

BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 10 Issue 2: Jun' '20 - Jul' '20

FREE

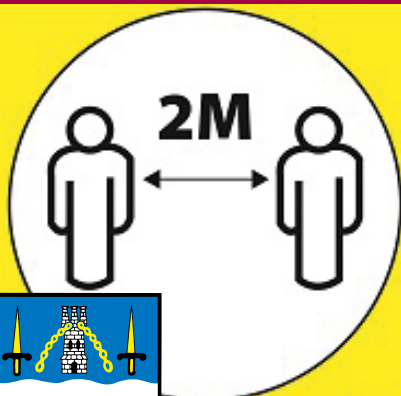


Photo by Robert Riddell

**SALUTING OUR
COVID HEROS**

**SPORTS SUPPORTER
EXTRAORDINARE JOE**

**THE SHOW MUST
ALWAYS GO ON**





Gullane's Hotel

& CONFERENCE CENTRE



Due to the exceptional circumstances we are all in, we are not in a position currently to confirm reopening date.

We will continue to update you on the progress.

We would like to acknowledge the hard work of all those on the front line and thank you all for continued support.

===== *Tomas and Caroline Gullane* =====

**Main Street, Ballinasloe,
Co. Galway**

T: 090 96 42220 F: 090 96 44395

E: info@gullaneshotel.com

Visit our website gullaneshotel.com



REAMHRA

Welcome to Volume 10 issue 2

Welcome to our June / July 2nd COVID Lockin Edition, if the Magazine 8 weeks ago was challenging this was surreal. In our efforts to offer a record of what is happening, occurred and what is planned we have relied a little bit more on memories past and larger than usual profiles.

They say you don't know what you have until it's gone but truth is we all knew exactly what we had; we just never thought we were going to lose it. These last 10 weeks or so have caused us all to pause and reflect on differing priorities.

So many of our community – the front line essential staff – saluted in our centre spread, our cocooners who animate this town and so many clubs and societies have made huge sacrifices. The families of the bereaved (we have a lot of obituaries again in this edition) have suffered the double whammy of bereavement without the traditional Irish wake.

I think however on balance the group next to those who lost their lives or who lost loved ones are the 15 to 25 age group - so many of their freedoms and schedules have been torn up.

Within that group – the parents and pupils of the Leaving Class of 2020 have had a torrid time of it. We publish the photos of the young men and women from our Secondary Schools in this edition with our very best of wishes for their future endeavours in life next.

As we are going to print, the 1 metre versus 2 metre ding dong bobbles along – signalling that the vested economic interest groups have made their sacrifice for the common good and want to go back to normality.

It has not quite dawned on some of us that there is no going back – there is coping, living with, adapting and improving how we can live in these pandemic times. We have yet to get a price on the bill for the last 10 weeks of suspended animation but it will surely pale into insignificance if a second surge and we endure Bergamo or New York style scenes.

Is the price of the second metre worth a second lockdown happening? Will folks behave patriotically for the next lockin? Why must it be 2 metres in our local tavern or café but elbow to elbow in a Michael O'Leary flight? As we emerge along the route map – these and some other huge lifetime questions will be asked of all us.

Stay Safe.

Le Gach De Ghui,
COLM CROFFY,
Editor.



Articles and Photos Welcome

NEXT ISSUE
Deadline 10th of July

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

To advertise your events contact:
ballinasloelife@hotmail.com
or Call 090 964 5831
by 3rd of July

CREDITS

EDITOR
Colm Croffy

REPORTER/
VIDEOGRAPHER
Colm Croffy

CONTRIBUTORS
Ken Kelly, Barry Lally,
and various other contributors

GRAPHIC DESIGN
KPW Ballinasloe

PRINT
KPW Print, Ballinasloe

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

As was the case last year, Morning has turned into night every day, but everything else has changed and we are not clear on what will happen over the next few weeks.

We are over the easy part, which was the closedown of the Economy, but now face an even bigger challenge to reopen same and it is vital that we follow the direction of our Politicians, who up to now have delivered very clear uniform direction.

It is ok to have personal opinions on what should or should not be done but at the end of the day we need to follow the direction given to ensure we are best positioned to fight this virus

The team in Ballinasloe Life are making this copy available online again as we feel it is important to share all the local news while many of our local residents are not in a position to venture far from home. We have printed a small number of copies which were prepaid for (€3) in advance and collected and for an additional sum of €2.50 we are posting pre ordered magazines to any Eircode in Ireland. We have not sought any advertising revenue from our subscribers on this occasion once again but will require this revenue stream for issue 3 of Volume 10 as we plan on printing 7,000 magazines at the end of July.

The cost of producing the magazine online has been €3,500 x 2 (total €7,000) and the Board of Ballinasloe Area Community Development has agreed to underwrite this cost.

As we go through the various phases over the coming weeks it is now more important than ever to support your local Businesses. You have every product you ever needed on your doorstep in a safe environment away from the crowds Multinational Businesses attract from a large catchment area.

You can do this even before shops open via shopballinasloe.ie by buying vouchers for friends, special occasions or even a treat for yourself. This is an initiative of the Pulse Club who have been holding online Zoom meetings to support Businesses on a weekly basis.

Finally I wish to once again thank all our frontline workers in all essential services who have done Trojan work over the past number of weeks.

SEAMUS DUFFY,
Chairman Ballinasloe Area Community Development Limited.



Follow us on
Twitter
[@BallinasloeLife](https://twitter.com/BallinasloeLife)

WHAT'S INSIDE

Local News

- 4 Twelve Months in Office
- 8 ShopBallinasloe Retail
- 9 Hospital Evades Pandemic
- 10 Bruen Brokerage Four Decades
- 12 Tully's Nurseries World-wide
- 14 Car Sales' Workshop Reopens
- 15 New Manager At Shearwater
- 16 New Greenway Project Office
- 17 PULSE Meetings Support Local Business

Community

- 18 Getting Back To Business
- 19 Communion Classes
- 20 Joe Kelly's Memories
- 22 Cocooning Reflections
- 23 Credit Union Supporting
- 24 Accessibility Response to Covid-19
- 25 Burkes Celebrate 65th Anniversary
- 26 Lawrencetown Heritage Trail App
- 26 Gaelscoil Penpal Letter Exchange
- 27 Comórtas Thráth na gCeist
- 28 Leaving Cert Class 2020
- 30 Out and About
- 32 Life Tribute
- 34 Cancer Centre Supports Patients

35 Local Soroptimists

- 36 Ronan Mullen Re-elected Senator
- 37 Murphy Secures Senate Seat
- 39 Dedicated Community Man
- 40 Late Hubie Hardiman
- 41 Crime writer's Book Deal
- 43 Your Theatre Needs You
- 45 Employees Make Contact
- 46 Maureen O'Donoghue
- 48 Information Sought on Doctor
- 49 Local Library Supporting

Sport

- 50 GAA Fundraiser for Pieta
- 51 Golf Club Welcomes Members
- 52 Tennis is Back
- 52 Camogie Club Helps Forum
- 53 Cycling and Fishing
- 54 Soccer Dribble For Hospital
- 55 Rugby Members Join COVID Volunteers
- Tourism And Heritage**
- 56 The Rector of Ahasragh
- 57 Communion Classes From Summers Past
- 58 Lilly's 1964 Street League
- 59 Down Memory Lane
- 60 Old Ballinasloe-75 Years Ago
- 62 Paddy Forde

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



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

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

REVIEW OF FIRST TWELVE MONTHS IN OFFICE

June twelve months ago saw 6 County Councillors returned for the Ballinasloe

Municipal District Area. We asked them all a series of five questions and we summarised their answers for readers. Area Chairman Timmy Broderick and Vice Chair Aisling Dolan will vacate their positions at the summer annual meeting and a new Chair and Vice will be elected.



Tim Broderick

Tim Broderick, a Kilconnell man, topped the poll this time last year in the locals, in this, his third term as a Councillor and is well accustomed to how everything runs. He was elected to the Cathaoirleach's position last summer and has had a busy few months despite having some health troubles during Winter and into the Spring.

He is still adamant that the area boundaries are not fair. "It would have been far more beneficial having five seats to the south of the electoral area and far more effective to take a seat out of the electoral area. We're now looking like we may be in the situation where there's three councillors in the North representing six and a half thousand people, and three in the South, representing seventeen thousand" stated Tim.

He has tried to deliver more and more services to constituents. He is a big advocate for flood alleviation schemes and wants to help the huge flooding crisis in many towns and villages across East Galway.

He is very interested in mental health. "This problem has been somewhat swept under the rug and I want to bring it back to the forefront locally and nationally. It is a crisis and is more prevalent in daily life's than people know" argues Tim.

Still one of the main frustrations remains when he cannot achieve a goal or ambition that benefits a constituent. More times than not it's always down to funding but, he never tries to pursue a project that he believes it is out of reach. "My manifesto that I set out is for five years and all the commitments I gave are realizable and achievable" states Tim.

He finds meeting and talking to constituents enjoyable. He loves to speak about issues of importance to them and to try and make sure that any citizen is on an equal footing when it comes to Council or State dealings.

He was very humbled of being re-elected as poll topper and would like to thank the people for voting for him. He was also very proud of being nominated and elected as Cathaoirleach for the last year. He was also more than happy to help see deputy Denis Naughten get successfully re-elected to the Dail.

You can call him on 087 2728058 or send him an email at tbroderick@cllr.galwaycoco.ie.



Dermot Connolly

Ballinasloe Nutfield native Dermot Connolly entered his fourth term as a County Councillor for East Galway as a proud member of the Sinn Féin political party, who recently claimed their first seat in this constituency in 97 years, through TD Claire Kerrane.

One of the most surprising things over the past twelve months was the great result of his party in the general election. He believes having a Sinn Féin TD in the constituency, who plans on opening up an office in the town, will help immensely when trying to implement his mandate.

With some two decades behind him he has learned all their inner and outer workings of the Council and State. He has questioned Galway County Council about having the lowest budget for development than any other to which TD Kerrane has also questioned but to no reply. He insists that there'll be no change in this budget in the near future due to the uncertainty with the national government.

Core to his mandate are the roads, housing, essential services and river maintenance. He has kept a watchful eye over the progression of the Town Enhancement Scheme here. He is disappointed to see the scheme get pushed back again and believes that work could've still gone ahead during the pandemic.

"I am very frustrated with the progress of housing and roads in the county along with the level of service has decreased over the years. Now it could take one to 25/30 years to just get a road tarred whereas compared to one to 15 years some years ago. Even though people in the county are still paying for the higher level of service and the new property taxes", states Dermot.

Standout successes that he pushed for in the past years was the

GERRY CROFFEY LAWNMOWERS

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

Spring has arrived, and it is time to clean up.

*We have all the machinery you need; Power Washers -
Blowers - Chainsaw - Yard Scrapers - Lawnmowers
- Tillers and Garden Shredders.*



**Be ready for the cutting season,
Drop your Lawnmower in for service now!**

HONDA
LAWN & GARDEN

STIHL

Mountfield

Jonsered

HAYTER

CASTELGARDEN

SCOR



Gills Drycleaners & Launderette

Dunlo St., Ballinasloe (Formerly Harney's)

The one stop shop
for your laundry
and drycleaning needs

Specialists in wedding
dress cleaning,
boxing and preservation.

Servicing domestic,
commercial and
industrial customers

**Expert key
cutting service**

**Open: 9am-6pm
Monday-Saturday**

T: 090 9642461 E: info@gillscleaning.ie
www.gillsdrycleaners.ie

implementation of small housing projects. The housing project in Garbally Drive and the upgrade of Derrycabill Bridge which he deemed as essential. He also played a role in the 'Ballinasloe Says No to Toxic Waste' campaign.

For the upcoming year, he wishes to represent all of his constituents across East Galway from Ballymoe to Clonfert to his best ability. He is looking forward to the result of the enhancement project over the next few months and is determined to improve housing, roads and essential services and to fight for more funding.

To make contact with him, email him at dconnolly@cllr.galwaycoco.ie or ring him on 086 0886160.



Michael Connolly

Michael Connolly, from Moylough, has been a Co. Councillor since 1999. Over the last twelve months, he has experienced no major surprises about the way the system operates given his experience as a long serving councillor, he always tries to keep himself updated on current and upcoming policy, plans, procedures, and strategies.

He continues to work hard and dedicate his efforts for and on behalf of the people of the town, in dealing effectively with queries and concerns of people and organisations throughout the constituency. He believes that the town needs jobs and investment and his membership of the Board of BACD and economic investment is always his number one priority.

"These possibilities are now greater than ever as the town enhancement now coming to completion giving back a modern town with modern services and open for business" states Michael.

He acknowledges that the vast rural area of this constituency is very dependent on agriculture and has been outspoken in relation to poor return for beef, sheep and dairy farmers which is going to be further frustrated with Brexit.

"The biggest frustration in being a councillor is the refusal of the Government to give Galway its fair return from the equalisation fund from the local property Tax" notes Michael.

County Galway only gets €2.8 million from the fund per year, Mayo gets €13 million, Tipperary gets €19 million and Donegal gets €21 million.

This is despite paying more property tax year on year than any of those. He urges the TDs and Senators from East & West Galway to address this shortfall.

He finds the laying off of Bord na Mona workers with no meaningful employment opportunities and the lack of local employment is most frustrating for people effected. This is also making the area an economic black spot with job & investment needs like never before.

"I have ambitions to continue to work hard to deliver for the town and all the other small towns and villages and the vast rural hinterland of the Electoral Area. My fondest wish is that we all make a safe exit from restrictions imposed by Covid-19 so that the area, the country, and the world can return to some normal way of life" states Michael.

To get in contact with Michael, email him on

mconnolly@cllr.galwaycoco.ie or call him at 087 6829049.



Aisling Dolan

Town native Aisling Dolan, has been surprised how public representation at local and national level is crucial to raising the town's profile. Secondly, active community, business and resident groups are invaluable in developing the area with the Council. She believes a strong visionary Executive will help the town build for the challenges in the

next number of years

As a Councillor, she focuses on health, the environment and investment. She successfully requested a meeting with Minister for Health, Simon Harris, in relation to a 50-bed unit for Portiuncula Hospital. In Sept 2019, she led a clinical delegation to Leinster House where they secured a funding announcement and later that year went to tender for first stage of enabling works.

She was a founding member of 'Ballinasloe Says No' which was successful in preventing a waste transfer station. In Sept 2019, with a 2nd permit application, the team coordinated a campaign and submitted over 2,239 objections which was successful.

In Nov 2019, she negotiated to prevent a proposed 9% increase in commercial rates harmonisation for the urban area and worked with town business representatives on a pre-budget submission to all 39 Cllrs.

GEAROID GERAGHTY & COMPANY

SOLICITORS



www.gearoidgeraghty.ie

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

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

BALLINASLOE OFFICE

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

DUBLIN OFFICE

24 Upr Ormond Quay, Dublin 7
Agency No. G050

MOUNTBELLEW OFFICE

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

COUNCILLORS REVIEW FIRST TWELVE MONTHS IN OFFICE

She is working with the committee of Scoil an Chroí Naofa, Society Street to finalise next steps for a new school building with Galway Co. Council and Minister for Education Joe McHugh.

"Limited functions as a Councillor in terms of budget spend – most spend is decided by the Executive is a major frustration for me and the lack of funding in Galway County Council, it is the second lowest funded council in the country at €714 per capita is huge problem" states Aisling.

"People have been getting in touch with me, they are very sound, appreciate any help, information or guidance. I've a full-time job as a project manager in NUI Galway so I'm grateful for people's patience if I'm not immediately available," explains Aisling.

Next out she wants to develop and improve the County Development Plan & Local Area Plan incorporating the acceleration the rollout of National Broadband. She also wants to promote access funds for businesses affected by Covid 19 and upskill workers, while also working for an urban regeneration project for the town in 2021 and of course to continue the good work on the 50-bed unit in Portiuncula.

To get in contact with Aisling, ring her on 086 3690719 or message her on her social media pages.



Declan Geraghty

Councillor Declan Geraghty, a Williamstown native, was re-elected some twelve months ago to Galway Co. Council. He has keyed in on the retention of services in East Galway. Keeping health services, schools, gardai and local businesses open and producing in the locality has been one of his major interests. He continuously promotes the

importance of smaller towns at all levels. He has tirelessly campaigned for rate reductions for businesses who are trying to start back up and to the reduction of insurance rates for them.

He believes that holding onto family farms in rural areas is vitally important. He wants to sustain rural life and stop the movement to urban areas. He wants to improve their quality of life in this way by keeping rural shops, pubs and hardware stores open. "These small corner shops kept small villages running during the pandemic. While larger department stores closed, your local grocery or hardware shops remained open and provided the necessary services to keep people ticking over" insisted Declan.

His major frustration is the huge factor that bureaucracy plays in the decision making of the council. Jobs take too long to get approved and take too long to get finished. In his opinion, they're too many guidelines and loopholes to get work approved.

"I love representing the people of East Galway and I love my job. I wished I could have more time to speak with them in depth about issues they have".

He picketed, every night, with local farmers and TD Michael Fitzmaurice outside meat plants earlier in the year. He heavily supported farmers who struck against unfair treatment. He believes that "factories showed their true colours during the recent scandal with how employees were treated".

Himself and Pat O'Brien spoke out and lobbied for truck drivers who shipping companies were making share cabins. He campaigned for them to have their own cabins and after time, it was successful. "Truck drivers are incredibly important to our economy, they provide us with medical and food services".

Over the next year, he will continue to fight for the people, rural life, services and farmers. He will tirelessly implement aspects of his manifesto that he promised to deliver.

To get in contact with Declan, ring him on 086 2543304 or email him at dgeraghty@cllr.galwaycoco.ie.



Peter Keaveney

Peter Keaveney, from Glenamaddy, earns his living as a farmer and an Agricultural Contractor. He is the chairman of the Glann festival committee, President of the local drama group, former chair of Glenamaddy Community Council and the IFA.

Since being elected into the council five years ago, nothing has surprised him really over the last twelve months. He keeps himself updated with the system and how it runs from day to day. However, he admits, that when he first arrived, he was surprised how difficult it truly was to have an influence on decisions. He also didn't expect the length of time it took to get a project approved and the time it took from start to finish.

Over the last year, he has been focused on getting local projects approved and working. He has continued to work with the local communities across East Galway by getting involved in school schemes and local development schemes. He also supported the 'Ballinasloe Says No' campaign which was successful in denying a waste station being developed.

One of the major problems he has, is the lack of money the county receives to improve infrastructure. He deems this as a serious issue that has got to be resolved. He believes that the roads need a big improvement in East Galway and the need for more funds for them is evident.

"I find full Council meetings as a waste of time. They can run for up to five to six hours on a given day and discussions can sometimes stray off topic. I find the local Municipal meetings a lot more beneficial and efficient when dealing with issues and also finding the solutions to issues" states Peter.

He has always found constituents courteous. He has gotten along well with them in both his council and business life.

He is most proud of two safety schemes completed at dangerous junctions in Glenamaddy and Ballymote. He has gotten a community involvement scheme for Kilkerrin's Sports Grounds - improving their facilities.

"I'm committed to introducing new safety schemes across the county to help keep the roads safe. As a a community director for the GRETB school in Glenamaddy I hope to renovate the building. I also want to push to provide towns and villages with much needed funds and grants.

To get in contact with Peter, call him on 087 2533098 or email him at pkeaveney@cllr.galwaycoco.ie.



THE HAIR GALLERY

Missing everyone & can't wait to see all our fabulous customers as soon as it's safe to open.

Keep an eye on our FB for details of appointments

From Tina, Josi, Karin, Amanda, Aoife and Danielle

Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe | Tel: 09096 43921

f @tinashairgallery

DEVELOPMENT CO. AGM VIA ZOOM

BY LIAM COSGROVE

The 21st AGM of the Ballinasloe Area Community Development Company (BACD) is being held aptly via 21st century technology by ZOOM on June 11th due to the COVID restrictions on assembly.

Chairman of the BACD, Seamus Duffy, hopes that as many members, magazine subscribers and public will try and register their attendance.

Whilst the statutory and regulatory work of all Charitable Not For Profit companies involves formal adoption of audited accounts, auditor and filling of vacancies of directors it still provides a moment of reflection for partners, members and the community.

Both he and the voluntary board of directors are interested in reviewing and discussing many relevant local topics critical to the town that have happened over the last twelve months and what the future year may bring.

BEC Manager Lyn Donnelly will be reporting on how she expects all 170 jobs at the BEC to be retained when all restrictions are lifted. As Advertising and Circulation Manager for Ballinasloe Life she will also outline how Volume 9 went and how the underwriting of two online editions of €7,000 will allow subscribers a break.

A short report on the weekly Pulse club seminars and their annual engagement programme to support business will be outlined as will the new ShopBallinasloe.ie and community emergency numbers for Covid 19.

The Town Team plans on working on events and activities under new Co-ordinator Anita Killeen and new Christmas lights 2020.

The Directors have been working with Galway County Council for grant support for a facelift to buildings in the town affected by town enhancement works. A Project for remote working is being developed. Walks and trails initiative being

worked upon. The town and catchment area Hidden Heartlands working group – meetings were held with Paddy Matthews CEO on developing plans. "Close links have been maintained with Greenway group, Flood relief scheme, Town school project, tidy towns and other groups" and we will be detailing them at the AGM" notes Seamus.

"Some priorities over the next twelve months that we must focus on - are to support all tenants to get back to work at the Enterprise Centre, to develop the Pulse Club further, to foster support needed for Town Team initiatives, to work with all Government bodies to ensure all allocated funding for projects is spent and we need to plan and push for new job creation project" enthuses Seamus.

The AGM for 2020 of the BACD is being held on June 11. If you wish to attend the AGM, contact Lyn at info@ballinasloeenterprise.ie and she will provide you with the zoom password close to the date.



BALLINASLOELIFE

HARD COPIES AVAILABLE

PRINTED EDITION AVAILABLE BY PRE-ORDER ONLY
at www.shopballinasloe.ie

€3 collection • €5.50 posted anywhere in Ireland
(other rates to anywhere in the world)

ORDERS TAKEN UNTIL 10AM TUESDAY 2ND JUNE

JUNE / JULY
EDITION

Shop
Ballinasloe.ie



"Dedicated to what we do"

The outbreak of Covid 19 is an unprecedented situation. During this very difficult time we will continue to deliver the highest quality of care and service to our Residents and their families, treating them with dignity, respect and compassion in line with our Mission Statement. Our overwhelming focus is the safety for all at the Home.

With this in mind, as you are aware, we have restricted visiting however we endeavour to remain flexible and to accommodate all requests/suggestions. We have been facilitating video calls with the use of tablets; feel free to call your family member or friend at any time and a staff member will be on hand to assist the Resident with the call. **Our WhatsApp number for this purpose is 089 4406606.**

Thank you all for your continuing support. We are in this together, stay safe.

Nora Ryan • Person in Charge

Kilconnell, Ballinasloe • Person in Charge Nora Ryan • T: 090 9686890
ballinderrynursinghome@gmail.com • www.ballinderrynursinghome.com

SHOPBALLINASLOE MOVES RETAIL TO NET BY LIAM COSGROVE

Shop
Ballinasloe.ie



Now in its second month since going live, ShopBallinasloe.ie has been hugely embraced by local shoppers and businesses, recognising that there has never been a better time or a better reason to shop and support local.

Shopballinasloe.ie, backed by BCU and BACD, is an online community marketplace connecting shoppers with their favourite local retailers, crafters, restaurants, jewellers, salons and many more around the town and its hinterland.

Although some shop doors might be currently closed and others are beginning to re-open, times are uncertain for everyone, local businesses can now get online and continue trading in just a few easy steps. The most important thing is shoppers can continue to buy locally from the safety of their own home, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Since its establishment, it is Ireland's first website to offer a full ecommerce store – where local businesses can sell products and services in one marketplace. They are now over 60 local businesses onboard with more joining on a daily basis with over 700 products available to choose from.

