hotel, providing hospitality for the competing girls who will be able to enjoy themselves in the facilities as well as a sit down supper for all.

Last year, Kathy Colohan won the competition. She has since represented the town at many events throughout the year, such as the Galway Rose.

She was one of almost 30 girls to represent the Ballinasloe Fair and Festival for a place in this year's 'Rose of Tralee'.

Any girl is encouraged to take part in the competition for Queen of the Fair of 2019 as it serves as a great confidence builder. The winner will get to showcase her town and meet a wide variety of people throughout the week of the event and all through the



Committee of Ballinasloe Fair & Festival. L-R, Front Row: Mary Phelan, Mal Croffy (Chairman), Kathy Colohan (Queen of the Fair 2018), Tomas Gullane (Sponsor Gullane's Hotel), Ciara Croffy. Back: Sinead Manning, Kevin Murray, Niall Clarke, Kathleen Croffy, Ana Victoria Curley.



Tomas Gullane, Gullane's Hotel Sponsor, Kathy Colohan, Queen of the Fair 2018, Graeme Gullane, Gullane's Hotel Sponsor.

year. On top of that, she will reign for a full year at other events in the locality, such as Christmas, the St. Patrick's Day Parade, and others. Application forms and further details can be had by contacting [info@ballinasloeoctoberfair.com](mailto:info@ballinasloeoctoberfair.com) or calling 087 2071869.

The format of the October Fair itself has not changed since last year, and includes a variety of activities for both young and old taking place from Sunday September 29, until Sunday October 6.

Building on the successes of last years programme, the festival once again includes a fashion show and a soap box derby, as well as several competitions like jiving, and lunging competitions for the horses, as well as a mare and foal competition.

The highlight of the event will be the final weekend, featuring a fireworks display, stunt bike show, and a big food and craft market - on Sunday October 6, the streets will be closed off and pedestrianised - there will be music on the sound stage on both Sundays. Full programme details will be announced over the coming weeks and can be viewed on fbook - Ballinasloe Fair or website- [ballinasloeoctoberfair.com](http://ballinasloeoctoberfair.com)

BY JEJE BEGRAOUI

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- MAIREAD CARNEY:** Community Development Officer supporting local community groups with training, governance support and group capacity building.
- MARIE FINNERTY:** Employment Officer working with individuals and small groups assisting them to find a route back into employment or education, through the provision of guidance, practical support, training and resources.
- MARY WARD:** Receptionist, responsible for handling front office reception and administration duties.
- FELICITY HANNON:** Administrative Officer overseeing all office operations and programme supports.
- LINDA CUMMINS:** Tús Supervisor assisting the unemployed through the job activation initiative which provides short term quality working opportunities within local communities.

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## YOUTH EXCHANGE CAMP IN CATALONIA

BY MEGAN DONNELLY



Over the course of 10 days, I had the privilege of being part of a youth exchange in the breathtaking Spanish region of Catalonia. A gathering of young people from around the world, under the guidance of four amazing coordinators, had the opportunity to meet and live together for a short period. This group was comprised of youths from the likes of Italy, Spain, Portugal, Morocco, Guiné Bissau and Ireland. Our group was part of Youth Work Ireland, Galway.

The group spent the week tackling topics such as discrimination, gender stereotypes and racism. Getting the chance to delve into these types of discussions in a multi-cultural environment offered a wide range of perspectives, creating a safe open-minded space.

Activities included the likes of the "Cube Game" which focused on how societies function based on their natural resources and advances. The participants of the game were split into three

groups, with each group given different resources in order to make as many 3D paper cubes as possible. Some groups had all the tools necessary to make the cubes whilst others had little to no resources, and so had to resort to bartering and stealing in order to get what they required.

The wealthier groups began swindling more than they needed, because they had the most power and could do so without consequence. By the end of the game, the makeshift world was being controlled by a dictatorship and only one cube had been manufactured within the timeframe. Simple exercises like these proved to be eye-opening experiences, showing how often times power has the ability to corrupt. There were also activities which revolved around borders and stereotypes and demonstrated how objects can often hold more value in our world than living human beings, and how people frequently judge others based on the labels they hold, rather than the people they are.

Throughout the week each group from the four main countries displayed a presentation about their homes, offering a taste of what life is like for them. By sharing their traditions, food, culture, history and languages, they opened up a new perspective that many attending never would've realised existed. This type of interaction truly built understanding and tolerance within the whole group as we shared our differences and celebrated in them. People are shaped by their history and this lesson was truly reinforced over the trip.

This exchange provided us with the confidence to challenge preconceived notions within our communities, while developing a variety of skills to aid us in both our personal and professional endeavours. We built strong ties between ourselves and thus, our countries.

This is an experience I would highly recommend to any young person that yearns to broaden their horizons in a safe and receptive environment.

