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BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 10 Issue 3: Aug' '20 - Sep' '20

FREE

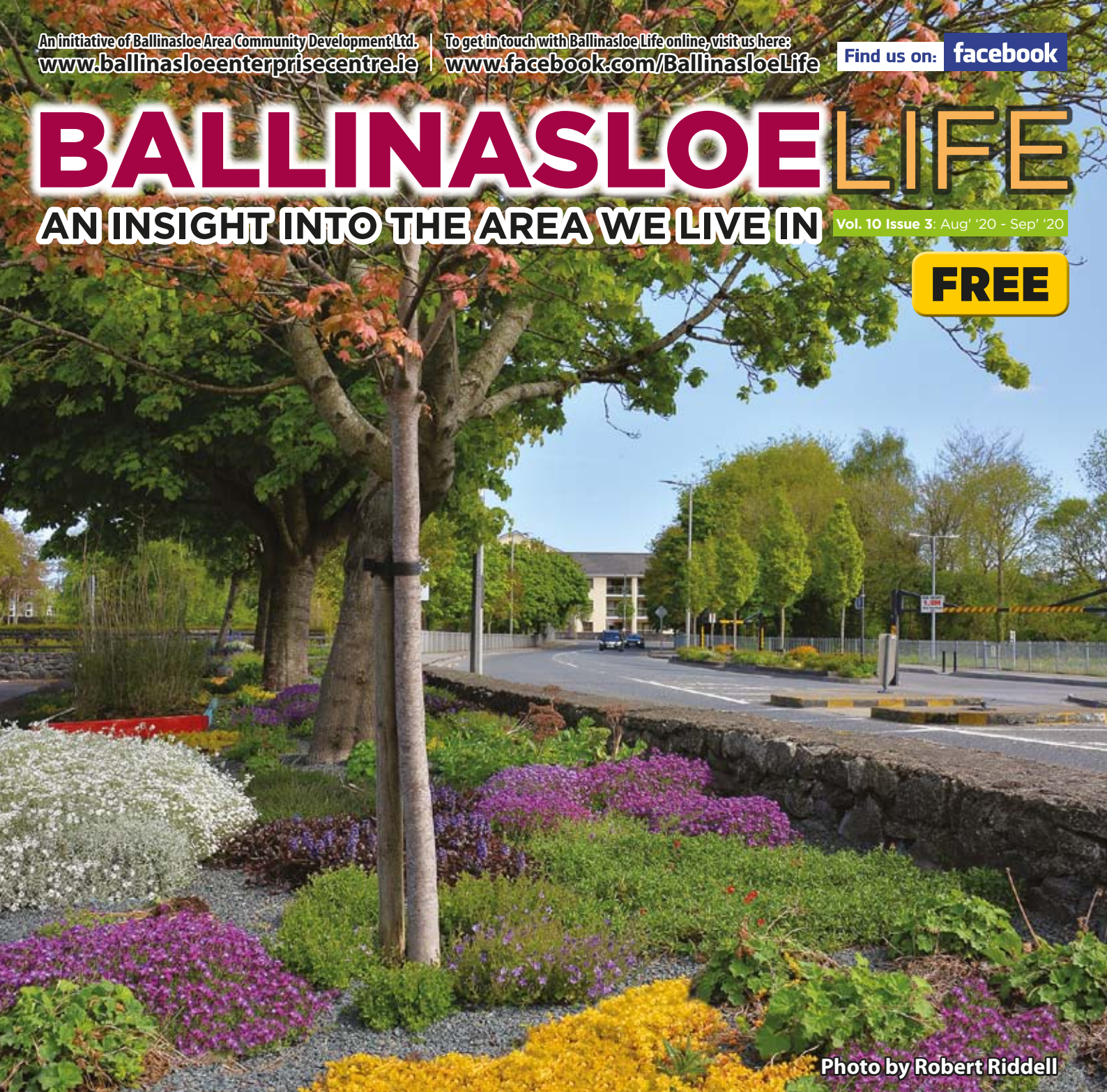


Photo by Robert Riddell

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NEW CEO OF
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& CONFERENCE CENTRE



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REAMHRA

Welcome to Volume 10 issue 3

Well it's been a testing 2 months of truly a strange summer. Huge thanks again to all our local subscribers who renewed their financial commitment to keeping this flame lit. COVID is going to change a lot. Many firms felt they had a fighting chance by hanging on till the street enhancement was finished - will find the next part of the uphill struggle just too much. Many have used the furlough time to rethink their own life priorities and don't wish to be working as hard as they had to. So yes, doors will close but this edition contains - 5 local new business features! that's 5 new businesses for our community who are in these turbulent times prepared to invest and try a new venture. There will be more changes of management, ownership and services to our collection of commerce but then that is ebb and flow of a provincial market town; Cullen's 100 look back to the 1920s is revealing.

We also are reporting on the finishing out of a new 17 elderly housing scheme developed by Cluid at the rear of Aldi. The Pandemic has taught us all a lot about our relationship with our cocooners - allowing that generation who reared us all and paid the tax, to live out their lives close to amenities, shops, cafes, churches etc. independently is wonderful and hopefully more of these schemes will emerge.

Significant changes too this summer in our secondary schools as we say farewell, with gratitude and fondness, to Patricia Kilgannon of Scoil Mhuire and Stephen Reilly of Garbally, who retired this

Autumn and we congratulate and welcome to Pauric O'Halloran and Paul Walsh who will be the new principals of our town's two schools. We managed to profile Paul, but between holiday commitments it was not possible in this edition to catch up with Pauric - we will do so in the next and we will also chat and look back with Stephen and Patricia.

It's really nice to be able to carry reports of the many sporting activities who are cranking back up again - slowly and with all the necessary protocols. However for a great many of our clubs their mainstays of fundraising - their lottos and events are gone. So when the bucket or whatever is passed around try and find something that can make a difference.

Given its Staycation Summer and events will be a no no for some months to come - again we have used event guide space to show some lovely walks and cycle trails that you could consider as well as some hot day excursions. We are also using our video platform on the LIFE fbook page to capture some of these routes and places of interest.

Try and enjoy the last few weeks of our long evenings, it will fortify us for the challenging months ahead.

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



Articles and Photos Welcome

**NEXT ISSUE
Deadline Sept 10th**

For submission of articles, please email:
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by Sept 10th

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Since our last hard copy print of Ballinasloe LIFE, we have gone through very strange times and it has brought home how fragile the whole world can become nearly overnight. We are now in the middle of the most difficult period of Covid-19 as we have to try and balance Public Health and the Economy.

We all have a part to play in this. We have to follow public health guidelines and get out and support local business who are facing massive challenges as they try to recoup lost ground.

For this edition we are back printing 7,000 free copies for distribution. The vast majority of our subscribers continue to trade and have been brilliant in financially committing to continued support.

Some of you may not be aware but we did put together 2 magazines during lockdown at the cost of €7,000, carried by Ballinasloe Area Community Development Limited. These editions are available online on www.ballinasloeenterprisecentre.ie.

After an economic jolt such as this, new opportunities often arise and we should encourage new business to give it a go use Ballinasloe as their base. We have a limited number of High Street Brand names operating in our town and with the town enhancement scheme coming to an end and many premises upgrading their facades, now is an opportune time to bring new life back into the town.

Many existing Businesses in the area have been operating right through the Pandemic, providing essential services and sustaining jobs and we are indebted to all of those. We do not know what the next few Months will bring but we must be optimistic and try and get used to the new normal.

SEAMUS DUFFY,
Chairman Ballinasloe Area Community Development Limited.



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FUTURE OF FRENCH FIRM IN BALANCE

BY LIAM COSGROVE

The potential future of over 100 jobs in the Aptar plant, in the IDA Business Park, Creagh still hangs in doubt. Aptar announced to staff their intentions to wind up its manufacturing activities across a number of plants worldwide, including the 20 year old facility in Ballinasloe, in a late June circular.

They released a statement that "due to competitive market conditions that have necessitated strategic cost savings across its operations, in particular its manufacturing facilities, Aptar is considering a proposal to cease its production affecting 115 employees."

TDs Claire Kerrane and Denis Naughten have led the charge in bringing this issue up in the Dail. They have urged the Tánaiste Leo Varadkar to look into it and the Minister for Business and Enterprise

has asked the Western Region Enterprise Steering Committee to look at the implications of the review of operations at Aptar for the town and region. Senators Dolan and Murphy have also called on the IDA and Enterprise Ireland to engage with the Firm and employees.

Aptar arrived in town to a warehouse in Poolboy in November 2000. They were the first firm on the new IDA Park in November 2000, occupying 2750 square metres. In 2008, to keep up with worldwide demand the group expanded the plant to 6100 square metres and moved to 24/7 production.

Their focus is on internal parts for perfumery, cosmetics and pharma supply applications. On a good production year they would produce in excess of 3 billion moulded dispensing systems, shipping 800 million pump units worldwide.

As a French owned indigenous company management must negotiate with all elements of the workforce (of which is over 9000 worldwide) to effect production process changes.

SOCIETY STREET BATTLES ON

BY LIAM COSGROVE

Utah's Val Colleran pointed out that phase two of the "Big Dig" started just after Christmas and is not expected to be finished for another few weeks. "This is the second time our street has been affected. Firstly, it was the third street in the town to be ripped up last year but when they returned after Christmas we never envisaged so many stoppages. While the Coronavirus brought a halt to proceedings, there were further delays we never expected."

Mr. Colleran praised the commitment shown by patrons of the variety of businesses on Society Street. "Despite limited parking, customers regularly left their cars in St. Michael's Square and overcame many obstacles and underfoot conditions to get to their favourite shop or business. It was remarkable the loyalty they had shown. Several of our traders could not have kept open without their support" he added.

Enhancement works are continuing along Society Street Middle and Outer. It is expected that the street will be reopened to traffic in early August. Works to the footpaths are on-going and will continue into August for sections along the southern side of the road. The paving areas with commercial premises will be prioritised, working

out from the central junction on both sides of the road. Where necessary, pedestrians will have to be diverted onto the parking bays of the road. Access to businesses and residential properties will be maintained at all times.

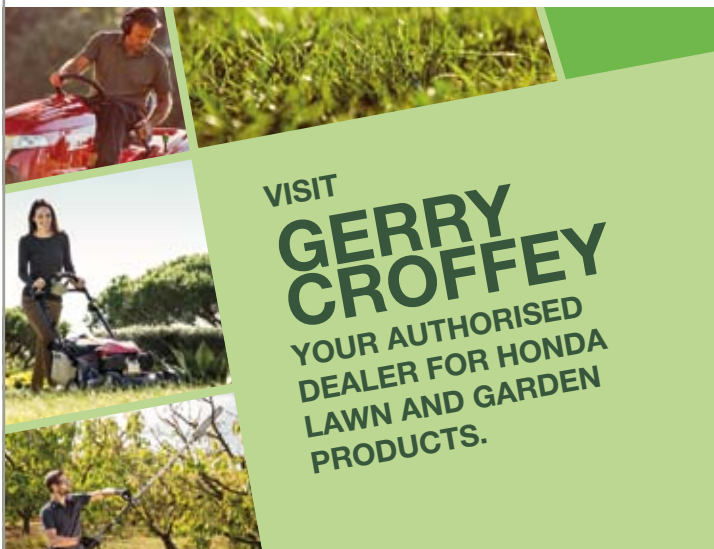
Bridge Street's enhancements are ongoing and are expected to be completed in early August. Works along Sarsfield Road (from the junction of Sarsfield Drive to junction of Mountpleasant Avenue) will continue with the entire road resurfaced from kerb to kerb and new road markings put down in early August.

Archaeology resolution works currently located underneath the existing footpath outside Supermacs Diner are also on-going. Atlantic Archaeology along with the Department of Heritage now in charge of these works, which may include an early Christian burial site.

They're hoping to have these scoping works completed by the end of August and a report on the significance of the archaeology found will determine how quickly restitution will occur.

While the entire town has been hit by a lack of footfall over the past year, business people are optimistic that when all the street works are complete it will be a magnet for shoppers from near and far. "I honestly believe the improvements will make it very attractive for shoppers and I want to thank those who persevered and supported us while the works were ongoing" concluded Mr. Val Colleran.

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FIVE YEAR COUNTY DEVELOPMENT PLAN OPEN FOR SUBMISSIONS

Every Five years the County Authority must produce a Development Plan which sets out its priorities for the next 60 months of progress. The County Council has begun an extensive wide community consultation process – kicked off with the launch of their issues papers which asks those making submissions to reflect on some spatial and compelling sustainability parameters.

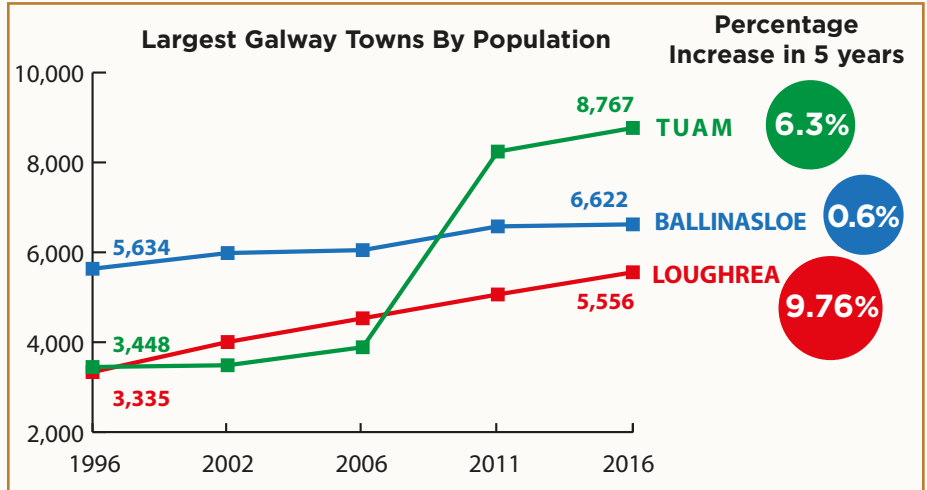
Thankfully the principal towns of the Municipal Areas are signalled for forensic analysis and intervention. It might be useful for those compiling the plan to refresh what were the compelling objectives over the past twenty years that underpinned their thinking in so far as housing, business, industrial and commercial planning.

Interestingly the Local Area Plan 2015 – 2021 provides all the evidence of the Celtic Tiger not having called and devastation caused by the economic collapse of 2008 – 2016. Of the 230 non-residential units in the town centre with a retail and commercial use of 12,450 metre squared some 49% in 2014 were empty!

There were 13 Economic Priorities listed and approved to be implemented – they can all be copy and pasted into the next plan as practically none of them have been achieved. The language is suitably vague around the issues of Culture, Tourism and Community. Planners love to use verbs like support, encourage, foster, focus followed by whatever item is on the wish list but the joke is always on the reader.

There is lots of fine prose in the current National Capital Plan, as there was in the McCreevy inspired Spatial Strategy 2005 with its hubs and spokes about taking pressure of the Cities to reduce congestion. The BMW Regional Operations Plan 2014 – 2020 which all the Connacht Counties had to adjust their sails to also had paragraphs teeming with the importance of provincial towns.

Take a look at the CENSUS figures for the real evidence of what the planners prose delivers. Ballinasloe was the county town and ranked highest in population until 2010, Tuam muscled into this



position by census 2011 with aggressive zoning and planning which has made it a commuter town of the city separated by 46km of somewhat congested carriage way. Next census returns suggests Tuam will crest above 10,000 in population, whilst Ballinasloe will only official record around 7,000.

Those in political circles argue that this is demand led growth from a city combined with planners' refusal to consider liner settlements or the once off housing. If that theory is correct then Ballinasloe's population and overall economic development should have increased exponentially to that of its closest large town (and city in the making) neighbour Athlone, which is nearly 17 km closer than Tuam is to Galway.

With the amount of working from home and remote engagement by employees during the pandemic – the five day commute for certain workers is gone the way of the Berlin wall and not coming back.

In essence of the new 5 year plan follows the same approach of the last 25 years of planners prose – the necklace of towns and villages within 50 km of Eyre Square will mushroom and those on the periphery and rural will stagnate.

Get your submissions in by 4pm 10th Sept via www.galway.ie/cdpreviewsubmissions

BY COLM CROFFY

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COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT COMPANY REVIEW

The Annual General Meeting of the not for profit Charitable Community Company BACD was held remotely via Zoom for the first time in its 21 year history.

Based at the Enterprise Centre, the Company Chairperson Seamus Duffy and Manager, gave some very detailed reports to the online attendees, which comprised of members and general public as well as Deputy Denis Naughten, Senator Aisling Dolan and Cllr Michael Connolly on June 11th.

Seamus in his report, outlined the numerous meetings, deputations, seminar attendances and follow ups they had with Galway County Council, IDA, Enterprise Ireland, The Just Transition Team, and Dept of Rural and Community Affairs. He thanked the Board and the staff of the Company for all their commitment and work on the various different projects.

While there were disappointments a plenty good progress has been made on the different events and projects that were undertaken by the Board and the Town Team.

He went through, in some detail, the Rural Regeneration Fund process, the St. Brigid's Open Day, the Hidden Heartland Workshop, The Zombie Walk, The People of the Year Awards, The limited Xmas Lights Campaign and the Street Enhancement programme.

Company Manager Lyn Donnelly, reported how the core spine to the whole operation – the Enterprise and Technology Centre was supporting some 170 jobs and hosting 26 firms.

She also detailed the statistics on the Life Magazine, which is now almost a cost neutral project but for the current year owing to the COVID two editions where no advertising money was collected – the subsidy would be significant on the books for next year.

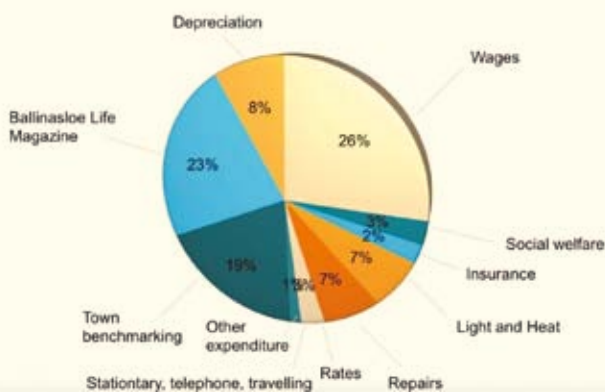
She also reviewed the work of the PULSE Club and the variety of events they programmed throughout the year. The Shop Local campaign morphing into the Shoponline.ie was also detailed. The Work of the Town Team under the new Co-ordinator Anita Killeen and the pop up clinics ran was explained.

Company Auditor, James Coyle of Coyle and Co., gave a detailed presentation on the 12 months audited accounts showing income at €304,817 and expenses at €252,020 with the surplus being retained on the balance account for the next Capital investment project the board may consider.

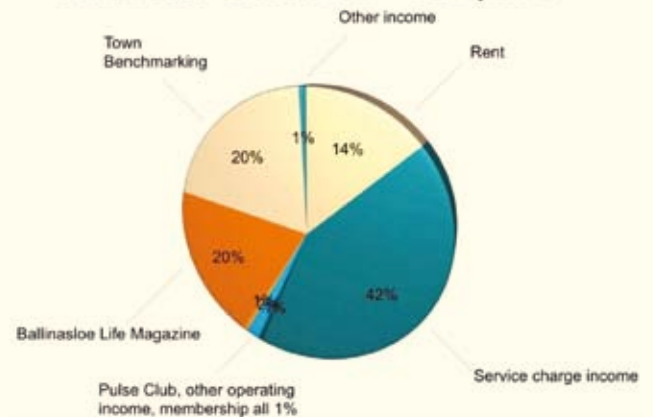
Brian King, a Board Director, gave an overview on the plan he is co ordinating for the Company - Ballinasloe 2030 which is at preliminary draft stage and he is scoping inputs from a variety of stakeholders.

The plan sees as its core the mission of the next development phase

Annual Expenditure €252,020



Annual Income €304,817



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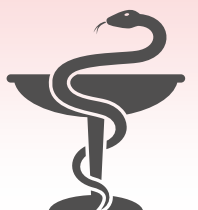
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as one of Ballinasloe becoming a SMART town – becoming a hub for remote and hub type working.

Following from the AGM and subsequent board meeting the BACD Board is constituted as follows: Only changes were the retirement of Paul Hargadon and co-option on the board of Eoghan Kenny

Sean Kelly: (Credit Union), Dan Dowling: (Creagh Com Dev Council), Michael Connolly: (Galway County Council), Seamus Duffy: (Membership), Valerie Dolan: (Membership), Joe Lyons:

(Membership), Kevin Broderick: (Membership), Pearse Keller: (Membership), Marina Downey: (Membership), Noel Madden: (Co-opted), John McKenna: (Co-opted), Ruth Sheridan Cregg: (Co-opted), Brian King: (Co-opted), Anita Kileen: (Co-Opted), Eoghan Kenny: (Co-Opted).

A Full summary presentation of all the proceedings of the AGM is on the Ballinalsoe Life facebook page.

KEY TOWN STATUS IN NEW 12 YEAR STRATEGY 2020-2032

Then new NWRA Regional Spatial and Economic Strategy provides a high-level development framework for the Northern and Western Region that supports the implementation of the National Planning Framework (NPF) and the relevant economic policies and objectives of Government. It provides a 12-year strategy and the identification of priority actions for Key Towns of which Ballinasloe is one just a handful selected.

Key Towns are those regionally strategic employment centres of significant scale that can act as regional drivers that complement and support the higher-order urban areas within the settlement hierarchy

Key future priorities listed include, revitalising the town centre and to reduce vacancies and support the vitality and vibrancy of these core shopping streets/side streets and the town centre. Promoting the town's heritage as an important Market town supporting the future delivery of a regularised outdoor market/farmer's market at a suitable location. Promoting sustainable land use and transport solutions, whilst capitalising on the opportunity presented by the railway service and the M6 Motorway, so that sustainable travel, including walking and cycling, and integrated land use and transportation become central to the development of new neighbourhoods.