Categories include: gifts, fashion, homeware, sports, nursery and many more. There have been over 200,000 website views over the first two months. Service based businesses can now

avail of – solicitor / accounting/ counselling / marketing services etc. Businesses such as Cahalan's Jewellers, Wag'n'Tails, Kellers, Downey's, Shearwater Hotel, Colourful Things, Sign Space have signed up.

It has gotten great attention from the national audience and many towns across the country have taken up on this idea. "This is great initiative with a simple clear message that highlights the need to buy local. The idea is simple, we are asking businesses and shoppers in the area to support the local economy, to attract new business and to help ensure our towns survives," says Joe Glennon and David Ansley of Kickstart Web Design.

It is important to support your own local businesses through the months ahead to secure a strong future. When you invest money in your local economy, you're not just helping local business owners – you're also helping yourself. You're making the town a better place to live in, with a rich character, thriving economy and tightly knit community. And the more local businesses prosper, the more new businesses will open, making it even easier to continue shopping locally in the future

Get on board, if you're a retailer, crafter, restaurants, jeweller, restaurant etc. they'd love to hear from you.

Contact them at:

www.shopballinasloe.ie and hello@shopballinasloe.ie.

You can also check them out on Facebook and Instagram



Left to right: Joe Glennon, Honoria Mitchell Black, Lyn Donnelly, Niamh Creaven Connaughton, Marian Brady, Seamus Duffy - Chairperson Ballinasloe Credit Union, Dave Ansley

NOW TAKING APPOINTMENTS FOR HD BROW TREATMENTS

2020/21 Bridal Diary Now Open



Contact The Front Room
for all your wedding needs

The
Front Room

Waxing & Beauty Rooms

Call 090 9646893

or find us on:



@ The Front Room



@ thefrontroomsal



@ thefrontroom_ballinasloe

It's been a busy two months for all involved in the health sector, but especially for the Management and Frontline Staff at Portiuncula Hospital.

Using end of May official figures the Coronavirus Pandemic hit all-time highs with upwards of 24,500 people having tested positive for the coronavirus in this country alone. There have been over 461 positive cases in Galway City and County which is just 1.6% of total cases in the country. Galway City and County with a population of 258,055 makes up a little over 5% of the total population of the state.

Roscommon county, with a population base of 64,500 (a little over 1% of the state's population), had some recorded 319 cases, equating to some 1.3 % of the total cases. It is believed by health commentators that the Meat Plant situation may have caused the significant growth in recent weeks in the Roscommon figures.

Portiuncula has had six of 3,225 coronavirus patients hospitalised in the country, which has left them in the bottom third of all 69 public and private hospitals. Thankfully May 25 was the first day since March 21 with no coronavirus deaths in the country.

Only "very urgent" inpatient, day surgery, diagnostic, and outpatient appointments are now taking place at Portiuncula. This is to ensure that the facilities have the necessary capacity to deal with suspected and confirmed Covid-19 cases, according to the Saolta University Health Care Group. A small number of urgent cancer and time critical procedures, appointments, or tests have proceeded over the last two months.

People being admitted to the Emergency Department and on trolleys have reached all-time lows. As per the INMO, there is no patient on a trolley in Portiuncula. UHG has also experienced these low trolley numbers. UHG had 760 people on trolleys in January compared to zero people on trolleys in May.

Ann Cosgrove, CEO Saolta Hospital Group, has stated that they are working on how to improve the emergency department by using social distancing. They believe that they will have to be working with Covid restrictions in Emergency Departments until the end of the year.

Charlotte Carter, Clinical Nurse Manager of the ICU at Portiuncula, said staff "really appreciate" that the public has been adhering to public health guidelines, including washing their hands, keeping their distance and staying at home. These efforts are allowing healthcare workers at Portiuncula to "manage this pandemic with more sustainable numbers," she said.

Charlotte explained that rooms in the ICU have been turned into "negative pressure" zones, which is an isolation technique used to prevent cross-contamination.

"This basically means it is much safer for the doctors and other departments that are managing the patients and it is a more comfortable environment for the patients while they are here as well," Charlotte explains.

The public must "keep up the good work" to ensure ICUs like that at Portiuncula do not become overwhelmed, she said.

Portiuncula Hospital sits in 29th place out of 69 public and private hospitals across Ireland in terms of ranking on RateMyHospital.ie. In comparison to neighbouring hospitals, Portiuncula remains 6 places above Roscommon County Hospital, and 36 above University College Hospital Galway.



Eimear Loughnane & Co.
SOLICITORS



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

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



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

Practice areas include:

Conveyancing (property purchases & sales)

Probate, Wills & Estate Planning

Personal Injury Claims & Litigation

Family Law

Employment Law

Debt Collection



BUSINESS AS USUAL... just done differently!

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

BRUEN BROKERAGE FOUR DECADES OF SERVICE



Early Window Signs - 1980 - Main St.

Gerry Bruen is celebrating 40 years of business with his Insurance Brokerage this year. His family were steeped in Insurance – his father Joe and Uncle Paddy set up a brokerage in Roscommon in June 1930 and traded under the title of Bruen Bros. & Co. (selling motor insurance three years before it was legally required to have it under the Insurance Act 1933 !).

His brother took over the business when his Dad passed away. After a few years he joined the Insurance Corporation of Ireland later

becoming infamous when it collapsed heralding the introduction of a “temporary” insurance levy.

Thankfully he had long gone at that stage and cannot be blamed for that !! He then joined Shield Insurance company, now renamed Zurich Insurance. His plans to go into partnership with his brother came unstuck when The Irish Permanent approached him to manage their local agency in town.

“The opportunity was too good to pass up; so on March 3rd 1980 Bruen Brothers and Co. Ballinasloe was born !! My office was set up in Main Street in the old post office (Where Vodaphone now operate from)”, states Gerry.

In 1982 the premises moved to Dunlo Street (Now the Deli Store) and finally moved to the current office in Society Street. When he came to town first, along with his flatmates from a local bank – they got to know the local pubs, the cinemas the Ashling and Swanwicks.

He joined the Musical Society and was happy to play Motel in Fiddler on the Roof. He hopes to take part in the 40th anniversary

of this show in 2021 as a cast member. He served as chairman of this society for a few years, as well as chairperson of Junior Chamber and finally as a founder member of the local Lions club. In the late 90s he was elected President of The Chamber of Commerce and was the founding chairman of BACD which has exceeded his expectations

Along the way he obtained his Chartered Insurance practitioner status and also became an associate of the Chartered Insurance Institute, becoming a qualified financial advisor in latter years. He was a founder member of the Insurance brokers Association and later served for four years on the national executive. Two years ago this organisation merged with PIBA creating a unified broker representative body for over 1200 firms

While involved with Junior Chamber he met a young lady who worked in Duane's Pharmacy, so when the Lions club first dress dance was held he had to find a dancing partner. “All I knew was her name was Ann, didn't know her address - I knew she worked in Duane's so I had to queue up in the shop and wait for her to come out so I could ask her to the dance. Within 18 months she became my wife, friend and support over the years. We have been blessed with four children and I am very proud of each and everyone of them” recalls Gerry.

Looking back at 4 decades in business he is proud of having helped many young couples get a mortgage. “Over the years I was able in a small way to act as a conduit between local people and Irish Permanent Head office to achieve their dream of owning their own home” explains Gerry. Irish Permanent evolved over time to become a mainstream bank and phased out Agents in 2008.

His main job is to advise clients on their insurance needs and then to try to source an Insurance provider to match those needs. “We have a relationship with a wide range of Insurance providers for private motor insurance alone we deal with 14 providers and in excess of that for other classes of business. We are members of Brokerline Direct, the longest and largest broker network in Ireland. This network has in excess of €500 million in premium income and we can therefore utilise this strength to bring ongoing value to our clients in the form of more competitive premiums and



*After the Lockdown,
you'll need to escape!*

Call Keller Travel for your
Ticket to Freedom

T: 090 9642131

KellerTravel **60**
VALUE • SERVICE • EXPERIENCE **YEARS**

Keller Travel Main Street, Ballinasloe

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

worldchoice 

Government Licence & Bonded: TA0148



Current Premises Society St



Gerry and family - daughters Heather, Leah, Sarah, wife Ann and son Richard.

enhanced cover" enthuses Gerry.

He laughs at modern day annoyance with poor coverage of mobiles. "In 1980 I had to wait two to three months to get a telephone line which meant Initially I had to operate via a telephone kiosk across the road and ensure I had plenty of small change – can you imagine?"

The advances in technology and the role of woman in the financial services sector – from once purely providing secretarial and tea making duties – the ladies now are on par with the lads – in terms of roles, management duties are two key changes witnessed by Gerry.

Looking around the town centre Gerry is worried about the future "our Centre has not performed well in the last decade. The loss of local jobs means folks have to travel elsewhere for work. Coupled with the rise of multinational retailing has resulted in fewer people shopping with the small local retailer. They then struggle to survive and close. The choice of goods offered locally diminishes and people then go elsewhere making the problem worse. Apart from the clothes retailer this becomes very obvious when looking at the decline in the number of grocery shops locally. When they are gone they are gone and with them the heart of the town" cautions Gerry.

As to future of brokering in provincial towns: "The death knell for brokers has been sounded for decades. Cheap insurance on line is only cheap when purchasing it. The lowest price is not always the best. Buying on line does not let you seek advice, it is designed to sell only and does not provide the choice and ongoing service provided by the Broker" argues Gerry.

As to Ballinasloe-he feels it is ideally situated in the centre of Ireland with great connections - correct internet connection business can be conducted from anywhere in the town as home working in Covid-19 has shown. "The quality of life here is particularly good with excellent sports and education facilities. It is a nice town to live in with your family and offers the opportunity for a good work/play balance" stresses Gerry.

Gerry took up running after a recent health scare; "I plan to keep running for as long as I can, two marathons now under my belt which is more than I ever expected I would do. Long term probably shorter distances but plan to keep the social aspect as much as possible" notes the Roscommon native – showing no signs of easing off!

"Forty years ago I took a chance and moved to here. I have never regretted that move and I am thankful to many clients, friends that have made it all possible. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge my back up staff. Without them and their loyal support it would not have been possible" enthuses Gerry.



Gerry outside Main St premises in April 1980

National Learning Network
Learn to change your story

Now available in Ballinasloe

Home Based Computer Course

Unemployed due to accident, illness or disability?
Interested in improving your computer skills in order to return to work?
If so then contact us about our **FREE Home Based Computer Course**; a flexible programme that combines both centre based and home-based learning.

No course fees apply and students are provided with a laptop and all necessary course material.

For more information:
contact Kevin Fitzgerald
☎ 086 0432 801
🌐 www.fetchcourses.ie/courses
📍 National Learning Network,
Horizon Business Park,
Ballybrit, Galway

Free life-changing courses
and supported **training**



Founder-Marty Tully

Some fifty odd years ago, a Ballinasloe man who had been "pottering around" with flowers and plants at home, decided to go on a training course to the Botanic Gardens in Dublin to learn more about the outdoor environment. Martin (Marty) Tully's first encounter with gardening was helping his grandfather Pat Tully, who's late wife was a victim of the Spanish flu in 1918. She was formerly Anne Hynes from Creggan and was only 41 when she died.

The Derrymullen man also has very fond memories of the times he spent with Martin Madden who lived beside the Handball Alley-a great gardener as was his brothers Austin and John. Martin was from Deerpark and Marty brought milk every day to Martin's house. "I think horticulture was in the blood somewhere. My mother's uncle James Harney, originally from Kilclooney, was a Horticultural Instructor in Co Louth in the 40s." Today Marty and his family are one of Ireland's largest nursery suppliers, operating in north Co. Dublin from a forty acre site.

From the football stronghold of Derrymullen, Marty was educated in St. Grellan's National School and St Joseph's Garbally and featured on both the Ballinasloe minor hurling and football teams. He joined his late father in the building trade but his love of nature and farming attracted him towards a different career.

He graduated from the National Botanic Gardens and following a spell with Dublin Corporation and Dublin County Council he and his wife Joan decided to set up their own business in 1973. They bought a half acre site in Ballyboughal, in North Co. Dublin, built a family home and embarked on a small nursery and landscaping business.

They were one of the first in Ireland to forecast a market for potted plants and by 1983 the established Tully Nurseries became Ireland's

first wholesale cash and carry centre for the country's growing number of landscape contractors, By 1990 the award-winning nursery was supplying garden centres around Ireland with a wide range of perennials, climbers, shrubs and trees, as well as exporting to the United Kingdom.

Today, Tully's import stock from specialist growers and nurseries from all over Europe as well as Australia, supplying garden centres, DIY shops, supermarkets etc, Several new plants bred by Marty are grown under licence all over the world, including Hebe Rhubarb and custard and Hebe Joan Mac.

The staff of fifty includes Marty and Joan's three adult children, Padraig, Niamh and Martin Jnr. They are a formidable team that thrive on their successes of national and international awards, resulting from long hours of dedication and hard work to an industry they love and are immensely proud of.

Founder Marty likes to stroll around the nursery, an enjoyable place to be cocooned in these amazing times and said "We had some rough times over the years, but we managed to pull through and keep going. I am lucky that my family got involved from an early age and as we all live within easy reach of the business is fantastic. Challenges will always come when you are in business but it is important to embrace life with attitude, both the good times and the bad times" he remarked.

For relaxation, he likes to play the odd game of golf in Balbriggan Golf Club where another Ballinasloe man Nigel Howley is the club professional.



The Tully family, from left: Niamh, Martin Jnr., Joan, Padraig and Martin Sr.

Putting off making a will?

Let us make things a little easier.
Draft your will online at
www.phogan.ie



PATRICK HOGAN & CO.
SOLICITORS



We remain open and all services are being delivered. Call outs for will/document signing on request.



Our Address

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



+353 (0)90 9642110



+353 (0)90 9642107



info@phogan.ie

LOCAL THERAPIST'S RESEARCH TO BE PUBLISHED

The outcome of Frank Kennedy's Master's research in psychotherapy will be published in The Journal of Humanistic Counselling this July. This is an American peer-reviewed publication which validates Frank's research as a worthwhile contribution to the field of psychotherapy. His research studied the personal and professional significance for the trainee therapist of learning emotion-focused therapy.

His study found that this particular method of training increased the trainee therapist's emotional awareness of their own early life experiences, leading to greater emotional assurance in both their lives and work, and a greater authenticity in working with clients.

This is a particular area of interest in Frank's therapy practice.

During the pandemic Frank is meeting clients in his consultation room in Church Hill through a perspex screen. He can also meet by Zoom or phone if clients prefer.



KILMARTINS GARAGE RE-OPENS

After being closed for almost two months, Kilmartin's Garage, on the Athlone Road, with the safety of their customers for their reopening, will be enforcing social distancing guidelines across the store.

Customers can avail of their online booking service on www.fredkilmartinltd.ie, all you have to do is click book online tab and follow the instructions. They will also offer a collection and delivery service where their customers are unable to get to the forecourt.

All vehicles have work carried out in the workshop and will have their vehicle sanitised by the Sany Car System. Sany car is the ideal device to sanitise and deodorise both the interior and whole air-conditioning system of every type of vehicle: cars, campers, SUVs, minibuses, ambulances, medical cars, vans, even trucks.

Sany car is a light and easy to be carried and it is powered with electric energy through a normal socket. It's provided with a simple and intuitive display with three pre-set working programmes, different for the duration of the treatment and the quantity of ozone to produce.

Its exclusive "Safe System" allows to reconvert the residual ozone in oxygen in a safe, quick and completely automatized way. Thanks

to this device, it is possible to deliver and use again the vehicle just after the end of the treatment.

"When Ireland called we all answered and did what we do best, supporting our neighbours and friends in this difficult time. As we try to get used to this new norm, we have now a new place in our hearts for all front line workers from the Local grocer, Gardai, Nurses, Doctors, Paramedics, Postal workers, all essential workers and charities along with everyone that supported the fight against this pantomimic" states Michael Kelly, Sales Director.

Please contact 090 963 0800 for appointment. To keep up to date with Kilmartin's, visit their website.



Caroline Glynn Service Advisor and Lara Kelly Parts Advisor

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
Gaillimh · Galway

Pre-Start • Start • Grow

If you want free expert advice on your business idea, mentoring on a specific aspect of an existing small business, and access to a range of financial supports to help grow your business, Local Enterprise Office Galway is your First Stop Shop. From social media and business management to development programmes, your experienced local enterprise team can point you in the right direction.

We're #MakingItHappen

Local Enterprise Office Galway
Aras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway
091-509090



Visit www.localenterprise.ie/Galway to see our full range of supports

TOM RAFTERY CAR SALES' WORKSHOP REOPENS



Tom Raftery

After careful thought and consideration, Tom and Mary Raftery have decided to re-open their workshop.

Our little island has battled with the contagious nature of COVID-19 over the past number of months and due to the hard work and commitment of our front-line staff, we are beginning to see some very positive results.

At 'Tom Raftery Car Sales' they recognise that the commitment to stopping the spread of COVID-19 is a long term objective, and therefore they have made many changes to the way they operate.

Their modern workshop has been providing outstanding service for over 20 years. Known for their expertise in Peugeot, Kia and Isuzu 4x4's, they also cater for ALL vehicle makes and models.

To ensure that your manufacturer's warranty is maintained, they use original replacement parts and recommended lubricants.

They then carry out all of the manufacturer's recommended service procedures. The popular NCT check-over service provides customers with a full vehicle health check inclusive of video feedback.

The parts department has just recently expanded, and they now stock a wide range of original manufacturers parts for all makes and models of vehicle, with same day delivery.

Needless to say, the health and safety of all their staff and customers is paramount when it comes to providing these services to the local community. A collection and drop off service for all customers in the local area is now offered, thus reducing the risks associated with travel.

All vehicles will be thoroughly sterilised prior to and after servicing; inclusive of cabin and key sterilisation. In addition, air-con sanitisation and cabin filter replacements are available by request.

Payments can be made via contactless or over the phone, reducing the need to use cash or a keypad. Although they will only operate on an appointment only basis, emergency break-down assist will be available.

Opening hours are 9am-6pm Monday to Friday with Emergency services provided on Saturday mornings. Call on 0909642686 for more details.

Feel free to plan ahead for your next car purchase (new or used) on their website www.tomrafterycarsales.ie. They have a range of highly desirable 2018-2020 Peugeot 3008's and 5008's coming into stock over the next number of weeks so stay tuned. Trade-in quotations are available online via email or through our facebook page.

"All here at 'Tom Raftery Car Sales' hope you stay safe, stay well and look after each other" advises Tom Raftery.

BY LIAM COSGROVE

Moycarn lodge & marina

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

We hope you are keeping safe and well in these unprecedented times. We look forward to seeing you when we can re-open. When we do open we will be following HSE guidelines regarding social distancing and all other safety measures. Many thanks for your support so far.



TEL: 090 96 45050
BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY

NEW MANAGER AT SHEARWATER HOTEL

BY LIAM COSGROVE



Barry Lynam

Longford man Barry Lynam, had just got a few weeks of his new General Management appointment at the Shearwater Hotel behind him when the closedown occurred.

With some 20 years of Hospitality Industry experience behind him since he studied Hotel Management in AIT, his career weaved its way from Cabra Castle in Cavan to Ballyseedy Castle in Tralee, before moving to the Sheraton in Athlone.

He opened and ran a busy Pubhouse in his local town-Edgeworthstown-for four years before being appointed Deputy GM in Moyvalley Hotel and Golf Resort prior to heading to the Shearwater and now to the Comer Group.

Barry joins the four star facility at a critical time in the re positioning of the property after some 18 months of investment in renovations by its new owners.

"The refurbishment of the ground floor is now complete. The bar and restaurant were completed during the shutdown due to Covid-19. After we open on the 20th of July we are going to focus on the domestic market. I believe most Irish people will holiday in Ireland for the remainder of the year and we will have to capitalise on this with a well-placed marketing plan" states Barry.

The Shearwater employs 35 full time staff and 80 plus part time staff. The hotel has always kept the core team very local and that is instilled in the Comer Ethos to support the local economy with jobs and local sponsorship.

"The Hotel's focus was and still is after Covid-19, is to build the Shearwater Hotel as one of the leading Hotels in Galway and a beacon for the Hidden Heartlands" explains Barry.

Looking at the key advantages for the Hotel now in Ballinasloe – he points out that The Shearwater is perfectly placed in Ballinasloe, being on a main commuter belt between Dublin and Galway which services a busy business trade. With it only being 35 minutes from Galway it is a great attraction for tourists.

Shuddering back to post COVID Life– most consumers will be nervous of the atmospheric popping in for lunch - booking a celebration meal for an Anniversary, for a Club looking to book the Ballroom for a fundraiser but Barry remains adamant on one issue. "As its stands we are still unsure what the future will bring in relation to small gatherings, but one thing I am sure of is that we don't want to lose our Cead Mile Failte which will still ensure that all guests and staff members are protected in the work place" explains Barry.

With the anticipated lack of international visitors for the remainder of the season, the Group are going to focus on the domestic market with a well-placed marketing plan which will be key to the hotels survival.

Looking a bit further down the road he believes that Social Distancing will be with us for a long time. "The key challenge for all us in the Hotel sector and especially here at the Shearwater will be to balance the Social Distancing and people having a great experience" states Barry.



M6 MOTORS

Creagh, Ballinasloe.

Over 70 quality used cars in stock

NO.1 FOR CAR SOURCING

Warranty and finance available

Alan Naughton

090 9645801

www.m6motors.ie



NEW GREENWAY PROJECT OFFICE

At the last Roscommon County Council monthly meeting, Councillors were informed that the Greenway works would begin to go ahead for the 140 kilometer stretch from Athlone to Galway after a five-year stall.

A special project office for the Athlone to Galway section of the Dublin to Galway greenway is to be opened above the Library in Society St. in the coming weeks.

The Planning Office will see some eight to ten fulltime staff, for the upcoming two years. The office is meant to make it easy for the public to stay informed on any progress and increase confidence

amongst the community.

The town will have a major impact on the Greenway project which will cost in excess of €5 million. The off-road cycle between Dublin and Galway will pass through other Galway towns and villages such as Aughrim, Loughrea, and Oranmore along the hard shoulder of the N6.

RPS consultants appointed to carry out the scheme are hoping to organise a public consultation later in the Summer with completion of the project expected in 2022.

TESCO AWAIT CAFÉ PLANNING

Tesco Shopping Centre in Dunlo are awaiting a delayed decision from Galway County Council for a new café on its 0.2ha car park.

The new stand alone café will be situated in the north western corner of its Dunlo site. They are currently seeking to build with a floor space of 232sqm and 10sqm of which will be used as a bin store. It is not clear from the plans submitted if they plan to close their instore coffee dock or how the management of this facility will be – perhaps similar to other sites around the country- with a franchise, operating it.

The café will have a sit-down area where customers can eat and consume beverages. They hope to also provide a takeaway option. They will also be providing outdoor seating, bin storage, associated signage, a new footpath, hard and soft landscaping, ten new bicycle parking spaces and two universal access spaces.

There have been some objections on the basis of erosion of the town centre through the provision of inappropriate out-of-centre use, further impacting on the levels of footfall for other businesses and eroding viability.

Decision expected after June 14.

Downey's Bar & Restaurant

**EVEN THOUGH OUR DOORS ARE CLOSED,
OUTSIDE CATERING
IS STILL AVAILABLE,
RIGHT TO YOUR DOOR**

**Contact Marina
directly on 0872311385
for more details**

Society Street, Ballinasloe



STATIONERY

BOOKS

SALMONS
DEPARTMENT STORE

GIFTS

ALL YOUR GIFT IDEAS UNDER ONE ROOF
OPEN NEW HOURS MON-SAT 10AM TO 2PM

**New board games and Art and Crafts, wool now
in store to keep you busy during the lockdown.**
STAY SAFE EVERYONE!

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

MAIN STREET, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY

Tel: 090 9642120 Email: salmonsstore@gmail.com Web: www.salmonstore.ie





Ballinasloe Pulse Club Members with special guests.

