



BALLINASLOE LIFE

AN INSIGHT INTO THE AREA WE LIVE IN

Vol. 12 Issue 1: April '22 - May '22



Flooring Porter Makes Cheltenham History

Ryans Pub - An Institution



Our Support For Ukraine



Dinny Delaney Festival
April 29th - May 1



Ballinasloe - Gateway To The West www.ballinasloe.ie



Gullane's Hotel



Now taking bookings for Communion & Confirmation

Gift Vouchers Available



€25.00

3 Course Lunch Menu

3 Course Children's Menu Only

€14.00



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

Main Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

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

Visit our website gullaneshotel.com

Gift Vouchers available to purchase online



Articles and Photos Welcome

NEXT ISSUE
Deadline May 10th

For submission of articles,
please email:
ballinasloelifeeditor@gmail.com

To advertise
your events contact:
info@ballinasloeenterprise.ie
or Call 090 964 5831
by May 6th

CREDITS

EDITOR

Colm Croffy

REPORTER/ VIDEOGRAPHER

Robbie Gately,
Ann-Marie Kelly,
Tanya Joyce, Aida Aguado

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Kelly, Barry Lally, Damian
Mac Con Uladh, Sean Tully,
Ray Jordan and various other
contributors

GRAPHIC DESIGN

KPW Ballinasloe

PRINT

KPW Print, Ballinasloe

PHOTOS

J&S Photos - jsphotos.ie
Evelyn Donellan,
Michael S. Kelly,
John Finnerty,
Eye to Eye



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

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

REAMHRA

Welcome to Volume 12 issue 1

Welcome to Volume 12 – yes this our 12th year publishing and having seen the pandemic, we are now witnessing a war! But alas after a gap of 11 editions we have our community main events Guide back for April / May and we are attempting to get folks to think ahead with our new Annual Headline Events Calendar for our town and area – just inside the cover (replacing the COVID time parish deaths).

A huge community well done to those who organised our National Patrons day after a 2 years gap and a bualadh bas to the 35 or so entries that enjoyed the lovely weather and really were encouraged by the largest crowds seen in town since a busy Fair Sunday in the last decade.

This community magazine reaches out six times a year to some 170 Business/Firms, 16 Schools, 28 Sports Organisations, 35 Community and Voluntary Organisations, 25 Cultural/Heritage Events and Groups. The 240 plus organisations that wouldn't /couldn't participate in the revived event denied themselves not alone the largest crowd on the streets – for goodwill, for marketing, for awareness of events and activities coming up, for recruitment, for thanking customers/supporters who stuck with them for the past two years – for stating like the young ones – that they are not just Irish, Ukrainian or Indian but proud to be of and PART of a Community! For what it's worth the parade fbook broadcast and online social media pre and post enjoyed some 8,000 views!

As part of the 100th commemorations the State released the Birth Register online for the 1922 year – very poignant for some – we carry in this edition some necessary and stark reminders of the way things were in our area in the grey zone of Civil War and new State.

It has taken two years to get everything back open after the initial lockdown, which we envisaged lasting two to three months max.

The difference now is that which we saw as normal two years ago is not the way we will conduct ourselves into the future, so everyone has made adjustments in the way they do business, socialise and activities they undertake.

This will have a lasting impact and it will affect us all differently, much of it though in a positive way.

Against a backdrop of increasing interest rates, high inflation and War in Ukraine, we are facing challenging times.

In this issue we see various chinks of light with sporting activities getting back on track, various fundraising events to fund it all and Commercial activity increasing.

It is great to see work starting on the Cinema which will add an amenity to the town which has been missed for many years to add to the array of other social activities ongoing.



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

WHAT'S INSIDE

LOCAL NEWS

- 5 Council's Grant Permit
- 6 Last Few Days For Input into Plan
- 7 Presbyterian Church Grant

BUSINESS

- 8 National Award for Divilly's
- 9 Loru's Café and Restaurant
- 10 New Tourism Community Collective
- 11 New General Manager For Shearwater
- 13 Work Starts on New Cinema
- 14 P. Hogan's Mountbellew Office
- 15 New Distillery Host Local Tasting

COMMUNITY

- 16 Canal House Honours Retirees
- 17 Local Generosity for Ukraine
- 18 Ryan's Pub in Society St.
- 20 Flooring Porter Delivers Again
- 21 Clontuskert Community Ideas
- 24 International Women's Day
- 25 Feile Cheoil Larry Reynold's
- 26 Ballinasloe Active Retirement
- 27 Aughrim Growing a Better Future
- 29 Busy Middle Term For Creagh N
- 30 Val Communities Newest Centenarian
- 32 April Events Guide

One hundred years ago the Diocese of Clonfert (shortly after irregular troops tried to torch the mansion) bought Garbally and its vast acreage. Just before Christmas his Lordship's efforts to offload the 18th Century Mansion and some 10 acres to Galway County Council for a €1 became public. Oddly, having ruled out the Ballinasloe acquisition as way too expensive, some months later the Council reached for its cheque book for an 11th century tower house in Kinvara!!

Like most ex pupils of our "Clongowes of the West" and all its perceived imperfections I am glad that the Council did not jump at once to the Bishops offer. Our County Council has been gifted many heritage houses in the past, with uneven results indeed the good burghers of Kinvara need no reminding that up the road, when the same County Council received Lady Gregory's Mansion and Coole Park in the mid 30s they pulled it to the ground rather than pay for the rates on the dwelling! Wiser and less distracted heads rather than those can't be bothered with the chore of innovatively preserving a community's defining heritage would do well to look for an integrated public – private partnership brokered solution and seek support from the new Leader Funds, the North Western Assembly Loans and the new Just Transition EU funds.

Keep up our Ukrainian generosity – we are going to need a lot more of it. Enjoy the read.

Le Gach De Ghui,
COLM CROFFY,
Editor.



In Ballinasloe Area Community Development, we plan on driving on with our 10 year plan in conjunction with the Local Area Plan in process of being ratified by Galway County Council.

The three pillars within our plan are under Sustainability, Health & Tourism.

The Sustainability element is being worked on via our Town Team with work to do on the Health aspect over the coming months.

A Tourism group has been formed and a meeting is planned in April with the various Government Stakeholders to agree on our next steps.

We are also hopeful of a jobs' announcement in the coming weeks via IDA / Enterprise Ireland.

So, plenty to look forward to with many festivals and events in train for the next 12 months.

SEAMUS DUFFY,
Chairman Ballinasloe Area Community
Development Limited.



33 May Events Guide

CULTURE

- 34 Scór & Dinny Delaney for Town Hall
- 36 Dinny Delaney Festival Returns
- 38 Town Band Easter Craft Fair
- 39 Eoghan Egan's New Novel
- 40 Liskelly Summer Festival for July

SPORT

- 41 Over €600,000 Capital Grants
- 42 Rugby Club Update
- 44 End of the Road for Town
- 45 Ballinasloe & District Vintage
- 46 GAA Season Under Full Steam
- 47 Drive-Ins Launch New Golf Year
- 48 O'Grady World Golf Coach
- 49 St. Cuan's Utd Soccer for Girls
- 50 Athletics Update

HERITAGE

- 51 Una Watters Modernist Painter
- 52 AT Cross came 50 years ago
- 54 Sectarian Strife Locally
- 56 Ballinasloe's Bonaparte Connection
- 58 Obituaries
- 61 An Emerging Area Events Calendar
- 62 Ballinasloe History Walk

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

There was widespread disbelief at the local monthly meeting of the Ballinasloe Municipal District when the Executive, in responding to a question from Cllr Timmy Broderick, conceded that the matter of the disposal of Garbally House and some land had come before the Council Corporate Standing Committee before Christmas.

It appears the Bishop of Clonfert had offered the transfer of the House and a parcel of land for a nominal euro to Galway County Council but that a Consultant's Report tabled to the same meeting suggested a sum of €4.2 million would be need to just stabilize and bring up to standard the same building.

The County Council Executive's advice to the Group who need to approve such matters prior to a full Council meeting was that upgrading costs were prohibitive and that was before running costs and possible uses be identified.

A robust discussion ensued with the officials and the members over the procedures used in halting the negotiations and as to the significant possible uses for the House and attendant grounds.

The point was made by several present at the meeting that town was bookended on the East by a decaying St. Brigid's and the West by an opportunity with Garbally.

The 19th century house and sprawling estate could be transformed into something similar to that in Westport - which attracts thousands of visitors on an annual basis - suggested Cllr Timmy Broderick.

Cllr Broderick said that Dunguaire Castle in Kinvara was acquired by the County Council only weeks after they rejected the Ballinasloe opportunity for development potential and there was no reason why the same approach could not be applied in terms of Garbally.

Cllr Declan Geraghty (Ind) from Williamstown, who also attended Garbally College, supports the view that the development of the main house, library, steps and system of tunnels would make a huge attraction on its own.



Cllr. Michael Connolly who was a minority member of the Standing Committee that refused to recommend purchase reminded the meeting that he had sought permission to bring the matter in full to the MDC but Standing Orders prevented same.

Cllr Evelyn Parsons asked the Director of Services Liam Hanrahan "you advised us at a meeting last Autumn that the Council were powerless to do anything with the St. Brigid's campus as it's not the legal owner, we were being offered the ownership of this huge asset of a Mansion and our Phoenix Park of town and you rejected it ? "

Cathaoirleach Cllr Dermot Connolly believes that there were other agencies such as Failte Ireland that could be in a financial position to acquire it, as the Council did not have the resources for it.

There was unanimity of the 6 public reps that this decision was too hasty and further enquires and discussions should take place with the owners .It was agreed that a report into its possible potential would be compiled by Galway County Council and discussed with the MDC.

The original Garbally Estate bought by the Diocese from the bankrupt Clancartys in 1922 comprising the House, gardens, farm - all the lands of the Hospital, HSE, Batchelors Walk, Ard Mhuire, the New Scoil Mhuire site, The Dowagwers House - at Corheen in Loughrea plus valuable tracts of farmland-some 650 acres in total for £6,750.

Jorena Health & Gift Shop

SOCIETY STREET, BALLINASLOE 090-9646585

HEALTH SHOP

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



GIFT SHOP

- Jewellery & Bags
- Pottery, Porcelain & Crystal
- Candles
- Children's Wear
- Baskets to Order
- Beautiful Range of Bags, Hats, Shawls, Scarves & Headgear



Let food be your medicine and medicine be your food



REFURBISHMENT

Serving the community for the last 30 years,
looking forward to continuing in partnership from our
newly refurbished premises, stockist of established brands that are researched and trusted.

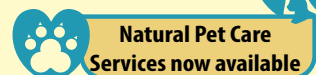
OUR TOP BRANDS

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------|----------------|------------------|
| • Health | • Natures Plus | • Zota | • Dr Turner |
| • Gifts | • Max Benjamin | • Beleek | • Nicholas Mosse |
| • Viridian | • Solgar | • Dr. Hauschka | |
| • Galway Crystal | • Newgrange | • Aynsley | |

BUY ONLINE, OVER THE PHONE OR IN STORE

JEWELLERY RANGE

- Absolute
- Newgrange
- Tipperary Crystal
- Kelly



Large Selection of Pottery,
Gifts & Artwork
on Display

plus many more...



jorena@outlook.ie



www.jorenagiftshop.com

Galway County Council has decided to grant another permit to operate a waste transfer station at Poolboy, despite the recent order of the High Court quashing their decision to grant same last year.

Chairperson for The Ballinasloe No To Waste Group, Dr Vincent Parsons, voiced his annoyance at the decision: "The Ballinasloe Says No committee is ready to challenge Galway County Council again. This decision is in direct opposition to the High Court Order of January 2022 which stated that the previous permit granted on 15th April 2021 be quashed. The High Court Order points to adverse impacts to protected European sites.

"GCC has granted another Permit within weeks of the High Court Order. The anger of the people of Ballinasloe and concerned groups is unfathomable. Galway County Council have shown blatant disregard for their concerns. The Ecology and Hydrology assessments have highlighted considerable risk to the Rivers Suck and River Shannon – which is the source of drinking water to tens of thousands of people in the locality. Hydrological links were identified connecting this site to the River Suck and Callows SPA. There is significant risk to the environment, wildlife, farm animals and people. However, despite all this, Galway County Council appear determined to steamroll this though" he added.

"Access for these waste trucks is through our town, passing our Schools and Portiuncula hospital. It is in close proximity to numerous family homes. Noxious gases, dust, insects, and vermin would certainly cause health hazards. Leachate will contaminate the drinking water. We also have strong concerns over air pollution by these diesel trucks" he continued.

They have contacted their legal advisors who are assessing options and the next course of action. They are very grateful to the ongoing support of the people of Ballinasloe and surrounding areas and appreciate the help they are receiving from concerned groups.