Youth exchanges are funded by the E.U. through the Erasmus Plus Programme. In Ballinasloe, if you're interested in finding out more about opportunities like this, contact Youth Work Ireland Galway in Marina Point, call 087-6780640.

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**Locally based Rosway Walking Club caters for walkers from the surrounding East Galway and South Roscommon areas. Founded in 2006, the club name is comprised of the first three letters in Roscommon and the last three letters in Galway, to appease the members from both sides of the county line.**

Averaging 100 members each year they have climbed the highest peaks in both the British Isles and in Ireland. As well as hiking in the Dolomites and other Italian locations along with visits to Austria and Spain

November last, saw the club begin planning a hiking week to Lanzarote, led by founders Judith and Liam Roache. A series of meet ups to organize packing requirements and details about the walks themselves were necklaced over Spring till. Twenty members arrived in Lanzarote this June - fully prepared and ready to explore parts of the island that most visitors would never get to see.

One of the highlights of the trip was a long walk to what is known as 'the Secret Garden'. This is a hidden garden built in under cliffs in a very remote location beside the sea. Local knowledge says that a couple who had a very sick child promised to do something special if their child recovered good health. Within a short time of making

the promise the child was running around full of energy and so they started to build what is now called the Secret Garden.

Other walks included walking to the most northerly point of the island, as well as getting the ferry across to the island of La Graciosa, where members had the option of going on a 20k coastal walk with a climb up Montana Bermeja, or a 12k hike across the centre of the island.

Later in the trip, members also had the option of a 14k hike starting at sea level at Famara beach, up to the highest accessible point in Lanzarote at 640mtrs and then a descent down the Malpais trail down to the town of Haria, or a walk through the vine growing area known as La Geria.

In total, taking into account all the alternate walks available the group covered a total distance of 114kms and climbed an accumulated height gain of 2650 metres throughout the trip. Membership of the club costs €50 per annum, with the membership year beginning in November.

Later this year, the club will be walking the Maumeen route in Connemara, The Blackhead loop in Clare, and the Upperchurch loop in Tipperary.

For more information on the Rosway Walking Club, find them on Facebook at: [RoswayWalkingClub](https://www.facebook.com/RoswayWalkingClub).



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# GAA UNDERAGE ENJOY HECTIC SUMMER SEASON



Gerry Seale & Mark Ward presenting cheque for €18,200 to GAA Lotto Winner Michelle Connaughton and sons Lee & Ross.

Michelle Connaughton, was the lucky winner of the Ballinasloe GAA Lotto Jackpot of €18,200 recently. Michelle bought her ticket at Billy King's Pharmacy on Dunlo Hill.

Over the first two weeks of the National School Holidays, the Kelloggs Cúl Camps in Football and Hurling were held in Brackernagh. Over 250 children took part between both codes, in what was a very successful camp. Hopefully all will transfer the coaching they received into their respective teams in the future. A huge effort was put in both by the football and hurling coaches, with some hailing from the locality, as well as the parents who helped with supervision during lunchtime. The club welcomed visitors from Donegal and Carlow for the national finals of Féile Peil na nÓg. The two visiting teams were hosted by families of both the boys and girls U14 football teams.

The girls football team reached the Shield final recently, which was played at the Connacht Centre

of Excellence in Began, Co. Mayo. Unfortunately, they were not to win out on the day, being beaten by St. Brigids, Roscommon 1-5 to 0-2. While they were not victorious on the day, it was still a commendable achievement for the girls to reach the final after overcoming vigorous competition in the preceding matches. The boys' football team was also beaten in the Shield quarter finals, by Co. Offaly's Edenderry.

The club's u16 girls' football team continued their League Campaign by earning themselves a spot in the County Final with a win over Gráinne Mhaols, Clifden in the County Semi-Final. In a game

played in temperatures of 24° the girls had a comfortable finish on a score-line of 6-6 to 3-10.

Earlier in the season, the local u12 Hurlers represented the club in Croke Park at the Connacht GAA Go Games. Before their games, the team, management and parents got a tour of the museum and dressing rooms before entering out onto Croke Park's famous pitch. They

played 3 games of 20 minutes each, and gave a laudable account of themselves against Kinvara, Carnmore and Oranmore Maree. To finish off their day, the teams stopped in Harry's of Kinnegad on their way home for some refreshments - just like many Ballinasloe teams before them!

Championship games in almost all grades of Hurling, Football and Ladies Football have begun. GAA Bingo continues on Tuesday nights in The Emerald Ballroom at 8pm. For more information on club updates as well as upcoming fixtures, check out the club on Facebook at: Ballinasloe GAA.



Ballinasloe U12 Hurlers at Croke Park for Connacht County Games.



Gerry Seale presenting Cheque for €1,000 to Siobhán Devlin at Ballinasloe GAA Bingo.