Pat McDonagh, Eleanor McEvoy & Sean Gallagher, at one of the clubs events held earlier this year.
Pat McDonagh, Paddy Finn, Eleanor McEvoy, Sean Gallagher, Brian King, Honoria Mitchell Black, Eoghan Kenny
Joe Glennon, Niamh Creaven Connaughton, James Coyle, Lyn Donnelly, Renate Kohlmann

In these extraordinary times, businesses have to pivot fast to respond to the challenges and make massive changes to get through these weeks and months ahead and the business community here are doing just that, under the guidance of the Pulse club a number of different initiatives have been set up to support and advise each other.

The Pulse Club is a resource for entrepreneurs from all business types offering mentoring, support and local network. Since the restrictions were imposed some six weeks ago, the club has hosted webinars every week offering guidance, advice, guest speakers and a networking platform for businesses in the area.

The webinars are held every Wednesday at 12.00 pm. The topics covered every week are directed by the requirements and needs of the local businesses to support them and help them survive and thrive through these difficult trading times.

The first Webinar was presented by Renate Kohlmann (Grow Remote) & Eoghan Kenny (The Compliance Team) which gave an invaluable insight to everyone about remote working and tools

and tips on how to use different online platforms to communicate with employees, clients and suppliers.

Since then presentations have been made by James Coyle (Coyle & Company Chartered Accountants), Stephanie Colombani (Galway Local Enterprise Office), Dorothy Scarry (Health and Wellbeing Ltd), award winning composer and conductor Eimear Noone gave an inspiring seminar about her world conquering business. Padraig O'Connor from Coach your Goal, did a session with the group, Araya Business support advised everyone on Social media marketing & advertising. The most recent webinar (27th May) being hosted by Kingsley Atkins from the Networking Institute.

Kingsley Atkins is a recognised expert on networking and has written and spoken extensively on the topic. He has run workshops and presentations for some of the world's leading companies such as Google, LinkedIn, Accenture, Deloitte, Intel, KPMG, PwC and a number of leading law firms in Ireland and elsewhere.

Their plan for the next 2 months is to continue the weekly webinars. Following a survey carried out by the club, the topics and the attendees of the webinars wish to cover are as follows social media advertising, online advertising, PR, remote working and how to prepare for businesses to open/"return to normal".

They will also be changing /alternating the times of the webinars to morning and evening sessions to try suit as many people as possible. Details of all upcoming webinars will be posted on thepulseclub.com and presentations and recordings of sessions will also be available.

To keep up to date with the happenings of the Pulse Club, check out their Facebook Page or the website www.thepulseclub.com



Kingsley Atkins, who delivered online Webinar at end of May

COLOHAN'S HARDWARE

Tel: 090 - 9643667

*Dear Customer,
Just letting you know about our in store specials...*

Let us quote for the tiles you need.
If we don't have them in stock we can order them.

Orders over €1k get free adhesive.

Range of bathroom suites on display.
MIRA showers - Electric / Power / Hot Cold.

Specials on suites from €120

Very competitive prices on doors.

Oak €99
Primed €45
Moulded architrave / Skirting / Frames

Stockists of Color trend paints.
House lots special rates.

Come in and get some advise on our range of colours and products

Stockists of Paving / Walling / By kilsaran.

Stocklists of all building materials



GETTING BACK TO BUSINESS

BY LIAM COSGROVE



Local businesses are being asked by Denis Naughten TD, to consider how they can introduce social distancing to allow them to safely re-open and also what supports they may need.

Last month in the Dáil, Denis Naughten proposed measures which could allow people to safely return to work, including placing a yellow notice on public access to the workplace outlining how they are complying with social distancing rules.

“Over the coming weeks steps are being taken to re-open our economy. However, we are all conscious of the fact that it won’t simply be a case of ‘business as usual’ and that we will have to find new ways of doing things,” explained Deputy Naughten.

“Social distancing will remain a feature of our lives for some time and this will no doubt present challenges which are unique to each industry, profession and business. I believe by working together we can find solutions and supports that will allow businesses to find a new way of operating and allow us to restart our economy. I am reaching out to local business owners as the experts in their business, industry or profession as they are the people best placed to help find the answers to the challenges we are facing” states Denis.

“I am asking people to contact me with suggestions in relation to social distancing measures that could be taken in their business, industry or profession to allow them to safely get back to work. I am also interested in hearing about the challenges implementing

social distancing will create: will it have financial consequences, implications for premises etc.

“In addition, I am asking businesses to consider the issue of what State supports may be needed for businesses post-Covid-19 and send me their thoughts/proposals. Suggestions and proposals can be sent to dnaughten@oir.ie.

GALWAY CO. CL. MANAGING RESTART GRANT PROCESS

Government have instructed the County Councils to start administering the Restart Grant, which will give direct grant aid to micro and small businesses. It is a contribution towards the cost of re-opening or keeping a business operational and re-connecting with employees and customers. The grant can be used to defray ongoing fixed costs, for replenishing stock and for measures needed to ensure employee and customer safety. For businesses based in the County of Galway, the application must be made through Galway County Council.

To qualify for the grant, you must have a turnover of less than €5m and have 50 or less employees, have suffered a projected 25%+ loss in revenue from 1st April to 30th June 2020, commit to remain open or to reopen if it was closed, the business must also declare the intention to retain employees that are benefitting from the Temporary Wage Subsidy Scheme (TWSS).

The grant will be the amount of your rates demand in respect of calendar year 2019 only, subject to a minimum of €2,000 and a maximum of €10,000.

In the event that your rates demand was reduced on appeal, the appeal rate will apply to an amount of the grant if the grant is over €2,000.

Non-payment of 2019 Rates or Arrears of Rates does not impact on payment of this grant.

Applications for the Restart Grant must be made at: www.galwaycity.ie/restart. The form must be completed online- This is a standardized National Form. Self- Declaration Form--(Businesses should retain supporting documentation as spot-checks may be carried out to verify a declaration).

Any decision to refuse a grant may be appealed up to September 30. Further detailed info from [/www.galway.ie/RestartGrant](http://www.galway.ie/RestartGrant) All Queries must be directed to: RestartGrant@galwaycoco.ie, closing date for receipt of applications is 31st August 2020.

LATE JULY NEW DATE FOR WORKS

BY LIAM COSGROVE



Due to the current Coronavirus pandemic, the €6.5 million town enhancement works were shut down from 31st March until 18th May. Works have now recommenced on Society St.

Based upon the original programme, it is hoped that the work will

be completed by end of July 2020. However this is subject to the developing Covid-19 situation and the effect of any associated restrictions.

The street enhancement works are now in their final phase with works predominantly ongoing in Society St. from Church Hill to the Town Hall. Some other minor items of work are also to be completed from the earlier phases of work on Main St, Dunlo St. and the inner part of Society St.

The remaining pipelaying works on Sarsfield Rd will be completed in parallel with the street enhancement works. Works will be carried out in line with all relevant Covid-19 Government and HSE guidelines over the coming weeks as the country emerges from “lockdown”.

The works, by SIAC Construction and Ryan Hanley Consulting Engineers, began in Jan 2019 – hoping originally to be completed by Spring of 2020.

It is the desire of everyone involved in the project finish as soon as possible, updates on overall timescales for the remaining works will be provided to the business community over the coming weeks.

COMMUNION CLASSES FROM SUMMERS PAST

BY EVELYN DONELLAM

As a little nod to all disappointed First Communicants and Confirmation Class pupils and their families in the parish we publish here some photos of happier Maytimes in town. This page contains Confirmation Classes of Creagh Church 89, 90 and on page 57 we

publish Communion Classes of the Boys and Girls from St. Michaels in the early 60s.

We hope that all those pupils and their families enjoy their summer and get to have their special day in the months to come .



CREAGH NS CONFIRMATION PHOTO 1989

Back L-R:

Jonathan McLarn, Alan Glynn, Cathal Kilkenny, Oisín Seale, Andrew Hamill, Fergal Greene, Brian Hunt, Stephen Roache, Niall Connolly, Keith Cunningham, Shane Hogan.

Mid Row L-R:

Mr Tony Broderick, Shane Mulvihill, Sean Power, ? Williams, James Kearney, Adrian Donellan, Noel Byrne, ? Ross Fitzgerald, Jason Twohig, Niall Aylward, Oliver Craughwell, Paul McMorrough, Alan McDonagh.

Front Row L-R:

Aisling Kelly, Gillian Quinn, Aileen Buckley, Ciara Cotter, Michelle Lynch, Emer Kelly, Maria Colleran, Ruth Hadigan, Mona Lucas, Edia Connole, Ciara O'Brian.

E&OE

CREAGH NS CONFIRMATION CLASS
PHOTO 1990

Back L-R:

Alan Ferguson, Rory Donellan, Paul Murray, Michael Cullinane, Damien Dowling, Damien Naughton, Brian Doherty, Kevin Flanagan, Martin Walsh, Niall Noone and Derek Maloney.

Mid Row L-R:

Sabrina Hickey, Laura Craughwell, Fergal Naughton, John Kelly, Brian Naughton, Colin O'Connell, Steven Williams, Aidan Sheridan, Sean Drea, Ann Marie Fallon, Emma Kilcommins.

Front L-R:

Elaine Rigney, Triona Quinn, Edel Finn, Jennifer McDonagh, Clodagh Burke, Tracey Cunningham, Loretta Doorley, Nicola Crosby, Denise Naughton.

E&OE



corrib  oil

corrib  deli

Shop Local, Shop Little, Shop Easy



Full Grocery Range, Corrib Deli Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Insomnia Coffee, Corrib Bakery Range

Call & Collect Service. Free Delivery of Groceries (T&C Apply)

Ph: 090 964 6054. Corrib Oil, Brackernagh, Ballinasloe, Co Galway

JOE KELLY SOCIETY STREET SPORTS MAD BUSINESSMAN

Joe Kelly Senior has been synonymous with town, with Soccer and GAA, with the Entertainment and Pub Trade and indeed Society Street for over 45 years, but most would be surprised to learn that Joe's son Joby (who runs the bar with his wife Cait) is now the 5th generation of Kellys to reside and work on Society St.

Joe, was and still is a big man. He was schooled in the art and mastery of Gaelic Football by the legendary Mattie Ganly on the lunch breaks from St. Grellans NS in the green. He then took the art of minding himself against opponents on the pitch into later life when he was practically synonymous with security on the dance floor of the Shamrock Bar, which became the East County and then Leridges Hotel.

For many folk of a certain age for the 80s and early 90s, Joe Kelly, in his Burgundy Tuxedo, was in control of the love lives as he decided who got in, remained in or got the warning before the works, at the late night discos with their legendary supper buffets.

Possibly, he learned all of his tricks from door and venue security when trying to sneak in to the Emerald Ballroom in the late 60s. "The trick was to hang around the front at 11.00 pm and wait for the courting couples to head off to the Escort or Hillman, they'd be going home and if we asked them nicely we might get their pass out ticket to get back in, if that didn't work there was always the door on the roof and the fire escape" smiles Joe.

Joe's DNA is embedded in this Street. His Grandfather, Michael, was the Caretaker of the Presbyterian Church on Society St. and Joe fondly recalls as a young fellow helping him cleaning the church and tending a lot of the large gardens of the many Merchant families in the locality. They lived in a two bed cottage behind the church and Joe often got a shilling, or two, for assisting with chores there which sustained his diet of John Wayne Pictures.

His Mother, Phil, who came from the Claddagh, lived in the Square before she married his dad who worked on the Canal. Joe and his two siblings adored their Mum who worked (as did a great deal of women in the 50s) in Dubarry. Her life was tragically cut short and to this day Joe is still struck by the compassion and support the young family received from her co-workers at the time of the funeral.

"I have to acknowledge the kindness of Teresa and the late Oliver Farnon, who practically took us three kids in and reared us" says Joe. Times were hard and work was not easily come by. "Between Mr. Scott, Mr. O'Carroll and Paddys Lamb – they were the three men that kept the town going during those austere times, in the early 60s. The wages and piece work from Paddys Lamb was so good I often saw £800 in the pitch and toss pit on the Hill, on Sunday mornings" recalls Joe.



Joe's late parents Phil and Tony



Joe with siser Lily and his Mum Phil at the building of St. Josephs Place

DUNLO STREET, BALLINASLOE.

E: venezia.restaurant@mail.com T: 090 964 6483



Joe in a typical "non retired pose" behind the famous Taps



Joe in St. Michael's Church Easter Sunday morning



10 of 11 of Joe's darling grandchildren

The Social Club, the pictures in the The Town Hall and Swanwicks (where Utah is now) and sports, were what sustained the teenagers of the late 50s and 60s. "If you didn't have the price of the bag of chips at Martha Tierneys (where Supermacs is on Society St.) coming home from the pictures – it didn't feel like a proper night out" he explains.

After schooling he was transferred for a full decade to Aunt Nancy Hardy in Cabinteely, Dublin, as a shop assistant. "I went up very raw, but that decade in Dublin was my real Third level education – we got £8 a week, all found; for a seven day 7 am to 7pm week – but the ALL Found was the real benefit."

He still has fond visits to the Cabinteely cousins to this day. Joe had been dancing with a local girl Irene Lloyd, on and off, and in 1972 they celebrated their double wedding alongside Paul Lloyd and Maura Larkin in St. Michael's.

After a stint as a kitchen porter in St. Brigid's, he started his cleaning business with his first car bought from Declan Bannerton. He was never shy of work and when that did not work out he moved in Dubarry – forming Apache Soccer Club while there. He then got a start in the Shamrock under Pierce Courtney's reign and began almost two decades of bartending, bouncing and indeed a bit of promotion where he booked all the entertainment when the town was an entertainment mecca.

Joe took the punt in 1990 on bringing a relative unknown Donegal singer to the ballroom of Leridges on a cold February Thursday night, for a huge fee of £4,000. "I could have lost my job if we didn't get the numbers for Daniel O'Donnell, but we packed it to the roof and to cap it all the band leader at the time was drummer Billy Burgoyne – whose Mother used to cut my hair, so he gave me a nice tip for myself out of the gig" laughs Joe.

He and Irene were blessed with a family of Joanne, Lloyd, Grace, Joby, and Michael and in the early 90s took the lease on Gibbons Bar on Society St. When the terms were up Joe went working for Brendan Fahy on the early morning milk runs. In 1993, the late Tony Colohan vacated the lease on the Jug and Joe commenced operations in the premises, now operated by his son today.

"I would never have survived in business without the huge support I got from so many, many people who always had my back but one man especially was very good to us here and that is my neighbour and good friend Martin Ryan".

Joe has been Chairman, and mentor to both GAA and Soccer Clubs. He recalls with great affection the many wonderful memories of new facilities, of wins, home comings, All-Irelands, After qualification parties, but he still glistens with pride over helping to inaugurate the Paisley Cup Tournament between the Liverpool community and Ballinasloe town.

Minding some 100 under 10s through Dublin Airport in 1990 posed a challenge. "We were petrified we'd lose one or two and Peggy Riddell (RIP), who was the Bursar for the project, got a brainwave to get Tony Kelly to sponsor 100 white painters' caps which they all wore for the trip. The tournament, the brain child of Martin Lynch of Aughrim is still going, strong 30 years later."

His focus now is primarily on the grandkids. "I had this picture of the gang of them on my locker for them long days in Galway, on the mend, and the nurses would ask who I was doing the exercises for – I'd think of them and simple things that I used to do as a kid – like birthday picnics in the fair green and buying ice creams and sweets – all things thank God & my wonderful medical team I've managed to do" he reflects.

He does worry about the future of the pub trade and the town's economic fortunes and is deeply concerned about the huge rise in anti-social behaviour and recreational drug use that is blighting all communities.

"Bottom line, we are a caring, generous, hospitable and sports mad community and I wish everyone the best coming out of this Pandemic especially all our exiles" says Joe.



Brendan Canney, Michael O'Hagan, Ml. Colohan



Front Row: Rene Carty, Ann Duffy, Ann Shaughnessy.
Back Row: Eileen Egan and Nancy Carr



Bridie Whelan and Phil Kelly

The present pandemic which has put the whole world in lockdown and all the over 70's cocooning, has made many realise how important the running and activities of the Active Retirement association is for the elders in the community.

Many will feel isolated. They will have spent the last two months away from their family, friends and contact with the outside world.

All the activities and carefully planned holidays, outings, concerts, plays, indoor and outdoor sports and community work have been put on hold. At the moment, they hold their breath with hope and pray the dreaded virus doesn't darken their door.

While the world is still, members have had plenty of time to reflect and be grateful for the full and active life, they have enjoyed for the past 18 years as members of the Active Retirement group. The digital skills and computer courses which have enabled them to now keep in touch with friends and the outside world.

Communication has never been as necessary as now during this dreadful pandemic. The personal touch and the friendly chat have long gone. The sound of the human voice has been drowned by

texting, e-mailing, zooming etc. Hence the importance of the A.R.A. in the life of the older person. It provides a place to enjoy a friendly cuppa and chat and to share anxieties with new found friends.

They look forward to the day when this is all over – and hopefully come through it safely and well – when they can re-open and can return to normal daily activities.

They welcome any new people who may feel lonely or isolated to come and join them any Wednesday in the Library (their temporary home) at 3pm. All interests are catered for in the various clubs including arts and crafts, walking, singing, a book club, bridge and bowls.

They want you to remember that retirement is not the end of the road. It is the beginning of an open highway.

If you wish to find out more about joining, contact Margaret Brennan at 0877731707 or Chris O'Flynn at 087 6492466. Their website ballinasloeactiveretirement.com has loads more information about the group.

BALLINASLOE COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY

During the pandemic Frank is meeting clients in his consultation room in Church Hill through a perspex screen. He can also meet by Zoom or phone if clients prefer.



FRANK KENNEDY
M.Sc. PSYCHOTHERAPY
ACCREDITED WITH I.A.C.P.

For an appointment call Frank
on 087 3623809 or email frank@bcap.ie
Church Hill, Ballinasloe | www.bcap.ie

Kathleen's FASHIONS

Dunlo Street • Ballinasloe • 090 9642984

STOCKISTS OF LEADING LABELS

Mother of Bride & Groom
Occasion & Casual Wear

Personal Attention
High Quality Fashion
Affordable Prices

Sizes 8-26



email: kathleensfashions@gmail.com

LOCAL CREDIT UNION SUPPORTING MEMBERS NEEDS



As they slowly start to return to some semblance of normality in the shadow of the current pandemic, the community can rest assured that the credit union is there for you.

Individuals and businesses in the locality are responding to significant challenges and must continue to manage and mitigate the disruption that COVID-19 is causing.

At BCU they are continuing to take a personal approach to helping members who may be struggling at this time. Credit Unions want to do everything that they can to assist their members through the current crisis. Members who are experiencing financial difficulties or who anticipate that they may be facing into such difficulties in the coming months, should make contact with them immediately to discuss what arrangements can be put in place for them.

They pride themselves on standing by members in tough times as well as good. This commitment and loyalty to their members and the community has been a hallmark since they opened in 1967.

Grainne Murphy CEO states "We are very much open for business. Indeed, it is during unprecedented times like these that our members need us more than ever. The impact of Covid-19 will be felt by every individual, householder and small business in our community. The very least people deserve from their financial institution is empathy, honesty, and respect. Credit unions pride themselves on having an open and honest relationship with members which is a great starting point. We also know that it is not just words that carry weight. That is why since the outbreak of the pandemic, we have maintained our relationship with the community by supporting & donating and going that extra mile to assist our members, local groups, and community organisations."

Now, more than ever its support from within our own communities that makes the difference. Credit Unions are embedded in communities for the long haul and over the past 20 years Credit Union have donated in excess of €2,000,000 in sponsorship to local groups and organisations. This support was possible because



Credit Union Chairperson Marian Brady presenting a donation of €500 to Ballinasloe Meals on Wheels with Kay Cunningham and some of her volunteers.

members in the community continued to borrow from the Credit Union."

Credit Unions are not immune to the pandemic which will be with us for the foreseeable future. To continue to be sustainable in all the communities into the future members now more than ever need your support. So, if you are thinking of taking out a loan, let it be for a car, home improvement, garden maintenance, painting of the house, the credit union is open for business and lending.

A personal loan, carries no administration or transaction charges and no hidden fees. You can pay off your personal loan early, make additional lump sum repayments, or even increase your regular payments – all without penalty. This is distinctly different from other lenders who may charge you extra for paying them back faster!

Members of BCU can also access their accounts and apply for a loan online via their website at www.ballinasloecreditunion.ie or via the mobile app Cuanywhere.

The Credit Union is open 6 days a week Monday ~ Saturday, a full list of branch and online services is on their website www.ballinasloecreditunion.ie. Follow them on facebook/[ballinasloecu](https://www.facebook.com/ballinasloecu).




Approved Stockists of Calor fittings and accessories

Peter Madden Fuels



Like us on:
facebook





Official **Homefire** Stockist

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

OPENING HOURS: MONDAY - FRIDAY 10am - 6pm. SATURDAY 10am - 5pm.

The Accessibility Ballinasloe Team have been working closely with the local community, business and representative groups to support the town's response to Covid-19.

It certainly is unprecedented times but it has been heartening to witness the way in which our community has worked together to support each other. They're delighted to have been able to assist in these efforts to support those in need.

Together with BEC, Galway Rural Development, Kellys' Printing Works and local businesses, they have helped design an information leaflet which provides details on the Covid 19 supports and services local businesses are offering to the community. This is being distributed locally and to vulnerable groups in the community.

They're also working together with Galway Rural Development, Brothers of Charity Services and local groups to identify the requirements of the more vulnerable in our community. Their funding application for coronavirus related assistance has been successful which will allow them to provide different types of care packages to those individuals with disabilities who do not have the usual supports in place.

They're working with local businesses to design packs which will include food parcels, activity bundles, self-care items and hand sanitiser. If you would like to get more information on these packages or donate any items please get in contact with Deborah Brady on 0870923159 or email accessibilitybsloe@gmail.com.

They're also looking for submissions of all the great volunteer work that is happening so they can share these items on their Facebook page to highlight the great work going on in the town or say thank you to essential workers.

The Team had a lucky streak last week by winning €500 in the Bank of Ireland draw. This money will be invested in attaining insurance for the year ahead so they can run and take part in community initiatives.

Karen Breen and James Murphy have performed a number of well-known Irish songs through their Facebook page, Accessibility Ballinasloe over the past few weeks. Karen and James provide entertainment to the service users of Ballinasloe Social Services every week.

Regina Power, Chairperson, Ballinasloe Social Services would like to thank everyone who contributed to this online event which raised much needed funds for the Social Services.



Karen Breen fundraiser



Daragh Flynn and Aidan Kenny

WE SERVICE ALL MAKES AND MODELS



OUR SERVICE DEPARTMENT IS OPEN FOR BUSINESS

Please contact us in advance on **090 96 30800** for your appointment.

Customers may avail of our on line booking service at www.fredkilmartinltd.ie.

We offer a **collection and delivery service** where our customers are unable to get to us.

For the **Safety of our Customers** Social Distance Guidelines and all Covid-19 Safeguards will be enforced.

ALL VEHICLES SERVICED IN OUR WORKSHOP WILL BE SANITISED USING STATE-OF-THE-ART SANY CAR SYSTEM



ATHLONE ROAD, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY.

P: 090 963 0800

E: sales@fredkilmartinltd.ie

www.fredkilmartinltd.ie

Michael: 087 1335921

John: 087 4165623

Micheal: 086 3489164

BURKES CELEBRATE 65TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

Jim and Margaret Burke of Kilgarave, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary during the current lockdown. They were joined by daughters Frances, Caroline, son James and by Caroline's daughter Megan. Disappointedly, they couldn't celebrate their milestone in proper fashion as the current lockdown had their commemoration confined to their back patio.