PRO & Co-founder Ballinasloe Says No, Senator Aisling Dolan stated: "The Local Authority has decided to adjudicate and



Some of the Committee from the Campaign

grant a new permit without a new application process or further information requested or supplied by the applicant. Thousands of families in Ballinasloe made submissions and attended public meetings making it clear that this is an inappropriate location for a waste transfer station. As a town, we have successfully challenged Waste management decisions by Galway County Council on 3 separate occasions in 1999, 2018 and 2021.

"We are a local community group fighting for the health and safety of families in this area and to ensure the protection of our environment. Ballinasloe is now going to be a stop on the new Galway to Dublin Cycleway project through this same area of the Grand Canal, River Suck Callows and unique boglands full of biodiversity in Poolboy, a treasure for generations to come" notes the Senator.

Galway County Councillor Dr Evelyn Parsons also commented on the matter: "This is a devastating decision by Council and goes against the principles in the Local Area Plan and Galway County Development Plan in terms of health, safety and protecting our unique landscape and environment.

"As a committee we have worked together to highlight the potential impacts of this development and we call on the Executive of Galway County Council to explain this decision. There are multiple tourism and sustainable environmentally sensitive projects starting here for the benefit of the community and that is the direction Ballinasloe wants to develop" she concluded.

GEAROID GERAGHTY & COMPANY

SOLICITORS



www.gearoidgeraghty.ie

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

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

BALLINASLOE OFFICE

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

DUBLIN OFFICE

24 Upr Ormond Quay, Dublin 7
Agency No. G050

MOUNTBELLEW OFFICE

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

Only 40 submissions were received and formally dealt with at the Draft Ballinasloe 2022 – 2028 Plan, Local Area Planning MDC meeting.

Some 11 came from semi-states and 29 from private landowners, auctioneers, community councils, residents' associations, individuals, elected members and the Development Company BACD.

Interestingly the only submissions that received more than the cursory noted, statement of where the action suggested is not prevented and within the overall county plan followed by the "no change" from CEO were the ones from the OPW and Waterways Ireland in relation to Flood Defence and Works project.

Some of the key items pushed for and accepted with near unanimous support at the 9th of February marathon statutory meeting were the citing of the continued development of Portiuncula Hospital as a priority, the zoning of all the sports fields and attendant grounds in the Garbally Estate as Community and Recreational facilities, the designation of the old Fallon's Egg Market on Society Street for specific brownfield development and the designation of the Hayden's site as one of significant heritage and development potential for Dunlo Street-for Urban environment and streetscape.

In her very detailed submission made in a personal capacity – Una Ni Bhroin sought for a bathing place along the River Suck as it passed through town and it was accepted that a feasibility would be undertaken as a developmental priority.

Most of the landowners and builders had their tweaks to existing zoning or uses rejected on the grounds that there were sufficient lands zoned to comply with the over arching objectives of the County Development Plan.

In two matters there was a significant divide of opinion. Cllr Evelyn Parsons tabled a motion that Ballinasloe Local Area Plan Boundary include and incorporate the Poolboy Landfill and 'adjacent' lands within the town plan. Also, that the remediated Poolboy Landfill and 'adjacent lands' be used for Open Space/ Park/ Amenity and to support community sustainable energy uses and/or climate mitigation measures for the benefit of all. She also wanted a Masterplan on a Biodiversity eco – park

inserted into the plan. She was seconded by Cllr Tim Broderick but was voted down by Cllrs Keaveney, Michael Connolly, Declan Geraghty. Cllr Dermot Connolly Cathoirleach abstained.

"I had previously inserted Park development in the CDP with Kellysgrove Peatland named linking to Blue/Green Infrastructure for Ballinasloe as I have strongly met with and advocated for a park with the executive and outside bodies, including BNM over this 500 acre area undergoing rehabilitation.

A park at Poolboy could have link the town in time with leisure and tourism offerings via greenway, walkway, blueway river and road to a develop a comprehensive sustainable tourism quarter which neighbours the existing Golf club. I am bitterly disappointed my motions on this practical and deliverable vision were not supported by the majority of my local councillor colleagues" stated Cllr Parsons.

The second issue was the motion to alter the original grant of conditions of planning for the development of the Dunlo Shopping Centre which in 2002 – expressly stated that the out-of-town retail units would be of such a scale as not to cause displacement to the core commercial hub of the town centre. The developer sought this restriction to be lifted to allow smaller commercial and retail units to be built and leased around the Tesco / Aldi / Cinema complex.

Cllrs Evelyn Parsons and Cllr Dermot Connolly were defeated by the others in allowing the change to proceed.

The new Draft Plan is available for inspection and further comment until the 7th of April

- <https://consult.galway.ie/>
- **Planning Office**, Áras an Chontae, Prospect Hill, Galway, H91 H6KX (Monday – Friday 9am – 4pm)
- **Ballinasloe Library**, Society Street, Ballinasloe (Wednesday- Saturday 11am-1pm and 2pm-5pm)
- **Ballinasloe Area Office**, Civic Offices, Ballinasloe, H53 A7K7 (Monday – Friday 9am-1pm and 2pm-5pm)




**FOR ALL YOUR NCT REPAIRS,
TYRES AND SERVICING
CALL INTO BALLINASLOE
TYRE CENTRE.**



TEL: 090 9646956

BALLINASLOE TYRE CENTRE

Harbour Road, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway. H53 E2Y7

*There's always a
warm welcome
in Karibas*







Tel: 090 964 4830

www.karibas.ie • 7 Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway
See our facebook page for the latest opening hours

Now taking catering bookings

Recently, Minister of Heritage Malcom Noonan TD, announced €126,000 for 24 projects across County Galway under the Built Heritage Scheme. Senator Aisling Dolan welcomed the news that the Presbyterian Church in Society St. was granted €5,000.



Michael McCullagh

The funds will go towards the further restoration of the church with external and internal joinery repair in the historic building. The building has now received over €40,000 worth of state Heritage funding over the past decade including a window preservation project in 2016.

In 1844 the congregation of Ballinasloe was organised, principally through the efforts of Rev. John Edmonds, who had been appointed to the itinerating department of the General Assembly's Home

Mission. Soon after this, the church and manse were erected.

Considerable delay took place in procuring a suitable site, as the Earl of Clancarty was unwilling to afford facilities for the erection in his town of what he called a 'Separatist' place of worship. But the members of the infant congregation were resolute, and they succeeded at last in obtaining a valuable and suitable site.

The Gothic Revival form of this church is characteristic of its era and is underlined by elements such as the pointed arch openings, the pinnacles and crenellated tower. Prominently sited, the imposing elevation, enhanced by the good quality stonework and buttresses make it a notable feature in the streetscape.

The Church had active congregational activity till the early 90s and was sold towards the end of the Celtic Tiger era 2005 / 2006. Local Auctioneer Michael McCullagh took charge of the communion table - getting it fully restored personally and arranged it to be deposited in the new Library in memory of the Presbyterian community of Ballinasloe. He returned the memorial plaques

which contained names like Bowden, Davidson, Cooke and Pepper who all died in World War 1.

Michael had a personal interest in non-Catholic faiths contribution to town as he explains. "My Great, great, great grandmother was a Rachel Hamilton from Scotland who did the unforgivable at the time, by marrying a Catholic and losing her €2K dowry and fled to Co Tyrone where my father was born in Plumbridge in 1906 and died in Ballinasloe in 1940.

"That church was probably the first church I ever saw as a child, St Johns the 2nd. As a young boy I used to help (Joe Kelly 's Pub grandfather) Mike Kelly, who lived in a bungalow up behind the Whigham Hall, stoke the boiler and fill with turf for the 3 o'clock service on winter Sundays", recalls the sprightly Michael.

The roof was completely restored some few years ago and emergency repair work was supported to maintain the fabric of the building. Current Church owner Engineer Gerry Dolan stated "We have no short-term plans for this project, we are very much taking it step by step as we try to bring the church back to its former glory. It is very much so a long-term restoration project."

Senator Aisling Dolan stated: "I'm delighted to see funds this year for the Presbyterian Church- it's such an iconic building and these funds support the ongoing work by individuals to bring this back to its former glory."



Presbyterian Church



HEALY'S PHARMACY



Free Face Sculpting Double Roller

With Purchase Of 2 Nuxe Merveillance Lift Products.

THIS NEW RANGE OF 5 PRODUCTS CONTAIN A MINIMUM OF 96% INGREDIENTS OF NATURAL ORIGIN TO STRENGTHEN AND LIFT THE SKIN.

OPEN 9.15AM TO 6PM DAILY. OPEN THROUGH LUNCHTIME.

DELIVERY SERVICE
AVAILABLE IF REQUIRED

Tel/Fax 090 9642252 Society St., Ballinasloe

Divilly's Off-Licence picked up an excellent accolade of late when they were awarded the National Off-Licence Association (NOFFLA) best first-time entrant award.

The business is run by Regina Divilly, whose family has been in Dunlo Street for 67 years. Divilly's changed to an independent Off-Licence in 2004 and joined the Carry Out franchise in 2009. They were one of only three winners from the franchise. They have also become the first Off-Licence in the town to win this prestigious award.

Owner Regina Divilly expressed her delight upon receiving the prize: "We are over the moon! We were not expecting it at all, especially since it was our first time to enter. We have only been a member of NOFFLA for 2 years and only entered to get some feedback on how to improve going forward.

"It means so much to win an award like this! We have a small but hardworking team here and they are all so loyal to the business, I couldn't do it without them. They are just as enthused about the store as I am and do a lot to keep the standards up. We are also very lucky to have such a loyal customer base" she added.

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



Back from left Jonathon Finnerty, Calum Rickard & Michael Keighery.
Front from left Kathy Walsh, Regina Divilly & June Hurley

**Shop
Local**

**Please support
our advertisers**



TONY CARROLL FAMILY BUTCHER

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

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

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

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

Check in store for Weekly Offers



Like us on:
facebook

[www.facebook.com/
tonycarrollfamilybutchers](https://www.facebook.com/tonycarrollfamilybutchers)

**FREE
DELIVERY
within 3 mile
radius**

McKeon's Sand & Gravel Ltd.

Culliaghbeg, Ballinasloe.

Sales: 090 9642521 Office: 090 9643245

Email: info@mckeons.ie



Now Stocking:

**Decorative Stone
Paving Sand
Screened Topsoil**

Following on from a disastrous 2 years for the hospitality sector, a new café and restaurant have opened in the locality amongst the chaos. Stefano Loru took the brave decision to open the newly named Loru's cafe and restaurant, and he was eager to bring a taste of Italy to Ballydangan and beyond!

With 26 years of experience in the culinary world, Italian native Stefano moved to Ireland 14 years ago and has worked in some award-winning pizza restaurants in Dublin. Now, with the help of his Italian chefs in Loru's, Stefano takes pride in producing Sardinian style pizza which is soft like a Neapolitan pizza, but crunchy in the Roman style. This combination is proving very popular with customers, whether it's for dine-in or takeaway and they are gaining rave reviews with nowhere else locally offering pizza like this.

Loru's is situated next door to Millar's pub in Ballydangan, just outside Ballinasloe on the old Athlone road. While their menu



is updated regularly, the fresh pastas & lasagne are proving very popular. Starters like the hot chicken wings and the bruschetta are always in demand but the Loru's burgers have built up a great reputation for themselves – hand crafted and mouth-watering with a variety of customised dressings. They also offer full Irish breakfasts and roast dinners at the weekends, to cater for everyone's tastes.

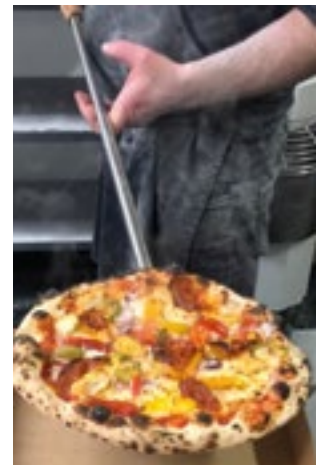
Stefano expressed his appreciation towards his customers and what he likes most about being in business in the area: "I appreciate how supportive and welcoming the local community has been, and it's great to see regulars back each week. The diversity of customers is great to see, from groups of friends having a catch up over a pizza, pasta and a glass of Italian red, to the local farmers popping in for a burger or fish & chips, appreciating all the space in the carpark for tractors and machinery".

"With starters ranging from €5-€8 and mains from €10-€18, many families have also voiced their appreciation for the value for money they get when dining out in Loru's yet the high quality of food and flavour is never compromised. Italians and Irish both recognise the importance of family and dining out is an essential part of that also. Families are always welcome here in Loru's," he added.

They are now taking bookings for communions, confirmations and other family events with a set menu available.

So, whether you want a full three-course dinner; cake, coffee, and a chat; bar bites or a snack; a pizza and a pint, you'll find the option that suits you in Millars & Loru' with very convenient parking.