Pages 124 and 125 set out the provisioning of a range of facilities, amenities and supporting services to serve the needs of the town, including educational, recreational, religious, social, community

and civic requirements for children, youths, adults and older persons to serve a growing community. Fostering economic development and employment creation by optimising the potential of the town's strategic location and enhancing Ballinasloe as a place of employment through the provision of a positive and flexible framework for the creation of new employment opportunities is key. That report seeks to encourage and facilitate the sustainable development of the tourism potential of Ballinasloe and its environs in a manner that respects, builds on, protects and enhances the cultural, built and natural heritage of the town and the local amenities within the plan area including natural heritage and biodiversity.

Sustainable walking and cycling routes and maximizing rail links are also identified.

It is hoped that as well as being a strong priority signal to the Department of Rural and Community Affairs these ambitious plans will find practical milestones in the soon to be published County Development Strategy 2022 – 2028.



"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

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BALLINASLOE'S NEW SENATOR

BY LIAM COSGROVE

Hailing from Poolboy, people may know her parents-Tony and Teresa Dolan. Her mother's family, the Caulfields, were also from Poolboy. Aisling Dolan grew up helping out on the farm both in Poolboy and in Ballydangan in Moore with her Dad and three brothers Brian, Darragh and David. Along with both parents working on a suckler herd farm, Tony worked in the former "Ducks" pub, which is now Venezia restaurant and Teresa, a retired nurse, also worked in Square D and the ESB. Aisling worked for over a decade with Enterprise Ireland and then Science Foundation Ireland. She joined the team at NUIG four years ago as a project manager, where she worked with researchers on funding applications. Her latest role has been with Health Innovation Hub Ireland, working with healthcare teams in public hospitals and community care to support people with ideas to improve healthcare. She also travelled and worked teaching English in Belfast, Belgium, France, Spain and Australia. The new Senator was elected to Galway County Council in May 2019 as an independent, stood as a Fine Gael Candidate in the February Election, polling a solid 6000 first preferences and contested the Agricultural Panel for the Senate before being made one of the Taoiseach's nominees in July of this year. "I want to say a heartfelt thank you to everyone who gave me a vote on the ballot paper in all the elections. We have had three elections in less than 12 months and the vote we achieved in the General Election is thanks to the help of a phenomenal team and support across Roscommon & East Galway" stated Aisling. She believes the town is a fantastic strategic location on the M6 motorway, excellent rail and transport links, with over 14,000 in the hinterland and a highly educated workforce with third level graduates and business focused apprenticeships. "It is an ideal place for start-ups, small businesses expanding operations or SME's looking for reasonable cost locations. The newly formed Pulse Club is a dynamic group driving people with new ideas and start-ups" explains Aisling. Her main priorities have always been Health, Investment & Environment, as a Councillor and now as a Senator. Her immediate



Aisling Dolan

focus will be to ensure our healthcare system is robust for the months ahead, facing the Covid-19 crisis and supporting healthcare teams. Also, to ensure businesses can get access to supports and finance to get back up and going.

Some projects she will help push to complete is the 50-bed unit at Portiuncula University Hospital. She will continue to work with BACD on Towns & Villages Accelerated Measure and Strand 2 funding for Ballinasloe and farming supports access to REPS 2 scheme, farm safety. She continues to work on many greenway projects throughout East Galway and Roscommon.

She insists the Enhancement Scheme will be a progressive addition. "Absolutely! Now in 2020, we can lay claim to having the newest streets in Ireland! Dunlo Street is really looking fantastic and Society Street is due to be opened up shortly" states Aisling.

"Remote Working Incentives / Co-Working Hubs, this is important as people are working from home or from a hub in Ballinasloe town instead of hours commuting to Galway, Limerick, Athlone or Dublin – it will add to overall quality of life if people stay local. Business Investment & Supports – Restart Grant, commercial rates waiver and to extend the Wage Subsidy Scheme in the July Stimulus package. Just Transition Fund – Ballinasloe is the main town for Shannonbridge which was recently impacted by job losses at Bord na Móna and ESB. This fund is crucial to offer other employment opportunities or reskilling for people and families impacted, these are all practical actions that I will help realise", explains Aisling.

The importance of community has been made hugely relevant to everyone during this COVID pandemic - people who have offered help during 'community call' particularly our sports clubs, meals on wheels and Social Services. Along with everyone on the frontline – healthcare workers, Gardaí, An Post – delivering groceries and medications to our more vulnerable people to name but a few, we have to salute them all!

Aisling will be opening an office soon in Ballinasloe and in Roscommon town and will hold clinics throughout East Galway & South Roscommon.

Please do contact her on 086 3690719, by email on aisling.dolan@oireachtas.ie or follow her on social media for updates

FROM THE FRONT ROOM TO THE FRONT LINE



The Front Room are back in action after their little Covid break and looking forward to seeing you all soon. We have all the recommended safety procedures and guidelines in place to welcome you all back.

Appointments are filling up very fast and we usually book up about 3 weeks in advance.

Appointments can be made by calling the salon on 09096-46893 or through our online app. The app called The Front Room Ballinasloe can be downloaded from your Appstore and you can make, change, choose your own appointments with ease and at any time of the day or night.

We would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our wonderful clients who supported us through the lockdown and also our front line customers who kept us all safe and well. If you purchased a gift voucher or products online through our app or via the Shopballinasloe.ie website we are so grateful. Your generosity and amazing local spirit has helped to keep our doors open.

Please don't forget to let us know on checkout if you are a front line worker. We have a little something for you!

Andrea & Breda



Sean Magee, from the Deli Store in Dunlo St., was born in Portiuncula and lived in Athleague in Co. Roscommon during his younger days, where his father was a garda. Sean attended Garbally College and studied Engineering for his third level education. He worked in Australia for many years before returning in 2000, to take over the business in Ballinasloe from his sister Carmel.

He was excited to open up his store in the early 2000s. He described it as an up and coming town where loads of new, exciting factories were beginning to open up. He had done catering before and his background in it helped him in the decision towards buying the business off his sister Carmel.

The store benefits greatly from their takeaway service they offer. They operate as mainly a sandwich bar and coffee shop with a sit in service available also. There are loads of options available for any hungry customer. These range from filled baguettes, kesh and an assortment of pies. They specialise in large outdoor catering events and have catered for Aptar and St. Brigid's throughout their time. They work alongside Portiuncula Hospital to help with catering. They also can cater for parties and large group gatherings such as twenty firsts, and indeed funerals

For new businesses opening up or just trying to work in the town during this tough period Sean advises "Keep in there and stay at it during these difficult times. Talk to your bank managers in the town as they have been very understanding with me in the past. Do be honest with them, as they will try to do their best for you".

He believes that the conclusion of the Town Enhancement works will help the town prosper again. "It looks well and a great job has been done". He acknowledges that the works were in dire need before it began and many customers that come into the shop have been complimenting them. The main reason he is optimistic about the works is the ease it will bring on paid parking. This will attract a lot more people into the town, as he knows people who are located near Roscommon Town who shop in Ballinasloe instead due to the reliance of paid parking there.

They recently opened up after being closed for three months due to the Covid-19 pandemic. It has not taken a toll on customers' footfall as he assures them that they are currently taking all measures that are required to make the store and staff as safe as possible.

To contact the Deli Store, ring them on 090 964 5058. They are open from 9am-5pm Monday to Saturday. They're located on Dunlo Street, next to Hubert Dolan's Electrical Shop.



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NEW PERSONALISED GIFT SERVICE

BY LIAM COSGROVE



L-R: Eoin O'Neill, Gina O'Neill, Holly Keighery, Bonnie Lee O'Connor, Karl Murphy

A Ballinasloe couple's creative talents have seen their business boom over the past three years, forcing them to seek new premises and employ three extra people. Husband and wife duo, Eoin and Gina O'Neill, are the original founders of EG QUEST. Eoin is the son of Gerry and Joan O'Neill, originally from Dunlo Hill and was always creative, even drawing all over his bedroom walls, which didn't impress his father Gerry!

Eoin worked in Athlone for many years as a graphic designer with his main role creating websites for different customers with different business ideas. Gina, moved with parents Valerie and the late Noel Murphy to the town at a young age from Dublin. She attended Ardscoil Mhuire for her secondary education and went onto complete her master's degree in Business in AIT. She had previously worked with Eoin in Athlone as a marketing manager. The couple are the proud parents of Jamie, Bella and Callum.

Three years ago they set up their new business, operating out of a bedroom, producing personalized caricatures along with mugs, candles and prints for birthdays, weddings, engagements, anniversaries etc. "The business really took off and ten months ago we had to look for bigger accommodation and take more people on" explained Eoin. They wanted to stay local, so they took space in the Enterprise Centre. "We didn't even consider another location for our business" he added.

The company provides gifts to customers in Ireland and worldwide. The idea, to start their own company, came about when Gina ordered a personalised gift for her friends from a website. For some reason the order didn't go through and by the time she realised, it was too late, as the party was that weekend. Eoin, being a graphic designer, decided to make her an engagement gift that she could bring with her to the party. It was a massive hit and the couple wanted to know where it came from. That simple chain of events sparked an idea in Eoin's mind and the rest is history.

Gina's brother, Karl, was added to the team and later he was joined by Bonnie and Holly. They offer their own personalised gifts, plus some handmade gifts from other Irish suppliers which they love to do. They're really building up a reputation for personalised caricatures along with prints, mugs and candles would be best sellers. If you place your orders before 2pm, you will normally receive your order the very next day.

They now have five successful websites both in Ireland and in the UK that ship all over the world. Initially Eoin & Gina started out with one website www.engagementgifts.ie, the goal was to create one website full of great quality gifts rather than trying to make a general occasion gift website. This allowed them to focus on one occasion and get it 100% right. Then when they mastered that website they moved onto the other websites. First came www.weddinggift.ie then www.anniversarygifts.ie, they had the same strategy with those sites. The final task was to compile all the amazing gifts onto one website for a person looking for gifts for many different occasions, this was when – www.thegiftshop.ie was created.

Their customers are based as far away as Australia and America who purchase for friends and family at home and for their enjoyment use as well with a base of 18-60 both male and female looking for that unique gift experience.

Their best advice to new businesses is "never give up, we tried so many things and ideas and failed over the years, but we never let that deter us or knock our confidence. We just kept trying and fortunately for us we found a gap in the market and have been really successful" stated Eoin.

They are located at the Enterprise Centre in Creagh and are open from Monday-Friday and can take a call at any time, ring them on 01 903 8769. You can also check out their Facebook page [thegiftshop.ie](https://www.facebook.com/thegiftshop.ie) for all their new products and discounts.

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NEW HOLISTIC THERAPIST FOR ENTERPRISE CENTRE

Majella Comer has set up her new business as a Holistic Therapist, offering treatments of Massage, Indian Head Massage, Ear Candling and Reiki. She aims to provide a tailored service to suit the needs of each client and each treatment is strictly confidential at the Enterprise Centre. She wants to supply a relaxing and welcoming atmosphere in her therapy room and help client's avail of the best treatment to suit each individual.

Local born Majella grew up and lives in Aughrim. Her parents, Mam Mary is a retired nurse from St Brigid's Hospital, originally from Poolboy, and Dad John, a farmer from Aughrim.

After completing the Leaving Cert in St. Killian's V.S, New Inn, she completed a level five in Graphic Design before pursuing a career in childcare, which she spent the last few years working in, in addition to spending two years working in Tesco.

While working, she was training in Holistic Therapies on a part time basis before making the decision to open her own business in the area. This year she has been training in Reflexology while hoping to add this treatment, by the end of the year.

She always had an interest in Holistic Therapies and would have had many treatments herself over the years, in a variety of therapies, sometimes in addition to medical care to try and improve overall health and wellbeing. From this, an interest in learning more about the therapies began, particularly massage as "it is one of her personal favourites as a treatment, as you can treat the whole body and it has so many benefits to you overall wellbeing" described Majella.

"I feel Ballinasloe, has a huge catchment area for clients, with easy accessibility and has a great presence of holistic therapists, who offer a wide variety of different therapies, in the town and



surrounding areas. This highlights the growing interest in holistic therapies to complement other medical treatments in certain cases or just in general to keep the body in balance and create an overall sense of health and wellbeing".

Each treatment is 50-60 minutes in duration and costs €50. A Full Body Massage treatment is €75 for 1hr 30mins. Ear Candling without Lymphatic Drainage Facial Massage is also available at reduced rate of €30 for 30min treatment.

"For my treatments, I use mainly un-fragranced, natural oil sourced from Ishka and natural oils and balms from Irish companies Flying Wild – Arno creates

wonderful blends from natural ingredients which feel wonderful on the skin, with some scented with essential oils", expalined Majella.

Treatments are suitable for most, as each treatment is tailored in order to provide the safest and most effective treatment, where suitable.

The full body massage is a relaxing treatment which helps with muscle tension, pain and discomfort.

Ear Candling is suitable for most, but has specific restrictions. Very relaxing treatment, suitable for helping with symptoms of tinnitus, sinus issues, earaches, headaches, snoring to name a few, does not claim to cure but may ease symptoms of the above.

Her therapy room is located at Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre, Creagh. The therapy room is located around the back of the building with loads of parking spaces at the front. She deals with appointments only and is open from Monday to Saturday 9.30am-7.30pm. To book an appointment with Majella, call her on 089 440 6930 or email at majellacomer@outlook.ie. To find out more information on the treatments available, check out her Facebook page, Majella Comer- Holistic Therapies.

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TESCO CAFÉ PLANNING REFUSED

BY LIAM COSGROVE

Galway County Council have refused planning permission for the building of a new café for Tesco Shopping Centre in Dunlo on its 0.2ha car park.

The new stand-alone café was planned to be situated in the north western corner of the site. They were hoping to build with a floor space of 232sqm and 10sqm of a bin store.

The café was going to have a sit-down area where customers could eat and consume beverages. Outdoor seating, bin storage, associated signage, a new footpath, hard and soft landscaping, ten new bicycle parking spaces and two universal access spaces were all included.

On June 14th, the planning permission was denied by Galway County Council. A group of businessowners in the town submitted objections citing further displacement and footfall from the business centre, which would only result in the erosion of footfall fabric to the town centre.

The original permissions in all the commercial activity to the Dunlo Shopping Zone were that future activity (after the Multinational relocated from Sarsfield Road) was to be new commercial or retail activity not to displace the rates base of the streetscape of the town centre.

Tesco have now appealed the decision on 7th of July to An Bord Pleanála.

PULSE CLUB PLANNING AUTUMN CAMPAIGN

BY LIAM COSGROVE

Following from the successful hosting of eleven online seminars during lockdown, the Pulse Club steering group have taken a well-earned break, allowing them to reflect on the evolution of the club over the past year and more importantly to plan for the next couple of months on how to best meet the members' needs.

Upon return, the group will continue with their regular monthly meetings (ensuring adherence to all relevant government guidelines) by hosting blended meeting(s), whereby people can attend physically or can remotely dial in.

The ever-popular format of guest speakers and business challenge forums will kick start back in September, whereby members present their business challenges and are given constructive feedback from their peers. These have proved greatly beneficial to many businesses that participated in the past.

The Pulse Club is a networking and support group for all businesses in the area and everyone is welcome to join. Costs for the year is €50. Details of all upcoming meetings and how to join are available at thepulseclub.com or by contacting Lyn in Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre on 090 964 6516.



Pulse Club Members guest speakers Pamela Finn PR Pam, John Mee, CEO, Sidero, Eoin Barry, Business Transformation Coach, ARV Excellence at the Business insider tips event held in March

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HUTCHINSON DAVIDSON UNDER NEW MANAGEMENT



Elaine Bannerton

One of the oldest Law Firms in the town – based in Bridge St. Hutchinson Davidson has transferred from the Colbert Family to Practice Senior Solicitor Elaine Bannerton, recently.

Elaine is as native as you can get-she was born in Portiuncula Hospital to parents Catherine & Tom Bannerton, as the oldest of six children. Her mother came from Funshinagh, Four Roads and her father from Banavane, Ahascragh. She grew up in Banavane,

attended primary school in Kilglass National School and secondary school in Saint Cuan's College, Castleblakeney.

Like most finishing secondary school, she was very unsure as to what she wanted to do, so she took a year out and worked in Square D. She then went on to study at NUI Galway. Elaine worked in Insurance for a year after completing her studies and the entrance exams for the Law Society, while applying for Traineeships. She moved to Dublin and completed her training to become a Solicitor. After qualifying, she stayed on with her training Solicitor, Orla Cummins and worked with her in Athlone for five years.

Being a native of Ahascragh, only a few kilometers from the town and having married Trevor Kennedy, another village local, they decided to settle down there and have two young children, Noah and Laila. Having seen an advertisement for a Solicitor in the practice of Hutchinson Davidson, in 2015, she jumped at the opportunity and decided to apply for it, being on her doorstep,

was lucky enough to secure the position. "Being from Ahascragh, a local to the area, it was lovely to get a position in my local town" states Elaine.

In 2017, the Senior Solicitor left the practice and Elaine was offered the role. She took the job and was looking forward to the opportunity she was given. An opportunity arose to take over the practice recently and it was an easy opportunity for her to take. The practice is very well established, having been based in the town since the mid-1800s and there is a very loyal client base, to whom she has become very familiar with in her time with them.

Norbert P. Colbert was a young Solicitor from Waterford who was hired by Eric Davidson (whose father was Hutchinson Davidson), in the fifties and he subsequently bought out the practice in 1959. Norbert was later joined in the business by his daughter Sharon (RIP) and sons David and Norbert Jnr. and continued practising under the name of Hutchinson Davidson Solicitors.

Elaine Bannerton explained that at Hutchinson Davidson, they provide legal advice and services to people including Conveyancing (Residential & Commercial), Wills, Probate and Estate Planning, Litigation and Personal Injuries, Criminal Defence, Landlord and Tenant Law, Employment Law and Family Law.

She is very excited to see the Street Refurbishment programme being completed in the coming months. She can't wait to see all the improvements these works will make in order to fully appreciate the enhancement it has made to the town. "Hopefully, it will entice lots of visitors to the town. It'll be a huge boost for the local businessowners who have waited so long for these improvements" exclaims Elaine.

They are located on Bridge Street, Ballinasloe and offer private on-site car parking. They're open from 9am to 5.30pm, Monday to Thursday and 9 to 5 on Friday. However, appointments outside those hours can be facilitated, by arrangement. Their contact number is 090 964 2143. Information about them is limited at the moment due to efforts to reconstruct their website, hutchinsondavidsonsolicitors.ie and have plans to set up a Facebook page in the coming months.

BY LIAM COSGROVE

Paddy Keane I.P.A.V.

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Suraya Diaz

A new manufacturing and Holistic Complimentary Medical Practice has been established just north of town in Ballinamore Bridge by Bio chemist and therapists Suraya Diaz.

Growing up in Lisbon, Suraya's parents always encouraged her to follow her path and interests. She was raised in a family where home remedies, made from herbs and natural ingredients, were always the preferred medicine of choice. She developed an interest

from a young age in nature and its power to heal. She has always been fascinated by science and health, in particular the interplay between cellular and molecular pathways and the molecular mechanisms involved in diseases directed her academic career towards medical scientific research.

Suraya completed her Bachelor of Science degree in Biology and Biochemistry, followed by a Master's degree in Clinical Microbiology, including a PHD in Molecular Biology and Biochemistry from University College of London.

She moved to Exeter where she started working as a research associate in EU project partnership in the biochemistry department at Exeter University. She worked in projects involving bacteria biofilm formation and the molecular structure determination of virulence-related protein complexes. After completing various projects in Exeter University, she began to think about starting her own company.

As a scientist she also had the opportunity to work in different research institutions in the Netherlands, France, Brazil and Germany and to publish several scientific articles in peer reviewed scientific journals and book chapters in technical books.

Her experience in the fusion of conventional and alternative medicine has placed her in the ideal position to design and tailor premium quality products while complementing it with consultancy in all these areas. Starting her own company has been a challenging journey.

"I am very happy with the decision to base the company in Ireland, as I think Ireland is very well positioned to operate in the global market. Being a scientist and complementary medicine practitioner, my initial aim was to help people to become the healthiest and happiest version of themselves and first and foremost I want the company to follow this vision" stated Suraya.

The company now offers a full range from health testing services along with the manufacture of organic certified products in eco-packaging to promote good health and reduce the risks of disease while contributing to a sustainable planet. The products range include herbal remedies, herbal teas, probiotic drinks, food products and a 100% organic certified and toxins free hand sanitiser.

Additionally, they're also in preparation to launch a premium line of organic certified cosmetics in eco-packaging for all ages and a specialised anti-aging line for men and women. All products are Guaranteed Irish, vegan, gluten free, organic certified and have been reviewed, approved and registered under Health Products Regulatory Agency (HPRA) and the Food Safety Authority of Ireland (FSAI).

An online shop (www.drsurayadiaz.com) is available on amazon. The company also supplies many shop outlets throughout Ireland and beyond, some businesses in the local area include Jorena's Health & Gift Shop and shopballinasloe.ie.

"I am very pleased to have Ballinasloe as a base for our company because of its privileged location in the heart of Ireland with a great access to the motorway to promote easy transportation for goods and raw materials. Along with easy access for employees, clients and potential business collaborators" remarked Suraya.

The store is located in Gate Lodge, Castle French, Ballinamore Bridge, Ballinasloe, H53DH67. To get in contact with her, ring +353 (0) 9180 4998 or email info@drsurayadiaz.com. Opening hours are Monday to Saturday from 9am to 6pm.

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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

Marina's Catering has been in operation for the past 9 years and was until recently run in conjunction with Downey's Bar, Society St. Moving ahead, Marina is going to expand and develop the catering element of the business.

With many years of expertise behind them, they offer Customers the best quality locally sourced produce prepared by their skilled team and delivered to your venue in a highly professional manner.