Throughout the time, they were remotely joined by neighbours and the rest of their children, grandchildren and even great grandchildren from across the globe.

Jim, his wife and family were prominent business people on Dunlo Street, operating one of the earliest Dry Cleaning Laundry Services in town.

Having met in Manchester in their local dance hall, they danced all night long and referred to it as 'love at first sight'. The music consisted of young men playing the accordion and fiddle. Ceili music was their favourite but Midland Entertainer TR Dallas performed for them on their historic day in April 2020..

They both moved to Manchester in the late 40s. Jim in 1948, Margaret a year later in 1949. Many young Irish workers moved to England in search of work after the second World War. John A Costello was Taoiseach and Clement Attlee was in 10 Downing St. Jim was especially pleased that a Fine Gael Taoiseach was in office for their 65th! Communications were different in the 1950s. There was no such thing as a phone call home. They would send letters back home most weeks.

The wedding was held on April 16th 1955, on a sunny morning at 9am. They had planned to be wed on the 23rd but a Sister Frances had insisted on them changing the date so as not to clash with Saint

George. They went for the early time as there was a major wedding on afterwards at 10am: "saved them a lot of money on buying flowers" states Jim with a wink. The hotel they were staying at was run by the nuns.

For their honeymoon, they took a few days off work. They enjoyed their time travelling the different towns and cities around North West England and especially soaking up the sights in Blackpool.

Two years later, they returned to Ireland for the first time in 1957. This would be their first time meeting their in-laws. They first made the trip to Cork to meet Margaret's relatives, where they got on like a house on fire. They had to take the rocky bus to Clifden for the presentation to Jim's folks.

Throughout their years together, they have travelled to many cities across North America. They have visited Boston, Chicago, New York, San Francisco, Los Angeles and Alaska. They have been to the White House, went in the President's elevator and have been in the oval room!

They moved to Ballinasloe in 1969 with all of their children and have enjoyed a contented and busy retirement with travel, friends and family.

Ever generous – they created a special fundraiser for the Galway Hospice and in the course of their Blue Sapphire Celebrations – their friends and well wishers raised €2,500 for the worthy cause.

BY COLM CROFFY



Coronavirus
COVID-19



The Compliance Team



Business
Continuity
Voucher

Apply via your Local Enterprise Office

Contact us to help you with your application!

We will help you make informed decisions about what immediate measures and remedial actions should be taken, to protect staff and sales. We can help with activities such as:

- Set-up and optimise remote working
- Crisis management & response activities
- Complete business continuity risk assessments
- Managing subcontractors and suppliers
- Managing reduced cash flow and logistics

The new Business Continuity Voucher is designed for businesses across every sector that employ up to 50 people. The voucher is worth up to €2,500 in third party consultancy costs and can be used by companies and sole traders to develop short-term and long-term strategies to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Approved Service Provider
for the
**Business
Continuity
Voucher**

**Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office**



P: 091 420 999
E: hello@thecompliance.team

Office 1 @ The Library, Society Street, Ballinasloe.

LAWRENCETOWN HERITAGE TRAIL APP

Lawrencetown Heritage Group have launched a new heritage trail app. It is fully interactive, user-friendly and highlights the history and heritage of Lawrencetown village.

This FREE app will provide people with a unique insight into the cultural sites in Lawrencetown while also giving them an insight into what life was like in the region in past years. There are 23 points of interest from the Bellevue Volunteer Gate, Ballymore Castle and Lisheen Walk and Seymour Mausoleum to name just a few. The village is brought to life by the audio clips provided in the app also.

Jim and May Brien were siblings from Lawrencetown who were interviewed by Galway Bay FMs Maurice O'Keefe in the 1990's as part of a heritage series is a clip to be heard. The trail gives you most of the historical facts but Jim and May's stories capture the

imagination and stirs the emotions.

The app was developed with funding received from Galway County Council and with the assistance of William Dervan with the app development.

To download the app onto your phone, is quick and easy. Make sure you have the most update version of your phone's software involved. If you have an Android phone, you need to open the Google Play Store and for an apple product, open the App store on your device. Then all you have to do is search for 'Lawrencetown Heritage App' and then install it onto your phone. The app is free to download.

To get in contact with the Lawrencetown Community Development Group, message them on their Facebook page. The Facebook page will keep you up to date with all the happenings in Lawrencetown from church newsletters to all around updates.



Colin & Maeve Ryder & family at the heritage seminar planning for APP last year

GAELSCOIL PENPAL LETTER EXCHANGE

Fourth class students in Scoil Ui Cheitearnaigh have been writing letters back and forth to their penpals to keep themselves occupied during the pandemic. They're K5 grade students in Little Thor Elementary School from Gregory Street, New York City. Teacher, Eoin Croffy, has connections there and started the communication project.

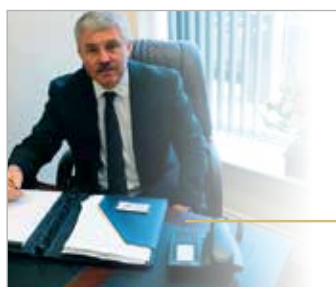
It has been going on for the last four years, which means each fourth-class student has had the opportunity to write these letters. They began exchanging letters in September and have sent six letters each. Each student writes up a draft letter that teacher and pupil review prior to sending.

Local pupils normally respond to the American students' questions and it is up to them what they would like to talk about while at the end ask a couple of their own questions. The coronavirus has become a very prevalent topic over the last set of mail exchanged. They're really interested on the impact it is having on different people in different countries.

At the end of the school year the kids can decide to keep in contact with their pen pal and many of them do.



The children from Rang a 4 with preparing the post their first letter to their pen pals in New York in September 2019



Sinclair
FUNERAL DIRECTORS



Tel: 090 9644328 / 087 9963510

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

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



1st place Bunscoileanna: Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh:

Back Row L-R: Máirín Uí Thuairisg, Seosamh Ó Beirgin, Aisling Ní Chualáin. *Middle Row L-R:* Ciara De Paor, Caoimhe Ní Neachtain, Aoibhín Ní Chochláin. *Front Row L-R:* Evelina Zancanaro, Fiona Zancanaro, Adele Ní Fhinneagáin



**3 place Méanscoileanna (Roinn na Sóisear)
Coláiste Ghearrbhaile Bhéal Átha na Slua:**

Back Row: Rónán Ó Grádaigh. *Front Row L-R:* Eamon Chin, Nathan Ó Ceallaigh, Aaron Ó Falluín



1st place Bunscoileanna: Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh:

Back Row L-R: Máirín Uí Thuairisg, Seosamh Ó Beirgin, Aisling Ní Chualáin. *Middle Row L-R:* Ciara De Paor, Caoimhe Ní Neachtain, Aoibhín Ní Chochláin. *Front Row L-R:* Evelina Zancanaro, Fiona Zancanaro, Adele Ní Fhinneagáin

Seo torthaí na gcomórtas eagsúil a reachtáil Craobh Ghrealláin Chonradh na Gaeilge, Bhéal Átha na Slua, le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge siar ag tús mhí an Mhárta in Óstán an Shearwater.

Comórtas Thráth na gCeist Boird do Bhunscoileanna, urraithe ag Seodóirí Uí Chathalláin (Cahalans Jewellers).

Céad áit: Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh, Béal Átha na Slua: Evelina Zancanaro, Fiona Zancanaro, Adele Ní Fhinneagáin, Ciara De Paor, Caoimhe Ní Neachtain, Aoibhín Ní Chochláin. Dara háit: Scoil Iarfhatha Naofa Tuaim: Isabella Colbert, Kate Ní Dhigneáin, Enya Ní Mhistéil, Niamh Ní Mhistéil, Jonathan Ó Domhnalláin, Savanagh Ní Cheallacháin.

Triú háit: Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh, Béal Átha na Slua: Adam Ó Muirí, Oliver Ó Broin, Darragh Ó Gaibhín, Sorchá Ní Mhainnín, Lorcán Ó hUiginn, Seán Mac Fiachra.

Comórtas Thráth na gCeist Boird do Mheánscoileanna, urraithe ag Bhord Oideachais agus Oillúna na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin.

Roinn na Sóisear: Céad áit: Coláiste an Eachréidh, Baile Átha an Rí: Rian Dawson, Megan Hefernan, Cianna Cullen, Jean Ní Cheallaigh, Conall Ó Corcora, Leon De Róiste. Dara háit: Coláiste an Eachréidh,

Baile Átha an Rí: Marc Ó Broin, Even Mac an Chrosáin, Jack Ó Foghlú, Sadbh Ann Nic hAogáin, Ali Nic an Chrosáin, Molly Uí Thoirdealaigh. Triú háit: Coláiste Sheosaimh, Gearrbhaile, Béal Átha na Slua: Eamonn Chin, Nathan Ó Ceallaigh, Aaron Ó Falluín, Rónán Ó Grádaigh.

Roinn na Sinsear:

Céad áit: Coláiste an Eachréidh, Baile Átha an Rí: Tuán Ó Baoill, Seán Ó Báin, Conchúr Mac Giollarnáth, Oisín Mac Aindreasa.

Dara háit: Coláiste Pobail, Áth Luain: Colm Ó Sioráin, Rhys Mannion, Eoin Roche, Fionnán Henry, Luke Coffey, Séamus Madden. Triú háit: Coláiste na Sionna, Beannchar: Saoirse Flynn, Sadbh Corrigan, Eve Martin, Conor Lyons, Daniel Egan, Ruain Ó Meara.

Comhghairdeas do na buaiteoirí uilig agus ár bhfíorbhuíochas lenár n-urraitheoirí, Cahalans Jewellers Ballinasloe, Bhord Oideachais agus Oillúna na Gaillimhe agus Ros Comáin agus Ballinasloe Credit Union agus do gach duine a thug cabhair dúinn leis seo.

Freisin, ag Ard-Fheis Chonradh na Gaeilge i mí Feabhra, bhuaigh Craobh Ghrealláin, Bhéal Átha na Slua an duais don dara chraobh is fearr i gCúige Chonnacht.

Faraor, de bharr an ghéarrchéim Coróinviris, bhí orainn Comórtas na bhFuinneog agus an Comórtas Ghnó trí Ghaeilge a chur ar ceal.

HUTCHINSON DAVIDSON Solicitors



Elaine Bannerton
B.A. LLB.

PRACTICE AREAS INCLUDE:

- Conveyancing (Residential and Commercial)
- Wills, Probate & Estate Planning
- Litigation, Personal Injury & Accident Claims
- Family Law
- Criminal Defence
- Landlord & Tenant Law
- Employment Law

TEL.: + 353 (0) 90 96 42143 **FAX:** + 353 (0) 90 96 44077

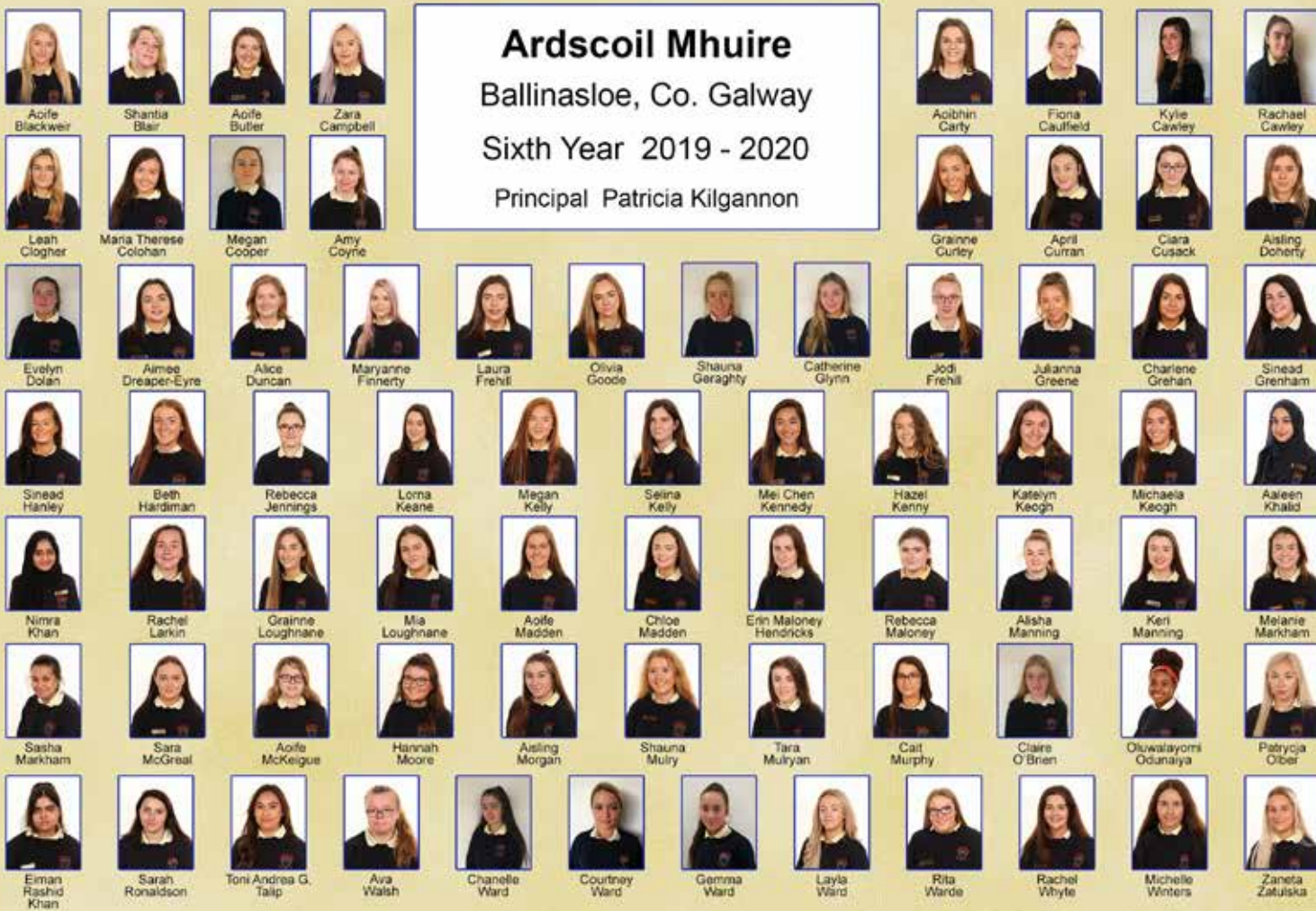
EMAIL: info@hutchinsondavidson.ie

Bridge Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Ireland. H53 X0P8.



www.hutchinsondavidsonsolicitors.ie

LEAVING CERT CLASS 2020



© Copyright Memory Lane School Photography - (049) 4361027



Garbally Leaving Cert Class 2020

Back: Ronan Hanrahan, Stuart Madden, Mark Mitchell, Liam Creaven, Evan Donelan, Conor Coleman, Craig Potter, Michael McDermott, Keelan Galvin, Padraic Galvin, Adam O'Connor, Colin Donohue, Josh Hanney, Harry Bleahen, Seán Horkan, Zach Moloney, Jack Coughlan, Daniel Farrell, Mikey Hyland. • **4th Row:** Joseph Gibbons, Gavin Daly, Shane Fallon, Patrick Dolan, Andy Naessens, Jack Delaney, Aaron Keighery, Oskar Mroz, Jack O'Leary, Adam Stynes, Joseph Dowd, Josh Naughton, Matthew Devine, Evan Glynn, William Ward, Oisín Carroll, Eoin Keogh, Seamus Egan. • **3rd Row:** Daniel Coen, Jack Mitchell, Connor Rice, Niall Collins, Mark Poland, Dillon Hopkins, Conor Harkin, James Burke, Andrew Doyle, Bernie Cawley, Simon Ciba, Jason Lynch, Eoin McManus, Niall Kelly, Keelan Hough, Blaine Boden. • **2nd Row:** Padraig Flanagan, Dara McManus, Fintan Donnellan, Neil Braithwaite, Cian Tracey, Rowan Harley, Jakub Zdziech, Eoin Darcy, Phelim O'Reilly, James Costello, Jamie Curley, Luke Campbell, Kieran Kenny, Solomon Jiju. • **Front:** John Curley, John Moore, Niall Cunningham, Conal Moore, Cian Reynolds, Conor Lohan, Ciarán Reddan, Seán Cassidy, Jason Farrell, Eamonn Cunningham, Kasper Bednarczyk, Richard Browne, Conor Warde, Darragh Finn.

Absent from Image: Kamil Gargas & Seán Óg Campbell

The F1 in Schools' Challenge is an innovative competition involving 20 million students worldwide and requires teams of 3-6 people to design, manufacture, test, market and race a miniature F1 style car. Teams must raise their own sponsorship and manage budgets in order to fund the research and the manufacturing of the car.

The 5th year students in Garbally College began drawing up plans for the car back in April 2019. The design was based on the SR-71 Blackbird and was designed to be as fast and as aerodynamically efficient as possible, with features such as hollowed-out side pods, tilted wings and vortex generators.

In terms of sponsorship, they pitched based on an idea of "local business supporting local team", with 78% of the funds generated coming directly from the locality. In the end, a total of 24 local businesses chipped in to ensure they could make it from Ballinasloe to the Big Leagues! While also being partnered with various



Left to Right: Team Members Niall Costello, Colm Daly, Eric Luwaga, Oscar Arru

Universities and Educational Bodies such as GMIT, AIT and UL proposing they invest in the mission by allowing them to avail of different resources.

However, after months of hard work, hopes were shaken with the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic and being left uncertain as to whether the competition would go ahead. However, they were recently informed that all events had been cancelled, the judging process would proceed online, culminating with a Virtual National Final to take place in May.

Up to four teams from across the country will be selected to represent Ireland at the F1 in Schools World Finals set to take place in Singapore in September 2020.

If you would like to find out more about the team and keep up with their journey please follow them on Instagram, Facebook and Twitter at Odyssey Racing or visit their website at odysseyracing.ie

PARISH PASTORAL COUNCIL UPDATE

Over the past several months, the parish has been faced with dramatic changes in how to meet, communicate and pray together. They believe that we must adhere to social distancing by keeping apart, in order to support each other. This year for the first time in the parish's history, Easter Sunday mass was celebrated in an empty church.

With the aid of Ballinasloe LIFE and Rachel Goode, the Parish Council put in place the temporary technology to broadcast the Easter Sunday mass to the people and as it turned out, members of the parish throughout the world.

The morning was very moving with Fr. Garvey touching on the need for prayer, support and kindness in an ever-changing world. Rachel Goode sang beautifully to add to the solemnity of the occasion and the feedback from people only added to the special of the Feastday.



Rachel Goode, accompanied by Marie Power - singing at the Broadcast Easter Sunday Mass in St Michael's Church

Some 10,500 viewers saw the post of the recording. While over 8,000 people viewed the mass. Critically nearly 250 viewers saw fit to comment publicly on the mass - thanking the Organisers, Celebrant, readers, soloist and accompanist and wishing their relatives and friends a joyous and Happy Easter.

They are now actively involved in installing a live web camera into the church so that daily mass can be viewed by everyone at home. Further details of this will be placed in the Parish Newsletter which is still available in the church and on the

Ballinasloe.ie website page under Parish Pastoral Council.

They continue to hold all the people of the parish in their prayers during these difficult times. In particular they remember those who have died and were unable to have a normal funeral.

Join our Production Team at Zimmer Biomet in Oranmore



ZIMMER BIOMET

Your progress. Our promise.®

This dynamic, fast-paced facility is a global leader in musculoskeletal healthcare, producing artificial hips, knees and joints at Zimmer Biomet in Galway.

We want to hear from motivated team players with a track record of delivery. Manufacturing or trade experience an advantage but not essential as full training is provided.

This is an opportunity to develop your career in a leading multinational. For more detail call Emma on 091 452444 or email your CV to Eileen Kelly at ekelly@careerwise.ie



OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE



Some members of the Aughrim Active Retirement Group making Facemasks for Nursing Homes. From left: Theresa Loughrey, Mary Hynes and Helen Mannion. All proceeds go to the Jack and Jill Foundation.



Maureen Kenny, one of the Aughrim volunteers, working from her own home



Walks and Trails members are encouraging and inviting willing volunteers out on specific Sundays to take part in a cleanup of our walkways. The first one started at 10am, Sunday May 31 running throughout the day. The starting point was in Poolboy intersection off the M6 slip road and Gun Club road/canal. The Group hope to recommence activities when COVID Restrictions allow . Any queries can be directed to their Facebook page or call 087 645 8979



Ann and Michael Mc Cullagh, entertaining from their Cocooning in New Mountpleasant - live recitals on Facebook of some special requests for friends and family and some musical interludes in appreciation of our careworkers and essential staff.



Cllr Dermot Connolly with Joe Harney and TD Claire Kerrane at the new Derrycahill Bridge.

OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE



Land Rover 4x4 in Schools Challenge

Left to Right: Jason Coen, Cathal Dempsey, Oscar Jarvis, Aaron Burke, Eoin Coleman, Cormac Kenny



Aughrim Farmer - Keith Martin got a million to one chance with the delivery of five healthy Chaorllais Newborn lambs this spring time.



Credit Union Chairperson, Patricia Brady, presenting €500 donation to Therese Coughlan, Manager of Ballinasloe Social Services with Kay Cunningham, Meals on Wheels Manager.



Great news for walker, joggers and hurdlers - as the Brackernagh Track Facility reopened recently

**NOW
IN STOCK**

AIMEE CONNOLLY SCULPTED HEROES RANGE



Beauty Base • Lip Duos • Full Face Palettes
• Double Ended Cosmetic Brushes

Society St., Ballinasloe

Tel/Fax 090 9642252

Open 9.15am to 6pm through lunchtime

**HEALY'S
PHARMACY**



LIFE TRIBUTE:

Salute to ALL those among our community who are serving in the front line or undertaking essential work during our Covid Pandemic



The ICU team at Portiuncula Hospital in Ballinasloe with an important message



Emergency Department Portiuncula



Director of Nursing, Ms Asha Ratheesh with her team at Millrace Nursing Home.



Dolan's Centra Staff



Director of Nursing Marie Dudgeon with her staff at Garbally View Nursing Home.



Representing all the Pharmacy Staff who kept us all supplied with medicine and prescriptions - Claire Healy and her team



Garda John Hannon and his colleagues representing all the men and women of the local Garda Síochána



Eddie Kelly and his SuperValu Shop staff



Geraldine Devine Director and some front line staff at St Brendan's Community Nursing Unit at St Bridgids Hospital Complex



Kay Cunningham and crew who provide the Meals on Wheels service



Nora Ryan and crew from Ballinderry Nursing Home



Representing all the Financial Service Sector Workforce in town - some of the Ballinasloe Credit Union Staff with Manager Grainne Madden



AnPost Workers

Owing to COVID-19 Regulations it was not possible to photograph every essential worker on every shift, equally it was not possible to capture every retail outlet of Garden, Farm Supplies or Multiple - what is displayed is a representative sample of those in our community . We Do However SALUTE them ALL.

CANCER CENTRE STILL SUPPORTS PATIENTS

The East Galway Cancer Centre made the difficult decision to close their doors to all clients as a result of Covid-19 and the measures put in place by the government, in order to protect those who attend and use the services of the centre.

Since the 16th of March the radiotherapy bus has been kept going as it is vital to those who use the service. In order to keep the users and driver of the bus safe, everyone wears face masks, donated by Padraig Concannon and Billy's Pharmacy.

John Donnelly also gifted the centre with plants for their poly tunnel and gave up his time to give Jacqueline and Anna a gardening lesson. Rugby club members also volunteered in their garden getting it ready for summer.