To keep up to date with the menu see Loru's page on Facebook or Instagram. Or call (090) 967 3153 to reserve a table or order takeaway.



Cappuccino Making



Eimear Loughnane & Co.
SOLICITORS



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

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



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

Practice areas include:

Conveyancing (property purchases & sales)

Probate, Wills & Estate Planning

Personal Injury Claims & Litigation

Family Law

Employment Law

Debt Collection



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



The B.A.C.D. before Christmas rolled out a new 10-year Overall Development Strategy for the Town and environs of which Tourism Development is to be one of three key pillars.

A Leader supported feasibility study undertaken during 2021 signposted the way for a new grouping to work collectively to focus on visitor attractiveness, and harnessing the potential of marketing the town as a key proposition within the Hidden Heartlands Brand and with the new Cycle Greenway soon to arrive.

Key representatives from the Tourism and Hospitality trade, culture and events, leisure activities, heritage & genealogy & community development groups were invited to a workshop in Gullane's Hotel on 10th March.

The workshop enjoyed presentations on the Town 10 Year Strategy from Vice Chair of BACD Brian King and the summary points of the Feasibility Plan from the Co-Ordinator Colm Croffy.

Many of the main opportunities were outline and discussed in some detail with breakout sessions examining the way the various elements of a visitor experience needs to become more joined up across the area for things to improve.

Evidence was offered of the near 400,000 visitors in paid attendance to some of the more significant attractions in a 30 minute drive time – like Clonmacnoise and Athlone Castle in season 2019 and if even 5% could be persuaded to overnight in the locality according to Failte Ireland data it would be worth at least €1.5 mil in revenue to business locally. If the domestic

visitor could be encouraged to spend a day here – their spend of €72 could deliver another €1.4 million in income – and for every €1 million some 27 jobs are sustained!

Critically from Failte Ireland and Hidden Heartlands market research what the locale environs offers snuggled between the Beara - Breifne Way to the West, the Shannon Erne Waterway to the East, connected by both Blue way and soon Greenway will be an idyllic spot for off grid, tranquil tourism.

The creation of a cluster community tourism marketing and development group for all relevant organisations and hospitality interests within a 15km radius of Ballinasloe, led by the trade and community sector and co-ordinated by BACD was agreed. Many of the Heritage and Community groups from an arc North - South from Meelick to Ballyforan and from Shannonbridge/Clonmacnoise to Dartfield were identified on the evening so as that the next larger seminar has even more district involvement.

A small steering working group was established comprising of Alan Harney, Frances Leahy (Town Hall Theatre) Gareth & Michelle McAllister (Ahascragh Distillery) Matthew Hughes (Ballinasloe & District Vintage Club) Valerie Dolan (Ballinasloe Walks and Trails) Graham Bartlett (Inland Waterways Association Ireland - River Suck Branch), Billy Reynolds (Larry Reynolds Festival) & Ruth O'Brien (Shearwater Hotel) to take the plan and process forward.

They are planning on holding a larger scale meeting in a few weeks to invite all the stakeholders along with all the government bodies and funding agencies (Hidden Heartlands, Ireland Waterways, Galway Co Co, Roscommon Co Co., Cycleway, BMW Regional etc etc) to present the plan, the new Community and Tourism Sector Collective and to establish best ways of working together to anchor Ballinasloe – the third largest town in the Hidden Heartlands with approved accommodation as a key Hub Visitor town in the next decade.

For further details you can contact Lyn directly on 0909646516



LEADING EDGE MEDICAL DEVICE

Career Opportunities in Galway City and in Galway County (Ballinasloe)

Surmodics Inc. a Minnesota-based multinational, is a leading provider of medical device and in vitro diagnostic technologies to the health care industry. Surmodics has made significant investments in its Ballinasloe facility. The site now has full vertical integration including, precision extrusion, balloon forming, catheter assembly, braiding, hydrophilic coating and drug delivery capability.

In recent news, Surmodics is pleased to announce the acquisition of Vetex Medical Limited, located in Galway. This acquisition demonstrates our commitment to the expansion of our thrombectomy platform.

This is an exciting time for Surmodics! Be part of an organizations that leverages your passion to improve patient lives through your career. Surmodics offers exceptional benefits, encourages employees to gain experience across our entire product & process range.

We also work a **4-day week**, promoting a positive work/life balance.

Would you like to work for a global organisation that is committed to the highest standards of scientific excellence and integrity? Does our culture of collaboration and excellence appeal to you? If so, we invite you to visit our careers portal to view current vacancies: <http://www.surmodics.com/careers/careers-overview/> including:

- Production Operator, day and evening roles;
- Quality Engineer II
- Supplier Quality Engineer
- Manufacturing Engineer
- Sustaining Engineer

www.surmodics.com/careers/

For many the last 24 months have seen closed or very restricted uses of our local Hotels – consequently many are not up to speed on the fact that the Deputy Manager Ruth O'Brien of our flagship Property– The Shearwater Hotel & Spa, was promoted to General Manager in August 2021!

Tipperary native Ruth O'Brien has had a long and distinguished career in Hotel Management since she graduated from the then Athlone Institute of Technology. Post college she headed for the bright lights of the Big Apple and worked in various management with Landry's Fine Dining Seafood Chain and Morans Irish Steakhouse .

She returned home to the prestigious Lakeside Hotel in Killaloe as Bar / Restaurant / Accommodation Manager for some six and half years before joining the senior management team at Loughrea's SO Hotel – (Pat Mc Donagh's) for four busy years before arrival to the Marina Point, Comer Brothers owned Hotel as Deputy in 2020.

"It's been a busy career but I am thrilled to in a Senior Position at this recently €2.5 million renovated 104 bedroom, Four Star facility, managing up to 120 staff and crew and hopefully welcoming 100 weddings for this season at least", stated Ruth.

The Pandemic break allowed the property to finalise the refurbishing of all the bedrooms and work has started on a significant over haul of the heating plant and Air Con systems for a more greener and sustainable operation.

Currently the hotel is gearing back up to a full suite of services across all sections for high season with full use of bar, leisure business suites and spa seven days a week and fine dining restaurant option for Friday and Saturday.

The Extensive and revamped All Day Bar menu (service from noon to 8.45 pm) has some exciting bistro dishes – like fish tacos, Chicken Tika Masala, Beef Rump with a lot of regulars voting for the New Caramel Delight from the new dessert / pudding options.

Sundays dining is a refreshed Sunday menu in the Bar featuring a choice of signature roasts complete with fish, vegan and

vegetarian option.

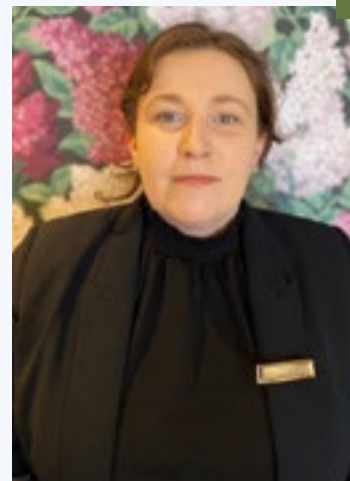
"We are really looking forward to helping local families celebrate those special occasions – communions, confirmations, birthday parties and have menus and options to suit all tastes and a range of different areas to choose from", notes Ruth.

The hotel had their first large local wedding in late February – catering for some 250 plus guests and both Chef and staff were happy with the seeing the larger numbers and the happy faces.

Live music in our Canal Bar on weekend nights with Sunday night featuring "Shearwater Sunday Club" Country which is getting back into full swing with artistes such as Mike Denver, Derek Ryan, Robert Mizzell, Patrick Feeney plus Sit Down Concerts from Mike Denver, Nathan Carter, Dan McCabe, Brendan Shine & Friends and many many more - all due to visit soon.

Our Business Centre "Shearbusiness" which is the largest seated venue between Dublin and Galway on the Motorway can cater for up to 850 delegates Theatre style and we offer Free Ample underground Car Parking Spaces, High Speed complimentary Wifi attached to a private patio area. Ruth is keen to position the venue centre stage in all large community gatherings, conferencing and events.

"We are so much looking forward in the coming months to re connecting with all the various Clubs and local organisations that we take good care of starting with the Pearses GAA Annual Dance, Killkerrin GAA Ladies, Ballinasloe Football club and not forgetting the Galway Camogie Senior Team and colleagues. We do appreciate the great support we get from business locally", concludes Ruth.



Ruth O'Brien
General Manager – The Shearwater
Hotel & Spa



COYLE & COMPANY
CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS

- Sole Trader Accounts & Income Tax Returns
- Company Financial Statements, CRO Filings & Corporation Tax Returns
- VAT Returns, Payroll & PAYE Returns
- Advice and Guidance for Start-ups including Company Formation and Tax Registration
- Business Plans and Forecasts for Finance



CHARTERED
ACCOUNTANTS
IRELAND

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

wizard computers

• Est. 2004 •

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

wizardcomp
 @wizardcomp

(087) 2333373
(090) 9645996

www.wizardcomputers.ie
kevin@wizardcomputers.ie

18 DEERPARK • BALLINASLOE • CO. GALWAY

Ballinasloe now boasts a new cleaning service in the form of 'Western Cleaning Services'. Birchgrove local Shane Berrigan, who for years worked with his Dad has decided to strike out on his own.

Shane who has lots of experience in the cleaning industry has been in the business since he was 14. He used to work with his father's company Premier Window Cleaners and said he always wanted to take on a business venture on his own: "I would work weekends with my father, so I have plenty of experience with window cleaning, power washing etc. I always wanted to run my own business, to be my own boss and bring my own twist to the industry. So, at the start of the year, I decided to give it a go.

"I specialise in residential cleaning, window cleaning, gutter cleaning, power washing, roof cleaning and treatment, and maintenance of the house. My goal is to get into commercial cleaning," he added.

Noting what he thinks distinguishes his company from others in the industry, he states "I'm very particular, I like to have jobs perfect. I want to give people a service that I'd like to receive myself. I have all the top of the range equipment and I'm willing and ready to take any sort of work that comes my way."

Shane posts regularly on his Facebook page Western Cleaning Services to show people a glimpse of the work he does. You can contact Western Cleaning Services on (087) 751 3953 or by email at westerncleaningservices72@gmail.com.



Shane Berrigan

GROW REMOTE BRANCH AVAILABLE

Grow Remote Ballinasloe supports remote workers and employers building a community where sustainable jobs and careers working from home or co-working hubs are created and carried out through local chapters, jobs board, training, meet ups for information exchange.

If remote workers are looking for a space in town, Ruth Sheridan at the Study Centre can help you out. Remote working co-working hubs are becoming more prominent and in Ballinasloe we are fortunate to have both the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre and the Study Centre now listed on Connected Hubs national network.

To book a desk or meeting room at these locations log onto www.connectedhubs.ie or download the app and complete your booking. It is hoped that this will also encourage remote workers, especially with the better weather coming in, who travel in Ireland and work, to have more options for doing so.

Grow Remote recently held a walking tour of the town and enjoyed a meet-up in An Tain. Founder of the local branch Renate

Kohlmann said "The group really enjoyed the walk with Declan Kelly and certainly whet the appetite for more! Sincere thanks to Ruth Sheridan at the Study Centre & Grind Group for use of her fabulous centre and refreshments."

Grow Remote has now launched a Playbook for Remote Working which is available for free to download from the website www.growremote.ie.

For any questions about remote working, skills training, and jobs availability, email renate@growremote.ie or join the Facebook Page Grow Remote Ballinasloe.



Grow Remote Members at recent tour walk

Putting off making a will?

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



PATRICK HOGAN & CO.
SOLICITORS



Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe,
County Galway, H53 YR91

+353 (0)90 9642110
 +353 (0)90 9642107

info@phogan.ie

Open
9:30 am
5:30 pm

New Mountbellew Office
Market Square,
Mountbellew, H53 A2F1

+353 (0)90 9623377

mountbellew@phogan.ie

Construction has started on a new Omniplex 5 screen cinema, which is to be built on the land between Tesco and Aldi shopping centres in the town.

The project is for a five screen, single-storey building approximately 7.9m high with associated car parking and the gross floor space of the project is 1123m². Permission was granted for the project in 2019, and construction is now underway. The auditorium will be complete with 16-metre-wide screens, luxury rocker seats and double sofa-beds.

Omniplex, which is owned by the Anderson family and has 260 screens at 34 locations, is investing more than €11 million in 3 locations-in Ballinasloe, Nenagh and Mullingar-with the potential for 100 jobs during construction and 65 full and part-time jobs when operational.