"We take pride in the amount of repeat business that we get so people must be happy with our service. Whether you are catering for a small party at home or a larger function at another venue we can do the job. We will help you decide what food etc. will be best suited to your occasion and your budget" explains Marina.

They supply plates and cutlery and can also supply tressel tables.

The equipment is electric so there is no chance of food being cold and the bain maries keep food in good condition for up to 3 or 4 hours-so if anybody likes second helpings it's there.

They deliver to your venue and collect the equipment the next day or earlier if you want. A varied menu from Gourmet Sandwich Selection to Canapaes to Hot Finger Food to Roasts, Curries, Lasagne, salads is on hand and they also cater for special dietary requirements that your guests may have.

They lavishly catered for a wedding of 120 guests in Cloghan Castle, outside Gort, and more recently at a local wedding in the couple's

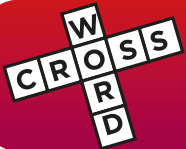


home last Christmas, so they have lots of experience.... no job is too large or too small !!

The easing of restrictions has given a great boost too as so many people are having small gatherings at home with maybe an outside awning - this has kept them busy since June almost every week.

Downey's Bar will be opening up in the next few weeks under new management, so keep your eyes open for more news soon!!

Marina can be contacted at marinadowney31@gmail.com or by phone or Messenger on 087 2311385. A new Website will be launched soon.



Don't forget to enter our new **CROSSWORD** page 30 and **WIN** a **€50 Voucher**



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GRANT FOR NEW XMAS LIGHTS PROJECT

BY LIAM COSGROVE

Hard to believe that Christmas is just less than 20 weeks away but a Town Team Project Group came together last January to see if the Town Centre and our new streets (which can't take the old lighting system) could organise a new one.

The previous set of lights was commissioned in the latter years of the last decade, with support from the then Town Council, who traditionally annually resourced the Xmas lighting project with capital and operational costs to the tune of €13,000 per annum until it was abolished. A significant application to the REDZ Government programme in 2015 allowed the town to re-invest in the lights and the Central European Green Tree, which was the focal point on the square.

Galway County have never been able to come close to the level of commitment (€1,500 in 2019) which has had the business community raising on average of some €10,000 from their subscriptions and the community through fundraising with events like the Zombie Walk and People of the Year Awards. The lights and electrical points have all changed with the new street



enhancement programme so a whole new set has to be commissioned and then installed.

A huge amount of research and costings has gone on to the measurements, samples, and creative vistas to the point that in late June this year GRD have allocated 66% of Grant Aid of €130,000 project which should see the Xmas Illuminations sorted for a decade.

The balance of €44,000 has to be raised locally for the capital and installation, servicing and storage costs. The business owners have indicated their support and the Town Team are really excited with this positive news and are looking forward to having a fabulous new

looking town this December.

Some additional events will be confirmed in the Autumn but it is hoped that the new lights will be installed by the last week of November.

Town Team Co-ordinator, Anita Kileen remarked "this has been really good news for our community, given the delayed street enhancement works, the Pandemic; it should give us all a positive lift as we close out a very difficult year."

Any Ideas or thoughts by email to ballinasloetownteam@gmail.com



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NEW FURNITURE STORE PLANNED FOR P J KENNY

Planning has been granted to construct a new 3,200 square foot furniture showroom and building has just recently begun for well-known Furniture Supplier, PJ Kenny, in Ballydangan on the main Ballinasloe / Athlone R446 road.

This is an exciting development and investment in the local, rural area where alongside their traditional offering they will also be stockists of their own new brand, West & Moore, which will consist of a select range of mattresses, pillows, towels etc. They hope to open the new premises later this year or in early January 2021.

PJ Kenny's Furniture store, located in Moore South, Ballydangan, Ballinasloe / Athlone, Co. Roscommon, is an independent, family run business established in 2004. Since then they have been providing customers with quality mattresses, divans, bed frames, furniture suites etc. They operate a delivery service which is free within a thirty-kilometer radius of the store.

Their founding aim is to promote and supply the best of Irish manufactured products where possible. They proudly supply brand names such as Respa, Briody, Odearest and many more.

Andrew, son of PJ and Frances has been working alongside his father since he was thirteen years old. He was born in Portiuncula Hospital, attended Athlone Community College and the NUI in Galway for a period of time. He is currently the Regional Sales Manager for The West & Midlands and is nearing twenty years in this field. He insists "Business, Sales & Marketing, Advertising etc. is in my blood and I've always had a keen interest in 'doing business' since I was a kid." He got all of his experience from working in the furniture store throughout his teenage years.



Andrew and PJ Kenny

PJ, his father, is owner of the furniture store in Ballydangan, having established the business 17 years ago. Within the last two years, Andrew has become a partner in the company and is looking ahead to progressing the business forward.

The continuation of 'Quality Products at Value Prices', which has always been PJ's motto down through the years, will continue. The only differences will be a bright, new, spacious showroom and exciting new product lines. The business will be called "Kennys Home Furniture"

"I believe our new location in Ballydangan right between the two principle towns of Ballinasloe and Athlone is ideal. A short hop from both towns and surrounding areas with free, dedicated parking. A destination furniture store offering the best of Irish made mattresses, beds and furniture combined with value and genuine customer service" stated Andrew.

Keep an eye out and listen for further information regarding this exciting new venture. PJ Kenny Beds and Furniture still welcomes you and looks forward to seeing you in the new premises in the very near future.

Their shop is open from Monday to Saturday 10am-7pm. To get in contact with the furniture store, ring them on 086 846 3924 or 090 967 3412. You can also email them on pjkenny07@gmail.com for more information. Keep an eye out for discounts and special offers on their Facebook page or website PJ Kenny Furniture Store.

BY LIAM COSGROVE



Ballinasloe Credit Union recently donated €5,000 from their social fund to the Duggan Park pitch committee in support of their ongoing pitch development project currently taking place at the famed Ballinasloe Pitch. Duggan Park is generally recognised as having one of the best surfaces in the country with over 125,000 spectators passing through the turnstile annually. The new turnstile / entrance is part of a multi-phase development which included the floodlights and terrace upgrade which is part of the next development phase.

Pictured is Grainne Murphy CEO Ballinasloe Credit Union with Christy Brown & William Ward ~ Duggan Park Committee

AS MORE BUSINESSES AND SERVICES BEGIN TO RE-OPEN, NOW MORE THAN EVER, WE ALL NEED TO REMEMBER TO SUPPORT OUR LOCAL BUSINESSES. PLEASE THINK WISELY WHEN MAKING PURCHASES,

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17 HOMES FOR THE ELDERLY

BY LIAM COSGROVE

Cluid housing have recently built 17 new homes for the elderly in Dunlo, to the rear of the Aldi Store. The houses are expected to be occupied over the next few weeks. Cluid Housing is an award winning, not-for-profit charity providing over 7,560 affordable, high quality homes to people in housing need. These houses are easily accessible and ideal for someone 65+. The homes are designed with fully accessible bathrooms, level access showers and level access thresholds. There's parking available for both residents and visitors also.

These new homes are part of their dedicated age-friendly housing service Clann. They're built following the principles of universal design and aim to provide housing where individuals can remain living independently in their own home for as long as possible.

All housing allocations will be made in conjunction with the Local Authority, which in this case is Galway County Council. They'll nominate prospective residents based on their allocations process and will be determined both by need and length of time on the local authority housing list. These houses aren't given out on a first come, first served basis. Consideration is normally given by the best fit also and an individual's accessibility and mobility needs.

If you apply to get one of these houses, all allocations will come from the County Council as Clann does not operate a waiting list.

Rent is suited to each customer and isn't fixed. It is charged in line with the Local Authority differential rent scheme and is based on the individual's income. A part time Scheme Manager will be working on site, their role will be to support residents to live alone, link residents to relevant community supports and manage any tenancy related matters.

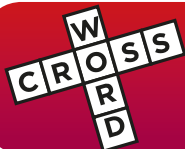
The concept of universal design is followed on all Clann developments. Clann schemes aims to promote independent living, as such accessibility is central to their design and operation.



However, they're no lifts of any kind at these houses. Photovoltaic Panels are provided generating on the spot free electricity to residents. PV panels, also known as solar panels, capture the sun's energy and convert it into electricity. The most typical PV panel system is the grid-connected system, which as its name indicates, is connected to the national grid. They generate electrical power instead of heat.

The site was purchased from the local diocese of the Catholic Church. These homes cost €216,000 each to construct.

If you wish to get in contact with a member of staff from Cluid, call 01 7072088 or email cluid@cluid.ie



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LOCAL FESTIVALS AND EVENTS COVID CASUALTIES

The 298th Ballinasloe Horse Fair has been cancelled on the current health and safety grounds that the Covid-19 pandemic requires. Arriving at the decision divided members of the County Council whose responsibility it is to regulate and manage the horsefair. Cllr. Dermot Connolly, wanted the decision to be delayed or that it be retained on a restricted basis just for equestrian only. Cllr Michael Connolly was also supportive of some limited staging of the event for the town's commercial life but these proposals were largely rejected by other members who thought that it was best for everyone's health and safety that the fair was cancelled.

The Fair and Festival Committee had arrived at a decision earlier that it would not be programming a traditional fair week and carnival activity with the threat it may have posed to local health.

It is a huge feature of the town's year and is held annually on the first week in October. It is Europe's oldest and largest horse fair, dating back to the 18th century. It is now the second time this century that this has happened with Foot and Mouth halting proceedings in 2001 even though some fairgoers had a commemoration for the

event at Birchgrove outside the Garda barriers !

Both parties to the event issued a joint statement. "It is with great regret that the Ballinasloe Fair and Festival Co-ordinating Committee has cancelled the fair for 2020. The decision was reached due to the continuing impact and uncertainty surrounding COVID-19. The Committee made the decision in the interests of Public Health & Safety and has agreed to meet in December 2020 to prepare for the return of the Ballinasloe Fair and Festival in 2021 and make advanced plans to celebrate the 300th anniversary in 2022."

The Horse Fair, along with the Puck Fair and Auld Lammas Fair, the three largest and oldest horse fairs in the country, have all been cancelled for 2020.

Galway County Council has undertaken an unprecedented Marketing Campaign to alert potential fairgoers that the event is not happening.

FEILE CHEOIL LARRY REYNOLDS CANCELLED

The Larry Reynold's Feile, a weekend which was established to commemorate the life of Boston based trad musician - Larry Reynolds is also cancelled. Created to promote the East Galway Style of Music and to encourage and develop Irish Music, Heritage and Culture in the region, the festival remembers Larry, who left for Boston in 1953 and was renowned for his fiddle playing throughout North America.

"We regret to announce that due to the uncertainty surrounding Covid-19, the 7th annual Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds will not be

going ahead on the planned dates of 10-13th September 2020. The festival committee want to ensure the safety of all involved and therefore it is not possible to proceed as normal", stated Willie Reynolds, PRO.

They have plans to have a virtual festival sometime this year but a date hasn't been confirmed yet. Check out their Facebook page to keep up to date with the festival.

AUGHRIM BATTLE CENTRE

The Aughrim Interpretative Centre had to cancel their annual commemoration of the Battle of Aughrim. It would have been the 329th anniversary, as the battle was held in 1691. Typically they would organise a walk of the Battlefield, telling stories of what event happened where. A weekend Re-enactment event has taken place for the past few years.

However, on their Facebook page photos of the route with historical landmarks printed on it is available for folks to walk the route and to stick to the main road.

Sadly, Aughrim Interpretative Centre remains closed for visitors until further notice. If you wish to keep up to date with the centre, check out their Facebook page - The Battle of Aughrim 1691.

CAHALAN JEWELLERS RE-OPEN



Cahalan Jewellers of Main Street have re-opened after a long layoff due to the pandemic. They have new re-opening hours of Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 11am-4pm; Tuesday 12noon-4pm and 11am-3pm on Saturdays, They are closed on Sunday.



"We would like to say a big hello to all their neighbours, friends and customers. We were happy to see all their customers come back to visit their shop. This meant a lot to us and hope we were patient with each of you. The community spirit that exists in our town and surrounding area is so valuable and important. As a community we have gone through a few ups and downs and this has brought us all closer together" said Maureen Cahalan.

They have decided to stock as much Irish product that is available and are appealing to all customers to shop local. Currently a great range of new jewellery from watches, rings, christening gifts,

communion gifts, antique jewellery, Trophies and Medals awaits the discerning client.

In their repairs department, they can take all types of watches, all jewellery items and sports cups. They repair, reconstruct and rebuild jewellery back to its original look. Family rings are also created with the birthstone for each family member, engraving is also carried out.

Their mission statement for the past 46 years is: "They strive for perfection and have time for all Customers".

To get in contact with Cahalan Jewellers, call 087 67 87 667 or email cahalanjewellers@eircom.net.

Cahalan
JEWELLERS

NEW CEO OF BALLINASLOE CREDIT UNION



Grainne Murphy

The new CEO of Ballinasloe Credit Union is Grainne Murphy, a native of Galway City, a fellow of the Association of Chartered Certified Accountants and a member of the LIA holding certificates in Credit Union Risk & Compliance as well as the Qualified Financial Advisor (QFA).

She began her accountancy career as a trainee with Duffy & Company in Dominick Street, Galway. The principal of the firm, Cormac Duffy, was very active in the formation of Credit Unions in Galway in the early years and the firm served as auditors to the Credit Union, where Grainne has been a

member since the 1980's. Grainne now lives in Clarinbridge with her husband and two children.

Prior to taking up this role, she was Chief Financial Officer with First Choice Credit Union, Castlebar for 5 years. It was a natural next step for her to take on the challenge of the CEO role, which to date has been really rewarding and enjoyable. "The sense of community here is strong and the team in the Credit Union are dedicated and friendly. The shorter daily commute is also a welcome bonus!" exclaims Grainne.

Working in a financial co-operative where ethics and social responsibility are not just aspirational is of key importance to her. "These values permeate everything we do. Members always come first and their needs are front and centre in our decision making. I look forward to working with my team to deliver on the goals and objectives of the Credit Union, building long lasting connections with the local community and continuing to make a positive difference in our member's lives" she states.

As an essential service, their focus throughout the Covid-19 pandemic has been to continue to facilities service to members. During the period of lockdown they operated on reduced hours/

days but since July they are back to the full 6 day week service.

They have also improved their technological ability, ensuring they remain agile enough to adapt quickly to change. In addition, they are developing their online offerings to provide alternative forms of contact and service delivery in the future. For members protection they have also installed safety screens at the counter and have more signage and a queue management system in place.

"We have also rolled out two new lending products (business & personal) specifically designed to support members who may be experiencing difficulty at this time. So, I would encourage those members who may be experiencing financial difficulties or who anticipate that they may be facing into such difficulties in the coming months, to come and talk to us. We are here to help" offers Grainne.

Joining your local Credit union is the one of the best financial decisions anyone can make. Their philosophy is based around supporting the needs of their members. One of the many benefits provided to members is loan protection insurance, the premium for this insurance is paid by the Credit Union. If you are an eligible member this means that you can borrow from your credit union in the full confidence that your dependents will not be obliged to repay the outstanding loan balance in the event of your death (There are some associated terms and conditions and members should enquire to see if they are eligible when making their loan application).

Grainne believes "In this way we are different to every other financial institution in Ireland. We are driven by a desire to work for our members benefit and provide financial services in our local communities. To join, just call to our office in Main Street with valid

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photo identification and proof of address. New members (young and old) are always welcome. It is a decision you will not regret!"

Since August last year she is pleased to see the transformation that has taken place in the town centre. "There is no doubt that a construction project of this nature can be a disruptor to the economic life of any town, however I do believe that once completed it will have a lasting positive effect on business locally" she says.

The Credit Union are currently focused on investing in their people, improving their technological ability and ensuring they remain agile enough to adapt quickly to persistent change. Grainne notes how "Traditionally all of our business was done at the counter and while one of the key differences of the Credit Union movement is our personal service, we have to redefine, through the application of technology, what that means for our next generation of members. Community remains central to our philosophy and working to improve our members' financial wellbeing will always be a core objective."

Looking to the future the provision of financial services on a fair and equitable basis is core to the ethos of the movement. "Therefore, investing in Business Model Development and meeting the ongoing demands of operating in a highly regulated environment while maintaining



June Prize Draw winner, Gene Nevin, receiving the keys to her new car from Tom Raftery & BCU Chairperson Marian Brady, also pictured are Gene's parents Anne & Michael, Husband Cathal Hurley & Children Donnacha, Sarah & Keith

our core operating principals is of key importance. We will continue to advocate for Credit Unions to ensure that we remain a vibrant part of the financial services landscape in Ireland" states Grainne after a hectic first year at post.



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The late Jim Cullen

Ballinasloe in 1920 saw many people still paying ground rent to the Clancarty Estate heirs, which continued right up to the 60's. The large majority of employers of commercial establishments were either owned or run by Protestants or Presbyterians, whose main purpose was to support the Local Landlords and the remaining Anglo-Irish Settlers.

With World War 1 just over, people were looking with optimism to the future. A Longford family had purchased a huge shop in Society Street from Moffet Reynolds and Moffet. It was one of a chain of stores bought by Charles and Catherine Cullen, who put their

eldest son, James. L. (Jim) Cullen in charge of the Ballinasloe outfit. The three-and-half storey building which specialised in drapery and footwear, was gradually becoming a significant employer in the town and attracting business from a wide area.

The top level which where the "live-in" staff resided could accommodate up to twelve people. Some of the original staff included the late Annie Egan, Nellie Jenkins, Annie Doran, Paul Kelly and Joe McGuinness, among others. Later, another premises was purchased by the Cullens in Main Street, which specialised in ladies' and gent's footwear. This was sold in the mid-eighties while the Society Street premises went under the hammer a few years later.

Jim Cullen quickly endeared himself to the local people. His parents had committed to providing credit and small loans to the less well-off members of the community. They later engaged with some of the more prosperous members of the community, to come up with a solution that would provide work and good wages for the people of the town.

According to Jim Cullen's youngest son, Leo, "in September 1928, the town fathers and the Cullen family began a series of informal talks with regards the possibilities of setting up an industry or business that would create good paying jobs. These talks lasted about six years before the official committee (The Chamber of Commerce),

settled on a proposal to look into the possibility of establishing a Shoe Factory. Early in 1934, just as things were falling into place, the investors announced they were reconsidering the project. They thought that the best thing to do was leave it for another day.

"The Cullens were committed to the project, so it was decided at committee level, to allow them continue and raise the necessary capital. At that stage, no one realised how committed the Cullens were, as there were many hurdles to overcome" added Leo.

Charles Cullen, Jim Cullen's father, had many contacts in both Ireland and England, where he had been doing business for many years. With the addition of his new outlet in Ballinasloe, the Cullens now had a network of six premises within a 40 mile radius of Athlone. Charles used his contacts to achieve the impossible.

"With the help of John Rawson of Rawson Shoes, Dundalk, the necessary equipment was purchased. His support to the venture was the most important commitment to the establishment of Dubarry. He sought out experts in the shoe trade in England, such as Bert Boswell and Albert Headd, and more skilled leather workers, to join them in Ballinasloe. Bert Boswell's contribution to Dubarry is the unsung story of the company's success. In those early years and very difficult times, his attention and commitment to detail, and the passing on the knowledge of the business can never be truly appreciated.

"In 1927, my grandparents consolidated their investments into a trust for the benefit of their children. My father was the Executor of the trust and it was from this source that the money came for the initial investment and support for Dubarry. My father continued to give support to the shoe company down through the years, a promise he made to his mother on the day of the incorporation of Dubarry, which she said was 'her proudest moment' stated Leo.



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Pictured at the Blessing and Unveiling of a statue to Our Lady, at the Dubarry Factory in Sarsfield Road in 1954, to mark the Marian Year were: l to r: Bert Boswell, Very Rev. Wm. Cummins Adm., James L. Cullen, Manager; Bishop William Philbin, J.F. Scott, Managing Director; Rev. John Kelly, Albert Headd and Joe Higgins.

Dubarry Shoe Factory was founded in 1936 but did not go into full production until 1938. The initial two years were spent installing machinery, training personnel and restructuring the Old Workhouse on Station Road. It was to become the town's biggest employer where entire families became synonymous in the workforce. So many school-leavers got employment there-many of whom remained there until their retirement. It proved a huge boost to the town's economy and was quickly making its name nationwide.

Leo Cullen recalls "Some years later, Mr. Rawson recommended Mr. Jim Scott as Managing Director and the Englishman, with his family, moved to Ballinasloe. The following twenty five years proved to be tough going for the firm. Several times the Cullen Trust were called on to help out. Then in the 50's, Norvic Shoes became shareholders and agents for Dubarry, in Ireland and England.

"At this time, the Cullen Trust was the majority shareholder, Norvic Shoes held 20% and Mr. Jim Scott held the remaining shares. Jim Cullen was chairman of Dubarry Shoes, from its inception, right up to his death in 1982. Jim Scott served as joint Chairman and Managing Director from January 1983 up to the time the Cullen and Scott families agreed to a buy-out. Ironically, Bert Boswell's son Philip, and Eamonn Fagan, were involved in the management buy-out of the Company, nearly fifty years after Philip's father came from Northampton to help launch the factory."

The new management continued to operate in Sarsfield Road before moving to a purpose-built premises on the Athlone Road, in 1988. However, production ceased there in 2004 but the designing, engineering, marketing and sales still operate from there. Staff numbers were reduced considerably but the name Dubarry still remains one of the town's flagships.

Jim Cullen, as he was affectionately known, was 24 years of age when he came to Ballinasloe to manage the Society Street outlet. He purchased a home in Mountpleasant in 1934, married local girl, Anne Kelly, and had a family of seven. He became a

member of Ballinasloe Urban District Council for over twenty years and fought consistently to see a local person elected a TD "to fight at the Government table for more for Ballinasloe."