BY DONOGH MOORE



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## THE 75-YEAR-OLD MARATHON WOMAN

BY KEN KELLY

Ballinasloe-born Teresa Byrne (nee Fogarty) was among the 40,000 participants in this year's Dublin's 10km Mini Marathon. A veteran of more than thirty marathons, where she has raised thousands of euros for worthy causes, Teresa shrugged off a serious shoulder injury and made light of her cancer illness to take part.

The 75-year-old Leixlip woman (pictured below) who recently celebrated Wedding Golden Jubilee with her husband Robert, was this year raising monies for St. Francis Hospice in Blanchardstown-a centre that is very dear to her heart. "I have taken



part in four full marathons, 29 Ladies' Minis and 1 Half Marathon over the years and I will continue as long as I am able. There are so many worthy causes out there that need support and it's great that these marathons give an opportunity to so many to help their local charity" said Teresa.

The former Fine Gael politician and Leixlip Person of the Year added "I walk the marathons. It's a fantastic day with people of all age staking part, willing to raise money for many groups and organisations. I now hope to reach at least forty marathons in my lifetime and I would love to see more young people taking part in these worthy events. My sister Joan and I took part in the Shannon Runway 5kWalk on three occasions, again raising monies for charity."

## BALLINASLOE'S EUROPEAN CHAMPION

BY KEN KELLY



Tristan McDonagh, current Irish Champion and holder of 3 Irish records represented Ireland at The AWPC/WPC Deadlift and Benchpress European Championships that took place in The South Court Hotel, Limerick. Ballinasloe native Tristan was due to compete in the 67.5kg class however due to a viral infection he weighed over this class and competed in the 75kg class instead.

On the day Tristan completed 4 successful lifts overall. He won his new weight class with the highest combined total weight achieving most points for his lifts. This earned him first place in the 75kg class, winning the gold medal and earning him the title of AWPC/WPC



European Champion.

Now Tristan will represent Ireland, as European Champion, in the WRP World Championship Qualifiers due to take place later this year. Tristan trains 6 days per week at the Shearwater Gym and is coached by Eamon Harford the current World Champion Powerlifter.

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## MEDALS FOR LOCALS AT CONNACHT OUTDOOR TRACK AND FIELD FINALS



Caoimhe Kilkenny, who won Gold in both 80 metres and 200 metres. Luke Manning who won bronze in the 80 metres and 200 metres.



Niamh Dunning who won bronze in 80 metres hurdles.



Ballinasloe & District Junior Athletes who recently competed in the Connacht Outdoor Track & Field Championships  
Back Row L-R: Lisa Herity, Lauren Loughrey, Aaron Hogan, Keelan Kelly.  
Front Row: Kate Kilkenny, Laura Bergin.

## TOWN HOSTS SUCCESSFUL COMMUNITY GAMES

Last month the town hosted over 600 athletes and supporters in over 15 sports during the Connacht Community Games Regional Finals, held in over 8 different sporting locations with support from ALL Field Sports, the Emerald Ballroom, The Fair Green and even the County Council Library premises

Carmel Greally, the National Vice-President and Co Ordinator, was fulsome in her praise of all who assisted and thrilled that one of our Ballinasloe teams is progressing to the finals.



Mixed Under 14 Rugby Squad Winners in Connacht Community Games

Enda Jennings (Coach), Niall Jennings, Tomas McCann, Aioibhinn Fitzpatrick, Jack Flynn, Luke Manning, Cillian O'Tuairisg, Ciara Lohan, Alannah McKeigue, Fionn Ryan, David McKeigue (Coach).



Runners Up in the Under 12 Connacht Rugby Community Games  
Back Row L to R: Liam Carroll (Coach), Patrick Barrett, Aodan McDonagh, Odhran Buckley, Caoimhin McDonagh, Euan Kelly, Seamus McGuinness (Coach). Front Row L to R: Colin O'Connell (Coach), Rian O'Connell, Conor Carroll (Captain), Ava Rose Mc Guinness, Aoife Berrigan.

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## FESTIVAL OF SOCCER PRAISED BY VISITING SQUADS

Ballinasloe Town AFC recently held a hugely successful "Festival of Soccer", in the form of the Connacht Community Game semi finals and finals, at various age grades. Under-12 boys and Under-15 girls were represented in the 11-a-side matches, while Under-12 girls were to be found playing in the 7 a side games. Teams from throughout Connacht competed on the day and availed of the excellent facilities made available at the Curragh Grounds.

All of the visiting delegations of mentors, parents and supporters were very impressed with the sporting welcome and quality of the facilities laid out for the participating teams. Local community Games soccer coordinators Michael O'Grady, Jim Doherty and Johnny Walsh paid tribute to the club committee of Ballinasloe Town A.F.C. for ensuring that no stone was left unturned to facilitate a very successful Connacht Finals Day. They paid particular tribute to the club grounds staff and local Community Employment Scheme for preparing the pitches, and to the club volunteers for providing refreshments on the day and for the cleanup of the grounds after the successful day's activities.