Senator Aisling Dolan commented on the potential of the cinema: "Many people in town can remember a time, more than a few decades ago, when we had both Swanwick's cinema on

Society St (where Utah is based now) and the Town Hall in Ballinasloe and great memories of walking into town to see the pictures. This new project shows we are a place for investment and that there is a demand for entertainment, retail and hospitality in our area."

Omniplex director Mark Anderson said: "The development of regional cinema in Ireland is a core strategy for Omniplex. We are delighted that the cinema will now be an entertainment option for the people of Ballinasloe and look forward to creating new movie memories here."

The cinema is scheduled for opening in late Autumn 2022.



TOWN TEAM SEEKS VOLUNTEERS

We have been a few seasons on the road – with our planning, reports, applications, projects, events and meetings and finding out just how challenging making progress can be at times.

One of the most significant facts of Community Development is just how much we all rely on each other in the groups, societies and voluntary organisations to animate and bring to life Ballinasloe. The Town Team was created nearly 10 years ago in 2013 to facilitate the first town benchmarking survey in 2014 and to bring forward the implementation of it's ambitious plan.

We have undertaken many short & medium term projects ranging from the Garbally Zombie Walk (Trail of Terror), Our Christmas Lighting Project, Window Display Competitions, Leaflet Drops, Enterprising Town Awards, Accessibility Ballinasloe, People Of The Year Awards, St. Brigid's Future Use Seminar, Library Innovation Space, Pulse Network for new entrepreneurs, Hidden Heartlands Tourism Cluster, Sustainability Town, 10 Year Plan, - to name but a few all

with the help and support from many of the clubs, groups and individuals.

As a group post pandemic feel that we have exhausted our individual and group collective after some 9 years of pursuing an agenda for the betterment of the town and our hinterland.

We need new helpers -whether they are retired, unemployed, students, parents singletons, members of immigrant community, farmers business people, teachers, commuters – ANYONE that wishes to improve our community and is willing to give some time to make that happen is welcome.

Please drop an email to our Co ordinator Anita Tuohy at ballinasloetownteam@gmail.com with what you are interested in, what skills you might have and what you'd like to work on. We are regrouping and relaunching during the early part of summer with some activities and hope to see some new faces !

Ní neart go cur le chéile!



Senator **AI SLING DOLAN**

Your proud Representative for Ballinasloe

FINE GAEL ★



Society Street,
Ballinasloe, County Galway.
☎ 087 9400 383
✉ aisling.dolan@oireachtas.ie
📱 📧 📷

Available by Appointment

BALLINASLOE COUNSELLING AND PSYCHOTHERAPY

The pandemic made us all pause.

For some this brought up difficult feelings they had been avoiding.

Others experienced stress, grief, anxiety, low mood or relationship problems.

It helps to talk through these in counselling.



FRANK KENNEDY
M.SC. PSYCHOTHERAPY
ACCREDITED WITH
I.A.C.P. AND I.A.H.I.P.

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



Laura King B.C.L., L.L.B.

Ballinasloe law firm Patrick Hogan and Company has established a new full-time office in Mountbellew, increasing the firm's physical proximity to its private and business clients located in the area and wider Galway region.

This office is the firm's second office with them already having a base in Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe. The new office is located at Market Square, Mountbellew and is opening on a

full-time basis, Monday to Friday (9.30 am to 5.30 pm). Clients will be able to avail of the firm's personal injury, property law and administration of estate services.

As part of the launch, the firm will be offering a free will-making service for new and existing clients for the first fortnight of May 2022 (2 May 2022 to 16 May 2022).

Patrick Hogan and Company is now led by John Glynn's son, Brendan Glynn. Brendan joined the firm after working for Matheson, Ireland's largest law firm for seven years. Brendan is delighted to announce that probate practice and property law specialist Laura King has joined the firm. Laura hails from Mountbellew and has 20 years of experience practising in mid to large size Dublin law firms in the areas of wills, administration of estates and property law.

Principal of Patrick Hogan and Company, Brendan Glynn said: "Mountbellew is a hub for many people, farmers and businesses located in the region. It is clear to me from my dealings with clients that it is a thriving town and is continuing to grow with many services within a large catchment area making it an attractive place in which to set up a full-time office. Thankfully, due to the reputable work of my predecessors we have to date had the benefit of a loyal client base in the area and we hope

to build on that and increase our proximity to our clients and local businesses".

Laura is very excited to return home and states "I am excited to lead our new office and to be of service to our existing clients and hopefully new clients in the area. We pride ourselves on client service and the new office will enable us offer enhanced levels of service to our clients. We are enthusiastic about the move to our new office and the opportunities this will bring".

The new Mountbellew office is contactable on (090) 962 3377 or mountbellew@phogan.ie.



P. Hogan's new Mountbellew office

ATHLONE CHIMNEY REPAIRS

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

For Professional Advice
Contact John Hibbitt



Tel: 090 9673336

Mob: 086 2678350

Email: info@athlonechimneyrepairs.ie

BUSINESS

J & S Photos

KODAK EXPRESS DIGITAL SOLUTIONS

10 Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway

Tel: 09096 31566 Email: jskodakexpress@gmail.com

We provide a wide range of services in store:

- Digital Printing
- Picture Framing
- Id photos
- Passport photos & online passport photos
- Canvas Prints • Poster Prints
- Photocopying & Laminating
- A wide range of Personalised Products



Kodak Express
Digital Solutions

Find us on J&S Photos

Ahascragh Distillery recently hosted their first tasting event in Brewery Lane, Ballinasloe, to mark the launch of their newest whiskey releases. Joined by local businesses, supporters and whiskey enthusiasts, they kick-started St Patrick's Day celebrations with a fantastic selection of tastings. Some of the proceeds from the event will be donated to UNICEF's campaign to support the Children of Ukraine.

Earlier that day, Ahascragh Distillery released two unique 20-year-old Single Malt Irish Whiskeys. These exceptional spirits have been finished in Italian Amarone Red Wine casks and Spanish Pedro Ximénez White Wine casks. Guests at the event were some of the very first people to taste these premium whiskeys.

The Pedro Ximénez cask finish brings a new level of depth and complexity to this remarkable liquid. Toasted nuts, figs, raisins and dark chocolate enhance the palette and build to a rich, long finish.

Finishing in the Amarone cask elevates this exceptional whiskey to new heights of texture and flavour. Red fruits, milk chocolate and nutmeg explode on the palate and lead to a lasting, velvet finish.

Last year, Ahascragh Distillery launched 5 products in the Family Bond Series including three Clan Colla Irish whiskeys, UAIS Irish Whiskey and Xin Gin. The introduction of these new Single Malt releases ensures that there is something for everyone. The collection now ranges from super premium Irish whiskeys with unique flavours and depth to more accessible spirits for casual whiskey drinkers.

Gareth McAllister, Ahascragh Distillery's Founder said "I am delighted to see the Clan Colla collection continue to expand. We have hand-selected some of the highest quality aged malt available, finished it in exceptional casks that elevate the flavour and texture and bottled it in our home in the West of Ireland. It was a privilege to share our newest whiskeys with local supporters and friends. These premium releases are designed to seal bonds and celebrate unforgettable moments and occasions."

Founders, Gareth and Michelle McAllister also announced some exciting news on the night. Their Xin Gin was recently awarded a gold medal at the International Wine and Spirits Awards and a bronze medal at the World Gin Awards for Best Contemporary Irish gin. Clan Colla 11 Year Old Blend and 19 Year Old Single Malt also won silver medals at the International Wine and Spirits Awards.

Clan Colla Irish Whiskey, UAIS Irish Whiskey and Xin Gin are available locally from Carry Out Ballinasloe, Grenham's Off License, McCambridge's of Galway and online via Celtic Whiskey Shop and Irish Malts.



Michelle and Gareth McAllister founders



Dermot O'Mahony, Michelle McAllister, Mary O'Mahony, Gareth McAllister



L-R Ann Greene, Alison Greene, Kevin Greene

Paddy Keane I.P.A.V.

AUCTIONEERS • VALUERS • ESTATE AGENTS

www.ballinasloeproperties.com P.S.R.A Licence No 002056

Specialists in:-

- ▶ **Property Sales & Valuations**
- ▶ **Property Transfer Valuations**
- ▶ **Probate and Tax Valuations**
- ▶ **Farm Retirement and Land Leases**
- ▶ **Property Rental and Management**

Contemplating Selling?

Our Location Could Sell Your Location



Main Street, Ballinasloe

Tel: 090 96 42339 / 087 260 9310

Email: paddykeane@eircom.net

www.paddykeane.com

**Houses & Lands urgently
Required for Genuine Clients.**



Ballinasloe Training Workshop Canal House is celebrating 45 years as a Centre this year. Throughout the history of the organisation, there have been many staff and learners that have come and gone but two familiar faces have remained a constant.

Michael Bradley started working with Canal House 27 years ago and Phil Lucas 20 years ago. Michael worked as the Centre Caretaker and Phil as the Centre Administrator. Michael's passion and dedication for the project is well known, he put his heart and soul into his work, keeping the Centre shining and running well, as well as feeding the trainees (and staff) and immediately tackling any job that needed to be done. Phil was a huge support to the staff and learners, both in her role as Administrator and also going above and beyond for anyone who needed help.

Canal House was the first Community based organisation established under the Probation Service in the country. The

project was set up with the aim to support young people in the community obtain employment skills and practical work skills and

programmes that were also of benefit to the community.

They look to increase the skills, confidence and qualifications of their learners, enabling increased employment and life opportunities and outcomes, and reduction in re-offending. The key objective of the project is for clients to acquire sustainable employment or access to further training or education.

A retirement gathering was held in the centre recently to celebrate the pair's association with the workshop. Manager Orla McCaffrey stated at the function: "We would like to express our gratitude for the many years of hard work and the great times we had working alongside them. All of us are proud to have worked alongside you both, your support, dedication and kindness will stay long with us all. More sincere, trustworthy and warm people it would be hard to find anywhere. And although we are all so sad to say goodbye the lovely memories, the fun times and warmth won't be forgotten."

Board Chairman Páraic Lawless stated: "The Centre has been lucky to have two such dedicated staff members and we are very appreciative of their work. They have embraced all of the changes over the years and been a huge support to all of the staff and trainees over this period. We wish the best of luck to Jamie Ward and Liam Lynch their replacements."



Phil and Michael at the retirement function.



Phil and Michael with staff and learners at Canal House

Talking Heads HAIR & BEAUTY

Opening Hours

Tuesday to Friday
9.30am - 6.00pm

Saturday
8.30am - 4.00pm

Late Opening

Thursday

(By Appointment)

(090) 9642189

(087) 2989492

info@talkingheads.ie



◆ Colours ◆ Cuts ◆ Up Styles ◆

◆ Wedding Parties ◆

📍 MAIN STREET, BALLINASLOE

Senator Eugene

Murphy

Seánad Spokesperson on Community,
Rural Affairs and the Islands

DELIVERING FOR THE PEOPLE OF BALLINASLOE

Government funding secured for East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support to purchase a vehicle to transport patients requiring treatment

Seánad Éireann, Leinster House,
Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

Tel: 01-6183056

Email: eugene.murphy@oireachtas.ie

📧 @EugeneMurphy
📧 @SenatorEMurphy



FIANNA Fáil
THE REPUBLICAN PARTY



Dr. Konrad of Portiuncula Hospital organised a huge collection of essentials for Ukrainian soldiers and refugees recently. The response from the local area was incredible and everyone contributed lots of essentials including blankets, towels, warm clothing, children's clothing, toiletries, lots of dry food, flashlight batteries and medical supplies. The goods were transported to Dublin where two articulated lorries were filled and brought to a humanitarian aid centre in Poland to be distributed to thousands of Ukrainians refugees.

Dr. Konrad said he was overwhelmed by the generosity of the locals: "Huge thanks to the people who contributed, the response was massive. It really was more than we had expected. We actually received more than we had the capacity for but luckily, we had another warehouse assigned to us by authorities. I have been here for ten years, and I know the generosity of Irish people, especially when there is a crisis but the response really was just unbelievable. It was really heart-warming to see so many people are willing to help."

He explained there were still supplies being donated after the day of the collection and they are being distributed to Ukrainians who have moved to Ireland: "There is still stuff being donated and that is currently going to Ukrainians that have settled here, so we are trying to supply goods to them around the country. I know a family living in a three-bedroom house and there are nine people from Ukraine coming in on top of them. So, for the moment the supplies will probably be distributed here but probably in a few weeks time, some logistic centre will need help in Ukraine and Poland. Whatever they request we hope we can answer them."

"If there is to be a demand for more goods, we will be notifying people through social media and hopefully we will see a response like we have already seen," he added.

Dr. Konrad emphasised the importance of everyone's efforts in the collection: "It was a huge team effort, there were thousands of people involved. I want to emphasise that the people who contributed were the real people making the difference. I'm basically channelling that help to get it to these places, so our role was really minimal, and it was the public that made the real impact."