Last year, a cost analysis survey of our centre was carried out by Dr Frances Drummond and Breakthrough Cancer Research. The survey was very comprehensive. It was the first of its kind carried out on a cancer support centre in Ireland and gives a snapshot into what it costs to provide the services we do to each client. As you can see, it gives the breakdown of how much it would cost a patient if they were to pay for the services they receive from the centre.

Cancer patients and their families experience a range of physical, psychological and financial adverse effects. Community-based cancer centres offer a range of services and interventions, free of charge, to support those affected by cancer.

The aim was to estimate the resource impact of a community-based cancer support centre. Over a 7-month period, there were 2032 contacts with 238 clients whose average age was 60 years. The most frequently used services were transport to treatment (20%), complementary therapies (48%), exercise classes (10%) and counselling (9%). This cost analysis estimated total annual cost to provide all services was €313,744. Average annual cost per person was €1138.

Current uptake represents 8% of all cancer incidences in seven counties surrounding the centre. If uptake increases by 10%, scenario analyses predict an increase in total costs increase to €429,043 and a decrease in costs per patient to €915. As cancer incidences increase, the need for supportive care is growing.



John Donnelly and Anna O'Bara



Jacqueline Daly and Anna O'Bara

Community-based services have been established to meet these needs and fill this gap in national health services.

Going forward, the team hope to continue offering the services that they can under the present circumstances. Their Facebook and twitter pages are updated daily on what is happening in the centre/cancer awareness information/motivational quotes/donations received etc.

They have received some amazing feedback from people and there has been brilliant engagement with our social media platforms.

All our services are free to the cancer patients and their families who attend East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support. Services include counselling (via Zoom and telephone), nutritional advice (via telephone), holistic therapies (not currently taking place), transport to and from radiotherapy appointments, support groups (via Zoom), a 24/7 phone line service, gym (social distancing measures in place), care packages and food hampers etc.



Donation of handmade face masks from Kathy Fallon and Carmel Gavin (The Curtain Centre, Roscommon)



Maintenance to the garden

BY LIAM COSGROVE

NEWTON FUEL OIL



**KLASS OIL
DISTRIBUTORS**

**NE NEWTON
ENERGY**



SUPPLIERS OF: • KEROSENE • HOME HEATING OIL • AGRI DIESEL • AUTO DIESEL

PHONE: 087 9063431 EMAIL: georgenewtonaughrim@gmail.com

LOCAL SOROPTIMISTS CELEBRATING 25 YEARS

Soroptimists International are celebrating their 25th anniversary this year in the town. The occasion was due to be marked by planting oak trees in the town park. While the pandemic caused their charity concert to be cancelled a couple of months ago, they donated to Women's Aid and the local Simon Community to ease the burden on people at this time.

President Marie Connolly kept the club focused and entertained while members couldn't participate in life as they wished. A What's App group kept everybody up to date on national developments.

Their national project on climate protection is ready for action in September. They're hoping Mary Robinson will champion their work as part of the climate justice programme at the United Nations.

In addition, the poetry reading events hosted by Marie prior to the lock down, were possible via Zoom. The "Quarantini" is the

soroptimist way of continuing to entertain themselves with poetry and song while staying at home.

Other activities by creative members was the online bedtime story reading. Maire Hughes became the Surrogate Gran for many on her Instagram page. This event went viral and helped many young parents.

They're now preparing for the SI Convention in Dublin in 2023. This world-wide event will hopefully survive the pandemic.

Soroptimist International Ballinasloe & District are seeking new members. Please contact siballinasloe21@gmail.com or message their Facebook page.



President, Marie Connolly

BY LIAM COSGROVE

AHASCRAUGH 7-ASIDE CANCELLED



Front row left to right: Damian Boyle, Darrel Finn, Oisín Flannery, Darragh Butler • **Back row left to right:** Adam Connolly, Mike Kelly, Daniel Murray, Evan Courcy, Michael Foley, Finbarr Hughes

Ahascragh United's 37th annual seven aside tournament this June Bank Holiday has been cancelled for the first time!

The first tournament took place in June of 1984 and consisted of eight teams and went on to be one of the major events of the soccer calendar.

By the late 80's and early 90's, the tournament was so popular that the it needed to be played over three days on four pitches. At its peak the tournament had 44 senior teams competing and in total 62 teams in all grades from underage to ladies.

Teams came from England and all parts of Ireland with many family members returning to the village for the Whit Weekend. It developed into a huge festival and social event in the village. Each year teams compete for the honour of receiving the Hazel Keenan Cup in memory of a great friend of the club.

Hopefully next year it will return. Check their Facebook page for updates.

BALLINASLOE TYRE CENTRE



WE ARE OPEN FOR BUSINESS FROM
THE 18TH MAY 2020



EVERY PRECAUTION ON HYGIENE IS PUT
IN PLACE TO PROTECT OUR STAFF AND
CUSTOMERS



APPOINTMENT IS ADVISABLE



SOCIAL DISTANCING OF 2 METERS



YOUR SAFETY IS OUR PRIORITY ON AND
OFF THE ROAD

LOOKING FORWARD TO SEEING YOU ALL AGAIN

FOR MORE DETAILS CALL THOM FOX

@090 9646956



Talking Heads



HAIR & BEAUTY

Opening Hours

Tuesday to Saturday
9.30am-6.00pm

Late Opening

(By Appointment)

Thursdays & Fridays

(090) 9642189

(087) 2989492

info@talkingheads.ie



◆ Colours ◆ Cuts ◆ Up Styles ◆

◆ Make Up ◆ Wedding Parties ◆

@ MAIN STREET, BALLINASLOE

RONAN MULLEN RE-ELECTED SENATOR

Ahascragh based Ronan Mullen was first elected to the Seanad for the NUI panel in 2007 and was re-elected in 2011, 2016 and 2020. He was honored to top the poll in each of the last three elections and this time received his highest ever vote.

Ronan was raised on a family farm to parents Tom (a builder) and Maura (a Nurse, nee Hobbs). Having been educated in Kilglass NS and the Holy Rosary College Mountbellew, he then went on to UCG for a BA, followed by a Masters in Journalism from DCU.

He has worked in a number of different roles – education, communication and legal. He is a full time University Independent Senator and regular commentator now.

“We’re facing into a period of tremendous economic challenge and people in rural Ireland will have to work together to ensure a decent quality of life for everybody. We should value our local town and support its business and services as much as we can” urges Ronan.

“I’d like to see incentives for businesses to develop and upgrade the accommodation above the shop sign, to attract business back to the town centre. I have spoken in the Senate on this issue but believes local authorities should have the power to strike a more appropriate level of rates for smaller family-owned business” he states.

He has produced a report on palliative care in Europe and introduced legislation to prevent schools and teachers being unfairly targeted for litigation where schoolyard accidents occur. He has challenged the waste of public money. He’s keen to progress controls on the pay arrangements of celebrity presenters in state-funded broadcasting. He also wants to progress legislation to help challenge modern day slavery by making businesses more responsible for what happens in its supply chains.

Having moved back to reside in Ahascragh in 2015, he is keenly aware of the torturous process of the town refurbishment works. “I am very much looking forward to seeing it finished. A lot of the money is gone below the ground, of course, that was essential for upgrading water, sewerage etc. for the foreseeable future. I hope

we can continue with the upgrading of the amenities. Anything that makes the town more attractive is good news” urges Ronan. He wants to follow in the footsteps of towns like Listowel and Clonakilty who have vibrant, colourful buildings, amenities with large green areas.

He believes there is great heritage in both town and hinterland that we can take advantage of. “I’ve enjoyed walking the Camino abroad but we have opportunities here at home between the Hymany Way which passes my own door and other historic routes and paths locally. Plugging into the Ireland’s Hidden Heartlands tourism strategy is important and a greenway coming to or through town would be a major benefit” he believes.

He would like to see schemes that encourage and co-fund the beautification of towns. He also wants to see commitments already made followed through – for example flood relief and Portiuncula’s new 50 bed ward which is vital.

“The Pandemic has reminded us of what we have been long been taught, but have often forgotten – that we need each other, and that we do better when we take decisions with the common good in mind. But, also, let’s be honest, we are learning again that we are not in charge. Human ingenuity is wonderful but sickness, devastation and death will always be with us. We need to discover and re-discover the great virtues of faith, hope and love to help us make a better world” he concludes.

To contact Ronan, email him at ronan.mullen@oireachtas.ie or ring him on 01 6183930



BY LIAM COSGROVE



HIRE • SALES • SERVICE Est. 19

Poolboy Ind. Est. Ballinasloe
T: 0909642888 E: sales@domachire.com www.domachire.com

Full range of tools and equipment for hire or sale

GARDEN EQUIPMENT SERVICE
Hire • Sales • Service
Lawnmowers / Chainsaws / Strimmers / Hedgtrimmers etc...

POWERWASHERS
Sales • Service • Repair/rebuilds
Petrol / Electric / Hotwashers

Free local Delivery / collection of equipment.





There's *always* time for *cake!*

kariba's
www.karibas.ie

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

Tel: 090 964 4830
www.karibas.ie • 7 Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Outside catering a speciality for all occasions

FORMER TD MURPHY SECURES SENATE SEAT

Eugene Murphy, a Strokestown native, is a Fianna Fail politician who served as a TD for the East Galway/Roscommon constituency from 2016 to 2020. He narrowly lost his seat at the 2020 election to newcomer, Sinn Fein TD Claire Kerrane.

He was voted into the Seanad as a part of the Agricultural Panel after the 18th count.

"Firstly I would like to say a big Thank You to those who voted for him in the general election. I am humbled to be elected and has always been shown great support from the town's people. I was also greatly encouraged by the support shown by people who rang to commiserate with me on loss of his Dail seat" states Eugene.

He believes that Ballinasloe town is well prepared for new investment thanks to much preparatory work carried out by the community and the completion of the Enhancement Scheme here. He has promised that if Fianna Fail are a part of the formation of the new government, he will be pressing hard for proper investment in the East Galway/Roscommon region and he is very committed to seeing the town prosper.

His major priorities for the town are to bring jobs and entice more investors to set up in the town. He will be fighting to keep locals working in local businesses and factories. He is also very aware of the urgent works that need to be commenced at Portiuncula Hospital. He is also hard at work to get a town council in place to improve visibility and accountability.

He knows, especially due to the recent

pandemic, businesses up and down the country are at a crossroads. He acknowledges this sector needs a very urgent grant package from Government. He knows that cheap loans are not enough to sustain a working business and this needs to change. He wants to see proper plans in place to help business owners whether it would be to support their reopening or elsewhere.

"Regrettably the hospitality sector is stuck. The Covid 19 pandemic is hitting this sector the hardest. It has been backed into a corner and is in need of urgent attention. This will and should be the biggest challenge to the incoming government" argues the Senator.

He knows the town has many fine shops, restaurants and hotels and like elsewhere, help will be needed with the reopening process. He acknowledges that the caretaker government have been doing something in this sector but there is a real need for a lot more guidance and support if the economy is to totally avoid catastrophe in terms of jobs.

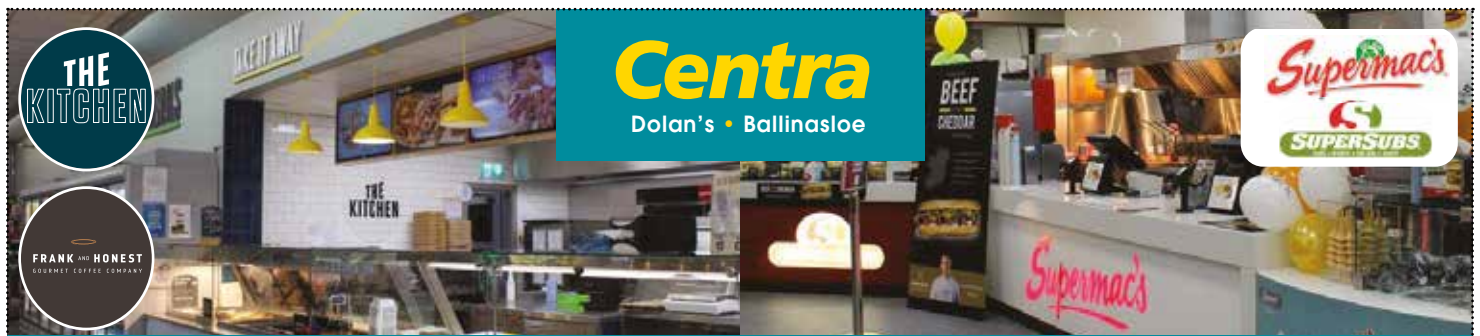
He can't wait for the Town Enhancement works to be completed. He thinks it has been a really trying element for the people of the town for the past years. He is excited to see the changes in the town and how these changes will boost the moods and atmosphere of locals.

"I have had lots of complaints about ongoing works and I know it's not been easy for residents and business but I'm sure when all is complete Ballinasloe will look all the better" notes Eugene.

Over the next twelve months, he wants to see the new government programme commit itself to the 50-bed unit for Portiuncula, he will continue to work for the establishment of a Town Council and ensuring the town and region prospers from direct investment. However, he wants to ensure balanced regional development. He also wishes to reestablish clinics in Gullane's Hotel once normality returns.

If you wish to get in contact with Eugene, call him at 087 166 8775 or email him at eugene.murphy@oireachtas.ie or deputyeugenemurphy@gmail.com

BY LIAM COSGROVE



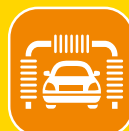
SERVICES:



Parcel Drop Off/
Collection Point



Washing / Drying
Facilities



Car Wash /
Mini Valet



Full
Off Licence



Off Site
Catering



Payzone Bill
Pay services

We would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff who have been working so hard during this crisis. Also to our customers, many thanks for your support and for adhering to safety measures whilst in store. We hope you and your families are keeping safe and well during this time.



Like us on Facebook "Centra Ballinasloe Dolan's/Supermac's Dolan's"

• Centra : 090 964 2178 • Supermacs: 090 964 3177 email: dolanscentra@eircom.net





Ballinasloe Credit Union Limited

HERE TO HELP YOU

**DEDICATED
LOAN PRODUCTS
TO ASSIST YOU
OR YOUR BUSINESS
IN THESE
CHALLENGING TIMES.**

 **090 9643179**

 info@ballinasloecreditunion.ie  www.ballinasloecreditunion.com

Credit Unions in the Republic of Ireland are regulated by the Central Bank of Ireland. Terms and Conditions apply to all loans.

A DEDICATED COMMUNITY MAN-PAT JOE

One of Derrymullen's finest of ambassadors, erstwhile community activist, adoring father and grandad passed away on the 4th of May in the embrace of his family that he so fondly cherished.

Most of us knew that our friend, neighbour and man about town; Pat Joe Guinnessey was battling cancer for the past 18 months. He never shirked from quipping about his condition, he was a regular social media correspondent with a host of dear friends and often reported fully on his battles.

Pat Joe was, in life's oft used terminology a character. He possibly inherited a lot of the local lore, witticisms firstly from his late father who lived to a very ripe age whom Pat, as a much younger man, had to sheppard in his declining years.

But between his UK experiences, the career of part time soldering with the FCA and the lifelong obsession on the art of wiring and telecommunications which began with his career in the then Post and Telegraphs – he had plenty of life's vignettes to draw from .

Pat's homestead in Derrymullen and his kids growing up and settling down within a touring radius meant that Pat could enjoy a more tranquil semi-retirement when he came off the gruelling early morn commutes to Dublin and elsewhere.

He and his red Toyota Van were to be found trundling the roads from one small job to another – to cable, to lay, to fix anything that his engineering adept mind could assist with.

Once he announced to the world that he was too auld for climbing up and down ladders, he saw more of his grandkids, his partner Cathy and indeed his boat. He had a passion for photography and captured many, many happy moments for friends and neighbours alike.

However for the wider community engaging with Pat Joe – there was the Conradh na Gaelige phase, there was a strong commitment to the vulnerable with a membership and officer role with the Lions Club, the Rugby Club and a fondness for Vintage. The Fair and Festival sound stage and street surround sound for most of the 90's and noughties and PA in the green and showgrounds for a variety of events especially St Patrick's Day parades; was all masterminded by Pat Joe.



However there was one building and one group of volunteers that he had a true life-long obsession with - the Town Hall Theatre.

In the seventies, when the Musical Society was not enjoying the fulsome success that it enjoys now, Pat Joe laboured to get a panto season into the Aisling Cinema, as it was then, to raise money for the shortfall and to fund orchestras and productions of main shows. He took on the role of Chair of the Committee for a few seasons.

There was no show complete on Sound Rehearsal Night without a few days and late evenings of Pat scurrying around assembling the runs and lighting for the members of the Orchestra, as well as some last minute fixings in the Gods with his great friend the late Pat McGovern.

He was an Honorary Member of the Ballinasloe Musical Society and was very, very proud of all of their achievements. He had a deep love for all things Musical and Theatrical and when called upon in later years to serve as a Director of the Town Hall, he did so with commendable enthusiasm and vigour. It was always a pleasure to bump into Pat Joe, whether out on the River, in the snug, ambling about town for a couple of reasons.

He was a charming and witty conversationalist, he had a huge depth of local knowledge, not found in the Rev. Egan or Tadhg tomes or Matty's essays about the locale and the good folk that animated it. He had a worldly view – he had friends and acquaintances in the four corners of the world whom he kept update with regularly and allied to his own quest for knowledge and reading there were few topics or debates he could not wrestle with .

He had a reservoir of generosity and charity for all fellow humans that seemed inexhaustible. Above all else he had an outstanding collection of rapier bon mots, witty asides and very funny stories from all walks of life - some local and some even true!

In essence he was a very proud Ballinasloe man and cared deeply about the place and its people. He was, as we all learned immensely proud of his children, their successes and more importantly the joy the little grandchildren brought to him in the last few years.

To his adoring family, friends, colleagues in all the Clubs and Societies he nurtured and helped we extend our deepest condolences.

Ar Dheis De Go Raibh a Anam Dilis.

BY COLM CROFFY

SKY ULTRA HD
AVAILABLE FROM
FLETCHERS EXPERT

FLETCHERS
expert

**Contact Ian and Sarah
in Fletcher's expert for the
best Sky deals on tv and
broadband**

Society St. Ballinasloe Co. Galway

Find us on:
facebook

090 9642147
www.fletchers.ie

A TALENTED MUSICIAN AND BUILDING CONTRACTOR

Hubert (Hubie) Hardiman died on Easter Sunday at Galway Hospice. His passing was exactly as he would have chosen. He slipped away quietly and peacefully, with no fuss. Born in the parish of Mullagh in 1927, Hubie lived most of his life in Ballinasloe town. He was a talented man with a wide variety of interests, lived a very full and varied life, undertaking everything he did with enthusiasm and determination.



Hubie had a long career in the building industry, as a tradesman, a building contractor and a developer. Like many of his generation in that industry, he had to travel to find work, and in his early years spent some time in Dublin and London. He came home in the late 1950s and started a contracting business. In 1958 he married Mary (McHugh) and a few years later they bought a pub in Main St, Ballinasloe which they operated for a few years.

As a contractor he built large numbers of local authority houses around the country, completing projects in Navan, Nenagh and Cashel, as well as in Co Galway. However he will be best remembered for the development a number of private housing estates in the Ballinasloe area, particularly in Creagh where he built Kilgarve Gardens, Kilgarve Park, Kilgarve Court, The Pines and Old Meadows.

Mary and Hubie shared a lifelong passion for Irish music. He was a talented musician and was well known as a flute player around East Galway and beyond. Together they travelled to sessions and fleadhs all over the country. In 1964 he hosted a meeting at his pub in Main St with a view to re-establishing a local branch of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri Eireann. (Apparently there had been a Ballinasloe branch previously but it had lapsed). The meeting was attended by a number of local musicians, including Hubie's brothers Tommy and Jimmy. The branch was established and has been going strongly since then. He and Mary were delighted to attend the branch's 50th anniversary celebrations in Gullane's Hotel in 2014.

Hubie also had a passion for horse racing. Over the years he owned a number of race horses, sometimes on his own and sometimes in partnership with friends. He also bred thoroughbred foals for a

number of years. These endeavours brought him some success, and a huge amount of fun. He was part owner of "Golden Cygnet", which won the Supreme Novice Hurdle at Cheltenham in 1978. Sadly "Golden Cygnet" suffered a fatal injury later that year in the Scottish Champion Hurdle at Ayr. His breeding involvement included "Sunset Boulevard", which won a number of Group races throughout Europe, together with some Royal Ascot performers.

Hubie will be remembered though, not just for all this, but for the exceptional human being that he was. His friends will remember him for his unshakeable loyalty, his common-sense and his

good humour. His family will remember a generous, loyal, loving and supportive brother, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle and father-in-law.

We will remember how he carried himself through tough and tragic times. There were business difficulties over the years. There were also the untimely deaths of his daughter-in-law Yvonne and his son Raymond, and more recently the death of his beloved Mary. He bore all of this with dignity and no hint of self-pity, always doing his best to support those around him.

When Mary died in February 2017, it was a huge blow for Hubie. He carried on bravely and made the best of things as he had always done, but he was older now and he missed her greatly. He aged visibly since then. During the last few months his health deteriorated. He was hospitalised a number of times until finally going to the hospice about two weeks before his passing.

As mentioned, Hubie mourned the loss of Yvonne, Raymond, and Mary-his wife of nearly sixty years. He was very close to all of his siblings. His brothers Paddy and Jimmy died in the last few years. He is survived by his sister Mai, his brother Tommy, his sisters-in-law Marita and Mary, his children Marie, Anna, Padraic, Sean and Hubert, his daughter-in-law Pauline, his sons-in-law (the two Johns), his eleven grand-children (Aodhnait, Tomás, Aisling, Conor, Kieran, Chris, Eoin, Eilis, Jack, Kate and Beth) and a large number of nieces and nephews. To this list three great grandchildren were added in the last eighteen months, Mason, Thomas and Delia. They made him smile.

Hubie will be remembered and missed for a long time to come.

BY KEN KELLY

TOM RAFTERY CAR SALES

Clonfad, Ballinasloe, Tel: 090 9642686



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

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

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

View our extensive range of quality used vehicles on our website

www.tomrafterycarsales.ie

Member of the Society of the Irish motor industry

ISUZU

 **PEUGEOT**

 **KIA MOTORS**
The Power to Surprise™



Ballinasloe fictional crime writer, Sheila Bugler, has seen her latest thriller "I Could be You" break into the Amazon Kindle 100 best seller charts in the UK and Canada. It is the first of four-book deal she has clinched with UK publisher Canelo. The new crime series by Sheila Bugler, daughter of Dr. Harry and Adrienne Bugler from Ballinasloe, following fictional journalist Dee Doran's investigations in the South of England is a follow up to her previous publications.

Sheila lives in Eastbourne in the South of England, which she says is a beautiful part of the UK, on the coast and edge of the South Downs in Sussex. "I'm thrilled that Canelo have accepted my work with Dee Doran the central character in each of my four books. I've got great critiques in the trade press, including the Bookseller which is the largest of the industry magazines, with my first novel 'I Could be You' and I hope for the same when the other three books are launched later this year" explained Sheila.

"I Could be You" is published in paperback, ebook and audio. The first book's synopsis says "Dee is horrified to come across a dead body she recognises as her neighbour and realises the woman's child is missing. As Dee helps the police with their enquiries she cannot resist doing some investigating of her own. Soon she is pulled into a tale of secrets and revenge that places her in direct danger."