Club Chairperson Joby Kelly stated that the club was "honoured to host such a prestigious event as the Connacht Community Games Finals Day and was delighted to showcase the Club's facilities to communities from throughout Connacht".

Town A.F.C. reviewed another successful season at both adult and youth level at the Club's AGM held in the new clubhouse recently.

In his address, Chairperson Joby Kelly outlined in detail the club's activities and successes throughout the youth system and at adult level. He paid tribute to all club committee members, team mentors, coaches and managers and to the Club grounds staff



Mike Lynch, a member of Ballinasloe Town AFC, who is representing Ireland at the 2019 Diabetes Euro Futsal Championship in Ukraine.



Mickey Burke (Management) Tommy Lee Burke (Player) Bobby Burke (Management). All three Burkes who were involved in Ballinasloe Town AFC's recent success in the Roscommon District Youth Soccer League u18 Shield.

and community employment scheme for their vital work throughout the season, with particular tribute going to long-serving Groundsman Brendan McNally and to long serving Club Secretary Ciaran Keighrey who were stepping back from their respective positions.

The club reached the last eight in the FAI National Club of the Year, which added to the previous 'Best Local Sports Club in Ireland' award received several years ago. The Club Treasurer, Ellen Egan, in her financial report to the AGM stated that the Club were meeting all of their financial commitments.

Club Officers and Committee elected were as follows:

Chairperson: Joby Kelly; Asst. Chairperson & Secretary: Wayne Braithwaite; Asst. Secretary: Brendan Fahy; Treasurer: Ellen Egan; Asst. Treasurer: Johnny Walsh; P.R.O: Darren Fallon; Youth Secretary: Sonya Dowd; Asst. Youth Secretary: Mickey Walsh; Groundsman: Michael Burke; Asst. Groundsman: Pat Campbell; Committee members: Brendan McNally, Barry O'Connor, Simon Price, Noel Lyons, Seamus McCarthy, Bobby Burke, Ciaran Keighrey, Petie Keighrey, Mark Duffy.

BY DONOGH MOORE

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# BALLINASLOE GOLF CLUB - 125 YEARS



**Pictured at the Past Captains & Presidents Day at Ballinasloe Golf Club to celebrate 125 Years of Golf in Ballinasloe were**

**Front row:** Mary Howley, Bernie Lally, Tommy Howley, Declan Flanagan, Evelyn Flanagan, Liam Keller, Carol McCarthy, Michael Ward, Adeline Naughton, Pat Kelly, Maureen Quinn, Michael Connolly, Kitty Colbert, John Slattery, Jimmy Connolly, Val Martin.

**2nd row:** Regina Power, Mary Uniacke, Angela Lyons, Cecilia Aylward, Catherine Owens, Margaret Killeen, Nora Kenny, Margaret Creaven, Maria Arnold, Kitty McHugh, Maura Joyce, Anne McCullagh, Helen Carrig, Cora Kenny, Mary Barrett, Theresa Coughlan, Mary Madden, Adrienne Bugler, Barbara Harney, Angela Lyons, Celine Grennan, Pauline Mullins.

**3rd row:** Gaye Barton, Pat Groarke, Jimmy Flynn, John Hurley, Jimmy Joyce, Ciaran Arnold, Joe Gaffney, Sean Keeley, John Power, Eamon Staunton, Michael Cronin, Seamus Grennan, Frank Kavanagh, Conor Carr, Willie O'Rourke, Eileen d'Arcy, Michael Kelly.

**Back row:** Tom Horkan, Willie Dolan, Gerry Kelly, Pat Lawless, David Flynn, Des Madden, Johnny Farrell, Joe Moore, Peter Hill, John Coughlan, Martin Lyons, Mattie Curley, Sean Kenny, Michael Hynes, Seamus Shinnors, Gerry Fitzgerald.

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# GELS ANNUAL GOLF DAY HUGE SUCCESS

BY DONOGH MOORE

The Galway East Life Support Suicide Awareness and Prevention group held their 'Three Ball Scramble' recently at the Ballinasloe Golf Club. The event itself was only improved by the weather, which saw players tee off underneath clear skies, and may even have lent itself to the huge display of talent and form on the day.

Galway Bay F.M., were on site accompanied by their travelling Baycaster. Hosts Valerie Hughes and Marc Roberts were presenting and kept attendees entertained with music and banter throughout.

Throughout the Three Ball Scramble, the ladies' team played to an excellent standard, with the trio of Maureen Dolphin, Bernie Geraghty and Jackie Cunningham taking first place overall. As a result, this team was fortunate enough to win such magnificent prizes of trophies and vouchers for Michael Ward's Menswear each, worth up to the sum of €400.

Joe Ward has been a consistent and valued supporter of Galway East Life Support over the previous years, and this year's sponsorship is much appreciated by all at the local Suicide Prevention Charity. Another long-term sponsor of the charity is Pierce Keller of Kelair Campotel, who sponsored the first prize of a holiday worth over €1,700, was claimed by local woman Breege Dooley.