Fr. Bernie Costello, Chaplin in the hospital, has also been overseeing a financial collection for the support of the people in Ukraine: "I wish to thank you, the people of Ballinasloe and the surrounding areas for your generous financial contributions in support of my friends in Ukraine. Your generosity continues to be overwhelming and is very much appreciated by the people in Lviv – up to this point I have received €14,740 which has been transferred as of 24 March. Fr. Taras who is in charge of the parish of St. Peter and St Paul, Garrison Church, Lviv is overseeing the distribution of the money."



Local Kids living in Garbally Oaks recently hosted a cake sale with the proceeds donated to the Ukraine fund. Pictured at the presentation is I-R Azhar Goni, Prescott Mwase, Aislinn Coughlan, Prudence Mwase, Tahmid Chowdhury, Manha Tazzaz, Ashar Hassan, Yousulf Nasser with Aoife Coughlan & Fr Bernie Costello.



Dr Konrad, Ukrainian Aid Appeal Coordinator and Ukrainian Aid volunteers Nora O'Dowd, Cllr Evelyn Parsons, Barbara O'Shea, Fr. Bernie Costello outside Portiuncula Hospital



"Dedicated to what we do"

Fundraiser for Ukraine



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

Ryan's Pub stands proudly today in Ballinasloe's Society Street, almost eighty years after psychiatric nurse Martin Ryan decided to open for business in 1934. As it passed down through family members, now the fifth generation of Ryans hopes to continue the trade.

However, it was the founder's son, Michael J. Ryan, that is most prominently associated with the "old-time pub." A noted all-round sportsman, Michael was a champion cyclist, both on the track and road, competing with the herculean Goode brothers and winning an All-Ireland medal in 1928. He was a life-long member of the NACA (National Athletic and Cycling Association) and for many years was secretary of the Galway Co. Board of that body. He was also the official starter at many sports meetings around the country.

Originally a bar and grocery outlet, the ambitious Michael Ryan's pub became a great sporting venue. The inside of the premises are cluttered with photographs of teams and sporting heroes over the past century. It still remains an "old time pub" where you can get a nice quite pint and enjoy the banter. A sign behind the bar states "We don't have Wi-fi, we talk to each other." Ryan's still has that personal touch.

Michael Ryan married Anna Flynn in the 30's and then decided to supplement his income by joining the clerical staff of the ESB. Some years later he became branch manager of the Social Welfare Employment Office, located at the rear of the premises and which was staffed by his daughters, Eithne and Madge as well as Celia McCafferty and others. His wife Anna became the licensee of the pub, Michael kept his other jobs going and still remained an active member of the local athletic club as well as the Town Development Association, the Fair and Festival, Licensed Vintners' Association and many more. He was also instrumental, with the late Fr. Kevin Ryle, in establishing the famous Ballinasloe Relays in the mid 1950's.

Because of its sporting allegiance, Ryan's Pub played a significant role in the town's hurling and football game. Every Friday morning there was a surge of youngsters, and seniors, to see if their names were up on the list displayed on the window, for weekend games. There were many tears shed when one's name did not appear-but then there was always next Friday. In the 60's "Von Ryan's Express" brought GAA supporters on many trips to Croke Park and around the country.

Michael J. Ryan made a short foray into politics in 1974 and was elected as a UDC Independent candidate. His career was short because after attending only one meeting he was forced to resign because of his position as Branch Manager of the Employment Exchange. Following his death, his late daughter Madge was appointed manager and after her passing her daughter, June Walshe took over the role, in a new premises at the rear of Main Street.

Open seven days a week, from 7.30 pm to closing time, Ryan's pub now sees Michael J's eldest son, Martin, in charge. "It's a family-run pub. We have my brother Michael, my son and daughter Conor and Roisin, as well as my grandson Fionn in



The late Michael J. Ryan with his son Martin.

TRAINING COURSES 2022

BOOK ONLINE

www.localenterprise.ie/Galway

TODAY!

Oifig Fiontair Áitiúil
Local Enterprise Office
Gaillimh · Galway

Costing & Pricing
your product
€15

Visual Storytelling
€25

Build a Wordpress
website
€15

Business
Planning course
€25

LinkedIn Leverage
€15

Facebook
for Business
€25

Achieving
Success in Sales
€15

Networking Skills

TikTok for
business

Instagram
Advanced

To see all our courses,
visit localenterprise.ie/Galway





Martin Ryan behind the oldest counter in town

the business. We are still an 'old-time' pub. We haven't changed much and its now in the 5th generation of the family. Cards were always a big attraction here, particularly the Christmas Hampers but because of Covid we haven't seen a card for the past two years. But business is booming, we can't complain" said Martin.

"It's amazing the number of overseas visitors that call each year with fond memories of my late father and mother, who most of them met when they came over for the Great October Fair. My father was chairman in 1958 and crowned the mighty Mattie Giblin as King, whose weight was 36 stone. We love to meet old friends (and new) here in Ryan's" concluded Martin.



Fred Kilmartin LTD
Ballinasloe
Over 60 Years Serving Motorists

FORD PUMA



SMART ON EVERY LEVEL

Available from €229 Per Month* on Ford Options

*Subject to availability. Terms and conditions apply. Selected models only.



ATHLONE ROAD, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY.
sales@fredkilmartinltd.ie • www.fredkilmartinltd.ie

P: 090 963 0800
Micheal: 087 133 5921
John: 087 416 5623

The full throated roar in stereo from An Tain and across to Joe's through the St. Patrick's Day crowd in the Square confirmed, with beaming smiles to many, that Flooring Porter had been victorious in the famous Cotswolds Mecca of National Hunt Racing.

The Flooring Porter story started in spring 2018 when a group of lifelong racing fans spotted a young horse for sale on a Facebook ad. The four-man syndicate of Edward Hogarty, Kerrill Creaven, Alan and Tommy Sweeney of South Roscommon extraction bought him from trainer Gavin Cromwell for €5,000 after going to view two different horses.

Our Superhero horse name came about because Hogarty owns a local flooring business in Woodmount and Creaven and Alan Sweeney leased the local The Countryman Pub at the time. The iconic black and white jockey colours represent a pint of porter.

In 2021, the mount was backed to 12/1 to win the Paddy Power Stayers Hurdle in Cheltenham. And after an impeccably judged front-running ride by Danny Mullins, Porter romped home.

The victory caused outright jubilation around the area, says Edward Hogarty: "The feeling after Porter crossed the line in Cheltenham was of sheer joy for the whole parish, never mind just the syndicate members and our families. No one expected it and everyone benefitted from his victory. It's unbelievable, the amount of people that come into our shops and tell me that Flooring Porters winnings are paying for their paint, rugs, or their flooring. So many local people have benefitted from it and it's really great to see," he added

"From lifelong racing fans sitting at home watching races, to having your own horse crossing the finish line first in a grade one race, it really is an unbelievable feeling," says Ed.

He will go down in history books for being one of the only



horses to win the Stayers Hurdle twice in a row!

Seldom has a victory been celebrated so wildly at the festival or at home. Ed said: "I have three beautiful children, but Thursday was definitely the best day of my life. It was incredible.

"We came back to Joe's in Ballinasloe on Friday and the publican there told us he hadn't seen scenes like it since Italia '90! I'm only 39 and won't be 40 until May, but I've already had my two hips replaced. These have been the best few days of my life. I'll never forget them."

When asked did they clear a million from the bookies he laughed "We had a few quid on all right, but we definitely didn't win a million!" states Edward.

He said: "It's amazing to see what Flooring Porter has done for the four of us. He's shown that syndicates can have success on the biggest stage and you don't need to be a multimillionaire to own a racehorse. And, the craic is mighty too!"

Mountbellew might have their Bobby Joe – but Ballinasloe is getting mighty fond of Flooring Porter!

FIRST FOR VALUE
HOGARTY'S
FLOORING AND DIY

BIRCHGROVE, CREAGH, BALLINASLOE.
T: 090 964 3109
www.hogartysdirect.ie Find us on  

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO DECORATE YOUR HOME
Laminate Flooring - Carpets - Vinyls - Paint - Rugs - Frenchic Paint - Wallpaper - Lighting



Wide Carpet Binding for Stair Runners now available



Clean, Green & Maintenance Free Artificial Grass



1000's of Rug's in Stock at Amazing Prices



Laminate Flooring from €5 sq. yard



Your Only Local Stockist of the Extremely Popular Frenchic Paint

The Clontuskert Community Development Group was formed by a group of 13 Clontuskert locals at the back end of last year. The group was formed with the aim to support the community to develop in ways that benefit the people and reflect the values and needs of the whole community.

Chairperson Maria Brennan outlined their focus: "Our three main objectives are to determine what matters most to members of the community, involve everyone in the consultation process. Use the ideas and aspirations from our community consultation as the foundation for future community projects" states Maria.

"A Development group in any area is a key driver of engaging people on the ground. Listening to people's ideas, needs, and values and this leads to people being involved in their areas development and influencing what happens in their community," she added.

Their first Public Meeting/Community Consultation with people from the area took place recently in the Ballinasloe Rugby Club's Pavillion. The children from Clontuskert NS all created art pieces for their 'Clontuskert Idea' and these Playgrounds, parks, tracks and pitches were on display on the walls.

The meeting was well attended with over 50 people gathered. Speakers on the night included stalwarts of past and present

community development with Patsy Cormican (Sports Field Development) and Joe Molloy (Clontuskert Heritage) reminding the audience what has been achieved and how, though not without effort it has withstood the test of time.

Then it was the people's turn to have their say and everyone was assigned a topic and given time to get their ideas onto paper. The

discussions and feedback which followed were enthusiastic and energetic with all participants getting to express their views for the benefit of the area.

Catherine Motherway, the final speaker said as they look forward, to remember the importance of environment, sustainability and of sharing the work out between people. She complimented the children's art and input saying they had remembered these points very well.

At the end of the night, Maria Brennan thanked all who had helped bring the night to fruition and the people who had come and participated. Far from being the end, however, she said this is the beginning of them carving out our future together. In April, the group will finalise a plan in areas of priority in consultation with the wider community.

For more updates see their Facebook page Clontuskert Community Development Group.



Joe Molloy speaking on the night



Patsy Cormican speaking on the night



Participants on the night consult at their tables

corrib  oil

corrib  deli



Order your Home Heating Oil instore.



Earn Rewards Points on your oil orders which can be redeemed instore

T&C Apply

Spar Convenience Store, Corrib Deli Serving Breakfast, Lunch & Dinner
Insomnia Coffee, Corrib Bakery Range

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

The Inland Waterways Association of Ireland have officially recognised the River Suck Branch as a new club and now that they are formed and ratified their plan going forward is to promote and represent all users of the local waterways.

Their first AGM was held recently, and the first committee was elected: Chairman Graham Bartlett; Secretary Padraig Glynn; Treasurer Darragh Dolan; Vice-Chairman: Micheal Breathnach; PRO: Fergal Cusack; Membership Officer: Ian Lucas; Council Rep: Leo Kiernan; Committee Member: Kenny Murray.

Chairman Graham Bartlett stated: "Now that the branch is up and running we would like to invite new members and participation from people in the locality and we are keen to hear from anyone with suggestions, advice and would like to get involved in join us on our mission to see more traffic, activities and people on our local river over the coming months. From speaking to locals there is a strong appetite for improved access and facilities and the river is deemed an undervalued and under-utilised facility to attract tourists to the localities along its course."

The HBA (Heritage Boat Association) is planning to hold their 21st Anniversary in the Ballinasloe Marina, over the June Bank Holiday Weekend and will see a large gathering of the original canal barges which would have back in the past have travelled to the Old Ballinasloe Harbour when the Grand Canal extended



Back L to R: Micheal Breathnach, Fergal Cusack, John Fitzgerald (Hon Sec of Iwai Executive), Kenny Murray, John Dolan (Past President of Iwai), Leo Kiernan. Front L to R: Padraig Glynn, Graham Bartlett, Darragh Dolan

to deliver produce to Ballinasloe before the canal ceased commercial operations in 1961. This will be a great opportunity to get up close to the very machines which were once part of everyday life in Ballinasloe and bring back memories for those who remember the barges in action.

Membership is now open to the public and anyone can now join via the Iwai Website www.iwai.ie or by email: membership@iwai.ie and upon joining you can select River Suck as your affiliated branch. Membership will include a quarterly magazine and access to a community of waterway enthusiasts with events taking place regularly around the country. For more updates on the branch's activities, you can join the group Iwai River Suck Branch on Facebook.

BALLINASLOE LIONS CLUB REBOOT

The Ballinasloe Club is celebrating 40 years of service to Ballinasloe and the surrounding parishes and are looking to expand even more in this landmark year. The club are now recruiting new members to bring energy and creativity to some worthwhile community projects, which coincides with Lions Club motto "We Serve".