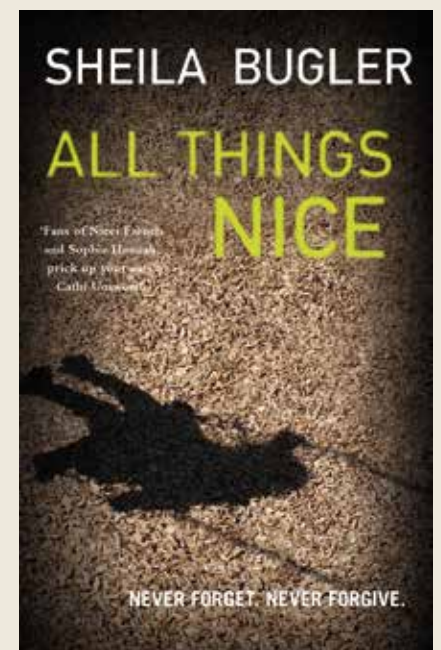
Currently she is finishing her other three thrillers "When the Dead Speak," "Before you were gone" and "The Mystery of 975" all of which will be published this year. Already the successful author of "Hunting Shadows," "The Waiting Game" and "All Things Nice" which featured DI Ellen Kelly, the Ballinasloe woman said all her books are available in the local Library and newsagents.

Editorial Director of Canelo, Louise Cullen, said of Sheila's initial thriller "From the opening of this novel, I knew Dee Doran was special. Her natural journalistic instincts are sparked to life after a difficult time has previously sparked her retreat into obscurity. Sheila's nuanced yet gripping exploration of seething jealousy giving way to murder is chilling and compelling. I'm delighted to work with Sheila on the series as well as having a standalone novel to look forward to."

"I Could be You" is currently in the Amazon Kindle 100 bestseller charts in the UK and Canada which Sheila says is a great honour. She said she is very excited over the Canelo deal which gives her great encouragement to pursue her writing career.



Sheila Bugler





Cooper

The No. 1 Helmet in Hurling

NEW In Stock

Hurling/Football Rebounder Net

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

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




OUTSTANDING PADRAIG PEARSES CLUBMAN MOURNED

The flags outside the Padraig Pearses Club house flew at half-mast in early May with County Roscommon and the late Tom Buckley's home county of Tipperary. The red & white flag of Padraig Pearses and the green & red flag are the colours of Tom's home club Loughmore-Castleiney.

The Club mourned and paid tribute to an outstanding Clubman and squad mentor who passed away on the 6th of May after a short illness.

Tom moved to Ballinasloe in 1969 to work in the post office. In 1977 he began developing his family home in Woodmount and it was around this time he got involved with Padraig Pearses. Coming from Tipperary, Tom had a huge passion for the GAA, especially hurling. Tom was involved in many aspects of the club. He was club secretary from 1985 until 1990 and took over as club chairman in 1991 until 1993. He was also chairman of the minor board for a number of years in the 90's.

Through his love for hurling, Tom was involved in the management set up for many teams over the years, with both club and county. One of his greatest attributes was how he could guide and communicate with players in the dressing room before a game or at training.

Always calm, always steady. He was involved with the Roscommon Senior hurlers and was manager of the County Minor hurling team in the early 2000's. Last year Tom was involved with the Pearses senior hurling team, which brought him a lot of joy. He gained huge respect from any team he was ever involved with.

Over the last 40 years, Tom has made many friends through his involvement with Padraig Pearses. He will be sorely missed by everyone in the club.

Our thoughts are with all his family, especially Tom's wife Sue, son Owen (Aughrim), daughters Aileen Maguire (Kiltulla), Bronagh Campbell (Glentaun) and Assumpta Connolly (Cloghan), daughter in law Geraldine, sons-in-law Niall, Ronan and Sean, adored granddaughters Emma, Leah, Eve, Hannah, Maeve, Áine, Kara, Shannon and grandson T.J.

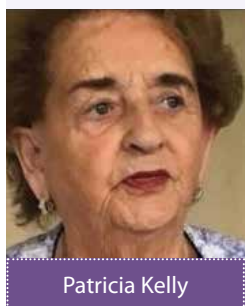
Ar dheis Dé go raibh a aimn dilís.



Tom Buckley

BY PRO PADRAIG PEARSES CLUB

PATRICIA KELLY - AN APPRECIATION



Patricia Kelly

Patricia Kelly nee O'Connor was born on February 28th, 1937 in Dublin. As a girl, she was involved with the Rathmines and Rathgar Musical Society and developed a lifelong love of music and opera. She worked in the local bank where she met her husband Dermot, a consultant at Portiuncula Hospital. They married in 1961 and had four children and 10 grandchildren.

She focused on raising her family and took up golf for leisure. She was for a period the

captain of Ballinasloe golf club and also played bridge.

"Honest and straight-talking" Patricia valued the qualities of sincerity, determination and decency. As her family grew, her nickname became "Granny Pat". Visitors to the house were greeted with offers of a gin and tonic, now known as a "G P" for "Granny Pat".

When Dermot died in 2013, she made a conscious decision to continue to try and make the most of life. She joined the active retirement group, going on trips to see museums, shows and other cultural events, they also went on a cruise; outings she enjoyed hugely. "You could hardly catch her, because she was out every day, between bridge, golf and aqua aerobics."

She was an enthusiastic adapter to technology. She streamed every opera she could find; Madame Butterfly was a particular favourite. She read The Irish Times daily and followed current affairs and national and international politics.

She died on March 31st, in Portiuncula Hospital, where her late husband had spent so much of his working life. To her sons Mark, Ian, Simon and Adrian, her loving grandchildren Hannah, Conor, Marcus, Jack, Eimear, Eve, Declan, Molly, Finn and Bailey, daughters-in-law Brenda, Yvonne, Sally and Melanie, family and friends we extend our sympathies.

BY ROSITA BOLAND

Garbally View Nursing Home

25 Years in Business

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

Current Resident Services Provided:

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



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



The Town Hall Theatre has been dark since March 13th, a week prior to the opening of what was to be a spectacular production of *Fiddler on the Roof* by the musical society. This production was tinged with the sadness of the passing of Pat McGovern, so suddenly and unexpectedly at the end of January. His loss to the theatre is huge, and for this production the troops rallied for the building of what was to be an incredible set, you will hopefully see in March 2021- a full year down the line.

It has been a very tough year so far for the Theatre, with the recent passing of another director, Pat Joe Guinnessy. The final curtain has closed for two of our greatest advocates.

The children of Elaine O'Hanlon's In-Step Stage School were also disappointed not to stage their show, always a fantasia of dance, ballet, discipline, joy and exuberance. A number of young people from this wonderful school, have gone on to win scholarships to some of the most prestigious performance arts/dance schools in London.

Kathy Hopkins fun-filled hip hop dance show which always brings a full house was another early casualty.

Our calendar had been filled with events from the Galway 2020 programme, with a much anticipated first visit by Druid Theatre Company in June. Other events in the Theatre for later in the year are to use the words of Juno and The Peacock's Captain Boyle "in a state of chassis" with an unknown outcome.

The re-opening of theatres is not scheduled until Phase five on August 10. Current social distancing guidelines would indicate no more than 2/3 actors-performers on-stage at any one time and backstage facilities involving stage crews would make this very difficult for everyone. The audience capacity of 400 would be reduced to 120 maximum, making the economics of events/shows very difficult.

Currently the Town Hall theatre's resources are exhausted, with their income stream from rental of the theatre for performance nights decimated. With fundraising, we have always tried to offer something in return for your generosity, i.e. a concert, play, raffle, fun day etc. These events are now on the long finger.

Since obtaining the lease and charitable status, we have been able to make slow steady improvements to the theatre, without going into any significant debt, through applications for various community grant aids as they came on stream. Our fundraising activities have helped to partly finance the day to day running of the theatre.

In order to maintain the progress made with the theatre to date, we need your help. We want to hold and maintain this beautiful performance space, for the people and particularly for the children, who find so much joy there, both on and off stage.

They don't know when the next performance will be in the theatre, but with so many creative people – "the show will go on."

Their banking details: Allied Irish Bank, Dunlo St, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Account Name: Ballinasloe Town Hall CLG

IBAN: IE45AIBK93704520065074 BIC: AIBKIE2D

To keep informed with the town hall theatre, follow our social media pages



TONY DOLPHIN STONEWORKS

Tristane, Aughrim, Ballinasloe.

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

087 260 8055

E: tonydolphins@gmail.com



GREAT HORSE LOVER PASSES AWAY

BY KEN KELLY



Thomas (Tom) Ferguson

The sudden passing of Thomas (Tom) Ferguson, Glentane, Creagh, Ballinasloe, in Portiuncula University Hospital, came as a great shock to all who knew him. He was a retired psychiatric nurse from St. Brigid's Hospital, having previously worked in St. Ita's, Portrane, Dublin.

The 73-year-old enjoyed the outdoor life, having taken up a keen interest in farming. His great love of horses brought him to most of the big fairs including Spencil Hill, Buttevant, Puck Fair and even the famous Appleby Fair in the UK. A dedicated member of the local Agricultural Show Society for many years, Tom loved to attend the local marts where he enjoyed meeting up with fellow farmers from around the area.

Tom was a popular and most obliging neighbour, always willing to give a helping hand if required. He had a great interest in his local community, seeing its development grow over the years in that precious area of west Roscommon.

Pre-deceased by his sister Anne Flynn (Leixlip), Tom is survived by his wife Mary, sons Alan (London), Declan (Dublin), daughter Lynn (Dublin), brother Liam (Ballygar) and sisters May Carroll (Dublin), Carmel Murphy (Newmarket-on-Fergus), grandchildren, as well as many other relatives and friends.

THE PASSING OF HASLAM

BY KEN KELLY

For almost sixty years he was affectionately known by all and sundry as Haslam. Very few bothered to ask his real name until he passed away. He was a popular figure around the town until he fell into ill health some years ago.

72-year-old Joseph (Haslam) Murray was born in Jubilee Street and in his schooldays tended to the livestock of Lyons Coachbuilders in Dunlo St. Later he became a delivery boy for Haslam & Mahon, the grocers in Main St. It was there he acquired the nickname "Haslam" and ever since then is all he was known by. When the shop ceased trading Haslam moved to Dubarry Shoes and later worked in West Shoes in Main St.

A great supporter of all sports, Haslam was a member of the West Shoes team, with Christy Finnerty and Jacko Keighrey who defeated the Top Quarries trio of Christy Lynch, Josie Kenny and Pat Joe Gavin in the final of the Social Club's first ever three-man inter firms billiards competition, in the seventies.

Survived by his son Elton, brother Kieran, sisters Annette, Joan and Bernadette, Haslam will be sadly missed by many other relatives, neighbours and friends.



Joseph (Haslam) Murray

A Message From Senator Eugene Murphy

KEEP CALM & STAY SAFE

If you or your family need help or assistance during this difficult time I am available to engage with people at all times.

Please do not hesitate to contact me at 087 1668775

Fighting my way back on behalf of the people of the Roscommon/Galway Constituency.

Eugene Murphy



Senator Eugene Murphy
Scramoge, Strokestown, Co. Roscommon Tel: 087 1668775

FIANNA Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY

EU Climate Change Tips For at Home

Did you know there are simple steps you can take at home that will not only ensure our future, but actually save you money too? Here are our top tips.

Replace incandescent/halogen light bulbs with LEDs saving up to €100 in electricity costs over a 20yr lifetime.

Look for energy efficient appliances: Look for an EU energy label and choose an energy efficient model.

Fill up your washing machine: Don't do a wash if you only have a few items of clothing. Wait until you have a full load. Less washes = less cost!

Don't overheat your water: A boiler at a maximum temperature of 60°C is both the most efficient and hygienic.

Buy rechargeable batteries and don't forget to recycle your batteries once they reach their end of life!



EUROPE DIRECT INFORMATION CENTRE, **BALLINASLOE LIBRARY**
(091) 509551 • ballinasloe@galwaylibrary.ie
www.europedirect.ie/ballinasloe • www.twitter.com/ballinasloedic
www.facebook.com/BallinasloeEDIC

PARSONS' EMPLOYEES MAKE CONTACT

BY JULIE PARSONS

"It's a small world" so the saying goes and the truth of this was brought home to me after my article about the disappearance in the South Pacific of my father, Dr Andy Parsons, was published in February.

I was looking for information about the Parsons' family and their shoe shops in Athlone, Ballinasloe, Mullingar and Moate for a book that I am writing. I was hoping that my article would awaken some memories of the days when the Parsons' shops were the place in the Midlands to buy shoes.

Before I had even seen a copy of the article I got an email from Eva Rice who said she remembered her mother buying her shoes in Parsons' shop in Athlone.

Soon afterwards I received an email from a lady called Dorrie Killeen (nee Feeley) who lives now in Ballinasloe. She told me she had worked for my uncle, Des Parsons from 1957 – 1965 and she would very much like to meet me. So, on 10th March, not long before the Covid-19 lockdown changed all our lives completely, I drove from Dublin to Ballinasloe to spend a wonderful afternoon with Dorrie and her husband, Tom.

Dorrie Feeley was only fifteen when she went to work for the Parsons as bookkeeper for the five shops. As I listened to her story she brought the world of the shops and of Des Parsons, to life. She told me about the fathers who would buy as many as twelve pairs of shoes for their children, before they went back to school in September, and the girls who came in to buy their dancing shoes. Her days were spent "doing the tot", adding up the takings, using nothing more than pen and ink and her sharp mathematical brain as she made a note of all the figures in the big leather ledgers.

The Parsons family had left Athlone in 1920. They moved from Garden Vale where my father and his sister, Kay and brother Des had all been born, to Greystones, Co. Wicklow. When their father,



Julie Parsons and Dorrie Killeen in Ballinasloe, March 2020



Dorrie Killeen in the early 90s

George Parsons died in 1948, Des took over the shoe business. Every Wednesday he came to Athlone and Dorrie would have the cheques ready for him to sign, the accounts in perfect order. She greatly admired Des and he reciprocated, treating her with respect and, when her mother died and she also had to look after her family, with great kindness.

In 1963 after my father was declared legally dead we came to live in Ireland. I never went to Athlone when the shops were still owned by the Parsons. I didn't know my uncle well. He was profoundly deaf and I found it difficult to communicate with him – as difficult I'm sure as he found communicating with me, a Beatles-mad teenager, brought up in the free and easy New Zealand world, which was very unlike the world in which he lived.

It was such a pleasure to meet Dorrie and Tom. I hope to meet them again when life returns to some kind of normal. In the meantime my research goes on. I am interested in making contact with others who have memories of the Parsons' shops and the Parsons' family too. My research shows that the first of the shoe shops was in Moate. It was started by John Parsons, who died in 1847. His wife, Anne, ran it for another thirty years. Her son, Robert, expanded the business and his son John, my great grandfather, moved to Athlone.

I would love to hear from anyone else who might have memories of the Parsons and their shops in Athlone, Ballinasloe, Mullingar and Moate. julie.parsons16@gmail.com



wizard computers


• Est. 2004 •

- PC, Laptop & Printer Sales, Repair & Service •
- Virus/Malware Removal • Software Installation •
- Data Recovery • Secure Data Destruction •
- Business IT Support • Nursing Home IT Support •
- School IT Support • Network Setup & Maintenance •
- Data Protection (GDPR) Consultant •

 wizardcomp
  @wizardcomp


(087) 2333373 www.wizardcomputers.ie
 (090) 9645996 kevin@wizardcomputers.ie

16 WILLOW PARK • DERRYMULLEN • BALLINASLOE • CO. GALWAY



Topline Greene's

1ST FOR BATHROOMS, TILES, DOORS AND FLOORS



Come and talk to Martin in our new state of the art showroom

Greene's Hardware Ahascragh
Phone 0909688609 • Email: martin@greeneshardware.ie

MAUREEN O'DONOGHUE – THE SHOW ALWAYS MUST GO ON

There are few names in the locality whose name conjures up lights, orchestra, curtain and chorus as Ballinasloe's Mrs. Maureen O'Donoghue or Flynn, as she was prior to meeting her late husband Mike.

The Honorary Lifetime Member and President of the 90 plus old Ballinasloe Musical Society looks back from her cocooning sitting room on how impossible her life would have been without the joy of Music and indeed Melody and Light Opera.

Her father, Gerry, was a Canal Manager in Athy, before being transferred in the 50s to Ballinasloe – where they set up home in Canal House, where the Training Centre is. He (Baritone) and her mother (Soprano) attended and participated in light operas, pantomimes and reviews with the Athy Musical Society. Theirs was decidedly not a gramophone house but an upright piano one and their two daughters, Maureen and Kay (RIP), were to continue their musical education on arrival.

The girls had an Aunt in nearby in Terryglass who taught piano, but it was the redoubtable Sr. Benedict of the Convent Secondary School who spotted Maureen in casting her for the "Age of Mary" Show.

"It was my first time ever singing for an audience, I was terrified but I got the better of it. Sr. Benedict was a true pioneer and she pushed out all our envelopes. I can remember us singing choruses from "Il Travatore" during this magical time" explains Maureen.

Dorothy Dunne (who lived over Clarke's Shop) and played with the famous Aughrim Slopes Band was her first Musical Teacher, where she picked up the rudiments of violin and piano. However it was another musical powerhouse that dominates a lot of local childhood memories – "Breezy" who really opened the door for her. "Goodness, there should really be a bronze statue to this woman. She had been a governess to some court in Vienna before the war, had worked with princes, counts, cardinals and whilst quite small



Maureen with Austin Gaffney

had a huge commanding presence, whether it was Organist in St. Michael's or Musical Director to the Musical Society or the operas in Garbally- she took a shine to some pupils and she certainly took a shine to me" explains Maureen.

By the early sixties Maureen was performing solo for weddings, studying piano to nearly teaching grade and as a cherished pupil of Breezys (aka Lavina Sheridan), allowed into the Town Hall to sell programmes for the musicals as teenagers.

She recalls Frank Ryan, the tenor, singing the lead in "Maritana" in one of her first shows, followed by a whirl of memories of RTE Light Orchestra Recitals, Dances in front of the stage and even was the piano player for the Tennis Club Hops in the Whigham Hall!

Her first official role on stage as junior chorus member was when the Society were invited to attend the Waterford Light Opera Festival in 1960, with their stunning production of "Oklahoma" starring Dermot Cullen as Judd in the lead.

After Commercial College, Maureen was working as a clerk in Haslam and Mahon Grocery Store (where Michael Ward's is today) and got her first principal role in "The Quaker Girl".

From then on, she was the main leading lady in most of the shows, upto the mid-70s – playing opposite a host of national stars from RTE Light Entertainment.

Some shows stand out– Mrs. Molloy in "Hello Dolly" with Dermot Cullen opposite as the lead. In the early 70s "New Moon" was produced and RTE's Bill Goulding (Rory to Wanderly Wagon Fans) was her leading man. She recalls queues for 30 minutes before curtain up; such was the audience demand – back then shows ran from Tuesday through to the following Sunday 12 nights!

"Dessert Song" in '72 is more remembered for Leo Cullen having to walk a live donkey home, and to back stage for a scene with the lovers, than Chris Curran RTE's Tolka Row star!

There was always a shortage of tenors in the town and there would

TONY CARROLL FAMILY BUTCHER

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

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

All our beef & lamb products are from our own **BORD BIA APPROVED FARM**

- Homemade Award Winning Sausages
- Award Winning Black & White Pudding
- Gluten Free Sausages
- Fresh Fish Every Thursday



FREE DELIVERY
within 3 mile radius

Check in store for Weekly Offers



Like us on:
facebook

www.facebook.com/tonycarrollfamilybutchers



The "Big Spender" and Chorus - Michael Mc Cullagh, Bernie Dunne, Maureen O Donaghue, Ann McCullagh, Ann Hannify, Kay Flynn (RIP) and Paul Dillingson starring in a Choral Society Competition for Tops of the Town in the Convent Hall in the early 70s.

be great excitement when any of the four bank branches hired new staff to see whether they were singers or dancers! The 1973 "Merry Widow" production has especially fond memories for Maureen, not just because she got to play opposite Austin Gaffney, but at the last moment her late sister Kay who was the accompanist in the orchestra and by now was firmly established as the new musical teacher in town, had to stand in and play her sister.

In the final performance, she laughs aloud at the memory of Kay and herself having to toast some Earl's portrait when some giddy members of the backstage crew stuck their tongue out in an effort to throw them off.

She always preferred the singing of the roles than sometimes the acting, but she honed her craft to such a degree that various musical societies in the midlands would call upon her to stand in if a principal female got ill during a run. Maureen recalls, in 1976 having to undertake her leading role from MOON with less than a few hours to go in Clara, opposite a certain Paddy Norton – the current society's Producer's dad!

Maureen married Mike O'Donoghue in 1961 and moved to Ballyforan and they were blessed with seven children – Eamon, Niall, Maureen, Karen, Michael, Martin and David – many of whom reside close by her today.

She believes that between the Societies, the Choirs, the Churches, the Nuns, the Army bandsmen and the musicianship of the town band, we have been richly endowed with a love of musical performance. "We have been very fortunate with the legacy that all those who have gone before us, but I still believe the loss of the Garbally Operas has been a huge set-back for encouraging new audience" states Maureen.

She praises the tireless workers of the Town Hall, the volunteers and the Committee of the Musical Society that she has been a member of, practically continuously since the mid-70s. "We have a loyal bunch of committed workers, once you have a strong focused committee anything is possible on the Town Hall Stage" remarked the talented lady.



Maureen in her typical Front of House Zone during a Musical Run with Society Members Frances Leahy and Charlene Hurley

She is not a huge fan of the modern shows. "Some of them have no depth, no quality or score and are tuneless to my ears. I love the song with a strong melody – works by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Sigmund Romberg – the Gilbert and Sullivan Operas – there is really something timeless about their work" she explains.

When Maureen is cocooning these weeks she finds herself listening to the Broadway Musicals, light classical – a few of the Maria Lanzo recordings – which can take her back to late nights at the after show parties, in Hayden's, the Mount and now of course Gullane's Hotel.

She remains adamant that post pandemic - the Show must go on and looks forward to seeing the "Fiddler on the Roof" production – that she starred in, returning to the boards.



Maureen with Michael O'Grady and Frank Hunt.
From a scene in the Merry Widow

McKeon's Sand & Gravel Ltd.

Cullaghbeg, Ballinasloe.

Telephone: Office/Sandpit 090 9642521

Email: mckeons1@eircom.net



Now Stocking:

*Decorative Stone
Paving Sand
Screened Topsoil
Bark Mulch*



Laurence Killian and his sister Lizzie Killian, outside their family home in Moynure, Drum in the 1920's

Seventy years ago a Ballinasloe doctor passed away at the age of 55 but details of her career are sparse. Relatives of the late Dr. Elizabeth Killian, who lived in "Glenavon" Main Street, for over twenty-five years, have not even a photograph of the physician and are now appealing for information from anybody that knew about her career.

Dr. Elizabeth (Lizzie) was born in Drum, Athlone on 6th September 1894, the youngest of ten children, of John Killian and his wife Roseann nee McManus. They lived on the family farm in Moynure,

currently owned by the Duffy family. Lizzie's mother died when she was less than two years old. Later educated in the Dominican Convent, Wicklow, she "Matriculated at Queen's College, Galway in 1917/18 and graduated as a doctor in Durham in 1923".

In September 1923 Dr. Killian was appointed by Roscommon Board of Health to serve in the dispensary district of Creagh and Ballydangan, as well as Ballinasloe, which she did for twenty-five years. Her untimely death on 3rd May 1950, at the age of 55, due to cardiac thrombosis, came as a great shock to her family, friends and the community. She had resided at "Glenavon" on the northern end of Main St., next to Lancaster House.

A published obituary of her passing stated "she was an extremely popular doctor with all sections of the community. She was also the doctor to Ballinasloe Gardai, Convent of Mercy and Ballinasloe Post Office. She had gained a high reputation and esteem over a wide area amongst her patients and colleagues. Her work was a labour of love and she always kept abreast of scientific advances and discoveries in the healing art."

Following the funeral mass in St. Michael's Church, Dr. Killian was buried in Drum Cemetery. She was succeeded in her medical practice by her nephew, Dr. Edward Killian.