Galway East Life Support have been based in the heart of the town since 2013, and have a variety of services on offer to those who may need to avail of them. They include, but are not limited to: offering signposting to the services available to sufferers during a mental health crisis, as well as offering training in dealing with these situations, increasing awareness and attempting to remove the stigma around mental health and those who suffer from it. Not only that, but the charity offer the GELS Centre, located in Cullen's Yard, Main St. to various community and wellbeing groups around the town and surrounding areas.



Winning Team - Maureen Dolphin, Bernie Geraghty and Jackie Cunningham.

GELS would like to thank all at the Ballinasloe Credit Union, Ballinasloe Golf Club, all the participants, sponsors and supporters for helping to make their annual fundraiser such a success, over €5,500 was raised. For more information on the services they provide, as well as updates for any coming events, find GELS on Facebook at: Galway East Life Support, check out their newly revamped website at: 'www.gels.ie' or contact them by phone at (087) 123 7878.

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# BALLINASLOE RUGBY CLUB

Ballinasloe RFC recently held the 'Michael Fitzpatrick Memorial Golf Classic' in the local Golf Club.

The day was accompanied by unpredictable weather, but that didn't prevent attendees competing for several prizes, sponsored by the likes of The Fitzpatrick Family, Richie Carroll (Corrib Oil), Mike Goode (Michelin Tyres), Mike Barrett and Cllr. Tim Broderick

Captains Michael Ward and Adelene Naughton and all at the Golf Club showed wonderful hospitality over the days, and ensured that visitors were treated well in the club's new facilities. The winners of the Men's Classic were as follows: the team of Tommy Finnerty, Alan Sweeney, Nigel Moore and Alan Grehan were victorious on 113 points. In second place were Tony Dolphin, Michael Ward, Pat Harney, and Tony Carr on 107 points, and in third place on 104 points were Barry and David Flanagan, Richie Carroll and Jack Coughlan. The winner of the Ladies' Classic was the team of Aideen Bergin, Jackie Cunningham, Olivia Walsh and Elish Brennan. Aside from the Classic itself, other competitions were held throughout the day, such as the 'Longest Drive' and 'Nearest the Pin' competitions. In the men's category, Alan Sweeney won the 'Longest Drive' while Mike Barrett was the victor in the 'Nearest the Pin' competition. In the Ladies' category, Mary Goode and Olivia Walsh were the winners in these respective competitions.

The rugby club were also fortunate enough to receive a visit from Minister Brendan Griffin and Senator Maura Hopkins to the club



Ladies longest drive winner Mary Goode with Ballinasloe RFC President Tomas Waters.



Gerry Kelly, Senator Maura Hopkins, Tom Horkan, Brendan Griffin TD.



Beibhinn Parsons.



Colm Reilly.



Winners of the Ballinasloe RFC Golf Classic Alan Grehan, Nigel Moore, Tommy Finnerty, Karen Fitzpatrick and Tomas Waters, Ballinasloe RFC President.

recently. During the visit, the Minister of State for Transport, Tourism and Sport was shown the club's new astroturf pitch, which was developed with the assistance of a Sports Capital Grant from his department. The visitors were also brought on a tour of the club facilities, during which the current and future development plans for the club were outlined by Club Secretary Tom Horkan and Gerry Kelly. They were also shown the club's list of international features, which includes the likes of Beibhinn Parsons, who represented the country again at 7-a-side level recently at the U-18 Women's Sevens World Games in Paris, and Colm Reilly, who travelled to Argentina with the Irish U20 squad for the World Rugby U-20 Championship.

Following on from the success with Girls Rugby at the club, a Junior Ladies Rugby team is set to be established for the upcoming season. For more details

on training and new membership, please contact Ann Conlon at 087 244 8028, or Patricia Tierney at 087 917 6541.

BY DONOGH MOORE

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# SUCCESS OF INAUGURAL SPORTS ABILITY DAY

Ballinasloe held its first ever Sports Ability Day recently in the Emerald Ballroom and Fairgreen. The event, which was a joint partnership between Accessibility Ballinasloe, Ballinasloe Fit Town and Galway Sports Partnership saw a number of local clubs and groups participating and showcasing the efforts they are making to promote inclusion in sport.

The day got off to a positive start with Noel Mannion, Director of Rugby at the local Rugby Club and Olympic Athlete Katie Dillon opening the event. Noel paid tribute to the work of the many clubs and volunteers within the community and highlighted the range of sporting facilities accessible to people in the area. Katie reflected on the important role sport plays in her life and the many wonderful experiences and friends she has made as a result.