The main aim of the club is to raise funds within the community and to ensure the money raised stays in and benefits the local area. Recent projects carried out by the club included their annual Christmas food hampers, which was yet again a resounding success last year, facilitating suicide awareness training, family fun day, carers weekend away and bingo.

Caoimhe McGowan of the Lions Club stated: "This is a great opportunity to volunteer for the good of the community. The Lions Club movement is a voluntary international organisation. Lions International is the umbrella organization for thousands of Clubs in over a hundred countries worldwide. Lions are ordinary people from all walks of life who give their time freely to serve their community and beyond through support and aid. Whenever a Lions Club gets together, problems get smaller and communities get better."

The club are welcoming any newcomers to the next meeting and enjoy a cup of coffee on Wednesday 13th April at 8pm in the Shearwater Hotel, Ballinasloe.

CARRY OUT

OFF LICENCE

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

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

090 9642173

Check out our Facebook page and Twitter for monthly offers
Opening Hours Mon-Sat 10.30am - 10pm Sun-12.30-10pm

Ballinasloe Library is back open, and they are starting to welcome back their regular groups for their meet-ups. The Crochet and Knitting group, Cuidiú breastfeeding group, Babies/Toddlers meet-up and the Women's group have all been able to resume their activities in the last few weeks, with the reading groups and computer classes to resume shortly also.

Following on from the lifting of restrictions the Library has been able to host numerous events yet again which have drawn in many visitors and participants. Ireland Reads Day is the national day celebrating reading in Ireland. To celebrate the day the library commissioned a Storytrail, 'Dee the Bee' by author Dolores Keaveney for the Courtyard area. The Cathaoirleach of Galway County Council, Cllr. Peter Keaveney was also there to launch the project.

For International Women's Day there were Personal Development Classes and Community Leadership Courses for women. There was plenty to talk about on the day including presentations on inspirational women, creativity and a book display. They hope to run follow-up courses in the autumn.

As part of the Cúirt festival the library hosted 2 writing workshops 'Words in Motion' for kids and teens who live in Direct Provision to explore and build their creativity through



Cathaoirleach Peter Keaveney with Emma and John Lynch



Dolores Keaveney author of Dee the Bee

words, songs and stories. The event was supported by writer Chiamaka Emyi-Amadi and rapper Celaviedmai. Chiamaka's workshop involved learning about different writing styles, showcasing their own creativity and expressing their emotions through words and building confidence in performing. Celaviedmai spoke to the children about the art of performing on stage and self-confidence.

The Library is open from Wednesday to Sunday from 11:00 - 1:00 pm and 2:00pm and 5:00pm. If you have any questions on how to get involved in any of the activities, or what events are coming up you can email the library on ballinasloe@galwaylibrary.ie and follow their Facebook and Twitter pages @EDBallinasloe for updates.

DARKNESS INTO LIGHT BALLINASLOE RETURNS

A fulfilling experience for individuals, groups and families to join as a community to dispel the stigma of suicide, raise awareness of the free help & supports that Pieta House offers and raise vital finances to allow Pieta House provide lifesaving services.

Save the date: 4:15am Saturday May 7th 2022.

Pre-Registration a must now at darknessintolight.ie

DIL Ballinasloe Kerrill Burke, Aiden Lonergan, Joanne Jordan, Shane Le Comber, Brian Derrane



TOYS

BOOKS



SALMONS

DEPARTMENT STORE

GIFTS



***New online store open
click and collect
service available***

**see our facebook page for all new products, offers etc:
facebook.com/SalmonsDepartmentStore.**

CLICK & COLLECT AVAILABLE



MAIN STREET, BALLINASLOE, CO. GALWAY.
Tel: 090 9642120 Email: info@salmonstore.ie

Find us on 

www.salmonsonlinestore.com

The Ballinasloe Soroptimists met recently in Gullane's Hotel for a coffee morning to celebrate International Women's Day. There was also a presentation for their members who have given 25-year service to the group.

There were plenty of guest speakers on the day including a prosecutor from Berlin, Kristen Kuhlbrodt and Dr. Afifa from Pakistan, as they shared their interesting experiences as women in society. Miriam Murphy Wood the National Soroptimists president was also in attendance to congratulate the women on their achievement.

Miriam addressed the significance of the club in Ballinasloe: "I am delighted to have been able to congratulate them on their 27 years of service and for giving many members of their club to the national stage. It is amazing what they have done for the town of Ballinasloe and for Galway generally. The women of Ballinasloe they're strong women, they're committed to helping young girls to reach their potential, by going into schools organising public speaking competitions. And coming together with other SI clubs to raise money for charity, they really are a special group," she added.

Ballinasloe Soroptimist President Myrnn Kelly also urged more members to get involved in the club: "We have about 25 members at the moment and we're looking for new members and we would welcome new members into the club."

For those looking to become a member or to find out more about the club's

forthcoming activities, see their Facebook page Soroptimists International Ballinasloe and District or email siballinasloe21@gmail.com.



25-year servants. BR: Maire Hughes, Kathleen Croffy, Mary Jordan, Jean Enright-Mooney, Marie Finnegan, Carina O'Reilly. FR: Marirose Cullinan, Myrnn Kelly, Miriam Murphy Wood, Maria Staunton, Kitty McHugh



Dr Afifa speaks to crowd on the day



Kerstin Kuhlbrodt speaks to audience



National Soroptimist President Miriam Murphy Wood speaks

fresh • tasty

100% IRISH

5oz BEEF BURGER

7 1/2 OZ BEEF BURGER

5oz BACON & CHEESE

~ Proud to work with Irish suppliers for over 40 years ~

Supermac's

FRESH RANGE

BALLINASLOE RESTUARANTS

MAIN ST.

DOLAN'S, DUBLIN RD

SARSFIELD RD.

order
online
supermacs.ie

The Red light has finally turned Green for Ireland's festivals, and the energetic organising committee of Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds in Ballinasloe are now confirming their 9th year's festival dates, will take place from Thursday 8th September to Sunday 12th September 2022.

For the past two years the committee and loyal audience were denied hosting this great gathering of musicians, singers, crafters and dancers lost out in the celebration of music, culture and heritage that this festival has become known for.

This year's festival plans are now well underway for concerts, high energy sessions, workshops, masterclasses, céilí, crafters and more. Whatever route you take, Ballinasloe has a great gateway open to all, with plenty of places to stay, wine, dine and shop.

If you have a note, a step or neither, the festival caters for all ages and interests and promises to be to a safe, lively, fun filled celebration of music, laughter and good craic amongst friends. For further updates keep an eye on their website, social media



pages and posters.

Now, more than ever, festivals have substantial operation costs, and this year the organisers are hosting a fundraising event of a difference, in what promises to be a great night of nostalgia and memories. They are hosting the 'Joe Dolan Tribute Show' featuring Paschal Brennan and his 3-piece band in Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe on Friday June 17th 2022.

Get your tickets early to avoid disappointment as the saying goes "There's No Show like the Joe Show". Tickets are available from committee members and on the festival website.

CO. FLEADH RETURNS AFTER DECADE

It is 10 years since Ballinasloe last hosted a fleadh and the local Comhaltas Branch is looking forward to this being a real restart after Covid 19.

The Galway County Fleadh will take place this year from the 20th to the 22nd May 2022. It has been 2 years since a Galway Fleadh has been hosted by any town or branch due to the pandemic, so excitement is high for the influx of music, song, dance, craic and visitors to the Ballinasloe area for the weekend.

The weekend will begin with an Official Opening and Session on Friday the 20th of May. Saturday the 21st of May will see the start to the weekend of competitions, which will be held in Ard Scoil Mhuire and Scoil an Chroí Naofa school complexes.

Over 1500 competitors will assemble over the two days with the hopes of securing a qualifying position to the Regional Fleadh – Connacht Fleadh 2022 to be held in Sligo. Saturday will see Under

10, Under 12 and Under 15 Competitions being held in a large variety of Instruments as well as singing and Comhra Gaelige.

Sunday sees competitions in the Under 18 and Over 18 ages groups, as well as dancing. Throughout both days a large entry is expected for Grupai Cheoil and Ceili Band competitions in all ages.

17 Branches from all over County Galway will have participants in the competitions which should manifest a large influx of visitors to the area for the weekend. The competitions are open to the public to attend and all are encouraged to hear and see the great talented performers.

On the Saturday night of the Fleadh, there will be a Ceili held in Gullane's Hotel as well as numerous pub music sessions throughout the weekend.

More details and a timetable will be issued closer to the time. For more information, please check out the website www.galwaycomhaltas.ie or follow us on Facebook/Instagram @galwaycomhaltas

HUTCHINSON DAVIDSON Solicitors



Elaine Bannerton
B.A. LLB.

PRACTICE AREAS INCLUDE:

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

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

EMAIL: info@hutchinsondavidson.ie

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



www.hutchinsondavidsonsolicitors.ie

The Ballinasloe Active Retirement Group have been very busy of late with plenty of events for all their members to get involved in.

The group took part in the St. Patrick's Day parade to large acclaim from all spectators. Another joyful event for the group was when they celebrated their 20th anniversary recently in Gullane's. Plenty of faces, old and new, were in attendance on what was a special day for all involved.

Meanwhile, the A.R.A. held their AGM recently in front of a large attendance. They paid tribute to their members who had passed away since they last met almost two years ago. During the year there was a special Mass to celebrate the lives of the members the group had lost during the pandemic.

The election of Officers then followed. Chairperson – Margaret Brennan; Assistant Chairperson – Mgt. McDonnell; Secretary – Deirdre Hogan; Treasurer – Michael Colohan, Asst.Treasurer-Anne Duffy.

Executive Committee: Mgt. Brennan, Deirdre Hogan, Michael Colohan, Goretti Fallon, Fr. Benny Flanagan, Anne Duffy, Mgt. McDonnell, Angela Flynn

Social Committee: Anne Duffy, Anne Murray, Bridie Whelan, Maura Rafter, Ann Stevens. **PRO** – Chris O'Flynn. **IT**-.Douglas Rafter

With plenty of events in the pipeline to keep everyone going, the A.R.A are looking for new members and for any enquiries on how to join contact Margaret Brennan, (090) 964 2061 or Chris O'Flynn on (087) 649 2466 or visit their website www.ballinasloeactiveretirement.com

Chairperson Margaret Brennan stated: "New members are always welcome. The aim of the A.R.A. is to enhance the lives of older people and eliminate loneliness through friendship, information and communication. Members can avail of a wide range of activities which include, Bowls, Bridge, Book club, Singing Group (under the direction of the wonderful Marie Power), walking group followed by light exercises, and Knitting/ Crafts."

Monthly meetings for all members are held on the first Wednesday of the month in Gullane's Hotel at 3 pm with informal meetings every other Wednesday in Gullane's at 3 pm.



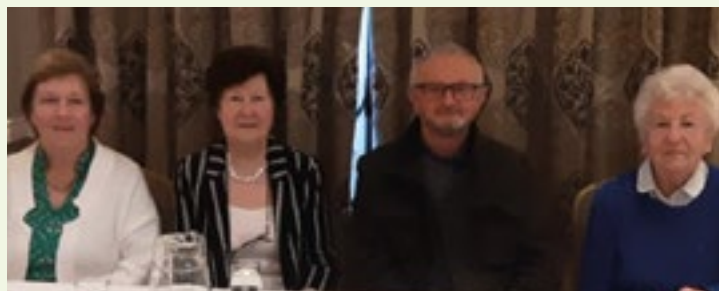
John Boland, Noelle Rohan, Fr. Benny Flanagan (20th Anniversary)



Maria Brannelly, Grace Kenny, Francis Hurley, Nancy Carr (20th Anniversary)



FR: Anne Duffy, Ann Murray, Bridie Whelan (AGM)
BR: Maura Rafter, Ann Stevens (AGM)



Deirdre Hogan, Margaret Brennan, Michael Colohan, Chris O' Flynn

#LocalJobs
#LocalHealthServices

**NAUGHTEN
DENIS** INDEPENDENT TD

Call: (090) 6627557
Email: dnaughten@oir.ie



www.DenisNaughten.ie Poster Free Campaign posterfree.ie



**HIRE • SALES •
SERVICE** Est. 1990

Poolboy Ind. Est. Ballinasloe

T: 0909642888 E: sales@domachire.com www.domachire.com

**Full range of tools and
equipment for hire or sale**

GARDEN EQUIPMENT SERVICE

Hire • Sales • Service

Lawnmowers / Chainsaws /
Strimmers / Hedgtrimmers etc...

POWERWASHERS

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

Free local Delivery / collection of equipment.





Students in the Rectory Orchard

The children of The Glebe National School are growing a better future, through a range of exciting ecological projects in Aughrim. They recently planted twenty fruit trees in the rectory orchard - one for each child in the school.