In 1977, Mr. Cullen predicted "Because of the lack of political savvy on behalf of both major parties and the people of the Postal District of Ballinasloe, the town will pay a huge price for not having a local resident TD. Ballinasloe will slip back to rural obscurity and become a bedroom community, serving Athlone and to a lesser extent Galway; while Athlone would become the next Boomtown."

Not far off the mark!

Leo Cullen is the youngest member of Jim and Anne. He was involved in both the Society Street and Main Street operations before emigrating to California in 1983.

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Mayor of Galway and Arthur Carr receiving this award of
2020 Community Service & Social Inclusion

Before joining Claddagh Watch, I had never volunteered. Like many, I had toyed with the idea over the years, but sadly, mostly for self-indulgent reasons. The 'Oh, it will look great on my CV' kind of reasons.

In my mind, those who volunteered regularly and truly enjoyed it were exceptional people, born with a superior gift of kindness, empathy and morality. I believed that you had to be a more generous, almost a more Godly person, to do the amazing things I've witnessed volunteer groups do. On reflection, it is a strange thought, but I felt that I wasn't good enough a human to volunteer and that others would be better suited to the task. That was until I was introduced to Claddagh Watch and my perception of volunteering changed completely.

Claddagh Watch Patrol, which was founded by Arthur Carr and some dedicated people in 2019, sees volunteers patrolling the waterways and bridges of Galway City in an effort to prevent deaths by accident and suicide and to promote water safety.

This organisation struck a chord with me as living in Galway City, I

was aware of the many tragic accidents and suicides at the hands of the River Corrib. This included incidents with people from around the County including East Galway, I also knew that no measures were being put in place to help people who found themselves contemplating suicide along the river, or those who were at higher risk of an accident due to the proximity of the bars and nightclubs to the river's edge. Having completed courses on suicide awareness and intervention previously, I felt that I had to put this knowledge to use.

After many meetings and numerous training sessions, I went out on that very first patrol and so ended my fear of volunteering. Without a doubt, it was one of the most enlightening experiences I've ever had. I believe this is because of the extraordinary reaction of the community around us. Patrolling the bridges and waterways, we were overwhelmed by the amount of people, young and old, who came to us with their questions, their praise and thanks and their personal stories of how the river has affected their lives. There were people who questioned the need for our patrols but once we explained our goal of preventing accidents and suicides, they quickly congratulated us on our efforts. Others who were enjoying their night out and moving from pub to pub, even made time to bring us tea and coffee as a sign of gratitude. The support, we as volunteers receive each night, is truly something special and that support has only continued to grow with time. It has become my small way of contributing to the society I live in, and the appreciation of people in Galway rings loud and clear.

One of the reasons I have found it easy to continue volunteering with Claddagh Watch is the support network you meet in the group itself. Joining a volunteering group is a fantastic way to meet new people and build your own support base. Everyone is focused and committed to the same cause and you have to work together to keep each other and those around you safe. While walking along the waterways and keeping an eye out for those who are vulnerable, I have met many other volunteers from different backgrounds, who each have a unique story and motivation for joining Claddagh Watch. It is a great way to make new friends and I also think it has a positive effect on self-esteem. Putting yourself out there and trying something new can definitely help improve your



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confidence and I would highly recommend volunteering to anyone who feels shy or nervous. I definitely find it to be an energizing escape from the normalcy of day to day life.

Volunteering has also given me the opportunity to experience a greater purpose in life. In our modern society, it can be difficult not to fall into the materialistic ideology that is portrayed on our social media platforms each day. We are constantly connected to content that promotes the idea that the more things

you own and the more money you have, the better and happier your life will be. I can wholeheartedly say that there is more to this life than social media and the things you own. Volunteering instills a sense of purpose, a feeling of fulfilment unlike anything I have experienced before. Making the effort to help others certainly gives you a positive mindset, so at the end of the day, you are not only helping someone else in need but you are also helping yourself. I also think it is so important to try and do one good thing for someone else as often as possible. Every day we are bombarded with distressing news stories from around the world, so for me volunteering presents a tangible and proactive way of doing something to make the world a better place. Even the smallest gestures can make a big difference to someone in need!



Team out on patrol are: Arthur Carr, Jimmy McGovern, Eimear Gullane, Trish Keogh

All these lovely reasons aside, the main reason I volunteer is because I want to make a difference to the sad and frightening situation our city finds itself in. When the news of yet another suicide or accidental death blackened my social media feed in the past, I always felt the same wave of emotions. Anger, upset, shock, turmoil and then the question of 'why?'. Why that person? Why that river? Why was no one there to help? Some people looked to the government and council for explanation.

Thanks to Claddagh Watch Patrol and the wonderful people who have dedicated their free time to this cause, I can say that

we are here to try and help. Each week, strangers come together with the goal of making our city that little bit safer and each week, we make a difference. People are now more aware than ever of the dangers the river poses and I hope that it will also create a greater awareness of mental health and the struggles people may be facing. You never know whose life you may potentially save by just asking 'are you okay?'.

Finally, if you have never volunteered before, then please, now is the time to give it a try. Helping others and making life a little easier for someone else, has the potential to greatly improve your own life too.

Check out - Volunteer Galway 091 581 727 or Claddagh Watch Patrol 087 9933 097.



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NO ACTIVE COVID CASES AT PORTIUNCULA

As we go to print in the last week of July, there has now been over 1,750 Covid -19 related deaths in the State and there has been around 26,000 confirmed cases. Department of Health statistics show, there were 492 cases in Galway since the beginning of the pandemic. 461 in late May – 30 more in 8 weeks. For Roscommon it was 319 late May and 8 weeks on the total has risen to 346. One patient is being treated for Covid-19 in hospitals in Galway as cases of the virus numbers rise nationwide.

Roscommon accounts for 1.2 % (No Change) of all detected nationwide cases whilst Galway county accounts for 1.3 % (down .3%). It is anticipated with the slowing down of restriction easing that some form of second wave or spike is due.

A contractor has been appointed to carry out the Ward Block Enabling Works and the Reconfiguration of Radiology at Portiuncula Hospital. The works are the first phase in the development of the 50 Bed Ward Block. The build will commence onsite in the next 4 – 6 weeks and represent an investment of about €4 million.

Deputy Denis Naughten is adamant that “the result of Covid 19 is that as a new ward block is now more urgently required than ever before to address the chaotic situation that many patients and staff have faced in the past in our local A&E Department.” He has also highlighted that due to the current restrictions Portiuncula has lost one in every ten beds as a direct result of measures to reduce the risk of infection from Covid-19.

There is currently still no one on a trolley in Portiuncula due to pandemic or over-crowding. This is excellent news in comparison to University Hospital Limerick with 33 people and University Hospital Cork with 26. UHG still doesn't have anyone on a trolley.

Saolta University Health Care Group have confirmed that Blood Testing clinics have recommenced at Portiuncula along with University Hospital Galway, Mayo University Hospital, Sligo



University Hospital and Letterkenny University Hospital. Due to social distancing requirements, the service is at reduced capacity at some sites. Bloodtesting continued at Roscommon University Hospital throughout.

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.

BY LIAM COSGROVE



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on page 30

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PAUL WALSH NEW GARBALLY PRINCIPAL

The fifth lay Principal to be appointed in Garbally College, succeeding Michael Hyland, Tom Blanche, Seamus O'Brien and Stephen Reilly, and incidentally the first past pupil lay Principal, is Tynagh native Paul Walsh.

Hailing from a farming family in Flowerhill, Tynagh, Paul is the youngest of three sisters and three brothers. His earliest introduction to town was as a very small boy bringing horses to the Fair with his father and brothers, standing in the Fair Green all day and trying not to get kicked or walked on! The young man who has a deep love of the outdoors with a lifetime passion for hillwalking and deerstalking finished his primary education in Killimor NS and was enrolled in Garbally College in 1980 as a first year boarder.

"I can honestly say that my parents' decision to send me to Garbally was the best decision they ever made for me. I received an excellent holistic Catholic education in very happy surroundings. I loved the hands-on learning experience of the practical subjects and the science subjects. I played a lot of sport and must have played hundreds, if not thousands, of games of handball in the alleys! As well as sport, I have very special memories of being involved in The Mikado and Pirates of Penzance and playing the guitar for the school choir" states Paul.

From first year, he knew he wanted to be a secondary teacher. His favourite subjects were woodwork, technical graphics and agricultural science and after Leaving Cert decided to study metalwork and engineering at the University of Limerick.

"The late Michael Hyland, my agricultural science teacher who also had a passion for engineering, had a huge influence on me and indeed on lots of other students as well. He was such a knowledgeable and committed teacher who made the subject so interesting with his stories of bygone days. As students, we had the height of respect for him and fondly remember the day that he was introducing us to Dairying in agricultural science. He brought in lots of different cheeses and crackers and as hungry boys we definitely enjoyed that class leaving not a morsel uneaten" remembers Paul.

Having spent six formative years in the school, the college is very much part of who he is. "I am very proud of my association with Garbally and I made friends for life among staff and students. We had our 25-year reunion in 2011 and classmates came back from all over the world. We are already planning another reunion for 2021!" he says.

He graduated from U.L. with a degree in Engineering Technology and was fortunate to get a teaching job in Garbally in September 1990, initially teaching woodwork, technical graphics, science and technical drawing. In 1996 Bishop Kirby and the Board of Governors sanctioned the introduction of Metalwork and Engineering and he worked with the principal, Michael Hyland in equipping a room for the new subjects which have proved very popular.

He has held various leadership roles since 2000 and took over as programme co-ordinator in 2010 with responsibility for Transition Year (TY) and Leaving Cert Vocational Programme. The numbers taking TY have more than doubled since and lots of links in the local community through social action and work experience have been developed.

The committed Educationalist completed a post graduate diploma in Leadership of Education in 2014 and a Master's degree in School Leadership in Maynooth University in 2018 as well as serving two terms on Garbally's Board of Management.

He lives near Gort with his wife of 26 years, Mary Teresa. They have a daughter Hazel, a Speech and Language Therapist and a son Sean, who is a Veterinary Surgeon.



"I am extremely lucky to be a member of a very committed, dedicated and hard-working staff who go above and beyond the call of duty every day. We have a great sense of care and collegiality for each other and for our students and I look forward to leading this team to deliver the best education possible for all our students" explains Paul.

Casting his eye back on his staff achievements - helping students achieve their full potential, whatever that might become, is a first but seeing his students receive national awards from the National Engineering Teachers' Associations for results achieved in leaving cert projects and written papers, comes a close second.

He sees the setting up of Microsoft Office 365 across the campus, as one of his greatest contributions ; proving invaluable in allowing teaching and learning to continue during the Covid 19 lockdown.

He is looking forward to working with all involved in education in Garbally, Bishop Michael Duignan and the Board of Governors, the Board of Management, staff, students, parents and the wider community.

"Garbally College is a highly acclaimed diocesan secondary school which has a proud tradition of excellence in the academic, sporting and cultural fields, I am passionate and committed in continuing this in the future. I envisage that students leave here proud of having been in the college, as mature compassionate young men who have the skills necessary to become independent, critical thinkers, IT proficient, resilient enough to deal with the challenges of life and always willing to help others along the way" acclaims Paul.

"I would like to thank Fr. Allman and the Board of Management, our staff, students, parents and local community groups for their continued support of Garbally. A special thank you to Bishop John Kirby who was president when I attended Garbally as a student, to my former Principals with whom I worked, especially Stephen Reilly for his continued encouragement and support. "Fidet et Fortitudine", Faith and Fortitude is our motto - by working as a united school community we will have the Faith as well as the emotional and mental strength to respond with Courage in the face of new challenges" notes Paul.

BY LIAM COSGROVE

22 YEAR SAGA OF NEW SCHOOL NEARING END



The Department of Education, the principals and boards of management of then St. Grellans Boys' School and the Sisters of Mercy Girls' School agreed in 1998 to amalgamate both single sex schools into a joint entity. At the time the policy of the Department was that schools joining together would be fast tracked for new buildings and to update facilities.

Scoil an Chroí Naofa came about and a project team comprised of the Patron, Principal and Board of Management began the long process of getting modern buildings for their school kids as the only DEIS Band 1 School in County Galway – with nearly a third of their pupils in prefabs and a major road running through the two campuses.

In Dec 2011 the old Town Council granted planning permission to demolish the old School on the Convent grounds and build a complete new one, subject to certain conditions- significantly in relation to access and car parking.

The Dept of Education new school build process – which is elaborate and slow, began with the local school being assigned a design team and Architects, who came up with the blue prints for a €5 million new School, with an Autism Spectrum Disorder Unit and Parenting Centre.

It will also have eleven general classrooms, nine specialist classrooms, a library, staff rooms, offices, toilets and a general purpose hall. The ASD unit will have two specialist classrooms, specialist education rooms and a central activities space.

In spring of 2016, the school were delighted to be informed that the project would be included in the recent announcement by Minister for Education Jan O' Sullivan to proceed with Construction later that year.

A change of Government that year brought about a change of Minister and the School had to apply to Galway County Council for a planning permission extension – which was duly approved, but with the same conditions on access and parking which still had not been resolved between the Dept, the Council and Board of Management.

In 2017 the parents were informed that building work would begin and the new school would be commissioned within two years.

The School currently has nearly 300 pupils, 29 full time teachers, 7 special Needs Assistants, 2 special classes for speech and language disorder and a special class for children with Autistic Spectrum Disorder. The uninsulated buildings – many dating to 1937 are proving very costly to maintain and heat and the boiler systems are near to the end of the natural life.

Good news was received for the project in January of this year when Galway County Council agreed to Part 8 Planning Process for a new road and car park to the rear of school (which will in time link the road to the rear of Main St., at the rear of Gullane's Hotel, to the gates of the school) and some environmental screening on the Council's land to the River.

These substantial works will add nearly a million in costs but ensure that parents and pupils will have much safer access for collecting and dropping of their youngsters. Costings are being updated at present and when this work is completed, it is anticipated that the project will then proceed to tender with construction work commencing later in the year.



BY LIAM COSGROVE

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Elaine Bannerton
B.A. LLB.

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SCHOOLS SUMMER HOLIDAYS TIMES PAST



Ballinasloe Brownies 1971: (Back row L to R) Sheena Keller, Liz Kenny? Una Hernon?, Unknown?, Carol Gavin, Unknown?, Unknown? (4th Row L to R) Geraldine Jordan, Ina Duignan?, Adrienne Bleahen, Unknown?, Sharon Colbert. (3rd Row L to R) Mrs. Ganly, Antoinette Carrick, Deirdre McKeon, Monica Traenor?, Mary Glynn?, Mary Spain? (2nd Row L to R) Mrs. Keller, Eva Whelan, Clodagh O Carroll, Geraldine Carrick, Anne Dolan, LEADER?, Sr Bosco. Bottom Row L to R Concilio McNeill, Gabrielle Vaughan, Claire Carr, Orla Salmon, Sheila Loughnane, Martina Traenor?, Geraldine Caulfield?, Bonnie Jones



SCOUTS 1960's:

Names include Rev. Fr Dunne, Scout Leaders: Jim Devine, Charlie Murray. Scouts: Mal Croffy, Martin and Peter Grenham, Kevin Black, Kieran Connaire, Seamus Kelly, Tom Keogh, Eamonn and Tomas Gullane, Paul McQuaid, Liam Howley, Pat Hill, Norbert Fallon, Noel Egan, Donald Larkin, Gerry Kelly, Michael Kennedy, Gerard Hogan, Sean Og Hurley, George Hurley, Gerry Carney.

With a strange summer holidays during the Covid Pandemic which sees very little by way of organised activity for our younger folk in the likes of camps, sports activities etc we share here some photos from organised recreational activity in our community provided by the Scouts and Brownies. We have struggled to put names on all the shots so if you can help us please email ballinasloelife@hotmail.com

Thanks to Gerry Devlin for supplying the old photos



Ballinasloe Boy Scouts 1981

With Buckets, Rags and Soapy water they Launched their BOB-A-JOB week by washing the Ballinasloe Fire Engine.

Leaders: Helen Darcy, Teresa Burke, Luke Conlon, Seamus Kelly, Barry McKeown.

Other scouts include: Niall Duffy, Ger O'Connor, Fergus Dolan?, Damien McDermot, Eamonn Waters, Gregory Dowd?, Brian Ward, Declan Glynn, Mike McCann, Jarlath Forde, Jack Murray, Kevin Hogarty, Thomas (TC) Clogher, Mark Lyons, Shane Power, Thomas Hughes (RIP), Padraic Lyons, Keith Donnellan, Michael Hogarty, Alan (Rocky) Madden, Brendan Collieran, Padraic Waters, John Cunnane, Conrad Burke, Johnny Keighery.

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THIS, THAT AND THE OTHER...

BY KEVIN KAVANAGH

JEAN KENNEDY SMITH who passed away recently in the USA, visited the Aughrim Interpretative Centre in 1991, when she was the American Ambassador, to mark the third centenary of the 1691 Famous Battle. She was the second member of the Kennedy dynasty to visit the village-her brother-Ted, having visited the Aughrim Inn, in 1974.

AUGHRIM-BORN FR. FRANK JENNINGS recently celebrated the Diamond Jubilee of his Ordination, in Padiham, Burnley in the UK. A native of Liskelly, he was ordained at St. John's College, Waterford on 16th June 1960 and has ministered since in the Greater Manchester area.

LILY LOUGHNANE (nee Campbell), who passed away in her 104th year, was the oldest resident of St. Grellan's Terrace, where she lived for most of her life. She is predeceased by her husband James, who passed away in July 1974 and by her daughters Joan and Mae. The great-grandmother is survived

by sons Bernie, Brendan, Ger and Martin, daughter Adrienne, grandchildren and many other relatives and friends.

SIXTY YEARS AGO this summer, Michael Fahy of St. Grellan's Terrace tragically lost his life in a drowning accident on the River Suck. The balmy Saturday evening weather saw several youngsters attempt to swim out to a raft on the River at the East Bridge. Unfortunately the young Dubarry worker lost his life in trying to reach his pals.

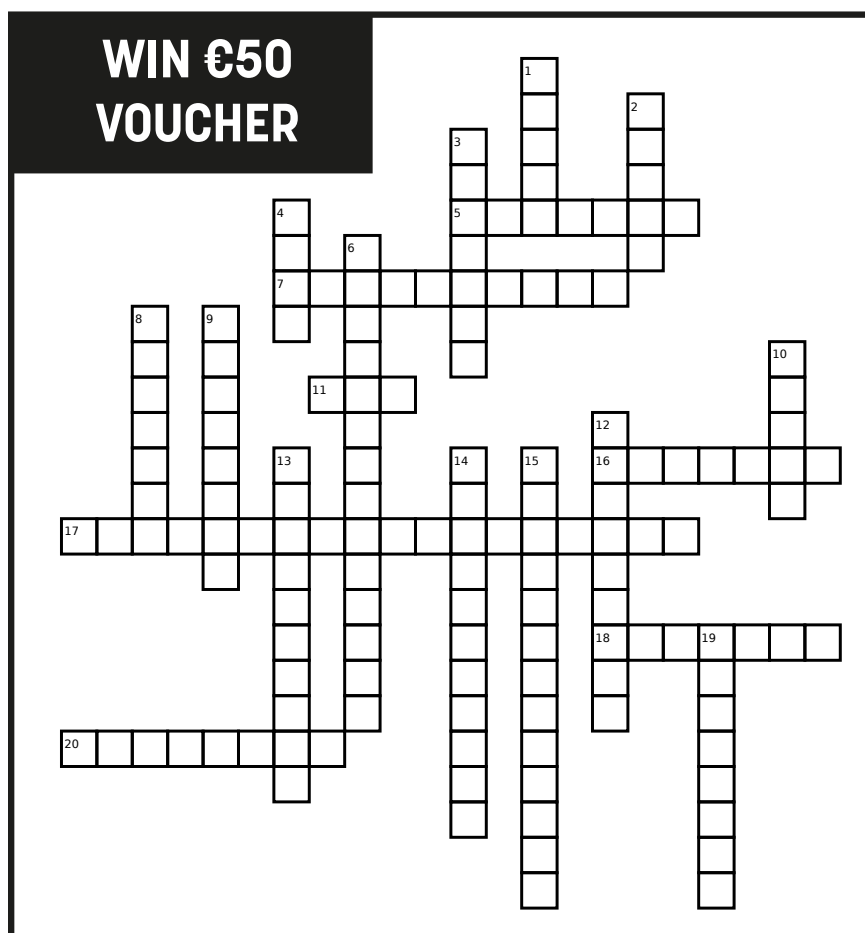
THOMAS EDWARD (Ted) LITTLE was a stone cutter who came to work in Top Quarries, Ballinasloe over a half century ago. Formerly from Rathfarnham in Dublin, Ted was a gifted craftsman and following his retirement he went to live in Aughrim. Predeceased by his son Brian, he is survived by his wife Rita, four sons, four daughters and many other relatives and friends.

BALLINASLOE CROSSWORD

No. 101

(Sponsored by KPW Print, Poolboy Inds. Estate, Ballinasloe).

**WIN €50
VOUCHER**



Across:

5. Tributary of Suck (7)
7. Editor of LIFE (4,6)
11. Printers of this Magazine (3)
16. Former Cinema in Town Hall (7)
17. Old Ballinasloe Newspaper (4,6,8)
18. Ballroom and pub (7)
20. Original home of St. Joseph's College (3,5)

Down:

1. New Senator (5)
2. Club's GAA Colours Black and (5)
3. Shoe factory (7)
4. Ballinasloe River (4)
6. First showband to play in the Town Hall (7,7)
8. Former landmark hotel (7)
9. Mouth of the (8)
10. ___ Canal (5)
12. Horse Fair venue (9)
13. Burial Ground (10)
14. World snooker champion who played Social Club in 1972 (4,7)
15. Mr. Salubrious (7,6)
19. Home of Golf Club (8)

Completed Crossword (or a photocopy) to be returned not later than 1st September 2020, to CROSSWORD, C/o Ballinasloe Life, BACD Office, Creagh, Ballinasloe.

Name..... Mobile:.....