The schedule of events provided opportunities for everyone to get involved in a variety of events regardless of age or ability. Indoor activities included Wheelchair Basketball facilitated by the Shannonside Stealers Club, Strength and Conditioning with Coral Leisure Centre, Tennis for all with the local Tennis Club and lively dance and activity sessions with members of the Ballinasloe Active Retirement Association. James Murphy and Carol Pender led out one of the popular afternoon



L-R Marion Ruane, Stephen Roche, Teresa Coughlan, Deborah Brady – missing from picture Dara Flynn.



Karen Breen.

John Dolphin Wheelchair Basketball.

sessions with the Brothers of Charity Olympics. Marie and John Dolphin ran an inclusive Karate session which proved to be a big hit on the day.

There was great interest in the Bowls Club, and club members encouraged participants to get involved with club volunteers available to explain and demonstrate how the game is played. Ria Purcell Dance School provided the finale dance event which saw children and adults perform together to demonstrate how much fun can be had through dance.

Outside in the Fairgreen, the GAA, Rugby and Golf Clubs all provided visitors with opportunities to give their sport a try with club members on hand to provide advice and encouragement. Tommie Costello from Cuckoo Hill Bootcamp ran an inclusive fitness boot camp.

Throughout the event there were also opportunities to practice cycling skills with a range of bicycles available for different abilities – these were provided by Mark O'Donoghue, who travelled from Cork for the event. The event was closed by Mick Curley, Galway Sports Partnership,

who acknowledged the great work the Accessibility Team are doing for sport within the community and wider county area.

For further information, including photographs of the day please visit their Facebook page at: Accessibility Ballinasloe.

BY DONOGH MOORE



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# AUGHRIM CHURCH TAKES A LEAD ON CLIMATE ACTION

The Church of Ireland parish in Aughrim and Ballinasloe has launched an exciting new initiative to tackle the crisis of climate change. As part of the bicentenary celebrations of Holy Trinity Church, plans were announced for a new Climate Action Woodland, to be developed on a picturesque site in the historic village of Aughrim.

The first new tree of the proposed Climate Action Woodland was planted in memory of the late Michael Hyde, by members of his family. It was done as part of an inter-church ceremony on June 22nd, led by the Bishop of Limerick & Killaloe (Right Reverend Kenneth Kearon) alongside Fr. Gerard Geraghty, Archdeacon Wayne Carney, Rev. Patrick Towers and the Rector of the Aughrim & Creagh Parish Unions, Rev. John Godfrey.

"We feel that we can't just sit back and ignore the crisis of climate change any longer. If we are to look our children or grandchildren in the eye, then we urgently need to take a lead on climate action within our own community," said Reverend Godfrey. "This Climate Action Woodland will help to take carbon out of the atmosphere and protect biodiversity. But even more importantly, we want it to inspire each of us to make urgent changes in our own lifestyles. It is a symbol of hope, that if we act together now, we can stop climate change spiralling out of control."



United in hope - Aughrim people at the ceremonial tree planting.



The first new tree in Aughrim's Climate Action Woodland

Once the new woodland walkway is opened, it will enable people to reconnect with the ruins of an ancient abbey on those grounds. "For all of our churches, this is the site of our shared Christian heritage," explained the Rector. "So coming back here to walk or sit, as we enjoy the natural beauty of this place, is a way of reconnecting with the rhythms of reflection which helped to nurture Christianity here, right back to the time of Saint Patrick."

The 200th anniversary of Holy Trinity Church was celebrated at an ecumenical service which featured musical contributions from the choir and organist of St. Catherine's Church, Aughrim, and renowned local musician John Feeley. As part of the ceremony, three new apple trees were planted in the Rectory Orchard by members

of Aughrim Development Group. The event was rounded off with a garden party in the beautiful grounds of the Aughrim Rectory, accompanied by music from the Ballinasloe Town Band. The parish will be seeking support over the coming months to turn its climate action vision into an amenity for all the community to enjoy.

For further information, please contact: Reverend John Godfrey, Rector of the Aughrim & Creagh Parish Unions.

Tel: 0879008085. Email: [reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com](mailto:reverendjohngodfrey@gmail.com)

**BY KEN KELLY**



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## GARDENING TIPS WITH BARRY WARD



The August calm; having the time now to enjoy the plant combinations in your pots and borders, with the opportunity for some stunning photographs to be taken and used as a reference next year. It's time to sit back a while and bask in the sunshine, absorbing the sounds, scents, sensations and colour of the summer garden.

Make use of dead head flowers that you are not leaving for seed collection (for example: the sweet-pea produce lots of pods in September). This also applies to the summer bedding plant such as geraniums, daisies, all types of petunias (including surfinia) and roses.

Cut late flowers in the garden for floral displays in the home. Dahlias are late blooming and respond well to pruning, with them flowering up to five months. Perennial Osteospermum is bountiful in its production of white, yellow, red, or pink daisies. Penstemon with its self-supporting stems of foxglove like flowers will bloom until October just to mention some. Ask at your Garden Centre for information on repeat flowering perennial plants.