The trees were donated by two different charities, who are keen to encourage local communities to support biodiversity: DCs for Bees and Trees on the Land. Local gardeners, Thomas Dolan, Danny Reddan and Ross Weily helped the children in the work of planting.

"Planting trees helps the environment" explains one student. "They give us oxygen and take the bad gas out of the air" she said. "Trees give a home to birds and animals" adds a second child. "They help to welcome bees to the garden and that makes all the plants to grow better" comments another.

It is all part of a fruitful collaboration between the school and wider community in recent years, on a number of exciting environmental initiatives. From seed-time to harvest, the students have lessons in two historic walled gardens, as part of The Rectory Garden Project.

Reverend John Godfrey, Church of Ireland Rector, explained: "Learning to grow their own greens is helping the children to go green. Whether they are planting potatoes or picking tomatoes, the children are gaining invaluable insights into healthy eating, sustainable living and the cycles of nature. Most importantly of all, they are learning to be grateful and generous. And that's what caring for the environment is all about."



Pupils planting their trees



The Glebe National School
Aughrim

For more information or to arrange an appointment, contact us on 090 9673650 or email us at info@theglebens.com

Check out our website
www.theglebens.com

NOW ENROLLING ALL CLASSES

- Multi-denominational
- Excellent pupil-teacher ratios
- Caring, child-centred approach
- Supportive and inclusive learning environment
- Picturesque setting
- Safe parking
- Swimming, hurling, gardening and ecological projects
- Just 5 kilometres from Ballinasloe
- Bus services available from Aughrim & Ballinasloe





Two new classrooms have opened at St Teresa's Special School which is dedicated to the education of children with moderate, severe and profound special needs and or autism.



Principal Anita O'Reilly with some members of the St. Teresa's Staff.

The school started with 11 students a decade ago and now has 36 children enrolled this year and caters to a wide catchment area across Galway, Roscommon, Offaly and Westmeath. The new classrooms are catering for 12 very thrilled pupils with all their new space and light!

Senator Aisling Dolan stated: "This is a great day for children, parents and staff of St Teresa's Special School. Children now have the space they need to develop and with additional supports to help manage complex needs. St Teresa's is a phenomenal place for children with an incredible staff and advocates."

Permissions and Planning was sought by the Directors of B.A.C.D. in order to ease the plight of the school. Site works commenced on the 10th of January on the lawn just opposite their current classroom suites on the ground floor of the Enterprise Centre, within 10 weeks the builders had left the site and handover was complete.

Principal Anita O'Reilly stated: "We have the keys and the classrooms are open. Children and staff are delighted and there will be a lot of interest in our newest classrooms. I have engaged with Department for years to show why this was such an important project for our school. We have parents who travel long distances across Galway and Roscommon to come to our school. Now we have the classrooms for access to excellent teaching and healthcare teams and to give children everything they deserve."

A new four acre site has also been secured by the Department of Education through the HSE for St Teresa's Special School on the existing HSE grounds at Parkmore Creagh. The new school will include a new 8 classrooms.

"This is a crucial investment from the Department of Education and the Special Education Needs Organiser (SENO) who supported the school in receiving funding for these classrooms and toilets" said Senator Dolan.



Before



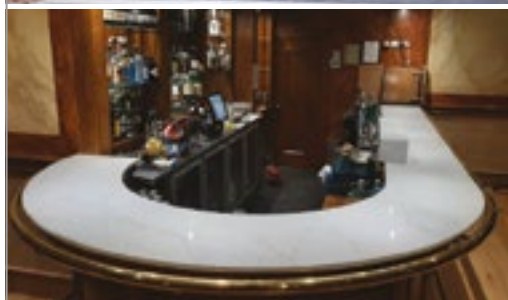
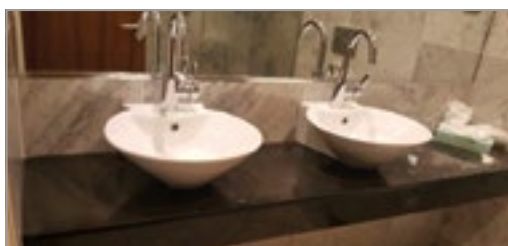
After

CYSTIC FIBROSIS - 65 ROSES DAY

The National 65 Roses Day collection this year will be promoted by two local girls - Caoimhe and Fiadh Ni Luíng daughters of Grainne Ui Luíng (nee Madden) and Caoimhin O Luíng.

Grainne (daughter of our beloved Bandmaster Noel Madden) is a native of Creagh, and presently lives in Maynooth with her husband and two girls. Caoimhe and Fiadh were both born with cystic fibrosis and were delighted to be chosen as the face of the campaign this year - they were thrilled at their "photo call".

The national collection will be held on 8th April 2022 and the Ballinasloe team - ably led by proud Grandparents Mary and Noel Madden - are gearing up for the effort. The picture shows Caoimhe and Fiadh at the national launch of the 65 Roses Day.



TONY DOLPHIN STONEWORKS

Tristane, Aughrim, Ballinasloe.

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

087 260 8055

E: tonydolphinn@gmail.com





There were lots of amazing engineering-based science activities throughout the school to celebrate engineering week. Pupils got lots of opportunities to apply their science knowledge to a wide range of hands-on challenges. There were lots of engineering-based homework activities taking place during the week so many parents got involved too.

The pupils at Scoil Muire gan Smál really enjoyed the events organised for Seachtain na Gaeilge 2022. The children had lots of activities to do - quizzes, art competitions, céilí, games and they had a chance to read books in Irish in class. There were prizes for the children who took part in the various competitions and for the students who used the most Gaeilge during the week!

There was a fantastic reception for the local heroes from the victorious Padraic Pearses club when they came to visit the school recently. With 7 past pupils on the squad, children and staff supporters of the club donned the red and white and cheers and chants echoed around the Astro-Turf area as they celebrated the clubs' historic achievements.

Teacher and ICT co-ordinator Ms. Regina Power organised her annual St Brigid's Cross Fundraiser in aid of The Ballinasloe Social Services. This fundraising initiative is the brainchild of Ms. Power and Ms Blade and has been hugely successful over the past number of years in raising thousands of euros in support of this worthy cause. This year, Ms Power managed to galvanise staff, teachers and community alike and succeeded in planning and overseeing the production and sale of St Brigid's crosses to raise a sum of €2,713.14.



Creagh NS students with a cheque for Ballinasloe Social Services



Engineering week at Creagh NS



Paul Carey and Jack Tumulty of Padraic Pearses with Creagh NS students



Creagh NS students in the St. Patrick's Day Parade

Children of all ages and a few adults too, really got into the spirit by dressing up for World Book Day in the school. There were wizards and witches, superheroes and villains, fairy tale characters and animals of all types to be seen throughout the school. Even Captain Underpants, a rather scary bandit and a really mischievous chicken managed to sneak their way into school on the day!!

Creagh N.S. has a long and proud tradition of taking part in the St Patrick's Day Parade. This year was no different as they entered a group with the theme of celebration. Focused on the celebration of sport, culture, community and the environment, winning first place in the education category.

Hey!

HAVE YOU HEARD ABOUT ZIMMER BIOMET, GALWAY? THEY HAVE AN EXCITING NEW SHIFT!

NEW

FIXED DAYS OR FIXED NIGHTS

Email Your CV to: productbuilders@careerwise.ie or Call 091-394297 for more information

ZIMMER BIOMET

Moving You Forward.™



Val Martin, the First Seniors Captain of Ballinasloe Golf Club was congratulated by many of his friends and club members when he made a trip to the club to mark his 100th birthday

Val Martin from Ard Mhuire, Ballinasloe where he has lived for the last 70 years celebrated his 100 birthday recently. Val's birthday celebrations began with mass in St Michaels Church where he was joined by four generations of his family. Val got a standing ovation from his family & friends as he walked down the aisle after mass before heading to Gullanes Hotel for a family celebration meal.

A few days later a second celebration was held at Ballinasloe Golf Club where Val a former Captain, President and Trustee of the club was joined by many of the great friends he has made over a lifetime of hours that he has spent on the fairways and greens.

When Covid arrived Vals movements were restricted. The trip to town to get salmon for Friday lunch, the odd trip to Galway to check plans at the County Buildings or going to a GAA match all came to an end. Val says that "Life under Covid was worse than life during the Emergency or World War 2". "You could not go out, meet people or go to a match".

Val a native of Portumna was a boarder at Garbally College in the 30's and recalls that the trip home to Portumna was by horse & cart. Following his graduation as a civil engineer from UCG Val took up employment with Bord na Mona where he worked in several key development roles including on the company's Foreign Development Board.

Val, a keen GAA hurling fan played minor hurling for Galway in 1940 and was part of the UCG Fitzgibbon winning team in 1942. Portumna winning the All Ireland Club Title and Galway bring home the Liam McCarthy cup rank amongst his most treasured sporting memories.

Galway and Ahascragh/Fohenagh Hurler Padraig Mannion receiving their Jersey from Ronan Lally (Cooper Leisure) for the upcoming Mannions Easter Camp.

Every child attending the Camp will receive a free Jersey. To book your childs place at the Mannions Easter Camp Text or Whatsapp 087 6472352.



JOHN DOLAN

Auctioneers & Estate Agents



Rathglass, New Inn, Ballinasloe, Co Galway
Large 5 bedroomed dormer house. 40 mins to Galway. Spacious layout. Acc: living, kitchen/dining, 5 beds (1 ens), 2 baths, OFCH, BER C2.



75 Cuil na Canalach Poolboy, Ballinasloe, Co Galway
Stunning 4 bed semi-detached residence. Excellent family home close to town center. Acc: living, kitchen/dining, guest WC, 4 beds (1 ens), bath, BER C2.

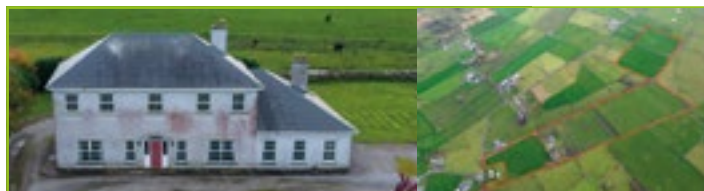
COMING SOON!

Large detached house in Upper Brackernagh
Call John on 0868206690 for more details



55 Brackernagh, Ballinasloe, Co Galway

Ground floor shop unit and self contained 2 bed apartment directly opposite hospital. Great investment. Acc: shop unit, store/office, 2 bed first floor apartment with own entrance, BER G.



Ballinruane, Moylough, Ballinasloe, Co Galway H53 HY58

Large detached house on 33 acres of top quality land. Can be sold in lots. Stables also included Acc: living, kitchen, sunroom, sitting room, study, 2 bathrooms, 4 beds (main ens), stables, BER C2.

THINKING OF SELLING IN 2022????

CALL US ON: 090 964 4933 OR 086 8206 690

BALLINASLOE OFFICE: Main Street, Ballinasloe, Co Galway 0909644933

GALWAY CITY OFFICE: Gray Office Park, Headford Road, Galway 091 376622

M: 0868206690 E: sales@sfdolan.com Web: www.johndolan.ie



PSRA No. 002398

Saint Patrick's Day Parade



PARTICIPANTS AT THIS YEAR'S ST. PATRICKS DAY PARADE INCLUDED Active Retirement Association, Ballinasloe Town Band, Triur Building Construction Services; Western Cleaning Services; P. Clarke & Sons Machinery; Nobel Tree Surgery; Gerry Croffey's Garden and Machinery Centre; Hylands Garden & Machine Centre; The Milkshake Academy; The Indian Community; Napoleon and the Young Queen of the Fair, Fair & Festival; Scoil an Chroí Naofa; Creagh National School; Newtown National School; The Camogie Club; The GAA Club; The GAA Bingo; The Soccer Club; The Soccer Bingo; The Rugby Club; The Broncos Mini Rugby; The Cycling Club; Clogher School of Dance; Civil Defence; Fire Brigade and the Parade colour party was from the local Defence Forces Galway First Infantry Battalion led by Captain John Shaughnessy.

PARADE MARSHALL 2022: Joe Kelly Snr. Society St.