Now members of the Killian Family are seeking further information and a photograph, if at all possible of Dr. Elizabeth. If anyone has any relevant information, please contact Evelyn Donellan on 090 9642459 or email: evelynd1691@gmail.com

RUGBY CLUB CHARITY CLOTHES COLLECTION DAY



Ballinasloe RFC are helping support local charity, Ballinasloe Lions Club. With a clothes collection day. This will raise badly needed funds for them. Collection dates are June 12 and 13.

You can donate any kind of clean clothes, jackets, fabrics, skirts, ties etc. Laundered Duvets, pillows and footwear are also acceptable

Drop off location is Ballinasloe Rugby Club grounds. Club members will be on hand to collect items.

UTAH
DEPARTMENT STORE



**REOPENING MONDAY JUNE 8th
WITH MASSIVE SUMMER SALE
DONT MISS OUT !!!**

LOCAL LIBRARY SUPPORTING ONLINE ACTIVITY



Róisín Mannion, sang Ode to Joy for Europe Day



Maire Hughes, flower decorating

Due to the closure of all public libraries over the last two months, the local Europe Direct library have been very active on social media trying to keep everyone busy reading and learning new skills.

Their eBooks, eAudio books and online courses are being very heavily used and many people are accessing their cookery and gardening magazines online to keep them busy during the lockdown. All books are free. They're also many other free online courses such as business, self-help and computing and dog grooming, cake decorating and creative writing.

During the pandemic, they have been busy online posting regular

Storytime's as part of a national Libraries Ireland campaign, Spring into Storytime. Marie Hughes has posted the most listened to stories (over 40,000 views) across the country. She will be taking requests, so if you would like her to give your kid a shout-out then message the libraries Facebook page. Marie is now turning her hand to flower arranging. You can check out her tutorials on their social media pages also.

A highlight of Europe day was a special rendition of 'An Old Woman of the Roads' by Bernie from the local Women's Group. Moylough based musician and singer Róisín Mannion sang her rendition of 'Ode to Joy' to celebrate Europe Day. Róisín is part of the well-known Mannion family and has toured across Europe and the USA with 'Celtic Flames' and currently performs with The Risers. For the kid's guest Storytellers performed stories in a number of different languages all safe from home.

Some staff have been redeployed to work on the community call and some are remote working, they're still here to answer all your questions, so please email them at ballinasloe@galwaylibrary.ie.

In the roadmap to opening up public libraries are scheduled to reopen on June 8th. Management are currently meeting to discuss how libraries can safely open whilst complying with physical distancing, hygiene and cleaning guidelines, plans for vulnerable people etc. They also hope to roll out a 'contact and collect' service during June.

To keep up to date with the libraries' activities and re-opening, check out their Facebook and Instagram pages.

BY LIAM COSGROVE

TOWN BAND HALL RENOVATIONS

BY LIAM COSGROVE

Having purchased the old Parochial Hall, the Town Band set about raising funds to repair the ageing roof and to carry out fire safety renovations to the interior of the building.

They hope to re-batten and re-slate the roof of the hall, the proposed internal renovations to the building largely consist of fire protection works such as sheeting the ceiling with fire resistant plaster boards. Other work will involve replacing part of the staircase where it has rotted and painting and decorating the hall.

Works to date include the removal of the entire roof from the rear annex and its replacement with new timbers, insulation and roof covering. In addition, this room has been studded and insulated.

The ceiling of the main hall has been removed and replaced with additional timbers, insulation and it has been plastered and painted to date. The heating, plumbing and electrical work is due to re-commence.

The band is in receipt of LEADER funding from Galway Rural Development. To date this grant aid has amounted to €41,995. A further application for additional aid awaits decision by GRD.

To date the band has fundraised €80,000 and €50,000 has been expended on the renovations. COVID - 19 then put a stop to both the fundraising and the renovations. Their aim is to raise €180,000 in total for the project for the purchase and renovation of the hall.

Their fundraising campaign has been discontinued until the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted. However, funds can still be



Renovations to roof



JJ Smyth and Martyna Doherty long stand band members

subscribed by supporters via a standing order or direct debit to their account in the credit union. They still appeal for your support. They require the long-term commitment of individuals, businesses and supporters to maintain and develop the band in the years ahead.

The band hopes to have an open air concert in the town square before the Summer is over so that the community can enjoy the lifting of the restrictions on life.

To stay up to date with the town band or to contact them, check out their Facebook page.

In these times of uncertainty and fear of coming into close contact with people, sometimes it is hard to imagine how an organisation like the GAA can bring its members together in any sense.

However, when Pieta approached GAA clubs around the country to assist in fundraising, they answered the call and its worldwide community came together while staying apart to participate in a 24 hour run/walk. Members of the town diaspora in Dublin, Sydney, Galway, Edinburgh, Vancouver, Dubai and New York signed up for the event.

Pieta provides a free service to people engaging in self-harm, who have suicidal ideation and also to those who have been bereaved by suicide. The service does not need a referral and each €1,000 raised provide a full therapy programme for one person. The organisation depends on fundraisers for over 80% of its income, so this year with the cancellation of the traditional "Darkness into Light" event, there was a worry that the loss of this important revenue stream would result in a huge reduction in funds raised.

The event was set-up and administered totally on-line and those who took part adhered to Covid-19 regulations. Participants completed their pursuit independently, either as individuals or as a part of their household group, using their homes as their base. Young and old took part, they ran and walked and some of the younger boys and girls cycled along with their parents for one hour.

Donations were made online and as each new sign-up was announced on the GAA social media pages their family and friends supported their endeavours by donating. For those who were unable to participate in the event their online donations allowed them to be part of this wonderful event

A feel-good factor from all involved could be taken from the on-line responses and the community at home and abroad really got behind it. The total amount raised was €8,473 and the distance covered was 1,552 kms which equates to 37 full marathons.

The GAA Lotto continues online every Friday night. Currently, this is the only revenue stream for the club and this has been greatly reduced as it's not possible to sell through the usual mediums of pubs, shops and the weekly Bingo. You can buy your lotto ticket on-line at www.play.clubforce.com.

The club grounds are currently closed at this time and they'll be reopening when the GAA recommends to do so. To keep up to date with the GAA club, check out their Facebook page.



Des, Helena John and their 4 legged friend, Cassie, who walked and ran for Pieta



At the same time Jennifer Coughlan ran in Sharjah, near Dubai



Grealy Murphy Family



Gary and Ashling Coone and kids



Donal O Fiannachta in Vancouver



Aodan and Michael Connaughton who ran in New York



Physiotherapy &
Sports Injury Clinic

- Spinal Problems
- Sprains and Fractures
- Muscle Tears
- Occupational Injuries
- Sports related Injuries
- Biomechanical Problems
- Post-operative Rehabilitation

SPECIALIST TREATMENT FROM CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

- Keith Fox - Irish Rugby Physiotherapist
- Helen Taylor - Women's Health and Pilates
- David Kelly - Chartered Physiotherapist
- Fergal O Reilly - Chartered Physiotherapist
- James Sheerin - Chartered Physiotherapist
- Aaron McDermott - Chartered Physiotherapist
- Robbie Fox - Sport Masseur Connacht Rugby

Mon - Fri 8am till late and **NOW OPEN** Sat 8am till 1

**NOW
OPEN**

**Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre,
Creagh, Co. Galway · t: 090 9631497**

Unit 5, Blyry Business Park,
Cornamaddy, Athlone
t: 090 6494903



www.actionphysio.ie

GOLF CLUB WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

BY LIAM COSGROVE

The Ballinasloe Golf Club teed off on the 18th May with the news that they would be one of the first sports to have coronavirus restrictions lifted. As a result, there will be tight controls to ensure the safety for everyone.

Only "Social Golf" will be allowed and tee times will be 14 minutes apart to avoid people gathering in groups. A members' ONLY policy is one of the rules and everyone must book their tee time in advance.

The Golfing Union of Ireland and Irish Ladies Golfing Union have released a joint set of protocols by which players must abide by to ensure the sport can one day return to normal, post-COVID-19. These guidelines can be found on the golfnet website or as posted on the golf club site.

Golf is a great outdoor sport in a safe and friendly environment. It is also an easy way to keep fit and to get moving during the lockdown. As most other sports will not be permitted to restart for several months, golf is a new way to walk off those extra kilos put on during the lockdown. It is also an easy way to reach your 10,000-step target. With this in mind, the club is welcoming new members especially from other sports that are still restricted.

"Our club has an open-door policy and has always welcomed new members" states Captain John Hurley. "With this in mind, we welcome new members from other local sports clubs to join. We have a wide variety of membership plans that are available on their website or by calling the club on 090 964 2126".

They have loads of different yearly options for golfers and non-golfers who wish to join. A full adult membership costs €628. Students from 18-21 years old pay €178. A wife and husband partnership is €568 per person and a returning member (someone who hasn't been a member for two or more years) pays €428.

At the club, there has been a growing juniors' programme which suits all levels. Junior membership costs €65 for the year and they



Joe Casey practising on the driving range



Liam Tully, Junior Member

can play with family club members or other adult members for the next few weeks until restrictions ease.

"The ladies' section of the club is very active with golfers of all ages and abilities – there is something for everyone" says Ladies Captain Anne Greene. "We all started not knowing how to play the game. At our club, there is a strong bond of friendship with everyone helping each other. We would welcome and help any new women that join".

Over the winter and early spring before the restrictions there has been a lot of work done. They now believe that the course is now in pristine condition and ready to be conquered.

If you want to know more information about golfing activities over the next few weeks, message their Facebook page or send them an email at ballinasloegolfclub@hotmail.com

NOONAN & CUDDY
SOLICITORS

SPECIALISTS IN
Personal Injury Litigation & Medical/Surgical Injury

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

CONTACT AMBROSE CUDDY

Free Phone: 1800 771 688 Phone: 090 964 2344

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

Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Ireland.





The Tennis Club has resumed activities as it is now a permitted sport under the first phase.

The club will be operating under strict procedures outlined by Tennis Ireland in accordance with government guidelines. Playing will be restricted to singles only with the exception of members from the same household, who can play doubles. There can be no sharing of equipment and each player will have to provide their own racquets and marked balls and other players will not be allowed to handle other equipment. Players also must live within five kilometers of the courts. For further details of these guidelines visit Tennis Ireland's website.

Initially, tennis will be restricted to over 18's only, although the

club will allow juniors to play as soon as practical. No coaching will be available until further notice. For insurance purposes, players must be members of the club, and new members are welcome for a nominal fee. Memberships will be rolled over for club members from last year and for new members a nominal membership fee of €20 for adults, €10 for juniors or students and €30 for families.

The club is operating from their temporary home at Ardscoil Mhuire where they have the use of three courts. In other news, the club is still working on building courts in their new home above the running track in Brackernagh, with plans to have courts open late this summer, subject to current delays.

For further information about available playing times take a look at their Facebook page or email bsloetennis@gmail.com or call: Garry 085 112 4197, Joe 087 252 1424, Louise 087 135 3751 or Sarah 087 680 0598 (Junior and Coaching queries).

CAMOGIE CLUB HELPS FORUM

The Camogie season had just gotten underway when it came to a halt. The club wholeheartedly support the Government decision to introduce the restrictions to control the spread of Covid-19.

While everyone was disappointed, the club has encouraged its members through social media to adhere to the restrictions. The necessity to keep active, fit and healthy is also encouraged and club members have responded and documented their exploits online.



The club have been involved with Galway County Council's Covid-19 Community Response Forum. They operated a Freefone number where people who may be isolating, cocooning or otherwise vulnerable, or their families can call for assistance. The County Council relay the request to the club volunteers to respond. The request can be anything from collecting/delivering groceries to collecting prescriptions.

The Freefone number 1800 928 894 and it operates seven days a week from 9am to 6pm. The club volunteer Covid-19 coordinator can also be contacted on 087 233 3373.

All activities have been postponed as per the Association. To keep up to date with the club and next allowable activities check out their Facebook page.

FIRST FOR VALUE
HOGARTY'S
FLOORING AND DIY

BIRCHGROVE, CREAGH, BALLINASLOE.
T: 090 964 3109



WE HAVE **EVERYTHING YOU NEED** TO DECORATE YOUR HOME

CYCLING COMING BACK IN PHASE 1



BCC member John Donnelly gives his opinion on COVID 19 lockdown.

Cycling has been identified as a priority sport and is listed in phase one of the roadmap for reopening society and business. The easing of restrictions currently allows for a limited return of certain cycling activities.

Groups of up to four people may cycle within a five-kilometer radius of their home

while maintaining social distancing requirements. Members are encouraged to carefully assess their route and the potential risks to establish whether four people cycling a minimum of two meters apart constitutes a hazard.

For those who are limited as where to cycle, the Zwift craze can help to scratch that itch. Zwift is a virtual cycling world which can be controlled using a smart turbo trainer and can replicate real world roads, climbs included. You can race fellow cyclists from around the world and they also have specific workouts tailored to your ability and training style.

To join Zwift, all you need is a bike, a trainer or a set of rollers, an ANT+ or a Bluetooth measurement tool: a power meter, smart trainer or speed/cadence sensor, a computer, smartphone or tablet with Bluetooth or ANT+. They offer you a seven-day free trial at the beginning and it costs €13.70 a month from then on.

This has led to many cyclists setting up a "Pain Cave" in kitchens, living rooms, spare rooms and sheds around the world. Cycling Ireland are currently organising online races on the Zwift platform every Saturday where club member Shane Dolan has got some excellent results in the A grade races including a 3rd place finish.

If you're unable to buy Zwift, the cycling club have some great short routes available. With all routes starting at Barry's Cycles, cycles can take you past the train station, down by the motorway and out and around the Roscommon Road.

To get in contact or to keep up to date check out their Facebook page.

BY LIAM COSGROVE

FISHING IS HEALTHY

Angling is a great way to achieve light physical exercise for the body and mind. Due to the solitary nature of angling, Covid-19 restrictions have been eased. People can now fish while still complying with some of the following regulations which are on the IFI (Inland Fisheries Ireland) website.

Maintaining social distancing at all times, especially at car parks, access points and launch sites, maximum two persons from different households in a small boat for inland/inshore fishing and facilities where anglers could gather to remain closed – lunch huts are all obvious.

With the great river Suck running through the town, the Lough Acalla in Kilconnell - renowned for its brown trout, even though pike over 20 lbs. have also been landed there - club members belong to a fortunate group and reports of some good fishing are coming through from first few days back.

As per normal, good weather, school holidays and general boredom brings out the novice and beginners. Old rods, dusted down reels (with ten-year-old line) and a box of worms or maggots can often do the trick.

Members are currently considering new ways to safely pass on knowledge to the beginners. So much is passed on through that sigh, groan, soft spoken advice in order to be trusted to fish while socially distancing. There are some good tutorials online on sites like YouTube that can be studied from home on how to tie knots, when to use trace wire and how to set up various rigs.

The local fishing area is an I.F.I. managed area and all fishers, experienced or novices, are required to carry a permit while fishing. Failure to do so may lead to equipment confiscation and/or fines also there are a host of regulations regarding fish size bag limits, catch and release. Permits are available on the I.F.I website or Broderick's in Kilconnell have them. An adult yearly membership is €45 while a junior subscription will set you back €10.

All club formal activities have been postponed until further notice. The Anglers Club will continue to help foster angling in the hinterland while complying with government regulations. They can be contacted through any club member or FB – Ballinasloe and District Anglers.

BY LIAM COSGROVE



Some of the gang from Millrace enjoying a Day with Elton Murry, Gerry Broderick, Aidan Mocklair, John Connell.

Supermac's

FRESH RANGE

always fresh | never frozen

**HOME DELIVERY
or COLLECTION**

Welcome Back

from

SUPERMAC'S MAIN ST BALLINASLOE

ORDER ONLINE AT SUPERMACS.IE

or CALL 090 9643151

SUPERMAC'S ALSO AVAILABLE AT DOLAN'S - OLD DUBLIN RD: 090 9642178



SUPERMACS.IE

SOCCER DRIBBLE FOR TEMPLE STREET HOSPITAL



Under 11 Squad

including Killarney Celtic and Tramore FC.

The local club players mapped out their own route in the gardens or on the street outside their home. They were all fully kitted out in the club's gear on the day. They completed the course and in return, would nominate another player to do it.

All players were videoed while trying

to complete the challenge and all highlights of the event are available on their Facebook page. In the end, they raised a huge €1,400 for the charity on their GoFundMe page.

The club are in the final stages of drawing down a €48,000 Sports Capital Grant from the Department of Sport and arranging the upfront finance required to commence the latest stage of the Club Development with the aid of soccer club representative and current Queen of the Great October Fair, Ashley Walsh. She has aided brilliantly with her IT skills for the grant approval and drawdown process.

The approved works for this stage consist of a new drive on mower for the ongoing maintenance of the club's grass playing pitches and the upgrading of the floodlights on the main grass pitch.

In an effort to assist with the very serious challenge facing the community they offered the use of the club's grounds and clubhouse for any purpose which the H.S.E. may need it for in efforts to combat Covid-19.

To keep up to date with the soccer club during the pandemic, follow their Facebook page Ballinasloe Town AFC.

BY LIAM COSGROVE



Queen of the Fair Ashley Walsh with assisted with the IT for sports capital grant

After being nominated by Dublin side St. Ita's AFC, the Ballinasloe Soccer club's under-11 team recently took part in a fundraiser for Temple Street Children's Hospital.

St. Ita's came up with the idea after having being inspired by Captain Tom Moore, who pledged to do 100 laps of his 25-meter garden on his walking frame before his 100th birthday, they decided to hold a Dribblathon in a relay format, whereby each player would complete 10 laps x 25 meters with a football. They nominated teams across the country



CARRY OUT OFF LICENCE

Simply Better Wines, Beers and Spirits. Craft Beers a speciality.

- Carry Out Off Ballinasloe are continuing to operate normal opening hours. Mon-Sat 10.30am – 10pm Sun-12.30-10pm
- The safety of our staff and our customers is of the utmost importance to us. We have installed a perspex protector at our counter as an additional safety measure. We would also like to ask customers to pay with card where possible to keep cash handling to a minimum.
- Please can we ask everyone to keep to the physical distancing rules and stay at least 2mtrs from other customers and staff at the till. We will be introducing restrictions on customer numbers during busy periods.

Thanks for your support.

Divilly's Carryout Off Licence, Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe, Co Galway 090 9642173

RUGBY MEMBERS JOIN COVID VOLUNTEERS BY LIAM COSGROVE



BALLINASLOE UNDER 18 RAFAEEK KAHN CUP WINNERS

Back row, left to right: P. McDonnell, A. Marjanovic, J. Devine, T. Fitzpatrick, C. Goode, S. Egan, C. Lohan, P. Galvin, R. Carry, M. Kelly, J. Claffey, B. Feeney. • **Front row, left to right:** A. Doyle, N. Cusack, N. Murphy, M. Devine, K. Blackweir, A. Fogarty, C. Treacy, J. Carry, L. Walsh, L. Feehily, A. O'Carroll, N. O'Malley, G. Collieran. • **Missing from photo:** J. Costello.

With most outdoor sports events suspended due to the Government restrictions the rugby season has come to a premature end. Everyone at the club, from Committee down, are committed to adhering to the restrictions in place to combat Covid-19. The rugby grounds consequently are closed to all activity.

One of the few pieces of silverware that needed to be decided before the shutdown was the U18 Rafeek Kahn Memorial League Cup which was retained. They overcame a tough Ballina side on the day with a score line of 26-17 at Creggs RFC grounds.

They have teamed up with Galway County Council and are listed as a service provider in Galway County Council's Covid-19 Community Response Forum. The role of the Forum is to ensure that there is a coordinated community response and to enable all community and statutory agencies to collaborate in support of our communities and particularly, our most vulnerable members. If you or any member of your family are isolated, cocooning or otherwise

vulnerable, contact their Freephone number 1800 928 894 for assistance and one of the volunteers will be dispatched to help. The club volunteer coordinator can also be contacted on 087 233 3373.

While the club is closed there are still expenses that need to be paid and vital fundraising continues. The club's "50/50 - Half the Pot" is ongoing with the draw being held via Facebook Live by the Club Vice-President Pearse Keller.

How does a 50/50 draw work? Each month a draw

is made and half of the pot paid in for that month is won. The other half goes to the club for its day to day running costs including capital projects. It costs €5 per month to enter. There are 2 ways to enter. A standing order for €5 direct from your bank account monthly. This is highly recommended. That way your guaranteed entry to each draw automatically or you can pay €5 cash each month per draw to a coach or committee member.

Last month's winner was Patrick McDonald. Jackpot was €380 and the winner received €190. The draw was done live on Facebook by Pearse Keller.

Some of the club volunteers were in action helping out the workers in the East Galway & Midlands Cancer Support. Their garden needed some attention during lockdown and the call went out. A small army of green-fingered volunteers jumped into action. The fruits of their labour can be seen in glorious Ballinasloe sunshine.

To get in contact with the Rugby Club, you can message them on their Facebook page or their email ballinasloerfc@gmail.com.

BALLINASLOE GARDEN CENTRE

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

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

Spring is Nature's Time for Planting

Spring colour top quality primroses/pansies
€1 per pot or €3.99 per tray of 6
or mix & match 3 trays for €10

Fruit Trees- Plant now for summer
@ €24.95 each or €3 for €50

Ornamental Trees in 12 L pots
€39.99 each or 3 for €100

Alpine Collection For Spring and early Summer
flower €3 per pot or 4 for €10

Tippland Peat: 2 x 75 L €10

Mini Bark 3 x 75 L €20 (save €4)

Seed Potatoes in Stock

Seed Selection Suttons, Fothergills & Kings

Quality Irish Grown Roses 3 for €20
Plant your roses on St Patricks weekend
for best results

**Give a gift voucher
to spend over the
gardening season**

**OPENING
HOURS
VARIABLE**
Ring before traveling

We would like to thank our customers & friends for your continued support



St. Catherine's Church of Ireland, Ahascragh, was badly damaged in an arson attack in 1922. With the help of Catholic parishioners the building was repaired and re-opened for public worship four years later. At the time, the local rector was the Rev. George Townshend, whose subsequent life-trajectory proved very different from that of the generality of his clerical colleagues.

Born in Dublin on 14th June 1876, Townshend was sent to England to be educated, graduating from Hertford College, Oxford, in 1899 with a BA in classics and English. From 1900 to 1904 he was employed as a leader writer by "The Irish Times" while pursuing legal studies at King's Inns, where he was called to the bar in 1903. Townshend emigrated to Utah, USA, and became a deacon in the Episcopal Church of America in charge of the mission to Mormons and Red Indians, followed by his ordination at Salt Lake City in 1906. Constantly preoccupied with a search for religious truth, he joined an ethical movement called the School of Natural Science, from which he resigned in 1916 after its leaders were accused of fraud. Having taught in a high school and authored several publications, he was appointed assistant professor of English at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee, lecturing in English and Anglo-Irish literature.

On a visit to Ireland in June 1916 he was afflicted with neuritis, which caused temporary blindness and led to his resignation from his position in Sewanee. Shortly afterwards he secured the post of curate of Booterstown, Co. Dublin, where he remained for three years. During his time there he married Nancy Maxwell, a shopkeeper's daughter. The couple had two children, a son, Brian, and a daughter, Una.

His marriage coincided with the period when he first encountered the Bahá'í Faith, a religion derived from Shia Islam and originating in Persia where it was founded in 1863 by Bahá'u'lláh. Bahá'í teachings are in some ways similar to

other monotheistic faiths: God is considered single and all-powerful. However, Bahá'u'lláh taught that religion is orderly and progressively revealed by one God through manifestations of the deity who are the founders of major religions throughout history, Jesus Christ, Buddha and Mohammad being the more recent. As such, Bahá'ís regard the major religions as fundamentally united in purpose, though varied in social practices and interpretations. There is a similar emphasis on the unity of all people, openly rejecting notions of racism and nationalism. Bahá'ís subscribe to a strict moral code that prohibits alcohol and extramarital sexual relations. Townshend began to study Bahá'í scriptures, use Bahá'í prayers and correspond with the founder's son and grandson.