The key to effective dead heading is to remember that you are pruning the plant rather than tidying the spent petals. Always cut rather than break or pull and make your cut immediately above a leaf or a bud, no matter how far down the stem may be. Trim off spent

Lavender flowers but don't cut back into woody stems. Soil can be enriched with organic manure or blood fish and bone meal to enable flowering to continue.

For a good tomato harvest - provide some shading and water the surrounding ground to raise the humidity. Keeping the compost evenly moist will help to prevent problems such as blossom end rot (too dry) or fruit split (too little followed by too much water). Ensure crops keep cropping well by adding liquid tomato fertilizer every week.

Pick ripe fruits regularly as over mature fruit softens and splits may become infected with grey mould. To store ripened fruit; freeze whole, or dry in the oven to keep in olive oil to make soups or sauces to freeze. Always pick crops when they are in their prime, and make sure to discard anything that is diseased.

Chill perishable produce that you can't preserve immediately and don't wash until you are ready to begin preserving, as this can encourage bacteria.

There are six easy ways to preserve your harvests; bottle- conserve- dry- freeze- pickle and store -just choose the method that suits you and your crop.



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# PROFESSOR GABRIEL KIELY

A former member of the West Limerick Brigade of the old IRA and a Ballingarry native, Michael Kiely came to Ballinasloe in the early 1930s to join John Wood's tailoring staff in Main Street. Later he struck out on his own, setting up a drapery and tailoring business in Society Street at what had previously been Mag Walshe's public house, next door to the Society Fruit Stores. He married Cissy Cahill, Town Clerk of Loughrea, with whom he had seven children, amongst them Gabriel, born on 22nd October 1940.

Gabriel attended the local St. Grellan's National School where contemporaries remembered him as more assertive and outgoing than his brother and classmate Austin. In 1962 he enrolled at University College Dublin, graduating with a BA in economics, history and philosophy in 1965. The following year he was awarded a higher diploma in social science, simultaneously winning a scholarship to Florida State University, leading in 1968 to a master's degree in social work.

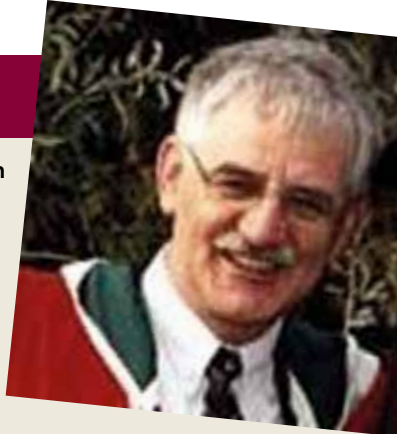
An offer of a post as a social worker for Catholic social services took him to California and enabled him to develop his skills in marriage and family counselling. While there he met and married his first wife Linda Mattison. The couple had four children: Kathleen, Marleen, Frank and Lindara. As a family they travelled extensively, visiting Linda's relatives in California and Italy, and on one occasion they hired a van and drove half way across Africa to call on Gabriel's missionary brother in Bophuthatswana. It was said that Linda's death in 1999 was a heartbreaking experience for all who knew her.

The family returned to Ireland in 1971 when Gabriel was offered a major post in the UCD department of social science, where the first

Irish professional training course in social work had been set up. Here he played the central role in shaping and developing the master's degree course throughout his academic career. At the heart of Gabriel's life were family and relationships, both at home and at work. For many years he managed to combine his teaching with clinical work as a marital therapist at Cluain Mhuire Family Centre in Blackrock. This inspired his doctoral dissertation, an indepth study of a new approach to marital therapy that was to benefit many couples thereafter. A prolific writer in his chosen field, he was the sole author of "Family Change in Europe Since 1970: a Framework for Analysis" and "Finding Love: Counselling for Couples in Crisis". In addition, he contributed to and edited a number of seminal titles on Irish social policy.

A man of great fun, great integrity and immense kindness, Gabriel enjoyed a career at UCD that was long and distinguished: he was director of post-graduate professional training in social work from 1985 to 1991; head of the department of social policy and social work from 1992 to 1998, and from 2001 to 2006; he was also dean of the faculty of philosophy and sociology from 1992 to 1998. He was responsible for setting up, with five other universities, the only master's degree in European family policies that was funded by the EU Socrates programme and located at the Catholic University of Louvain in Belgium.

Awarded the prestigious Jean Monet professorship in national family policies by the European Commission as a result of his great contribution to Irish and European family policies, Gabriel was also invited as a visiting professor to a number of universities abroad. In this country he helped plan the Family Mediation Service and served



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as both a board member and a trustee. He was responsible, as well, for developing and ultimately establishing the diploma and master's in mediation studies at UCD up to his retirement in 2006.