Address.....

Winner will be drawn from correct entries and receive a €50 Voucher from KPW Print, Poolboy, T & C apply.

It's New, It's Local: Ballinasloe Crossword. Win €50 Voucher.

OUT AND ABOUT IN BALLINASLOE



Residents of Ballinderry Nursing Home, Kilconnell enjoying the recent Bonfire Night Celebrations'



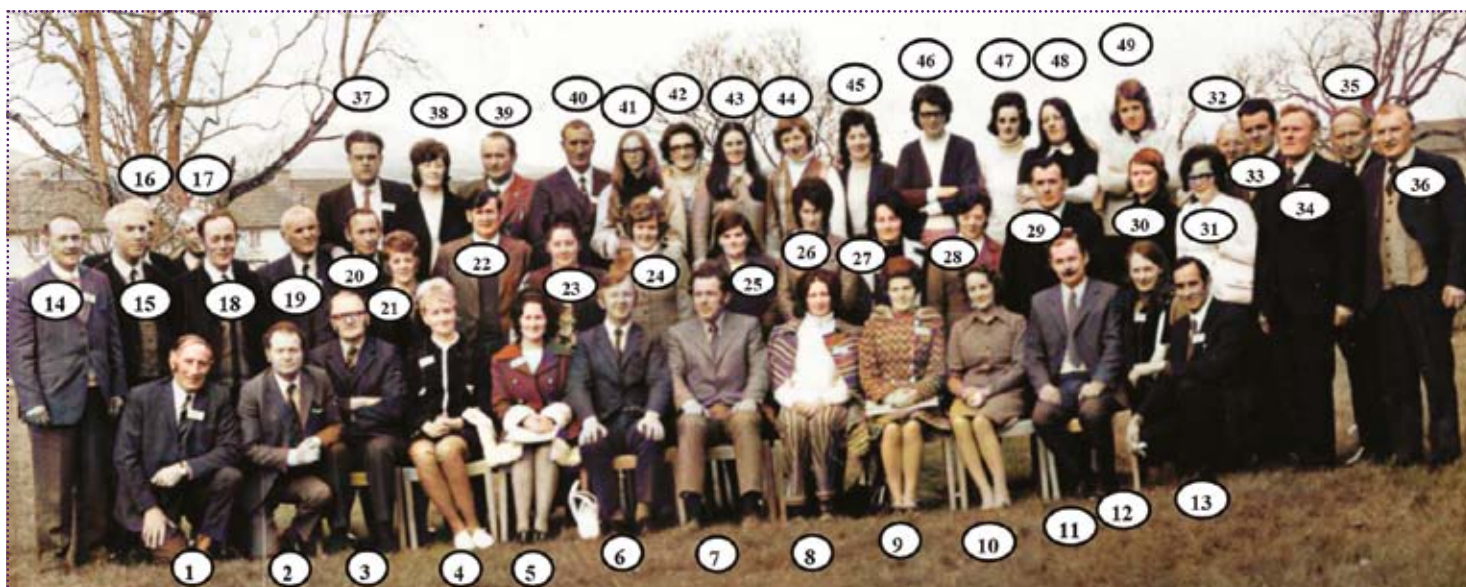
Mai Bowes celebrated her 100th Birthday recently as a resident of Ballinderry Nursing Home Kilconnell.



SMART recovery (self management & recovery training) provides a self-empowering Science based free weekly recovery group for abstaining from addictive substances and behaviours. It is used globally on a weekly basis, face to face and online. This certificate has been awarded to Marie Lyons, at the Enterprise Centre after successfully completing the Facilitator Course.



Isaac Oliver of Ballinasloe Golf Club Irish Kids Golf Tour Boys Under 11 Leinster Champion 2020



Some of St. Brigid's Hospital Staff 1970.

Front Row L-R: 1. Mick Rushe, 2. Tom Glynn, 3. Liam Reidy, Adm. St. Mary's Hospital, Castlebar, 4. ??, 5. Mary Dolan Broderick, 6. Mr Hickey, 7. Donal O'Shea, 8. Agnes Farrell Chadwick, 9. Bridie Mulvey, 10. Mary Kilkenny Seale, 11. Dr. Michael Reynolds, 12. Maureen J. Kelly Cuniffe, 13. Jack Creaven.

Midd Row L-R: 14. Martin Guihan, Castlerea, 15. Mick Grady, 16. Hidden, 17. Hidden, 18. Jimmy Kelly, Culligh, 19. Paddy Burns, 20. Tommy Brennan, 21. ??, 22. ??, 23. ??, 24. Kathleen Fallon, 25. Annie Fallon, 26. Josephine Kelly, 27. Ann Ferguson, 28. Ann Devry, 29. Matt McDonagh, 30. Phil Clogher, 31. Patricia Fahy Hurley, 32. ??, 33. ??, 34. Tom Kilgannon, 35. Eddie Grenham, 36. P.J. Byrne, Castlerea.

Back Row L-R: 37. ??, 38. Brigid Donohue, 39. Staff Ruane, 40. Paddy Connaire, 41. ??, 42. Annie Carr, 43. Angela Cahill, 44. Mary Spellman, 45. ??, 46. Phil Gibbons, Clerical Officer, Castlebar, 47. Rita O'Brien Walsh, 48. Mary Stenson, 49. ??.

E&OE.

If anyone can name the others, please contact brigidsballinasloe@gmail.com. or put up a post on the St. Brigid's Hospital Heritage Group Facebook Page.

STAYCATION WALKS AND CYCLES



Pollboy Lock Trail

- ● ● ● Route 1
- ● ● ● Route 2



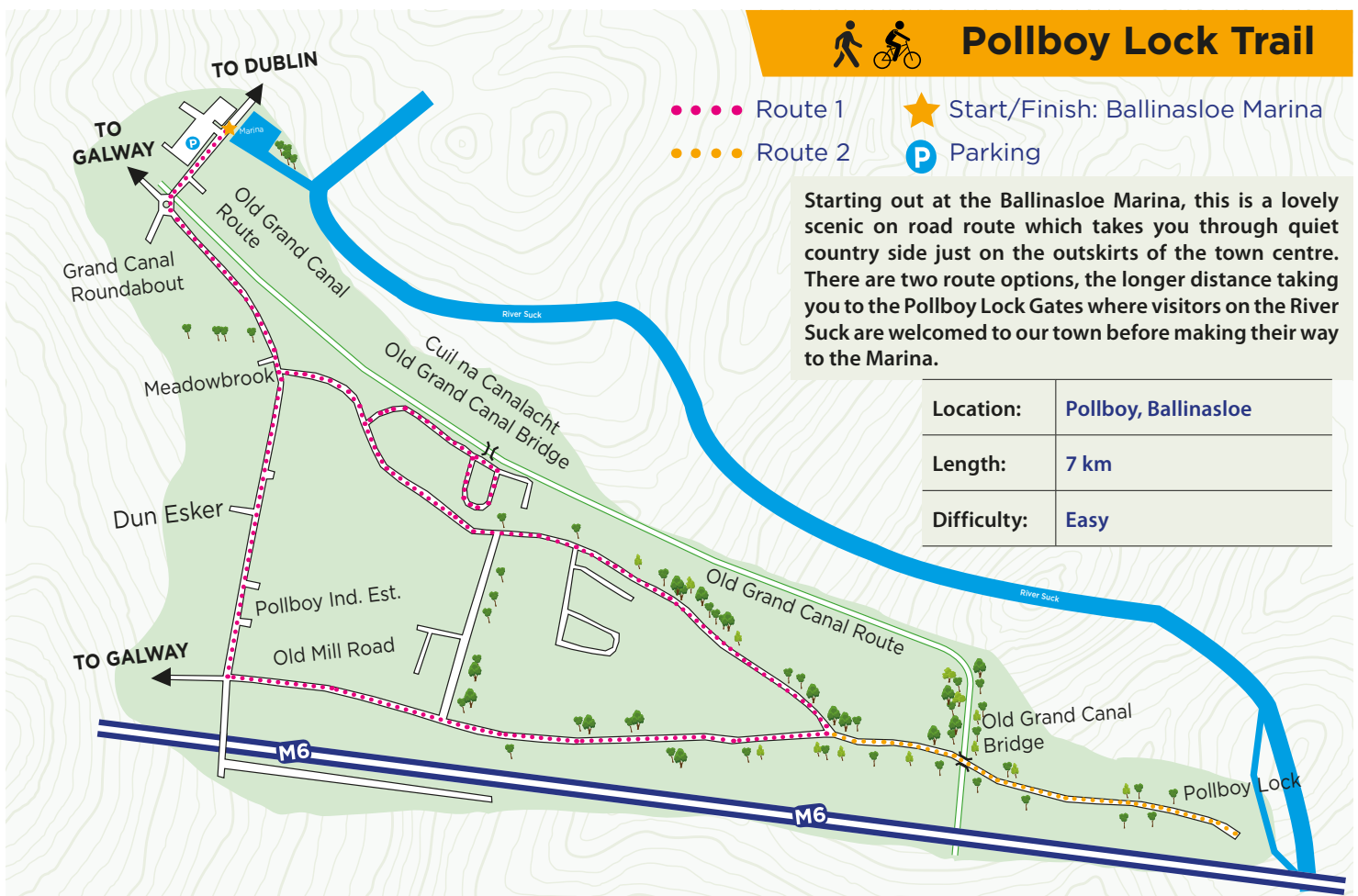
Start/Finish: Ballinasloe Marina



Parking

Starting out at the Ballinasloe Marina, this is a lovely scenic on road route which takes you through quiet country side just on the outskirts of the town centre. There are two route options, the longer distance taking you to the Pollboy Lock Gates where visitors on the River Suck are welcomed to our town before making their way to the Marina.

Location:	Pollboy, Ballinasloe
Length:	7 km
Difficulty:	Easy



Old Grand Canal and Woodland Trail



- ● ● ● Trail



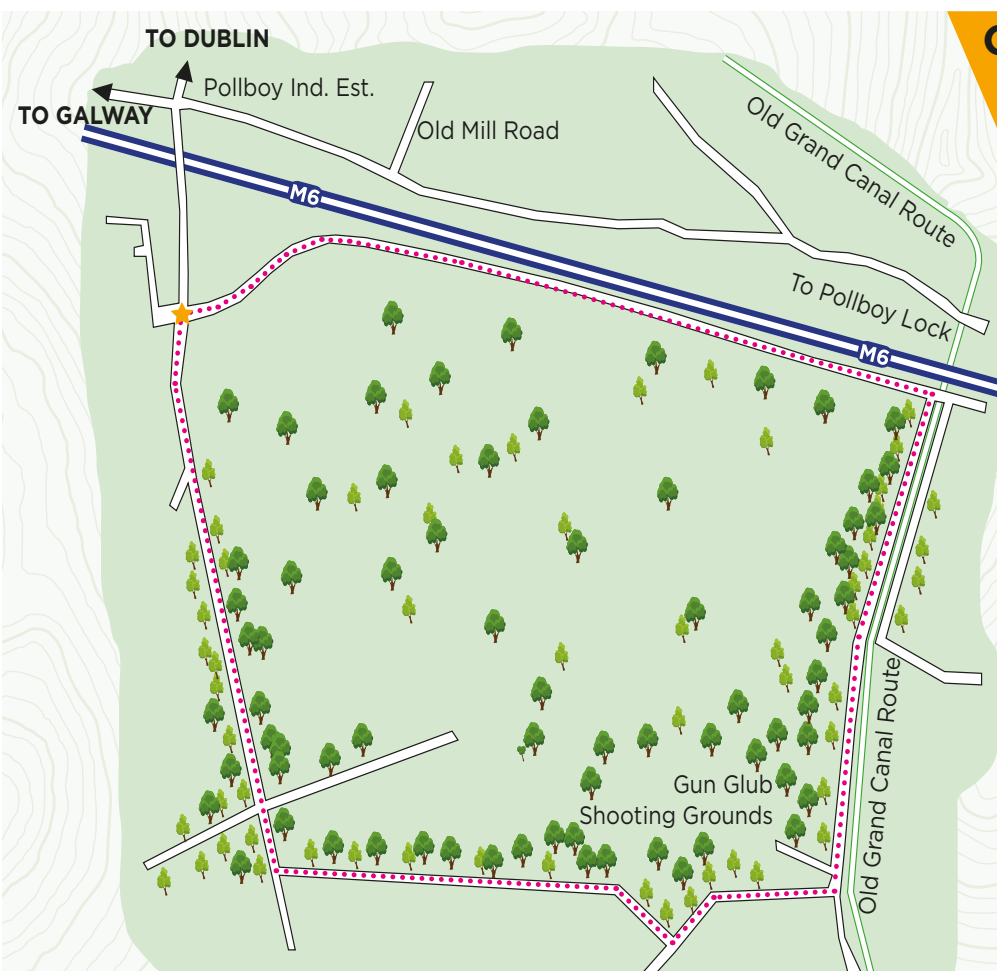
Start/Finish:



Parking:

Location:	Pollboy, Ballinasloe
Length:	6.7 km
Difficulty:	Easy

This is mostly an off road loop trail which takes you along the banks of the Old Grand Canal through quiet bog trails. The route skirts the Hymany Way Trail providing options for more experienced explorers to extend their journey towards Aughrim or Clonfert



STAYCATION WALKS AND CYCLES



Battle of Aughrim Heritage Trail



	Motorway
	Regional Road
	Tertiary Road
	Battle of Aughrim Historical Trail
	Battle of Aughrim Battle Trail
	Point of Interest (see 'Along the way')

Location:	Aughrim Visitor Centre
Length:	9.8 km
Difficulty:	Easy

This is mostly an off road loop trail which takes you along the banks of the Old Grand Canal through quiet bog trails. The route skirts the Hymany Way Trail providing options for more experienced explorers to extend their journey towards Aughrim or Clonfert (Refer to Hymany Trail Map).

Shannonbridge Cycle



The 34-kilometer loop should take you about one hour and 45 minutes. Beginning at Creagh church, head out towards Ballydangan. At the Beagh roundabout, take the old Athlone road M6. Take a right at Ballydangan towards Moore. You will come to an incline at Killbegly Hill. Go left at the T junction R357 at Clonfad, passing old town.

You'll see the famous Lukers, the old fort, children's playground with a picnic area when arriving. You can continue to

Clonmacnoise extra to add 30 kilometers to your cycle.

On the way back you'll pass Tom Raftery's, the Cullagh fishing grounds and McKeons sand and gravel.

Continue to the Ard Carn roundabout. Head into old Portnick road on way to the Moycarn Hotel. Head back up road to old Creagh junction to finish your cycle.

Kilconnell Cycle



The one hour and 40 minutes loop cycle has little to no incline. Beginning from the town centre, head out the Sarsfield Road (R348). Continue on the R348 through Nutfield Cross. You should reach Kilconnell in 35 minutes. When you reach the town, the friary will dominate the landscape on the right, up the road there'll be a Community park which is ideal for a picnic. Head north from Donnellan's cross to reach Callow Lake.

Head out towards the Fohernagh Cross, take the left and then the back roads to Ahascragh, take the right back onto the main road. Left at Deerpark and then left at the next gate lodge which'll bring you back into the town.

Outdoor Summer Swimming

Despite having a majestic waterway though our town and environs the locations for swimming local safely are slim. The briny waters of the Wild Atlantic can be visited in Bishops Quarter, Traught or indeed Fanore, all west of Kinvara, which is some 50 km plus west on the southern shore of Galway Bay. Avoiding Salthill seems good advice so the next nearest beach west is Silverstrand with 66 km of through city traffic to wade through.

For lake swimmers – and a fabulous life guarded area and one of the very few inland Blue Flag beaches – Loughrea Lake at 33 kms – complete with picnic area and sandy beach for smallies is literally equidistant to Hodson Bay, Athlone on Lough Derg. The village of Portumna also boasts swimming facilities which again is a magical 33km away. Closest lake is Lough Acalla in Kilconnell but there are no dedicated facilities.

For Sucksiders wishing to immerse for a dip – the Marina in the heart of the town is a no, but traditionally on the Western side of the town along side the old Tennis courts there is deep swimmable water from the bridge down to the Marina cut, but really is for strong swimmers only.

Lots of youngsters take to the boathouse area, nestled between the bottom of the Pines residential area and the Moycarn Marina, which is also a no no for bathing. None of the locations is supervised.

Of a balmy August eve – the meandering stretch of slow water under the north side of Ballygill Bridge has always been a great sport for young and old and there is plenty of stone, a shallow water to paddle and splash safely.



Laurencetown Cycle



Starting at Garbally Gates, head out the R355 in the Portumna direction, pass through the Moher roundabout towards Portumna. It's a 35-kilometer loop and should take an hour and 40 minutes to complete. Go straight past the Lismany gate lodge. After two

kilometers, Clontuskert priory will be on your left.

The Oghlimore store will appear on your left about one kilometer from Laurencetown. In the town, there's a children's playground with a picnic area. Head towards Portumna and take the sharp right about two kilometers outside the town, to make sure you get to see the gothic follies. Take a right at the Bellvue Gates for Kiltormer and take the right in Kiltormer town. The left turn on the R355 will take you back to the Garbally gates.

Download Laurencetown Heritage Group for more information on the walks.

Keep up-to-date on maps, and video clips of these and more cycles on the Ballinasloe LIFE Video Channell

CANCER CENTRE CONTINUE FUNDRAISING



Eugene Murphy, Jacqueline Daly (Director of services of East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support), Anna Obara (Administrator of East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support) and Lisa Moore (PRO for East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support)

East Galway and Midlands cancer center are one of the lucky charities who have been selected by Arcadia Retail Park in Athlone, who have launched an ambitious and innovative charitable fundraiser across five Midland counties and have brought together 10 charities from Westmeath, Longford, Roscommon, Galway and Offaly with the aim of raising €50,000 with series of 5k virtual events. Along with South Athlone Hospital, they have been chosen to represent Galway. Their run of events for the cancer centre will be held from August 7-10.

The idea is to support charities surrounding its catchment area who have had their usual fundraising initiatives decimated by the Covid-19 situation. Nearly all the usual local fundraising activities organised by these charities such as family runs, cake sales, lunches have been cancelled or postponed indefinitely by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The fundraiser will involve a virtual 5k run, walk or cycle event held for five consecutive weekends in five different counties, supporting ten local charities. Each event will be a virtual event and individuals, families and supporters are invited to complete a 5k at any time during that weekend, in a location they wish by running, walking or cycling.

100% of the donations raised will be divided evenly between the ten local charities and the target to reach is €50,000. There is no race entry fee. If you donate €10, that ensures that each charity receives €1. Arcadia Retail Park have confirmed that if the €50,000 target is reached, they will donate a further €10,000.

If you wish to donate to the Arcadia 5kfor50k event, check out their [GoFund Me](#) page.

The second charity fundraiser for the cancer centre was held on July 4. Senator Eugene Murphy took up the challenge of walking up Sliabh Bawn in Roscommon, backwards. He took on the amazing challenge to raise funds for both East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support and The Hub in Strokestown in Roscommon. Both charities have suffered in terms of fundraising as a result of Covid-19.

The walk was ten kilometers to the summit and there were representatives from both charities walking on the day also. To date, Eugene has raised just over €4,000 which will be split between both charities. If anyone would like to donate, the page is open until September and it is. Simply look up Eugene Murphy on the iFundraise.

Their radiotherapy bus service has continued to run throughout the pandemic. It is free to all customers and runs on a Monday-Friday timeline. Social Distancing is observed and clients and bus drivers are required to wear PPE.

They're open from 10am-4pm Monday and Wednesday, 10am-8pm Tuesday and Thursday, 10am-3pm Friday and is closed on Saturday and Sunday. To get in contact with the East Galway and Midlands Cancer Centre, message them on their Facebook page or call 090 964 2088.



Thomas Concannon, Chairman of the Committee for East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Group, who recently attended the launch of the Arcadia #5kto50k, in Athlone.

BY LIAM COSGROVE

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PILOT CYCLE UNDERTAKEN ON FLEDGLING GREENWAY TO SHANNONBRIDGE



L-R: Luke Devlin, Robert Devlin and Colm Manning



DJ and Damien Swaris

Recently, a group of under 50 dedicated cyclists, of all ages and capabilities took part in the 20km cycle of the new proposed Greenway route to Shannonbridge. Beginning in Poolboy, where the Grand Canal meets the motorway slip road, they pedaled over 20 kilometers of Bord na Mona land, drains and railway lines. Organised by the Ballinasloe to Athlone Greenway Group, participants came from far and wide in support.

Gary Hughes, drove all the way from Malahide to support the push. TD Denis Naughten and Senator Aisling Dolan joined on the day which is an encouraging sign for all involved.

The local greenway group are campaigning for the town to become the fulcrum for the longest greenway in Ireland and were promoting the continuation of the Dublin to Galway Greenway from Athlone to include the town and Shannon Harbour, linking two of Ireland's longest greenways. The route being promoted by the group would create a 300km circular journey (the longest in Ireland) from Dublin, without having the need to revisit locations on the way back to Dublin.

Antoinette Gallagher, one of three leaders along with John Kelly and Aidan Doherty, believes the recent closure of Shannonbridge power station and peat harvesting in the surrounding bogs has been a hammer blow to the midlands region. "It presents an

opportunity for development of greenways and blue ways in the region. Bord na Mona have done a fantastic job in rehabilitation of lands such as Lough Boora, which is now a hugely popular recreational area for locals and tourists. If Bord na Mona and local Councils such as Galway, Offaly and Westmeath were to collaborate, they could link Ballinasloe to Athlone using their lands and existing bridges to cross the River Suck. This would cost significantly less than building an expensive new bridge in Athlone which will take years to construct. This option would complement the TII Athlone to Galway Greenway project and free them to focus on the areas west of Ballinasloe where they encountered most landowner opposition previously" explains Antoinette.