Meanwhile he continued his career in the Church of Ireland, becoming successively rector of Ahascragh from 1919 to 1926, canon of Clonfert, diocesan secretary, canon of St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin, provost of Kilmacduagh, archdeacon of Clonfert, and canon of Tipper Kevin. It was while Townshend was serving in Ahascragh that it was reported in July 1922 that W.T. Cosgrave, Minister for Local Government in the Free State provisional administration, met the Protestant Archbishop of Dublin, Dr. Gregg, who warned Cosgrave of his "grave concern" for Southern Protestants, particularly in the provinces, citing the burning of a Protestant church in Ahascragh. Cosgrave tried to reassure him, saying that the government promised "protection irrespective of class or creed" and gave an undertaking that the National Army garrison at Ballinasloe would investigate the church burning.

Townshend believed that he could persuade his church to recognise Bahá'u'lláh as the second coming of Christ. This, however, was not to be, and eventually his involvement with the Bahá'ís brought him into conflict with his superiors in the Church of Ireland. In 1947 he renounced his priesthood "in order to be loyal to Christ as I know him" and to proclaim publicly that the faith of Bahá'u'lláh is the long-awaited "return" promised in the gospel. At the age of 70 he willingly accepted all the hardship that this entailed.

He moved to a small bungalow outside Dublin where he spent his last decade. Becoming an influential figure in the Bahá'í Faith, he was one of the founding members of the Dublin Local Spiritual Assembly. Townshend developed Parkinson's disease and died in Baggot Street Hospital, Dublin, on 25th March 1957.



Jorena Health & Gift Shop

SOCIETY STREET, BALLINASLOE 090-9646585

HEALTH SHOP

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

GIFT SHOP

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

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



*Let your food be your medicine
and medicine be your food*



Up to 30% off selected items of furniture.

Lovely range of pine, mahogany furniture, pictures,
Tipperary crystal bags, jewellery, and lighting at reduced prices.

JEWELLERY RANGE

- Absolute
- Knight and Day
- Kilkenny Sterling Silver
- Tipperary Crystal
- Kelly

**Large Selection of Pottery,
Gifts & Artwork
on Display**

plus many more...



CORONAVIRUS: HOW WE CAN PREPARE?

- | | | |
|-------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| • Vitamin C | • Mushroom Gold | • Olive Leaf Extract |
| • Vitamin D | • Elderberry | • Colloidal Silver |

BUY ONLINE, OVER THE PHONE OR IN STORE

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

COMMUNION CLASSES FROM SUMMERS PAST

BY GERRY DEVLIN



CONVENT OF MERCY GIRLS' FIRST COMMUNION (60's)

Front row, L-R:

Angela Gleeson, Toni Gleeson, Anne Patten, Ann Duffy.

2nd row, L-R:

Nora Hodgins, Maura Regan, Paula Howley, Unknown, Bernie Burgoyne, Anne Moloney, Nora Smith, Brenda Kelly, Rose Burns.

3rd row, L-R:

Kay Lyons, Unknown, Valerie Browne, Margaret McAvee, Annette Kenny, Nuala Broderick, Marie Crehan, Unknown, Francis Darcy.

Back row, L-R:

Annette Holohan, Pat Keighrey, Kathleen Bradley, Ann Quinn, Colette Burke, Carmel Kenny, Patsy Geoghegan, Patricia Deeley, Mary Rothwell, Mary Hall.

E&OE

BALLINASLOE BOYS' FIRST COMMUNION (60's)

Front row, L-R:

Robert and Peter Morgan, Liam Hannon, Michael Coughlan, John Smith RIP, Peter Browne, Liam Jones, Raymond Canavan, John Clayton, Gerry Barrett, James Dervan RIP.

Middle row, L-R:

Cathal Gibbons, Gerry Sinclair, Tom Carty, Martin Ryan, Sean Feerick, John Holohan RIP, Dermot Peel, Sean Lyons, Pat Lynch, Dermot Burke.

Back row, L-R:

Gerry Finn, Thomas Sheridan, Brian Ward, Gerry Seale, John Finnerty, Brendan Kilduff, Val Fogarty RIP, Dermot Burke, Gearoid Kirwan, John Kelly, Mr. P.T. Galvin, N.T.

E&OE



KPW
Print Management

KPW Print makes it easier for everyone!!

25%
OFF THE LIST PRICE

Ensure you supply this advert with your order.

- KPW Print are fully aware of the problem Covid 19 presented to everyone and the vital restrictions in place that prevented the movement of people. If anyone requires Wedding Invitations or Memorial Cards we will try and really make it easy for you.
- Email: diane@kpw.ie, phone (090) 9642297 or write to us at KPW Print, Poolboy Ind. Est., Ballinasloe and we will do the rest and help you.
- We will post out a hard copy proof and once you get it give us a call and we can make any alterations you require.
- Once alterations are done we will post you another hard copy proof.
- AND WE WILL TAKE 25% OFF THE LIST PRICE.



Back in the summer of 1964, the Galway senior football team were on a winning streak and on their way to the first of their three-in-a-row. Cyril Dunne and Seán Meade, two local lads, played with that great three in a row team. So! It's no wonder that every child was kicking a football locally.

All that was needed was something to kick and a couple of jumpers for goalposts. Many a game was finished in near dark conditions with a shout of "the next goal is the winner" when their mothers called them in for bed. Back then, it was not unknown for children to have a Sunday morning kick-about on Main Street and on Brackernagh, and not a car in sight.

Lilly Broderick trained a team in her own area of Brackernagh, St. Joseph's and Mackney. She thought a street league would be a great outlet for all that football mania. She contacted other like minded adults in many areas of the town and teams were organised in Jubilee, Creagh, Ard Mhuire, the Town and Derrymullen.

Helped by local subscriptions and raffles, footballs and kits were purchased. A new perpetual cup and medals were obtained and her street league underage competition was born. Togs for the Brackernagh team were expertly made by Mrs. Farrell, a neighbour of the famous John "Tull" Dunne.

Most of the league matches were played in St. Joseph's Place. The local children would source the original rough timber uprights and



Derrymullen team (1963 or 1964)

Front row: Johnny Madden, Jackie Maloney, Tom Houlohan, Tony Kelly, Kevin Black, Tom Mannion, John Connaire, Noel Casey. **Back row:** Patsy Geraghty, Jimmy Mc Donagh, Ger Harding, Pat Trapp, Gerry Cleary, Willie Sullivan, Michael Hynes, John Coughlan, Michael Day, Tom Connaire.



Brackernagh team

Front row: Tony Coyne, Billy Burke, Johnny Farrell, Padraic Loughnane, Tony Broderick, Michael Ryan, Ollie Curley, Declan Mc Donnell. **Back row:** Michael Cullen, Martin Murray, Ollie O Grady, Lennie Boswell, Gabriel Curley, Vinnie Connor, Michael Kelly, Lilly Broderick.

crossbars from Garbally's wood. Eventually proper goalposts were made, and with a loan of nets St. Joseph's Place became Ballinasloe's answer to Croke Park.

Thanks to John Dunne the finals were held in Duggan Park. Patsy Geraghty refereed the finals and Fr. Dunne Adm. presented the cup and medals. From the beginning it was evident that the two strongest teams were Brackernagh, coached by Lilly and Derrymullen, coached by Mike Day and Pattie Connaire.

Whenever Brackernagh won, their usual celebratory stop was Moore's shop where the owner Dick Moore would fill their cup with red lemonade. The team and supporters would then parade up Brackernagh and around St. Joseph's before making their way back down to Dan Scannell's hotel (Where the Mount is today). It was a similar story for the winning Derrymullen team. They would parade out to the Model farm in Deerpark, where their cup would be filled in Dolly Egan's shop, then back into Dan Scannell's, where both teams were treated to a banquet of beans, sausages and chips.

The fact that it was so unusual for women to be involved in organising GAA games at that time did not go unnoticed and RTE did an interview, filmed by Michael Kelly, celebrating the involvement of Lilly and Pattie. Unfortunately that RTE interview has been lost...a bit like the final score of that 1964 underage street league final.

By 1966 many of those underage players had moved on to Garbally or the Vocational School. The Galway senior team did go on to win their three-in-a-row and in 1966 they brought the Sam Maguire cup to town to scenes of huge jubilation.

SOME ST. BRIGID'S HOSPITAL NURSES, CIRCA 1950

Front row, (left to right): Brian Shaughnessy, Sean Connolly, Margaret Collins, Mary Lohan, Margaret Killilea, Mary Shaughnessy, Dr. McCarthy RMS, Margaret O'Connor, Matron; Margaret Boyle, Margaret Carty, Annie Burke, Eileen Cronnelly, Cecil Walshe, Paddy Burns/ John McDonagh. Seated in front: Mary Quinn. **2nd row, (left to right):** Tom Boyle, Martin Scott, Matt McDonagh, Tom Mannion, Maureen Clancy, Bridie Morrissey, Pearl Stanley, Moggie Keogh, Mary Kindregan, John Joe Heagney, Lily Dunne, Kathleen Naughton, Nora Deeley/ Ciss Ryan, Mary Lynch, John Joe Grenham, Bridie Kelly. **3rd row, (left to right):** John Reilly, May O'Neill, Sean Kenny, Lizzie Coughlan, Benny Dolan, Bridie Heavey, Mick Mahon, Annie Harte, Pete Sweeney, Mary Joe Conneely. **At back:** Dermot Minton and Tom Quinn.

Photo courtesy of Pearl Hynes.

E&OE.



CELEBRATING THE CENTENARY OF MULDOON'S PUB IN KILTORMER IN 1962



PRICE OF INFLATION

In the last seventy years the cost of everyday items have increased dramatically, according to the chart underneath. Way back in 1950 you could buy 20 cigarettes for 20 old pence and today they cost over €11.00. A Dog Licence is now sixty times the price it was then while the "Irish Independent" has gone from a penny and a half to €2.20.

At the same time the monthly take home pay for a qualified nurse at St. Brigid's Hospital was £23 which is equivalent to about €920 today. This would even cover the wages, for 16 days, of a skilled tradesman in that era.

Item	1949/50 £ S d	Item	1949/50 £ S d
Daily Paper	£0.011/2	1 Oxtail	£0.0.3
Sunday Paper	£0.0.2	Chimney Sweep	£0.2.6
1lb Butter	£0.2.8	1lb Nails	£0.1.0
Loaf of bread	£0.7.0	2lbs Putty	£0.2.0
10 Cigarettes	£0.10.0	5 Bags Cement	£1.8.0
Writing pad	£0.1.6	Radio Licence	£0.12.6
Pair of boots	£1.0.0	Dog Licence	£0.5.0
10 Eggs	£0.2.6	Moore's Almanac	£0.0.9
1 Rabbit	£0.2.0	Bottle of Stout	£0.0.7



St Brigid's Hospital Hurling Team of the Early 40's

Back row (left to right):

Paddy Forde, Alfie Costello, Mickey Lynch, Christy Lynch, John Grogan, Paddy Cahill, Vincent Kelly, Larry Connaire, Paddy Feeney, John Gilchreest.

Front row (left to right):

Johnny Jordan, Mick Burnell, Jack Behan, Inky Flaherty, Seamie O'Neill, Johnny Rodgers, Brendan Greaney, Paddy Jordan, Jimmy Garvey.



COYLE & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

OFFICE OPENING NOTICE

Our office is open but operating under Covid-19 guidelines. Please call office or email to arrange consultation.

Please contact for information and advice regarding:

- Government supports
- Business plans for reopening
- Cashflow forecast for finance restructuring
- Tax advice on Wage Subsidy Scheme
- Revenue issues arising due to Covid-19 crisis.



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

BRIAN LYNCH

MOTOR FACTORS

Quality Parts & Accessories



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

T: 090 9646950 M: 087 4181464

E: bplynch63@gmail.com

Opening hours 7.30am to 6.00pm

OLD BALLINASLOE (and Timmy Mac's) 75 YEARS AGO



My recent visit to a local Nursing Home hadn't gone too well, he had deteriorated since my last visit and there seemed little point in prolonging the ordeal.

So, I rose from the chair, shook his hand and promised to drop in soon, when in a clear voice he asked me if I remembered "Timmy Mac's Shop" in Harbour Road. I had to dig very deep, but it was there somewhere. I did remember 1945 and told him so. His eyes lit up and the handshake tightened as I sat back down on the chair.

With renewed energy we started to reminisce beginning at the top of Dunlo Street, or Kelly's Corner as it was better known. Then Dunlo House, where Ray Jordan had his photographic business to the adjoining shoemakers of Jack Cummins and two of his sons. We remembered the jennet and mule drawing loads of turf each summer and the strange fact that if the mule was still in harness when the 6 o'clock Angelus bell rang he wouldn't move another step, whereupon he had to be unharnessed and the cart of turf pulled home by a few of the local boys.

Carrs lived next door. Victor Carr partnered his brother, Bertie, in the bicycle store and repair shop next to Killeen's Garage in Dunlo Street but it was for his fishing skills he was best known for. We had to skip past two residences on our trip down Memory Lane to Timmy Mac's, where a sweets emporium operated out of a front

room, with other novelties. What the surname after "Mac" was neither of us could recall.

Geraghty's house formed one corner of "Tay Lane" with Burke's large two storey thatched pub on the other. The pub, its yard and outbuildings occupied a large area and played a key role in the community with its huge open fireplace and two stone hob seats. Apart from Draught Guinness sales were limited to sweets, cigarettes and Mrs. Cullen's Powders, with turf sold at 1/2penny a sod! Pat, his brother Frank and sister Cissie ran the business and the family had a mausoleum in the Churchyard at Abbey, near Portumna.

A town Gaslight hung from the corner of the pub, served by a pipe running up the side of the wall to which Jack Farnon would tie his donkey and cart when in for a day's session! The lamp was lit and quenched every day at dusk and dawn by "La" Kelly with meticulous regularity.

Directly opposite Jubilee Street, "The Boreen" gave a number of accesses to fenced fields owned by shop owners and business people in the town, to which cattle were herded to and from daily. Now a shopping centre replaces these lands.

We recalled how Madie Vaughan washed, by hand, the full Jubilee Football jersey kit, prior to each game. And we laughed, recalling Madie with her crutch, making her way to Duggan Park pitch, often remonstrating with the referee and officials when HER Jubilee team were getting unfair treatment and if it wasn't resolved to her satisfaction her crutch would be brought into play! God be with the days. RIP Madie.

Hynes' house had an adjacent building which was used as a tailor's workshop. The Hynes brothers, Noel and Lorenzo (Rinso) as well as occasional staff ran the operation for many years.

On the opposite side, adjoining the pub, a single storey house, over a basement, with a large yard made up the complex of Costello's Carpentry business, where a painted sign on the gate pillar leading down to the workshop, proclaimed that Furniture, Windows,

VOTE NO 1


#LocalJobs
#LocalHealthServices



NAUGHTEN DENIS

INDEPENDENT TD

Call: (090) 6627557
Email: dnaughten@oir.ie




www.DenisNaughten.ie
Poster Free Campaign
 posterfree.ie

Garbally oil co.

Your Local Oil People




David Flaherty


Conor Flaherty

Tel: 090 9644147

www.garballyoil.com



**PROUDLY CELEBRATING
25
YEARS
OF BUSINESS
IN BALLINASLOE**

**PETROL AND
DIESEL PUMPS
OPEN 7 DAYS
IN POOLBOY**



Gift Vouchers available
The Perfect Christmas Gift

*Thanks For Your
Continued Custom*

www.DenisNaughten.ie
Poster Free Campaign
 posterfree.ie

Find us on
 facebook

Coffins, Carts and Traps were available and all could be provided to order. John, his son Jack and one of the Hynes (Michael) made up the workforce.

From Costello's yard ran a long stone wall which hid, what was at one time, the large vegetable garden for Hayden's Hotel. The Garden Wall ended at the gable-end of Paddy Moclair's Shop-a small "hucksters" outlet-selling the bare essentials. Paddy, a bachelor, was understood to be the last Master of the Ballinasloe Workhouse. His only other claim to fame was as the local expert at "docking" dogs' tails.

Arriving at the Canal Basin we recalled the CIE Manager's house stood to the right, while a huge two-storey building over a basement served as a wool and potato grading store.

To the side, a small shed was occasionally used by a Government Potato Inspector, who had a large poster of the Colorado Beetle displayed in the window.

The CIE/Guinness Stores comprised a long, single cut-stone building with separate wide doors which opened directly onto the Canal, to enable the Barges to unload. The Guinness office was also part of the complex-the last manager being Mr. Guy Perrem.

Guinness staff included Billy Soden, strongmen Johnny and Michael Reilly from Poolboy while Josie Scarry, the CIE foreman, was probably the longest serving Canal employee and extremely popular with colleagues and bargemen alike. He was one of the last to leave the Canal basin, serving his time to the end.

The Canal Basin in those days was the centre of the town's activity with goods transported to the local businesses on drays, drawn by two large Ayreshire horses. Provisions were supplied six days a week to pubs, shops and hardware stores, thanks to local contractor, William Goode of Moher.

The Basin, which was the end of the line for barges from Dublin, at times could get very congested with 5 or 6 tied up waiting to be unloaded and more boats queuing up. One boat I remember well was the McCanns' Bros. barge. I got to know the McCanns and they would let myself and my pal, Hughie Regan, steer their barge as far as the first bridge, on their way back to Dublin.

Before leaving the Canal area we remembered Patsy Grehan, who sat each day by the Guinness office wall fishing for bream and always claimed he once caught one with eleven eyes. Another fishy story!

The final Recall was the Gas Works. Some fifty yards along the Canal Bank this was source of the town's gas supply until its closure in the early 50's. The manager's house still stands there.

As if he knew we had run out of material, he just closed his eyes and no more was said.

As I drove home I wondered how many more memories of Old Ballinasloe are about to be forgotten. If you have some perhaps you could share them with us.

Tommy Ryan grew up in Harbour Road and went to school in St. Grellan's NS and Garbally College. He played minor football with Jubilee and Ballinasloe Town before emigrating to England in the late 50's. He now lives in Co. Clare.

The Canal Basin holds special memories for him. His great-grand uncle left for New York on a boat from the Ballinasloe basin in the 1800's. In his youth Tommy enjoyed playing on the boats, fishing in the canal and mitching school when the Basin was frozen over to go skating on it.



ATHLONE CHIMNEY REPAIRS

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

For Professional Advice
Contact John Hibbitt



Tel: 090 9673336

Mob: 086 2678350

Email: info@athlonechimneyrepairs.ie

J & S Photos

Kodak Express Digital Solutions

10 Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Tel: 09096 31566 Email: jskodakexpress@gmail.com



J&S Photos

100 Digital Prints Only €20

- | | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| * Digital & Film Printing | Passport & ID Photos |
| * Photo Restoration | Canvas & Poster Prints |
| * Picture Framing | Photocopying |
| Video Transfer | Laminating |
| Studio Photography | |

Photo Gifts available in-store

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Mugs | Teddy Bears |
| Cushions | Jigsaw |
| Personalized Frames | Calendars |
| Personalized Cards | Photobooks |
| Chopping Board | Greeting Cards |
| Placemat | Collages |
| Mousemat | |



CELEBRATING
**9 YEARS IN
BUSINESS**

10TH SEPTEMBER 2019



Thank all our loyal customers who have supported us over the last 9 years

PADDY FORDE-NURSE AND HURLER

BY KEN KELLY



Paddy Forde

When Paddy Forde arrived in Ballinasloe, in 1936, to train as a psychiatric nurse, little did he know he would become an integral part of the sporting and cultural life of his adopted town

The third eldest of fourteen children, Paddy was born in Oranmore in March 1914 and was educated in St. Mary's College, Galway where one of his fellow students was the author, Walter Macken. Paddy's father, Martin, served his time as

a blacksmith in Bannerton's,

Dunlo St., Ballinasloe while his aunt Sara and uncle Jack Costello were already trained nurses in Ballinasloe Mental Hospital, as it was known then. Jack was married to Mary Joseph, from Mackney and lived in Creagh, close to the Hospital.

Many of the nurses in the hospital were delegated to look after odd jobs in the institution. Tom Quinn managed the garden, Brendan Greaney looked after the banking, Tom Fahy was in charge of the pharmacy and Paddy Forde was appointed to manage the intake and distribution of fuel throughout the hospital. Turf, coal, anthracite and firewood were the main sources but even the turf clods were accounted for before being distributed to the various wards.

1947 brought one of the harshest winters in living memory. Records show that during the fifty days between January 24 and March 17 of that year snow fell on thirty of those days. Fuel supplies were twice the normal during these months with 686 tons used in the month of March 1947, compared to 188 tons in the same month the following year.



Paddy and Bridie cutting the cake on their Wedding Day

Hurling was Paddy Forde's favourite sport. He had played with Oranmore before arriving in Ballinasloe where he became a founder member of the St. Brigid's Hospital Hurling Club. He was a star defender on that team for many years resulting in he being selected on the Galway junior team that won the All-Ireland in 1939. Then in 1947 Paddy wore the number 3 jersey as Connacht won the Railway Cup for the first time when they defeated the Christy Ring-led Munster team in Croke Park on Easter Sunday. Following the game, Paddy was presented with the sliothar used in the match.

A few days later, Paddy married Bridie Power from Newcastle, Aughrim, who was a fellow nurse in St. Brigid's. The wedding was in the Pro-Cathedral, Dublin and a special inscribed plaque was presented to the couple by the East Galway GAA Board to mark the occasion. They began their married life in a rented cottage in Newtown and a few years later moved to their new house on Creagh Road, where their only daughter, Evelyn Donellan, now lives.

The No. 3 jersey worn by her father and the sliothar used in the Railway Cup final are amongst her most cherished possessions of her late father.

Outside of work, Paddy Forde had many interests including farming, gardening, fishing, reading and a lover of all sports. He was a gifted craftsman, able to turn his hands to many things such as carpentry, bicycle mending, shoe repairs etc. and a most helpful neighbour.

He was a founder member of the Ballinasloe Credit Union with nursing colleagues, the late Liam Kelly, Paddy Colohan, Mick Mahon and Brendan Greaney, among others. He enjoyed the "sing-songs" at family gatherings where his rendering of "The Galway Shawl" was always demanded.

Fifty years ago this year Paddy Forde passed away after a decade of ill health but he is still fondly remembered in his adopted town. Though not big in stature, his friendliness, hospitality and community involvement made him a giant of a man among his peers.

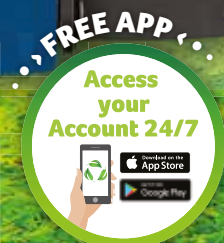
 **Barna Recycling**
Caring for your Environment

**Local, Reliable,
Affordable.**

Domestic Waste Collection

www.BarnaRecycling.com

(091) 771619





SHEARWATER HOTEL & SPA ARE DELIGHTED TO ANNOUNCE:

We will be
REOPENING for
BAR FOOD
EVERY DAY

from **29th June**

From 12 noon to 8pm, with
FULL TABLE SERVICE, so why
not pop in and see us.

We will be
REOPENING
for
ACCOMODATION

from **20th July**

BOOK NOW
info@shearwaterhotel.com
or call 090 963 0400



SHEARWATER
HOTEL & SPA
★★★★

MARINA POINT, BALLINASLOE, CO GALWAY

T: 090 9630400 W: WWW.SHEARWATERHOTEL.COM



COMER GROUP
HOTELS





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

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

DUBARRY OF IRELAND

Est.  1937

Factory Shop, Junction 14 off the M6 Motorway, Ballinasloe, County Galway H53 H6F3 • 35 College Green, Dublin D02 N271

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

dubarry.com