Of his final years an "Irish Times" obituarist wrote: "Gabriel gave a lot of his time and wisdom to the Family Mediation Service, and it was through this connection that he had the wonderful good fortune

to meet and fall in love with Polly Phillimore. They were married in 2005, not long before his retirement. He had a splendidly happy retirement and continued to live life to the full, concentrating on those he loved most: his wife Polly, his grown-up children and his beloved grandchildren." Sadly, Gabriel succumbed to cancer on 23rd December 2010. In Ballinasloe he was survived by his sister Mrs. Marian Bushell of Garbally Drive, who is happily still with us.

## HERITAGE BOOKLET PROCEEDS FOR FRIENDS OF PORTIUNCULA

Heritage week sees a lecture and booklet launch on eighteenth century Ballinasloe by historian Steve Dolan.

The latter half of the eighteenth century saw an explosion in print media and in the nature, variety, and quality of content of print. This was a major advancement on the previous pamphlet or posters-type of 'journalism', which saw various publications printing propaganda.

By the middle of the eighteenth century however, newspapers had become an important part of life and leave an invaluable record of the period for the town.

One article from each year from 1750-99 has been chosen to represent the main stories from the town in that era. This publication is written by Steve Dolan and published by the Irish Workhouse Centre for Heritage Week, with all proceeds going to Friends of Portiuncula.

The Ballinasloe booklet will be launched on Tuesday, August 20th, at 6:30pm in the Library. For more on Heritage Week, visit [www.heritageweek.ie](http://www.heritageweek.ie), and for more on the booklets email [sakdolan@hotmail.com](mailto:sakdolan@hotmail.com) or text / phone 086 4070851.



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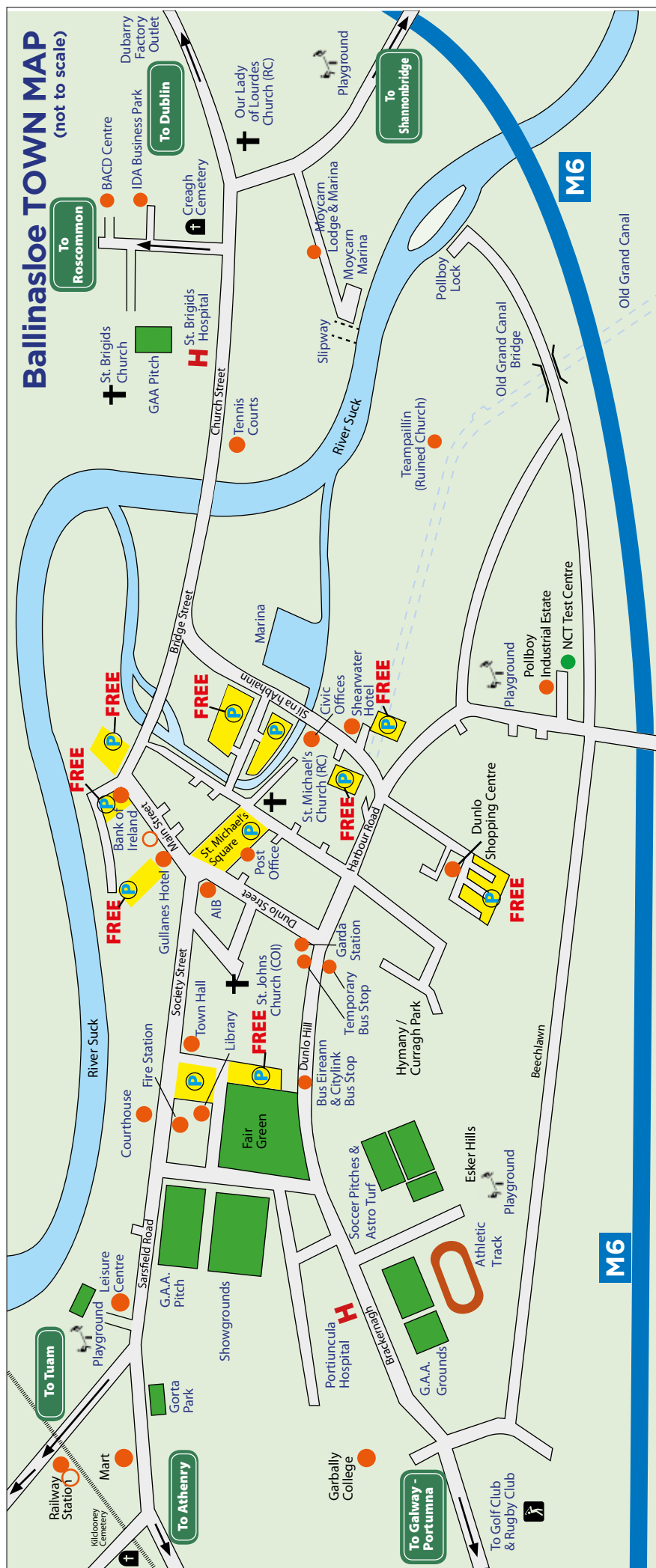
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## Ballinasloe History Walk

**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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