John Kelly, one of the group leaders, also feels the current Coronavirus crisis has created a boom in demand for staycation holidays. "In coastal areas and places with great amenities such as Greenways, its construction would also help provide much needed jobs for some of those effected by the pandemic and critically also for the redundant Bord Na Mona workers" remarked John.

The group encourage affirmative healthy action to underscore their aims with a public cycle to Shannon Harbour in October 2018 followed by a well attended walk to Shannonbridge along parts of the trail in December 2019.

They're urging their elected representatives to look at alternative options to get a Greenway constructed in the next two years, as to avoid a repeat of the abandoned Greenway attempt in 2014/15.

The Group facebook page is Athlone to Ballinasloe Greenway @ abgreenway to keep uptodate with developments and support activity.

Fintan O'Meara, Project Engineer Co-ordinator with Galway County Council, is set to occupy the office above the library with staff to plan the investment. However, due to Covid-19 restrictions the office remains closed. He can be contacted with him by emailing him on fomeara@galwaycoco.

To keep up to date with the greenway group, check out their Facebook page.

BY LIAM COSGROVE

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DERRYMULLEN'S NIAMH PART OF

Ireland secured a seat on the UN Security Council earlier this summer, where Dept. of Foreign Affairs Official Niamh Kelly, born and raised in Derrymullen, Ballinasloe, daughter of Mike and Anne Kelly, was part of the successful historic team.



Parents Mike And Ann with Niamh at the UN Headquarters in New York

Her Dad was a member of the Town Council for ten years, serving three terms as Mayor, and her Mum worked at Bank of Ireland, Main Street for most of her career.

A pupil of Gael Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh and Ardscoil Mhuire, Niamh's favourite memories growing up are mostly in the Town Hall theatre. She loved every minute being on stage with the Musical Society and with the Panto.

"There is so much talent in the town and we are so fortunate to have such a beautiful theatre at our disposal. I think my love of theatre was inspired by my dad who treaded the boards for many years, was also cultivated at the Gael Scoil, where we always had school recitals and my classroom for some years was actually the dressing room in the Town Hall" states Niamh.

She studied Applied Languages at the University of Limerick, majoring in French and Spanish, as well as other subjects such



Niamh with Irish Ambassador to the UN Gerladine Byrne Nason and team

as Japanese and Linguistics. "Studying languages at third level seemed a natural fit for me because I really enjoyed languages in secondary school and also loved travelling" states Niamh.

As part of her degree in UL, she had a six month internship at Air France in Paris and her time living there brings such fond memories. She also spent a semester studying in Northern Spain.

Her mum had spotted an advertisement and suggested she apply for a Junior Diplomat role. She felt the role really suited her, as they

were specifically looking for applicants with language skills. At the time she was working for Amazon in London and then joined the Department of Foreign Affairs as a Third Secretary in 2016.

She spent her first two years in Dublin covering Ireland's relations with countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. At the time Ireland was opening new embassies in Chile and in Colombia, and were also very engaged in the Colombian Peace Process, so there was no shortage of interesting work. "It's a fascinating part of the world and I would definitely consider doing a posting there at some point in the future. During my time in Dublin I also undertook two short-term postings in Nicosia, Cyprus and at our Consulate in New York" explains Niamh.

She was posted to Ireland's Permanent Mission to the U.N. in New York almost two years ago, in August 2018. When she found out that she was selected to work on Ireland's Security Council campaign team at the UN in New York, it was kind of a pinch-me moment for her. "I had dreamed as a teenager of being a translator at the UN, and now somehow I was going to the UN to represent my country. I relished the thought of working under the direction of Ireland's most senior female diplomat, Ambassador Geraldine Byrne Nason and of learning from her. I also knew that the workload would be significant and that Ireland had serious competition on its hands being up against Norway and Canada to win a seat on the Security Council" states Niamh.

Moving to New York was exciting and daunting in equal measure. "I remember moving into a totally empty apartment with no furniture of my own and sleeping on an air mattress, at the same time that the Tanaiste was visiting the UN and I was coordinating his programme. But New York is an amazing city and I do love living there. New Yorkers are such characters and there has been a real sense of solidarity during the pandemic" she enthuses.

The lockdown came in New York just around St. Patrick's Day, normally a time of intense diplomatic activity in all of Ireland's embassies and missions abroad. They were expecting a visit from both the Taoiseach and the Tanaiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs when they had to pull the plug on both. The Security Council campaign had to transition online. It was a stressful time and there were so many unknowns, but the team really pulled together. "We have been working from home since March and are still trying to get our heads around virtual diplomacy. But it doesn't seem to have





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SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT SUCCESS



Niamh at work supporting Ambassador Byrne Nason at a plenary meeting

done us any harm in terms of the outcome of the election!" laughs Niamh.

The day of the vote, 17 June, really was a whirlwind of emotions for all the Irish team. "Awaiting the result was like nothing I'd ever experienced before and the whole team was just over the moon with relief, joy and pride when we were elected. Ireland declared its candidature for this election way back in 2005. The moment that we won represented many, many years of hard work and effort both at official and political level finally coming to fruition" reflects Niamh.

She really would recommend a career in foreign affairs, it can be very rewarding and no two days are the same. "It's a huge honour to represent Ireland abroad, but I'm mindful that moving around every few years can place quite a strain on family life, and in that sense it's probably not for everyone. For where I am in my life right now it suits me very well. I always thought that whatever career I had, if it wasn't drama, it should be something that inspires me and that feels meaningful. In Foreign Affairs and at the UN, I have the sense not only that I'm working to represent Ireland's values and Irish citizens, but to secure a more peaceful and equitable world, which is very motivating" she explains.

Her one piece of advice for any students trying to decide what to study is to choose something that you really enjoy. It'll make it easier to get good grades, secure a quality degree, and to find a career in an area that suits.



Niamh with Ambassador and the then Tainiste and Minister for Foreign Affairs Simon Coveney TD. and the Irish UN Seat Campaign Team , at the UN on 17th of June.

Her favourite thing about coming home is undoubtedly being with her family and catching up with friends. "The food at home also can't be beaten and the fresh air and peace and quiet are a welcome break from the city" concluded Niamh.

BY COLM CROFFY

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AUGHRIM PANDEMIC COCOONING INITIATIVE

BY KEN KELLY

Members of the Aughrim Active Retirement Group have made over 1,000 facemasks while they cocoon during the recent pandemic. The volunteers, working from home, were delighted to oblige when called on, particularly when the proceeds of their sales were going to the "Jack and Jill Children's Foundation."

Thirteen years ago the Group was formed, after a preliminary survey conducted by the Aughrim Pastoral Council. The members did not let the pandemic stop their independence while they cocoon. They rose to the challenge of keeping busy and active in their own homes by initiating a major undertaking. Designing, sewing, stitching and pressing were among the chores needed to launch the ambitious scheme and volunteers quickly came forward.

A worthwhile project was undertaken to make high quality, reusable facemasks (face coverings), with a pocket filter, and to date they have produced over 1,000. The ladies are deeply indebted to people who supplied them with many of the materials which has resulted in the production of an array of different colours and patterns. "We felt we should do something useful in the current climate, seeing we had time on our hands" said Helen Mannion who added they had been flooded with orders and donations for their chosen charity, the "Jack and Jill Children's Foundation."

The Aughrim facemasks, which are reusable, are available, at €3 each in Burke's and Valerie's of Aughrim as well as Salmon's and Corrib Oil in Ballinasloe.



A Selection of the Face Masks on sale

JEAN McDERMOTT BIDS ADIEU AFTER 29 YEARS

Jean McDermott, of High Society Salon, grew up in Manchester with her late parents Brian and Kitty. Her father grew up in Ahascragh while her mother originated from Mullagh. They both emigrated over to the UK in the late 1950s in search of work. In 1986, they moved back to Ahascragh. Jean had been over and back to Ballinasloe throughout her younger years. She was familiar with the town and had no problem with finding her way around.

Following secondary school, she attended college in Manchester where she took courses in hairdressing. She had always been very interested in a career in hairdressing - her number one career choice. Her mother used to, as a favour, do their neighbour's hair and Jean would always help her mother out. This is where her passion began.

After first arriving, she got a job in the Studio 2 Salon on Dunlo Street. It was owned by Paraic Dolan and she really enjoyed her time there. After being on staff for six years, she wanted to go out on her own and then began High Society. The local Bank of Ireland sold their premises on Society Street to Michael McCullagh. Jean decided to take the ground level unit and on October 25 1991, High Society opened. They specialised in cuts and colours. She catered for both men and women's hair and for all ages.

Over the 29 years, she had met many locals that she would now call friends. They've made many memories together and she is very grateful for having met them. One of her fondest memories, is staff member Renee Adams dressing up as a clown to wish devoted customer, the late Celia Burke, a happy birthday. She warmly remembers the 20-year celebrations in October 2011, where she celebrated with past employees and customers over the weekend.

She believed that after the pandemic, to re-open again it would've been a difficult challenge. The decision was only made that bit easier with a shoulder injury that has made it tough over the last while. After hairdressing for 44 years, she is looking forward to some 'me time'. She is excited to get time to visit her niece who is out in Australia.

"I have to thank Myra Guinan, Deirdre Curley, Renee Adams and former members of staff for their service and all our loyal clients over the 34 years she spent in the business; it was tough but I did enjoy my business career" states Jean.



Jean and her staff

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BY LIAM COSGROVE

COMMUNITY LEADER AND SPORTSMAN

BY KEN KELLY

Ballinasloe lost one of its best-known community activists in the person of Patsy Finn of St. Joseph's Place. He had a great pride in his community, leading by example with his front and rear garden, which were a colourful display of flowers, shrubs and ornaments.

His meticulous devotion to improving the ambience of the area saw his estate win many Tidy Town's competitions, while he himself was honoured with a Mayoral Award for the best small garden entry.

Though born in Deerpark in 1932, he later moved to Dunlo Hill before settling down in St. Joseph's Place with his late wife Teresa. Patsy worked in Dubarry Shoes for over fifty years and was an avid sportsman. Playing football in the Town Leagues, he went on to win a County Junior Medal with Ballinasloe, possessing a stylish craft as a scoring corner forward.

A former chairman and president of the Social Club, Patsy was an able cueist on the green baize where his love of snooker saw him feature on some of the club teams. And in his retirement he was a constant follower of snooker, golf, soccer, rugby and GAA on the TV. He was a great supporter of local teams, irrespective of their code,



Patsy Finn

and followed Galway's footballers and hurlers to many venues.

However, Patsy Finn will be remembered as a great family man. They were the most important things in his life. He and his late wife, Teresa, who were married for 65 years, had 4 children, 13 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren, who will always remember his kind and gentle nature while his neatness and attention to detail will never be forgotten. He always emphasised the importance of education, telling them "learn your spellings and your tables, the rest will follow."

Predeceased by his sister Doris and his brothers John and Noel, Patsy is survived by his son Michael, daughters Martha, Bernadette and Ann; sisters Marie (Sr. M. Assumpta) and Rose, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, extended family, neighbours and friends.

An excerpt from a eulogy read at Patsy's funeral Mass described him as

*"A gentleman like no other,
A kinder soul you could not meet;
Kindness filled your body,
From your head down to your feet."*

NEW REGULATIONS IN ST. MICHAELS CHURCH

BY LIAM COSGROVE

In March, both St. Michael's and Our Lady of Lourdes Creagh, closed their doors to the public worship of mass due to the Coronavirus pandemic. This was the first time in the history that this had happened and it came as a huge blow to everyone involved.

Over the past several months, the Parish Council looked to see how they could assist the church in its mission and they decided to set up a sub-committee of both council members and members of the public to put in place a plan for the return to public worship.

On Monday the 29th of June, the doors of St. Michael's opened and began to welcome people back to the church. This was both a joyous and a strange occasion when people realised that there were now ushers to show you to your seat and direct you when receiving communion. Seats are now cordoned off to allow for the two-meter

guidelines from both the government and Bishops; through their policy document 'Nothing can separate us from the love of God'.

Numbers are limited so people are advised to come early. The church needs to be sanitised and cleaned after each mass, separate doors for entrance and exit are now used to facilitate this, all of which are to help protect and make it a place of safety.

Daily masses, with for a max 50 attendees, are being held at 10.00am at St. Michael's Church.

Weekend masses will also only take place on Saturday evening mass at 7.00 pm and Sunday morning at 9.00 am and 12 noon for the foreseeable future. Reminder that you can watch mass live in St. Michael's online by logging onto churchservices.tv.

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DERRYMULLEN RECOLLECTIONS OF PJ GUINNESSY

"Guinnessy is dead." The news blazed through Ballinasloe quicker than a forest fire. There was only one Guinnessy on Suckside and that was Pat Joe, the father of four children and fifteen grandchildren who lived in "The Six Counties" in Derrymullen.

But could it be him? He had called me from his hospital bed on the previous Saturday night, saying he was in good form and would be discharged on Tuesday. However the Almighty intervened and said he wanted a few jobs done in Paradise and Pat Joe was the man. No better man, I thought, but what a loss to the local community.

I spent a lot of time in his house as a kid. With his late brother Jimmy, we spent countless hours hunting and fishing with Martin Craddock, his next door neighbour, before cooking the catch on Craddock's hearth-long before barbeques were heard of. I think the first cow house in Co. Galway to have electric light was Guinnessy's and that was installed by Pat Joe. The switch was in the west wing of the house. The light was a great help because the cow had a "fast right hook" according to his father Jack. Pat Joe accidentally knocked off the switch one morning while Jack was milking and all hell broke loose.

Pat Joe's mother, Molly Murray from Taughmaconnell, would dress us up as mummers on St. Stephen's Day. With black polish on our faces we would stop at their cousins-Paddy Coffey's in Kilclooney. Peppermint cordial and

I played a lot of handball with Pat Joe but even though I moved to Dublin, he was the first I met up with when I returned to Ballinasloe. It broke my heart I couldn't attend his funeral because of the Government restrictions. Instead, I went to a quiet corner of my garden, said a prayer, shed a tear and reminisced on the wonderful of friendship we enjoyed.

A quote, attributed to the great Spanish artist Pablo Picasso, is very apt in describing my late friend.... "The meaning of life is to find your gift....The purpose of life is to give it away"...Pat Joe had it all, kind, unselfish, brilliant mind, witty, great raconteur.

Rest in peace, my friend.

✂ **BY MARTY TULLY**, Ballyboughal, Dublin.



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Speaker of the US House of Representative Nancy Pelosi, the late Margaret Burke and her husband Jim at a visit to the White House, some years ago.

Margaret Burke (nee McCarthy) was born on 2nd April 1933 in Milford Co. Cork, one of thirteen children. Like many of the time, she moved to England in the 1940's to make a better life for herself, all the while still sending money home to her parents to help raise her younger siblings.

In 1954 she met the love of her life, Jim Burke of Clifden, Connemara, at a dance hall and on 16th April 1955 she and Jim got married and settled in Manchester. There they had six children in seven years before returning to Ireland in 1968 with their young family Reita, Frances, Catherine, James, Caroline and John.

Talented entrepreneurs, Margaret and Jim were keen to start their own business and were thrilled to open Re-New-It Dry Cleaners on Dunlo St. in Ballinasloe in 1969. With only half-day Thursdays and Sundays off, Margaret and Jim built Re-New-It Dry Cleaners into a staple of the town; Jim taking charge of preparing, cleaning,

and pressing the clothes and Margaret, the face of the operation, handling the finances and ensuring all orders were perfect before they headed out the door.

As well as the family business, Margaret kept and maintained the family home, a beautiful inset bungalow which she herself helped design in 1971. In a previously uncommon design request, she made sure she and Jim had their own ensuite bathroom as well as a massive sitting room included. That sitting room would be the focal point of holidays and gatherings, welcoming her growing family of grandchildren and great-grandchildren as the years went on.

One of Margaret's greatest passions was tending her beautiful garden. There was always plenty to look after with two big lawns and countless flowerbeds, but never a blade or blossom was out of place and the colours were always vibrant regardless of the season. When she and her beloved Jim retired in 1994 they began another wonderful phase of their life together: travelling. Finally able to spend more time with their four children who moved to San Francisco, Margaret and Jim made countless trips back and forth, celebrating milestones and getting to better know their "Yankee" grandchildren and great-grandchildren. During these three months in The States, it became custom to have mini vacations with her family to other parts of America, including Las Vegas, Alaska, Hawaii, New York City, Boston, Chicago, Mexico, and even a visit to The White House in Washington, D.C.

It was not uncommon to find Margaret charming world leaders with her finely tuned wit. In later years when flying was not an option, there were cruises around Europe to France, Spain, Portugal, Italy, and around the Mediterranean, where the woman from the small village of Millford saw many of the great wonders of the world. Margaret Burke lived a beautifully full life beyond what anyone thought a woman of her time and circumstance would or should amount to, all with style, grace, and immense generosity.

She died peacefully on July 11th - A loving wife, devoted mother, adored nana, and loyal friend, Margaret is survived by "My Jim," her six children and their spouses, eleven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, and friends in all corners of the world. A true lady, Margaret's legacy of defying expectations and living with love will continue for years and years to come.

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MRS. TERESA GRENHAM – MAIN ST. BUSINESSWOMAN RIP

Ballinasloe lost one of its best-loved and most respected businesswomen recently with the death of Teresa Grenham, (nee Masterson), Main Street on 22nd May, just 6 days short of her 97th birthday.

Born in Castlepollard, Co. Westmeath in 1923, she came to Ballinasloe in the late 1930s to live with her aunt in Moher. Working for a short time in the Gasworks the course of her life was set when she met Joe Grenham, who by then had an established business in Main Street.

They married in 1946, whereupon she duly rolled up her sleeves and set to work alongside Joe. With the help of his mother Ellen they ran a shop, pub and undertaking business as well as being corn, seed and potato merchants-no small achievement-while also bringing up eight children.

Though from a farming background, Teresa was a natural businesswoman. Extremely hard-working and efficient, she was highly regarded for her practical, no-nonsense but always scrupulously honest approach. Though never one for the limelight, her calm exterior belied a woman of principle and character who treated everyone the same and was always generous and welcoming. She brought these same qualities to her family life and was a much-loved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

Her family knew her as a caring, selfless parent who offered sound



advice and whose priority was the happiness and well-being of family and staff. She was an excellent cook and family and visitors alike were always assured of ample sustenance!

After the death of her husband, Joe in 1989, she continued to be involved in the business and remained so until well into her 80s, taking a keen interest in its day-to-day activities

Though suffering a heavy blow with the sudden death of her son, Martin on New Year's Eve 2018, she responded with her usual fortitude and resilience and continued to soldier on. Her final years were spent in the excellent care of the staff of Garbally View Nursing Home, where she finally had time to enjoy new interests and pursuits after her busy working life and where her greatest pleasure was to sit in the garden enjoying the sunshine.

The many tributes and messages of condolence received by the family are testimony to the great esteem and affection in which she was held by all who knew her. Her family has been greatly touched by the many kind expressions of sympathy and wishes to thank most sincerely all those who paid tribute. To her family of Mary, John, Peter, Gerry, Anne, Patricia and Connie, son-in-law Ian, daughters-in-law Florence, Philomena and Geraldine, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, relatives, neighbours and friends we extend our condolences.

A DEPENDABLE AND FRIENDLY NEIGHBOUR

BY JOE LYONS



Many mourned the recent passing of Seamus Fahy, Graigueawoneen, Clontuskert, Ballinasloe, after a long period of ill health. He was the quintessential quiet man, who spoke sparingly but was a great friend and a most obliging neighbour and was always there to help when called upon.

Seamus was born into the family farm at Graigueawoneen and spent all his life there farming extensively. For many years he worked as a school bus driver, bringing secondary school students to Garbally College and Scoil Mhuire, mainly from the parishes of Clontuskert and Killoran. He was a very popular on all of his routes, maintaining discipline in a kindly manner. He received his education at the St Grellan's Boys' School and the Vocational School in Ballinasloe and was an accomplished footballer who played at centre field, where his height and strength were a big asset. He was a most dependable neighbour who looked after homes and properties when neighbours were away on holidays as well as saving and bringing home the turf for them over many years.

Although born beside the golf club, Seamus only took up the game in his middle years and became a very prolific golfer, inside a few years playing off a handicap of eight. He was highly popular at Ballinasloe Golf Club and was in much demand as a playing partner and he quietly enjoyed the social aspect afterwards. He also liked to travel to other golf clubs in Connacht, Munster and Leinster where he was frequently in the prizes.

Seamus' popularity was to be seen when his funeral cortege visited the Golf Club, where there was a large turnout of golfers, young and old, to pay their respects. His neighbours also lined the route

to bid farewell to a friend, who was a gentleman in every sense, and will be greatly missed and remembered for all the right reasons.

He is predeceased by his brothers Jackie and Thomas and is survived by his wife Mary (nee Regan), sister Noreen (Leonard), Cloghan, Co Offaly, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nieces, nephews, kind neighbours and many friends.

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The Summer Reading Challenge - Summer Stars is happening. Just pop-in (under 12's need to be accompanied) or contact us, select, or pick up your bag of books and a reading card. Each bag also contains colouring sheets and puzzles.

The good news is you can also complete the challenge online and read/listen to books through the BorrowBox app. Listening to books can be a super option for younger and more reluctant readers.

If you are enjoying a staycation this year, take the sting out of long drives by listening to a favourite book. The Europe Direct Ballinasloe Library are currently open from Tuesday to Friday from 11am-1pm and 2pm-5pm. The time slot between 11 - 12 is prioritised for more vulnerable patrons.

Currently, they're offering services in several different ways, but this may change so keep in touch for updates.

As part of their 'Browse and Collect' service, they welcome up to ten patrons at any one time in the library. For the safety and well-being of everyone, they're asking people to adhere to guidelines in terms of hand sanitising and social distancing. They're providing access to book collections, 2 PCs and printing facilities. If you can't make it in or are vulnerable, don't worry, the 'Contact and Collect' service is still available. Just contact them and tell them what you like to read and a bag of books will be ready at the door for collection by you or a friend. If you are unable to collect, please make contact and they'll try to get books delivered to you.

Check out the Libraries Ireland website which contains super cool readings by authors and librarians, book reviews, printable activities and a Short Story competition where you can win a tablet and €50 vouchers.

On their Facebook page (Europe Direct Ballinasloe Library) they are posting service updates as well as regular Flower Arranging videos and book/poetry readings for adults. For the kids, stay tuned for Storytime and information on competitions and activities. If you would like Marie (their Residential Reader) to give you a mention during Storytime please let them know.



Marie Mullins flower arranging tutorials and storytime

To get in contact with the library for any queries, ring 091 509551 or email ballinasloe@galwaylibrary.ie. To keep up with all their events and changes, check out their Facebook and Instagram pages.

BY LIAM COSGROVE

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3rd Row L-R. Liam Hill, Ken Kelly, Paddy Monaghan, Bernie Hyland, Adrian Jordan, Frank McGrath, Michael Gavin, Brendan Tierney, Tommy Kelly, Joe Higgins (Producer).

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Laying the stone for new Community Centre
in 1982 is the late Bishop of Clonfert, Rev. Joe Cassidy,
now the HSE Training Centre.

Photo courtesy Evelyn Donellan

BAND "RAISE THE ROOF" APPEAL CONTINUES



Rousing music raising hope and spirits from Noel Madden, Damien Naughton, John Flynn, Tony Kavanagh, Martina Madden



Raising Spirits in town Damien Naughton, John Flynn, Tony Kavanagh, Martina Doherty, JJ Smyth.

"Raise the Roof" is a fundraising campaign to defray the costs of the roof repair and slate replacement phase of the renovations deemed necessary to provide a safe, suitable venue for both rehearsals and performances in the Parochial Hall, the band's first permanent home since 1878.

Members of the community and hinterland, the diaspora abroad, supporters, alumni, families and friends are invited to support "Raise the Roof" appeal by Band Chairperson, Damien Naughton. He urged townspeople, past and present, to support the campaign.

"Our fundraising activities have been severely curtailed due to Covid 19. We're launching this campaign now to get the roof completed, thus allowing the band to finally use the hall. It provides them with a great foundation to develop the band and music in general in the town for years to come. The band will be forever grateful to all our supporters, benefactors and friends. All donations, sharing, and support is appreciated. In particular, we would like to acknowledge the grant aid we received from Galway Rural Development" stated Damien.

By purchasing a slate for €50 your name will be recorded in the new band room. Single or multiple slates may be purchased. Slates have already been purchased in memory of loved ones. Sharing the cost of a slate with a family member, pal or colleague is an option for those unable to afford €50 but wishing to support the initiative.

The vision and ethos of the town band is to enhance community spirit by providing music for all occasions in a community setting. It is here to educate and to entertain. It provides music on the streets and it supports any organisation that requests it. The Covid Lockdown has made this difficult, yet, the band are determined to maintain the tradition of raising public spirits by playing recitals at local nursing homes and the top of the town Square on Saturday afternoons.



Youth Band, the future of the band, exercising safe distance as they return to rehearsals after lockdown

The Town Band is in a stage of exciting redevelopment and growth. In addition to the Senior Band, they're sixty children receiving expert tuition. Membership is open to all who wish to participate with membership costing only €50. Active recruitment of new junior members from all schools and villages in the locality enhances and secures the future of the band.

Former band members have made music their career. Eimear Noone, noted composer, was the first woman to conduct the Oscars Orchestra. Aimee Doherty is achieving acclaim composing music for TV and films. Grainne Madden played at the Australian Olympics ceremony. Others run their own successful music schools, while others perform with the Garda Band, the Army Band, and with local, regional and National Orchestras.

Cash purchases can be made with from band members. On-line slates on their GoFundMe page. Credit transfers: Ballinasloe Town Band Credit Union Acc. No. 2959.

IBAN: IE95BCUO99101500295900 BIC Code: BCUIE21XXX.

Ensure your name is included for recording your slate purchase.

Queries to Martina (087) 9710496 and check out their Facebook page to see how they're progressing.

BY LIAM COSGROVE



Ballinasloe Town Band Member, Edith Ward, developing an "ear for music" in her son Fion at the Town Square Recital.



Members of Ballinasloe Town Band play for residents of Garbally View Nursing Home

As the country has begun to carefully re-open thoughts that nobody would stand on a sideline this year are thankfully waning. The return to club training and games has had to be done gradually and with due respect and diligence to ensure that all Covid-19 guidelines are adhered to.

Individual Covid officers have been appointed by the club to each football and hurling team and a Covid Supervisor collates all forms and training participation lists.

They realise there is no room for complacency with this virus and that too many families have been affected by Covid-19 already. There is an online tutorial and a health questionnaire which has to be completed by all players, coaches, parents and guardians before returning to GAA business. The Health Questionnaire has to be resubmitted each week prior to any action by all involved if no Covid-19 symptoms are had.

All teams from U12 upward are now back to full training and some are beginning to play challenge matches. U6, U8 & U10 teams will be back at training end of July on.

Football managers for the upcoming year are: U12s Niall Poland, U14s Lloyd Kelly and for the U16s Sean Riddell and for the hurling teams: U12s Damien Naughton, U14 Kevin Caulfield and there has been no appointment for the U16s as of yet.

The ladies football managers are: U10 Ronan Campbell, U12 Mark Ward, U14 Damian Clarke, U16 John Mitchell.

Competitive Hurling and Football games will commence from the first week in August, although it will be a limited season.

A lot of fans and players have missed the club, the football, hurling and the camaraderie during this scary time. For those who love GAA there are few better ways to spend a Summer's evening than on a sideline cheering on their team. Currently only 200 people will be allowed to attend GAA games. That number includes players, management and officials. The hope for many clubs is this number will be increased come championship time.

Due to a variety of circumstances it was not possible to run the Underage Cul Camps this season but several volunteers turned their hands to painting and decorating and some extensive ground works as the lock down eased from the 9th of June.



Fir ag Obair - some of the summer meitheal of officers and volunteers of Ballinasloe GAA who painted clubhouse earlier this summer - Des Jennings, Gerry Seale, Niall Cunningham and John Mitchell .

GAA Lotto continues on-line 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 Lotto Jackpot is €5,700. To keep up to date with the GAA club, check out their Facebook page.



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Students, Instructors and Coaches at the IKKI Association Squad Session 2020

Under strict regulations, Ballinasloe IKKI Karate returned to club training in the Emerald Ballroom in early July. Classes take place every Monday and Wednesday evening from 7-8pm for Juniors and 7-9pm for Seniors. Ballinasloe and Galway IKKI Karate continued with Zoom classes throughout the lockdown period in an attempt to keep members skills sharp.

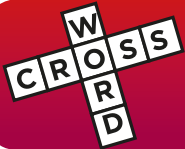
IKKI Karate Ballinasloe was established in 1976 and since then they have continued to grow as a club. At beginner level, emphasis is put on agility, balance and coordination, coupled with the fundamentals of Karate. Respect, discipline and obeying the rules of the dojo are important also as safety is essential. The IKKI association holds 3 grading exams a year where students have the opportunity to advance to the next belt. This is usually set as a goal; improve and you attain the next level. There are seven belts to be achieved before you can achieve a black belt and after that you can continue to progress. All IKKI black belts/instructors are registered with the head office of Japan Itosu-kai Karatedo in Yokohama, Japan.

In addition to Karate, they also teach Kobudo, the ancient art of weaponry. Kobudo is taught in a safe manner and age and karate grade determines what students are allowed to practice. This is a

dying art globally, but not in Ballinasloe or any of the IKKI dojos where it has been practiced for 40 years.

There are 2 IKKI National tournaments a year, open to all ages and grades with opportunities for older students to become tournament judges / referees. Higher level students compete at open style National and International level competitions, with some internationals being at the highest level worldwide. Our current squad pictured above includes many students whose goal it is to represent IKKI Ireland at the IKIF World Championships in Jutland, Denmark in 2022.

For Further information, ring Leo on 087 4159858. You can also like them on Facebook @Itosu-Kai Karate Ballinasloe, follow them on Instagram @ballinasloekarate and visit their website.



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It's all go behind the scenes at the rugby club with preparations for return to play. The club is currently in the safety planning stage for return to activities under the guidance of the IRFU.

Similar to other sports, players will be required to submit health declarations prior to training/activities. While hand hygiene, respiratory etiquette and social distancing will feature strongly amongst other measures to minimise the risk to players, coaches and volunteers during the current COVID-19 pandemic. Return to play induction sessions will be provided as each group returns.

Club Member Colm Reilly, a 20-year-old rising rugby star, was recently confirmed as one of six players who came up through the Connacht academy who signed their first professional contract with the province. Along with Niall Murray, Sean Masterson, Conor Dean, Jordan Duggan and Peter Sullivan who'll all join the squad when the season resumes.

The scrum-half has represented the rugby club through the age groups and won a Connacht Senior Schools Cup with Garbally College. He also featured for the Ireland U20s team of 2019, scoring the Grand Slam-winning try in the final game against Wales.

Their 50/50 fundraiser continues with ever increasing members. It's easy to enter by setting up a €5 per month standing order to the club or by paying a once off €60 that will guarantee inclusion in the draw for 12 months. More details can be found on their Club Facebook page or from any club official.

The club also held a very popular clothing collection to raise needed funds, not only for the club but also for a local worthy charity, the Lions Club. The collection is ongoing so keep an eye on social media for further collection dates.

They held their AGM recently. Tom Watters was appointed as the President while Pearse Keller became the Vice President. Other positions filled include: Junior Vice-President: Ann Conlon, Hon.



Colm Reilly - New Professional Connacht Squad Player



Tom Watters - New Seasons President

Secretary: Tom Horkan,
Assistant Hon. Secretary: Paul Spencer, Hon. Treasurer: Pearse Keller, Assistant Hon. Treasurer: Matt Carey, Mini Section Co-Ordinator: Niall Dillon, Connacht Branch Reps - Senior Noel Mannion, Connacht Branch Reps - Junior: Tomas Finn, Connacht Branch Reps - Ladies: Ann Conlon, Public Relations Officer Kevin Keane, Club Welfare Officer: Enda Jennings, Trustees: Gerry Kelly, John Glynn, Patricia Tierney, and Committee members Jacinta Divilly, Annamarie McCann, John McKenna, Jacinta Keane.

Geraldine Kelly retired as Trustee of the club. She served as Trustee for many years, as a dedicated committee member and also as Club President with the distinction of being one of the first ladies Presidents in Connacht. She was warmly thanked by all present at the meeting.

To keep up to date with the rugby club, check out their Facebook page or email ballinasloeRFCmedia@gmail.com.



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Golf has been the first sport in the country to restart again following Covid-19. Ballinasloe golf club members have taken full advantage of this and spent thousands of voluntary hours preparing the course for reopening. New tee boxes were installed, others re-surfaced, bunkers replaced, trees trimmed and pathways tarred.

Using a "concrete" base some of the bunkers were repaired. This new technology allows the water to seep through the sand in the bunker and then through the special concrete which is designed like a honeycomb leaving the bunkers dry all year long.

Additional drains were installed along the 7th and 15th fairways which will make them playable through the winter months which was a problem in previous years.

"The course is now looking and playing as good now as at any time in its history" stated John Hurley, Men's Captain. "The hard work put in by our members is a tribute to the camaraderie and spirit that exists in the club and I would like to personally thank each and every person who helped" he says.

The result has been a dramatic increase in membership with over 100 new members joining since re opening. "The majority of these are young men and boys which is a fantastic sign for the future health of the club" explained John.

Competitions have restarted in recent weeks and a Gala Event took place on the last weekend in July to celebrate the work done by the members.

The club has an active Ladies group led by Captain Anne Greene. "Ladies have their own competitions every Tuesday" says Anne. "However, golf is not only about the game, exercise and fresh air



Barbara Harney



Teresa Hogan

but it also affords the opportunity to make new friends" she says.

The improvements have not stopped there. The members have designed a new short game practice area which is already nearing completion. Led by Mark Conneely, Alan Maguire and Ciaran Smyth, they have come up with a super design which will be of great benefit to the members when completed.

"We will use double milled peat from Portlaoise, specifically designed for golf greens which will be mixed with 80% sand and 20% peat" says Conneely. "This surface will provide a smooth chipping surface".

To pay for this facility, a GoFundMe page has been established.

Development work is also underway on the creation of a new and modern website for the club. This will be launched in early August and will contain all the necessary information on the club and its history, activities, competitions.

Information on golf club membership is available by calling Edel in the office on 090 964 2126, by email: ballinasloegolfclub@hotmail.com or on their website. The course remains open to members only.

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TENNIS BACK IN ACTION

BY LIAM COSGROVE

Ballinasloe Tennis Club has expanded its activities in accordance with the Tennis Ireland guidelines from their temporary home in Ardscoil Mhuire where they have the use of three courts. Doubles can now be played and regular Monday and Friday night sessions for adults have been very popular.

Under 18's can also now play singles and doubles on Saturdays, with the club running supervised sessions for ages 7-11 from 11am to 12 and ages 11-18 from 12 to 1pm. These sessions are supervised to ensure social distancing and places need to be booked in advance as numbers are strictly limited.

Unfortunately, coaching is not currently available and the very popular Summer Camps can't operate but the club plans to hold competitions and a barbecue for junior and adult players at the end of August.

Use of the courts, is only available to club members. As the club cannot currently offer members unlimited access to the courts, fees for new members are reduced to only €10 for juniors, €20 for adults and €30 for families and new members are most welcome. 2019 members will automatically have their membership rolled over.

Child Protection Officer Sarah Doherty, has also taken on the Covid Officer role. Hand sanitising is provided and all players will have to provide their own racquets.

Whether you've not played tennis since you were a child or never played, tennis is one of the easiest sports to quickly pick up and it's definitely a sport for all ages. There has never been a better time to consider playing. For further information about available playing times see <https://www.facebook.com/bsloetenniscub> 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 TRAINING AND GAMES RESUMES

BY LIAM COSGROVE

After a long delay, the camogie season has finally gotten underway. For the past three months, the committee has worked towards this day. Like every GAA organisation meticulous preparations, procedures and protocols have been put in place and are being adhered to the letter.

Each player, parent and guardian have completed an online module and registered on the new GAA Return to Play App. They then resubmit their health status before each training session. A Covid supervisor has been assigned to each team to monitor this and coordinate the team activities.

Managers and coaches will also be keeping a keen eye to ensure all players are not showing symptoms of the Coronavirus. Coaches and managers for all levels for the 2020 season have been appointed. See the list here:

U10 - Coaches: Aine Hall, Pamela Hall.

U11 - Coaches: Niall Casey, TC Yasar Kara and manager Nikki Harte.

U12 - Coaches: Niall Casey, TC Yasar Kara and manager Nikki Harte.

U14 - Coach: Stephen Ruane and manager Niamh Prendergast.

U16 - Coach: Niall Casey and Pamela Hall along with manager Erica Connell.

Junior team coach is Alan Murphy and manager Michelle Kelly.

The Junior ladies were the first to return, followed by the U16s, U14s & U12s.

As a club finances have taken a huge hit. With the health and wellbeing of collectors and sellers foremost in mind, the committee decided to look at an alternative method of fundraising than the Lotto - a new monthly draw will replace it.

Next month will see the launch of Cluiche Caoga 50/50 monthly draw. The draw will take place each month and there will be a winner each month with no rollover. The monthly cost of the draw will be €5, paid via standing order from your bank account, or an annual payment of €60. Those who sign up to a standing order will be rewarded with double entry in their first two draws.

Details will be available on the club Facebook page and will also be circulated to all teams and parents via the team communications channels. To keep up to date or contact the Camogie club, check out their Facebook page.

BY LIAM COSGROVE



Junior Ladies following their game against Shamrocks in Ardscoil Mhuire
Standing: Laura Gavin, Lisa O'Neill, Rhona Black, Lauren Dooley, Clare Egan, Niamh Prendergast, Emma Mitchell, Niamh Parker, Shauna Mitchell, Maeve Casey, Michelle Jennings.
Seated: Niamh Kelly, Emma Keane, Aie Hawkins, Eilish Kerr, Aine Hall
Missing from photo: Aisling Brannelly, Maeve Bergin, Emma Loughnane, Lorraine Canavan, Niamh Loughnane, Ciara Lacey, Aisling Doherty

ERIC RUNNING 5,000 KMS IN ONE YEAR

BY LIAM COSGROVE



February 2020:
Eric training with his
Road Runner friends
Back L-R: Breda Arru,
Gerry Blake, Fionnuala
Mulryan, Martina
Keighery, Gerry Bruen,
Marie Dudgeon, Sinead
Caulfield.
Front: Eric Naughton.

The local Road Runners are no strangers to raising money for charity. Eric Naughton, club member, started the year taking on a huge challenge and hoped to raise €4,000 funds for East Galway & Midlands Cancer Support Centre in Brackernagh. As if this wasn't enough of a task, the Covid-19 pandemic made things even more difficult but there was no stopping this determined runner.

Eric's new year's resolution to support the Cancer Support Centre was because all funds raised will feed back into helping the people and their families of the town and the wider area who are going through a cancer diagnosis. The idea was inspired by Jonathon Glynn, who did a similar challenge in 2019.

He started out strong, running daily, both in sessions with the Road Runners and also solo. In late March, the coronavirus restricted his movement to a two-kilometer radius of his home in Creagh. He took his determination and a strimmer to a small field beside his home and managed to create a one-kilometer track. Thanks to the Strava app on his phone, he was able to continue running and tracking his progress. Later, he combined his track with some road running, staying within the distance allowed. Eventually restrictions were relaxed in June he could go within 5km of the house.

Eric has clocked up an astounding 1,850 kilometers including five marathons and two fifty kilometers runs and plans to run at least 3,000 kilometers before the end of the year. "I would like to thank Jacqueline and her staff for the amazing work they do in the cancer support centre. I'm very proud and honoured to run and raise money for this great cause. I am also very grateful to Ballinasloe Walks and Trails group for their words of encouragement to help me achieve my goal" stated Eric.

His fundraising project has not only gained his admiration within the group but also his positive attitude and friendly manner is very welcome in the club. Eric is as likely to be seen pairing up for a run with a five-kilometer runner as he is with a seasoned marathon runner. If you wish to donate, you can do so on www.ifundraise.ie/EricNaughton. To date he has raised €1,900 for the Centre.

Now back at full training safely, the club continues to encourage members of all levels. Members have been taking part in virtual runs over the past few months to keep fit. They're focusing on October when many members will tackle a virtual marathon locally, but the event also has a 10km, half marathon and relay option so all club members can take part. The safety and convenience of this is reassuring to club members and great numbers are turning up to train at 7.30 pm Tuesdays and Thursday at the Dunlo Recreational Track. For more information find Ballinasloe (and District) Road Runners on Facebook.



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UNDERAGE PANELS RETURN TO SOCCER

BY LIAM COSGROVE

Ballinasloe Town AFC have partially resumed club activities at the 'Curragh Grounds' under the relevant Covid-19 health and safety guidelines issued by Government and the FAI.

To date the clubs Under 12, 13, 16 and senior teams are back training. The club's two astro turf pitches are also available for hire to the general public and bookings can be made by contacting Brendan McNally at 087 793 6535.

The club are currently engaged in the latest stage of the state-of-the-art facilities which involve the purchase of a new drive on mower to maintain the club's grass pitches and the upgrading of the club's floodlights. The next stage is planned for later this year at the two astro turf pitches along with the upgrading of the perimeter fencing.

The Club Committee wish to avail of this opportunity to pay tribute to a legend of Irish Soccer, former Republic of Ireland Senior Manager Jack Charlton, who passed away last month. Soccer fans won't forget Jack's unbelievable achievements in guiding our country to the Euros in Germany in 1988, the World Cup Finals in Italy in 1990 and the World Cup Finals in the United States in 1994. Jack richly deserved the honour of been appointed an 'Honorary



Noel Lyons with a proud trophy

Irishman' in recognition of his achievements on behalf of the Irish Nation

Club stalwart Johnny Walsh recalls meeting with Jack and his wife Pat in the early 1990s at the FAI Awards in the Burlington Hotel and chatting with them for a few minutes. "Jack was an absolute gentleman" described Johnny. He afterwards wrote to the club and wish them all the best for the future and the following Christmas Johnny received a Christmas card from Jack and his wife.

The clubs 'Dribbleathon' held in mid-May and organised by the club's youth management and players raised a whopping €1,420 for Temple Street Children's Hospital.

The club's new 50/50 draw was suspended due to the Covid-19 situation and the club have now relaunched their 50/50 fundraiser which will now be a fortnightly draw. The draw will be held in the new clubhouse but will still be broadcast on Facebook Live. All money raised from the fortnightly sales will be split 50/50 between the club and the draw winner.

The club's AGM will take place in the new Clubhouse on August 10th, commencing at 7.30pm and all soccer lovers are welcome to attend.



Johnny Walsh club development co-ordinator, Billy Ward ce scheme supervisor/ Ballinasloe training for employment limited, Brendan McNally, assistant groundsman, Pat Campbell, club honorary life member, Mike Burke club groundsman

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HISTORIC ALL-IRELAND DAY FOR ST. GRELLAN'S

BY WILLIE TULLY

The second last Sunday in September in 1957 was a very historic day for St. Grellan's Football Club, Ballinasloe when at least six of its members were charged with the supervision of the minor and senior All-Ireland Football finals in Croke Park. With two next door neighbours refereeing the two games, aided by colleagues as umpires, the achievement has never been repeated in the history of the GAA. Patsy Geraghty was in charge of the senior clash between Louth and Cork, while his townsman Christy Costello refereed the minor final between Meath and Armagh.



Christy Costello

The umpires for the senior game were all Ballinasloe men, Mikey O'Connor (Brackernagh), Paddy Kelly (Harbour Road), Joe Scarry (Jubilee St.) and Patsy Keane (Derrymullen). The senior final on the day was won by Louth, captained by Dermot O'Brien. When the "Wee County" celebrated the Golden Jubilee of their All-Ireland success in 2007, referee Patsy Geraghty was invited to the celebrations, as a guest of honour.

Both Costello and Geraghty, who played football with Jubilee in the Town Leagues, had been on the crest of a wave in the fifties as top-class referees in charge of club and inter county games. They consistently brought their own umpires to games around the country and both officials were highly respected by players and mentors. To be honoured with All-Ireland day officialdom was richly deserved. Some years later Patsy Geraghty refereed in Gaelic Park, New York, where the late Robert Kennedy threw in the ball.



Patsy Geraghty

The decade had started well for the Ballinasloe club. In 1952, Galway minors won the All-Ireland football title which saw the club's Michael Ryan in goal and Brian Naughton at No. 2, ably assisted by Gerry Kirwan and Liam Manning. Then in 1956, the Galway senior footballers captured the Sam Maguire Cup, powered by the Ballinasloe full back line of Sean Keeley, Gerry Daly and Tom "Pook" Dillon, with the great Gerry Kirwan operating at No. 15. But the honour bestowed on the club and the town for the 1957 deciders remains in the record books of the GAA to this day.



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JUBILEE-THE SQUARE TEAM, WINNERS OF THE TOWN LEAGUE IN 1950.



Front row, l to r: Tony Fahy, Billy Vaughan, Christy Costello, Thomas (Bomber) Finn, Mikey Fogarty, Georgie Kelly, Michael Fahy.
Back row, l to r: Jimmy Kilderry, Dessie Regan, Dermot Tierney, John Campbell, Sonny Higgins, Dermot O'Beirne, Pat Joe Gavin.

Photo courtesy of Willie Tully.

MIKE DAY OUR GAELIC FOOTBALL MENTOR LEGEND



Mike with young footballers in Square

The 1965 National League Football final in Croke Park was a landmark fixture in the rivalry between Galway and Kerry. I attended the match with Johnny McNeill, Grellan McNeill RIP, Paddy Jennings RIP and Christy Costelloe RIP. They were in the Hogan Stand while I was in the Cusack. When Seamus Leydon scored a great goal in the last minute following a pass from Mattie McDonagh RIP to deprive Kerry of victory, Mike Day collapsed behind them. He was attended by a young female doctor and following her assistance Mike recovered in a few minutes. When we came back to the car all the worry was about Mike.

We made a slow journey home, stopping in Greally's pub in Kilbeggan to see the highlights of the game on RTE. The goal was controversial as it was alleged Mattie picked the ball off the ground. The first person we saw was Mike enthraling the crowd doing his usual commentary of the match copying Michael O'Hehir. Incidentally he never went to an inter-county match after that.

Mike, like everybody in the area had a huge interest in football. We remember with affection the exploits of Sean Keeley in 1956 winning an All-Ireland.



Mike Day with Cup

Mike was the manager of a Derrymullen/Creagh team who lost the 1964 town league to a very strong St. Brigid's team in the final. He was successful with Derrymullen in the 1967 final when they defeated a great St. Grellan's team (the Hill) in the final after a hard-fought exciting game. Just as the game finished Mike collapsed again. I came to his assistance and he recovered in a few minutes.

Another aspect of Mike's life was, when he was a young man, was his ability in the bog. The turf was cut that time by slane and no better slanesman came into Derrymullen bog. When Mike and his beloved Ann Murphy got married and came to live in Deerpark, he saw an opportunity to train young footballers in the Model Farm across the road from his house.

Every year in August, he would have the final between Derrymullen and Deerpark and won it in consecutive years. He would always have an outside popular referee. He was outstanding to acquire sponsorship for medals, both winners and runners up. Mike always had a neutral to pick man of the match and the highlight of the final day was the penalty comp.

During the many years, Mike carried on the training he engendered a love of Gaelic Football in the many young boys who attended the training. They got tender loving care from Mike and especially Ann. If and when they got hurt, she would always have sweets, buns and lemonade to soothe their aches. Ann was always around to console boys when they lost.

Eventually ill health took its toll on Mike. He first had a by-pass and died some years later from related illness. Sean Keeley unveiled a plaque on the wall at Deerpark where he moulded countless young lads into a love of Gaelic Football.

BY SEAN TULLY

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GRETTA CARROLL ANDROS- A KILCLOONEY GIRL

A few years ago, a notebook was found at Kilclooney, in the house where my grandfather lived all of his 86 years, until he passed in 1977. We have every reason to believe it was in that same house that his grandfather, John Carroll, was born around 1817. The little book listed important dates in the lives of his eight children such as first communions, confirmations and finally their departures. Jack Carroll's eldest, Gretta, had been sent to England to be taught nursing.

She could not have been sent to a boarding school without substantial sacrifice on the part of her dad and assistance from my great-aunt, Mary Kelly O'Brien. Together, with her husband Patrick, Mary helped operate the pub on Main Street destined to become the storied Minnie Sullivan's. Minnie was my mother's cousin.

Eighteen years after she stood on the far right, for her class portrait, my mom sat reading a letter she explained was from my grandfather. From 1939 until she met my father in 1944 my mother worked at two hospitals in the Greater London area. From September 1940 to May 1941, when London was subjected to heavy air raids during the Blitz, she cared for many of those injured.

At the same time in the States, it was hard to find a job so my father followed his older brother into military service. Uncle Joe had told the Army in 1929 that instead of Andrejczyk his last name was Andros. By the time his disposal of excessive letters finished reverberating among nine siblings Eddy had graduated high school with Andros on his diploma. I can't complain. It is a perfectly authentic Greek surname that has served me well in certain restaurants.



Gretta Carroll at time of her move to USA in 1946

The war came to America and by 1942 my dad was in England. Then his unit flew to North Africa. Afterwards it returned to an airfield at Hardwick, England. Ironically enough, the original Life magazine put a photo of my father's unit on its July 26, 1943 cover. Last year a movie about the most decorated, most traveled and most effective bomber group of WWII won seven awards at film festivals featuring documentary motion pictures. My father's 100th birthday will take place three days before Return to Hardwick is scheduled for a commercial release on June 9, 2020. He passed away in 2001.

Saint Agatha's at Kingston was where Gretta attended weekly Mass and it was with that church in mind that their wedding was planned after it became obvious American bombers would soon be sent to finish the war in the Pacific. The couple needed to move quickly, but not before my father took a ferry to Dublin. Greeting him at the dock was my grandfather's younger brother. By then in his early forties, my great-uncle was

easy to spot in a crowd. He stood well over 6'. It seems the men got on well enough for a wedding to take place. The fact they shared having to wear uniforms to work may have helped since Michael Carroll was a Garda.

I missed my parents 25th Anniversary on February 21st of 1970. While war ground on in Asia, the Army sent me to secure the eastern frontier of Western Europe. I formed plans to meet up with my mother that summer. We would visit three of her siblings who had gone to England, married and were raising families. With her dad on the farm at Kilclooney we expected to find my uncles Michael and Johnny. The youngest of all, Sadie, had just married Matt Connelly and they were living closer in to Ballinasloe. Only Martin Carroll was the odd man out having moved to New York where he married in 1954. Mom saw him however, as she passed

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Gretta Carroll (back row far right) with her graduate Nursing colleagues, London 1940s

through New York on her flights to and from Europe.

Gretta had not seen her dad since before taking leave to sail on the HMS Queen Mary in 1946. The awe with which my American aunt's neighbours regarded the arrival of a war bride from Ireland no less greatly excited my adolescent cousins who fell immediately in love with aunt Gretta. At a time when nurses didn't wear ID tags, she was addressed as Hey Irish by colleagues and patients alike and took it as a most sincere compliment. The only sour note amid those first months in Ohio came when she learned her mother, Sarah Kelly Carroll, died unexpectedly at the age of 57.

Both my parents worked at demanding jobs and postponed travelling to pay for a house and Catholic school tuitions to include my first two years at John Carroll University.

The problem with our plan for August 1970 was that my dad had committed to the veterans of his beloved 93rd Bomb Group promising to join them for one of their initial gatherings that same month.

Mom refused to let the fact that dad was staying behind deter her. In fact, she doubled down and took my brother Martin, his wife and my sister Kathleen along with her for good measure. Four months



Jack Carroll shows him holding his first great-grandchild, my son Mark who was born in October 1969. Nine months after this picture was taken, Mark's sister was born at a U.S. military hospital in West Germany.

after returning home from Ballinasloe, and three months after her 50th birthday, like her mother before her, she was stricken by a heart attack and died on December 30, 1970. The centenary of her birth registration falls this Sept 30th.

My favourite photo of Jack Carroll shows him holding his first great-grandchild, my son Mark who was born in October 1969. Nine months after this picture was taken, Mark's sister was born at a U.S. military hospital in West Germany. Only within the past decade did I learn that Jack named Gretta after his mother Margaret (Maggie) Jennings Carroll who died in the house behind him in childbirth. The eldest, he was only 13. We named our daughter Margaret. Unbidden by anyone in our family her friends took to calling her Maggie, which is how she is known to this day—except for her father, who still calls her by her given name.

Since retiring from volunteer work with the Peninsula Library & Historical society, lawyer and educator Ed Andros publishes stories from the center of the Cuyahoga Valley National Park, Cleveland, Ohio.

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AN AFFAIR OF HONOUR AT BALLYGILL

When Malachy Kelly of Woodmount and Owen Lynch of Rathpeak faced each other with loaded pistols on Ballygill Bridge that late May morning in 1841 they could never have guessed the historical significance of what they were engaged in. After an exchange of fire, Kelly lay mortally wounded on the roadway, expiring five days later on 3rd June. His was the last fatality to result from a duel fought in Ireland.



Ballygill Bridge spans the River Suck, about two and a half miles north of the town of Ballinasloe as the crow flies. In the circumstances of the time, the choice of venue was curious. But more of that anon. Duelling had been commonplace amongst the landed gentry since the middle of the 17th century, with swords as the preferred weapons during the first hundred years. Thereafter pistols were dominant. These were single-shot muzzle-loaders, normally smooth-bore with a very limited accurate range. A meeting in Clonmel in 1777 drew up an elaborate list of rules,

known as the "Code Duello", to regulate "affairs of honour" as they were euphemistically called. The Code proved to be extraordinarily influential and was adopted in modified form in several countries. Apologists for this method of settling personal differences argued that it promoted civilized conduct since anyone tempted to misbehave would very likely be deterred by the prospect of a potentially lethal confrontation.

Duelling was confined to an élite who usually enjoyed immunity from prosecution, whereas people of lower social status who indulged in armed conflict could expect to face the full rigours of the justice system. Though homicide was in theory an indictable offence, a duellist who killed his opponent would seldom be brought before a court of law, since judges and juries were generally sympathetic and would not convict in such circumstances. An exception might be made where there was perceived to have been a blatant disregard of fair play, and in this case a manslaughter verdict would probably be returned entailing at most a suspended or very lenient sentence.

The pressure to offer or accept a challenge as the situation dictated was so strong that even men who disapproved of duelling felt obliged to comply on pain of being branded cowards and suffering ostracism. Public opinion, however, underwent a change in the early decades of the 19th century, and duelling came to be regarded as a brutal and barbarous practice. Moreover, the establishment of the Irish Constabulary in 1822 meant that duellists risked having their proceedings interrupted by the police, making it decidedly



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odd that Kelly and Lynch selected a public highway for their fatal meeting rather than a more secluded spot.

In the course of a heated dispute over the interpretation of the rules governing a steeplechase, Kelly and Lynch, sons of neighbouring landlords in the parishes of Creagh and Moore respectively, belaboured each other with horsewhips, resulting in Kelly's father urging his son to challenge Lynch, which he duly did with, as we know, tragic consequences for the unfortunate Malachy. He was the eldest of three sons, his brothers Hubert and John having emigrated to Australia before the fatal duel. Hubert married the daughter of a Premier of New South Wales, while John, who had gone out with his wife and family, became a police magistrate at Deneliquin. The family residence, Woodmount House, was built in 1783 by Loughlen Kelly. In 1880 it was sold, the Kellys having relocated to Australia. It is now in ruins.

As for Owen Lynch, he survived to father five children after his marriage to Jane Pilkington on 1865. He died on 13th October 1894 at the age of 83. Rathpeak House, later known as Woodpark Lodge, was built in the 1690s. Eventually it came into the possession on the Whyte family, James Whyte, who died in 1960, being its last resident, after which it became derelict and was demolished towards the end of the last century.

Local folklore has it that in the early 1800s a daughter of the Lynch family fell in love with a farm labourer and declared her intention to marry him. Her parents, ever conscious of their standing in society, refused to countenance the proposed union. They locked her away in her bedroom and kept her on a starvation diet until she went insane and died. It is said that the ghostly figure of a young woman would sometimes appear at an upstairs window of the three-storey building, while at other times banging noises

could be heard to emanate from the ruin as her unquiet spirit knocked her head against the walls of the room where she had been imprisoned.

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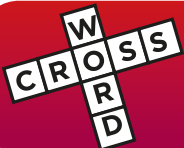
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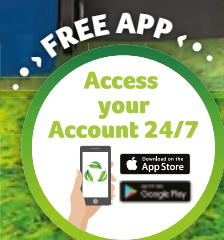


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CONNAUGHT RANGERS MUTINY:

A century ago this summer, the Connaught Rangers staged a short-lived mutiny in northern India in protest at British actions at home during the War of Independence.

One participant was a 21-year-old Ballinasloe man, Patrick "Packie" Hynes of Harbour Road. Deemed one of the 14 ringleaders, he would be court-martialled and condemned to death, a sentence that was commuted to life imprisonment.

However, a fellow mutineer, James Daly, of Ballymoe, Co. Galway, was executed by firing squad on 2 November 1920.

The protest had begun when Rangers stationed in Jalandhar announced to their officers that they would "ground arms" in peaceful protest at events in Ireland. When two emissaries brought news of the protest to another company based in Solan, Rangers there too, under Daly, grounded arms. Daly told his captain that they would no longer soldier while British soldiers remained in Ireland.

Persuaded by a priest, the Solan mutineers agreed to place all their arms in the magazine for safe-keeping. That evening, however, Daly led a party of men in a frontal attack on the arsenal to recover their weapons, during which two of them were killed.

That incident effectively spelled the end of the mutiny and the men surrendered, enduring harsh conditions awaiting trial.

Packie Hynes was born on 25 May 1899 in Craughwell, Lawrencetown, to David Hynes, a farmer and Catherine Burns. Sometime after 1907, the family lost possession of their farm and moved to Harbour Road (next door to Toddy Caulfield's).

Packie joined the army in November 1915, probably lying about his



Packie Hynes

age (he was only 16). His mother did whatever she could to delay him from being sent to the front, even presenting his commanding officer with a copy of his birth certificate to prove that he was underage.

Discharged in January 1919, he reenlisted in the army seven months later.

For his role in the mutiny, he was jailed in India and in Maidstone and Portland prisons in England. Upon his release, a committee was formed in Ballinasloe to raise funds to present to him on his return to Ballinasloe. A greeting party had prepared a hero's welcome at the railway station to meet Packie. However, after he missed the train connection at Mullingar, he returned to town another way and missed the homecoming.

He served in the Irish Civic Guards for a year before emigrating to Canada. He returned to Ireland in 1931.

In 1937, he was granted a weekly pension of 10 shillings 6 pence by the Irish government in recognition of his role in the mutiny (of the 258 pensions applications submitted, only 38 were granted). By 1942 he had moved permanently to Coventry, where he died in 1973. He was married to Kathleen Kelly, originally of Tea Lane.

His brother Michael (died 1972) and his wife Elizabeth Collins were the last of the Hynes to live on Harbour Road. Their son Micheál (who contributed the photograph of Packie) lives in London while another son, Lorenzo (died 2014), was a successful businessman in Mullingar. His son Lorenzo also contributed greatly to the writing of this piece.

In 1970, when James Daly's remains were repatriated to Ireland, Packie was among the small group of surviving mutineers present at his reburial in Tyrellspass.



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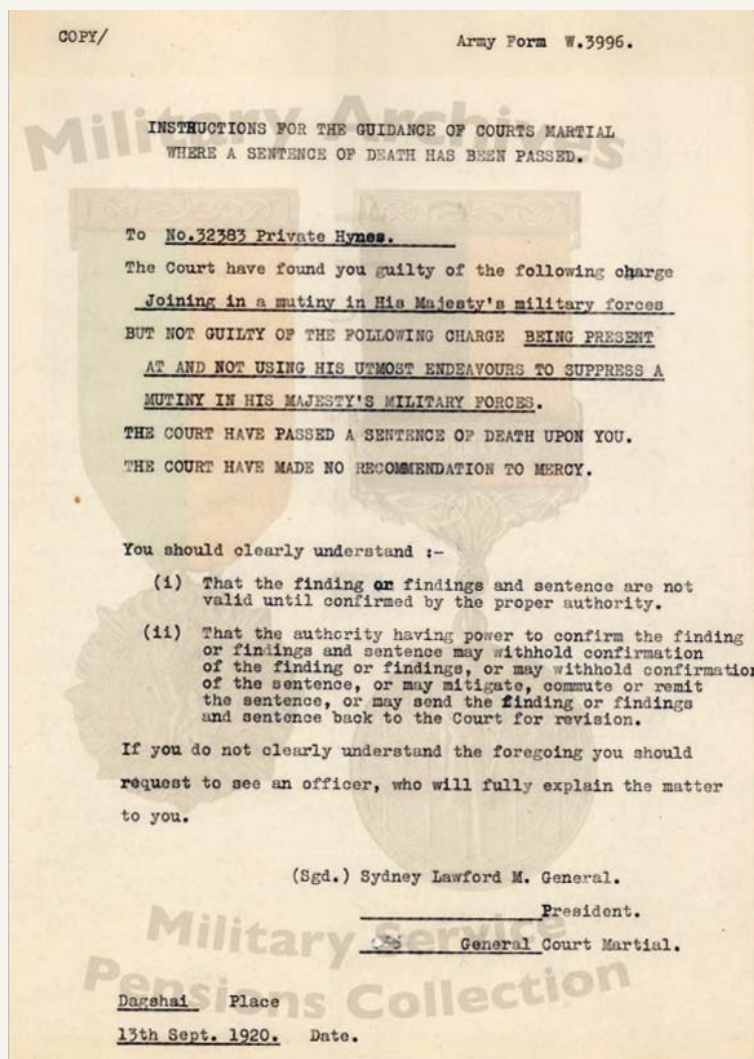




His parents David and Castherine Hynes
(in the group of four in the foreground, they are the couple on the right)



Original death sentence



Transcript of his death sentence

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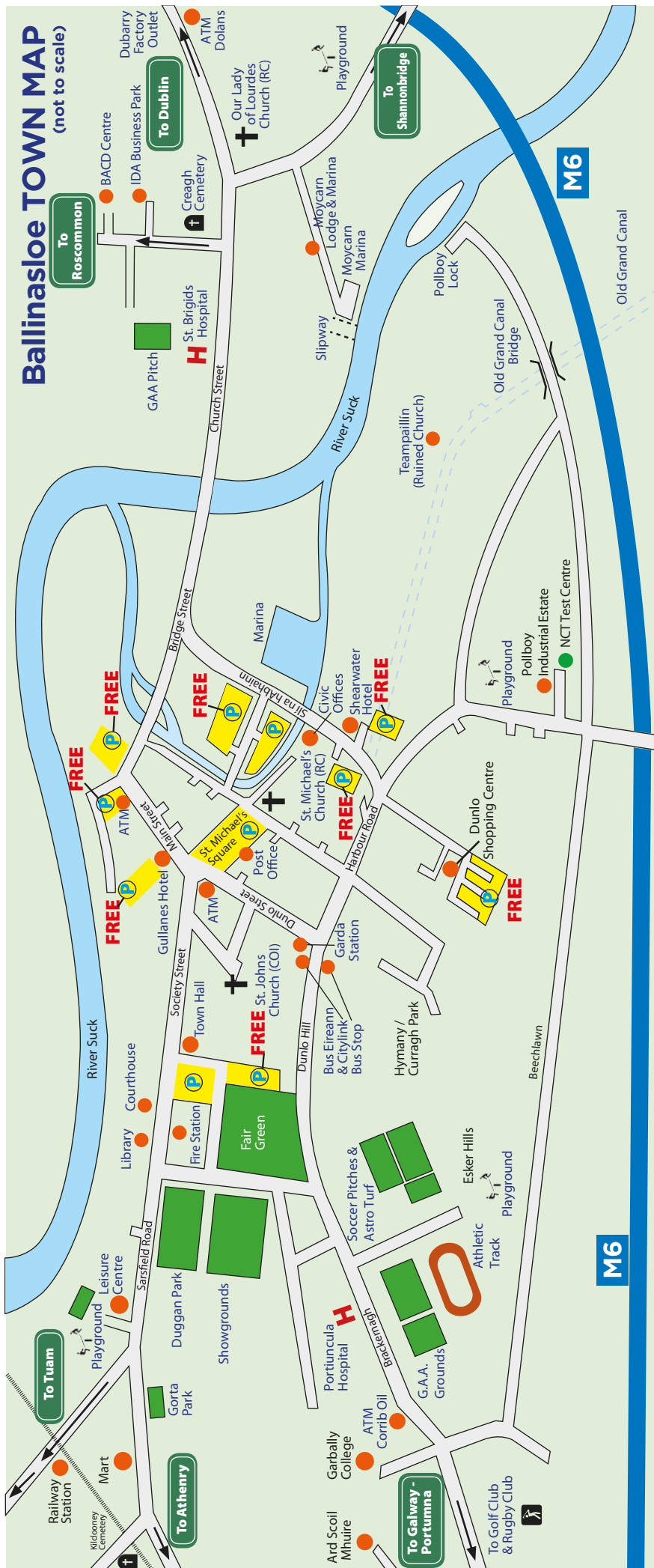
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Ballinasloe TOWN MAP

(not to scale)



Ballinasloe History Walk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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