EDUCATION: 1st: Creagh N.S. • 2nd: Scoil an Chraoi Naofa • Special Merit Award: Newtown N.S

CULTURAL: 1st: Clogher School of Dancing • 2nd: Milkshake Academy of Dancing • Special Merit Award: Napoleon and Queen

SPORTING: 1st: Ballinasloe G.A.A • 2nd: Ballinasloe Mini Rugby

COMMERCIAL: 1st: Nobles • 2nd: Hyland Lawnmowers

VOLUNTARY: 1st: Ballinasloe Indian Community • 2nd: Ballinasloe Civil Defence • Special Merit Award: Ballinasloe Active Retirement

TONY COLOHAN PERPETUAL TROPHY (overall award): Ballinasloe Indian Community

SPECIAL RECOGNITION AWARD: Ballinasloe Town Band

SPONSORS: Gullanes Hotel and Conference Centre • Fair and Festival Local Vintners • Ballinasloe Credit Union • Supermacs • Galway County Council

Seachtain na Gaeilge - **SHOP WINDOW:** organized by Conradh na Gaeilge

1st: Kariba's • 2nd: Hubert Dolan • 3rd: NCBI

BUSINESS USING IRISH (GNOTH le gaeilge): Gullanes Hotel

George Francis, the Chair of the Indian Community Group in Ballinasloe, was thrilled with his group winning overall best entry in the parade: "We were extremely happy and proud of winning this prize. It means so much to the group and Indian people here in the town. Our entry was a celebration of Indian culture and traditions. We featured some Punjabi dances and other traditional dances and costumes to showcase our county's culture. There were so many brilliant entries on the day, so we were all delighted.

"There are about 70-80 Indian families in the town with a lot of them working in Portiuncula Hospital. This community group is a great way for us all to get together and socialise and connect with each other. We partake in lots of activities together like badminton and cricket and we all enjoy each other's company and support" explained George.

The group got very enthusiastic applause and welcome throughout the route and were loudly cheered on winning the Over All Entry by the crowd in the Square.

Parade Committee

Johnny Walsh, Chair; Carmel Greally, Tomas Gullane, Mike O'Brien, Shane McNeill, Niall Clarke, Damien Clarke, Jim Doherty, Kathleen Croffy MC, Donal Croffy Gig Rig Co Ordinator.

APRIL 1, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Town Hall
Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main st.
Creagh National School - Table Quiz	9pm	Moycarn Lodge
Live Music	9:30pm	Brewery Lane
Ken Glennan	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - An Other	10pm	An Táin Bar
Texas Holdem Poker	9pm	Joe's Bar
Trad Session	9pm	Emerald Bar

April 2, Saturday

SCÓR Connaught	5pm	Town Hall Theatre
3 Men & a Bass	9:30pm	Brewery Lane
Happy Bar Stars	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - Boogie Men	10pm	An Táin Bar
Dave Mills	10pm	Joe's Bar
Last man Standing	10pm	The Countryman
Live Music	10pm	The Dunlo Tavern

APRIL 3, SUNDAY

Trad & Folk Session	6pm	An Táin Bar
Steven Reilly	7-9pm	Joe's Bar

APRIL 4, MONDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Town Hall
Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main St.

APRIL 5, TUESDAY

GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
-----------	-----	------------------

APRIL 6, WEDNESDAY

Active Retirement Monthly Meeting	3pm	Gullanes Hotel
Set Dancing (Michael Cusack)	8:30 - 10pm	Town Hall
Soccer Club Bingo	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Trad & Folk Session	9pm	An Táin Bar
Cuidiú Breastfeeding Group	11am - 12:30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Crochet and Knitting Group	11am - 12:45pm	Ballinasloe Library
Live Music	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane

APRIL 7, THURSDAY

Nathan Carter Concert	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Vinyl Night - Jeff Collins	8pm	An Táin Bar
Womens Group	11am - 12:30	Ballinasloe Library

APRIL 8, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Town Hall
Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main St.
Live Music	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
Don O	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - Dinner Dance	10pm	An Táin Bar
Texas Holdem Poker	9pm	Joe's Bar
Trad Session	9pm	Emerald Bar

APRIL 9, SATURDAY

Blessing of the Palms (Mass)	7pm	St. Michaels Church
Acoustic ninjas	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
Happy Bar Stars	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - Holi Bops	10pm	An Táin Bar
DJ Cornelius	10pm	Joe's Bar
The Goodfellas	10pm	The Countryman
Live Music	10pm	The Dunlo Tavern

APRIL 10, SUNDAY

Palm Sunday Mass	9am & 12pm	St. Michaels Church
Palm Sunday Mass	10:30am	Our Lady of Lourdes
Holy Communion (Palm Sunday)	10am	St. Johns Church
Holy Communion (Palm Sunday)	11:30pm	Holy Trinity Aughrim
Morning Prayer (Palm Sunday)	12pm	St. Catherines Ahascragh
Fundraiser-Move against Cancer	9am - 9pm	The Square B'sloe
Trad & Folk Session	6pm	An Táin Bar
Tongue & Groove	7-9pm	Joe's Bar

APRIL 11, MONDAY

Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main St.
----------------	------------	------------------------

APRIL 13, WEDNESDAY

Active Retirement Weekly Meeting	3pm	Gullanes Hotel
Soccer Club Bingo	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Set Dancing (Michael Cusack)	8:30 - 10pm	Town Hall
Trad & Folk Session	9pm	An Táin Bar
Baby/Toddler Group	11am - 12:30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Crochet and Knitting Group	11am - 12:45pm	Ballinasloe Library

APRIL 14, THURSDAY

Mass of the Lords Supper (Holy Thursday)	8pm	St. Michaels Church
Institution of the Last Supper	7pm	Holy Trinity Aughrim
Dan McCabe Concert	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Vinyl Night - Jeff Collins	8pm	An Táin Bar

APRIL 15, FRIDAY

Stations of the Cross Ecumenical Procession	12 noon	Entrance to Duggan Pk.
Celebration of the Lords Passion	3pm	St. Michaels Church
Celebration of the Lords Passion	3pm	Our Lady of Lourdes
Prayer around the Cross	7pm	St. Michaels Church
Sponsored Cycle 15K (B'sloe Rugby Club)	11am	B'sloe Rugby Club

Keith & Liam	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
Niall Ruthledge	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - See You Cuz	10pm	An Táin Bar
Trad Session	9pm	Emerald Bar

APRIL 16, SATURDAY

The Easter Vigil	8pm	St. Michaels Church
Holy Sat. Morning - Blessing of Food	11am	St. Michaels Church
Sean Crehan	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - Na Riadoiri	10pm	An Táin Bar
Beggars Velvet	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
JJ Byrne	10pm	Joe's Bar
Eanna Moloney	10pm	The Countryman
Riverfest Easter Edition	3pm	Lukers Shannonbridge
Live Music	10pm	The Dunlo Tavern

APRIL 17, SUNDAY

Easter Sunday Dawn Mass	6am	Clontuskert Abbey
Easter Sunday Mass	9am & 12noon	St. Michaels Church
Easter Sunday Mass	10:30am	Our Lady of Lourdes
Holy Communion Easter Day(united service)	10:30pm	St. Johns Church
Trad & Folk Session	6pm	An Táin Bar
Ken Solo	7-9pm	Joe's Bar
Shane Moore	6pm	The Countryman
Riverfest Easter Edition	3pm	Lukers Shannonbridge

APRIL 18, MONDAY

Golf Fundraiser (Social Services)	All Day	B'sloe Golf Club
-----------------------------------	---------	------------------

APRIL 19, TUESDAY

GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Let's dance	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane

APRIL 20, WEDNESDAY

Active Retirement Weekly Meeting	3pm	Gullanes Hotel
Soccer Club Bingo	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Set Dancing (Michael Cusack)	8:30 - 10pm	Town Hall
Trad & Folk Session	9pm	An Táin Bar

APRIL 21, THURSDAY

Vinyl Night - Jeff Collins	8pm	An Táin Bar
Women's Group	11am - 12:30pm	Ballinasloe Library

APRIL 22, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Town Hall
Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main St.
Eamonn O'Neill	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - Jeff Collins	10pm	An Táin Bar
Toxic Twins	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
Texas Holdem Poker	9pm	Joe's Bar
Trad Session	9pm	Emerald Bar

APRIL 23, SATURDAY

Shane Moore	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - Simplicity	10pm	An Táin Bar
Loose rooster	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
Finnegan's Fury	10pm	Joe's Bar
Ollie Rocks	10pm	The Countryman
Live Music	10pm	The Dunlo Tavern

APRIL 24, SUNDAY

Trad & Folk Session	6pm	An Táin Bar
Eanna Moloney	7pm	The Countryman
Alex Roe	7-9pm	Joe's Bar

APRIL 25, MONDAY

Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main St.
In Step Stage School	Time TBC	Town Hall Theatre

APRIL 26, TUESDAY

GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bridge Club - Presidents Prize 1 st Night	8pm	Bridge Centre
In Step Stage School	Time TBC	Town Hall Theatre

APRIL 27, WEDNESDAY

Active Retirement Weekly Meeting	3pm	Gullanes Hotel
Soccer Club Bingo	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
In Step Stage School	Time TBC	Town Hall Theatre
Set Dancing (Michael Cusack)	8:30 - 10pm	Town Hall
Trad & Folk Session	9pm	An Táin

APRIL 28, THURSDAY

Psychic Medium (Natasha Bracken)	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
In Step Stage School	Time TBC	Town Hall Theatre
Vinyl Night - Jeff Collins	8pm	An Táin Bar
Women's Group	11am - 12:30pm	Ballinasloe Library

APRIL 29, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Town Hall
Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main St.
Mike Denvir & Friends Concert	8.00 pm	Shearwater Hotel
Blackie O'Connell Band-Dinny Delaney Fest.	9:30pm	Brewery Lane
Sean Crehan	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - Nic Gone	10pm	An Táin Bar
Texas Holdem Poker	9pm	Joe's Bar
Trad Session	9pm	Emerald Bar

APRIL 30, SATURDAY

Paddy Keenan & Triona Ní Dhomhnaill	8pm	Town Hall Theatre
Dinny Delaney Festival	All Day	Town Hall Theatre
Shannonbridge Folk & Trad Fest	5pm	Lukers Shannonbridge
Happy Bar Stars	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - Duine Eile	10pm	An Táin Bar
Red Tape	9:30pm	Brewery Lane
Boogie Men	10pm	Joe's Bar
Pacifica	10pm	The Countryman
Live Music	10pm	The Dunlo Tavern

MAY 1, SUNDAY

Louise Mulcahy & Mick & Michelle Mulcahy	8pm	Town Hall Theatre
Dinny Delaney Festival	All Day	Town Hall Theatre
Trad & Folk Session	6pm	An Táin Bar
Live Music	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
DJ John f	10pm	Joe's Bar
May 3, Tuesday		
GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bridge Club - Presidents Prize 2nd Night	8pm	Bridge Centre

MAY 4, WEDNESDAY

Active Retirement Monthly Meeting	3pm	Gullanes Hotel
Soccer Club Bingo	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Set Dancing (Michael Cusack)	8:30 - 10pm	Town Hall
Trad & Folk Session	9pm	An Táin
Cuidiú Breastfeeding	11am - 12:30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Crochet and Knitting Group	11am - 12:45pm	Ballinasloe Library

MAY 5, THURSDAY

Vinyl Night - Jeff Collins	8pm	An Táin Bar
Women's Group	11am - 12:30pm	Ballinasloe Library

MAY 6, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Town Hall
Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main St.
Ken Glennon	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - Nic Hol	10pm	An Táin Bar
Live Music	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
Texas Holdem Poker	9pm	Joe's Bar
Trad Session	9pm	Emerald Bar

MAY 7, SATURDAY

Michael Regan	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - May Day	10pm	An Táin Bar
3 Men & A Bass	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
Teresa O Hara	10pm	Joe's Bar
Last man Standing	10pm	The Countryman
Live Music	10pm	The Dunlo Tavern

MAY 8, SUNDAY

Trad & Folk Session	6pm	An Táin Bar
Shane Moore	7-9pm	Joe's Bar

May 9, Monday		
Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main St.
Europe Day Events	All Day	Ballinasloe Library

MAY 10, TUESDAY

GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Take it to The Limit (Eagles Tribute) Concert	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Bridge Club - Presentation (President Prize)	8pm	Bridge Centre

MAY 11, WEDNESDAY

Active Retirement Weekly Meeting	3pm	Gullanes Hotel
Soccer Club Bingo	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Set Dancing (Michael Cusack)	8:30 - 10pm	Town Hall
Trad & Folk Session	9pm	An Táin
Baby/Toddler Group	11am - 12:30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Crochet and Knitting Group	11am - 12:45pm	Ballinasloe Library

MAY 12, THURSDAY

Vinyl Night - Jeff Collins	8pm	An Táin Bar
Women's Group	11am - 12:30pm	Ballinasloe Library

MAY 13, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Town Hall
Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main St.
Happy Bar Stars	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - Unlucky for Sum	10pm	An Táin Bar
Toxic Twins	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
Texas Holdem Poker	9pm	Joe's Bar
Trad Session	9pm	Emerald Bar

MAY 14, SATURDAY

Music TBC	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - Super average Djs	10pm	An Táin Bar
Beggars velvet	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
Small Deal	10pm	Joe's Bar
Boogeymen	10pm	The Countryman
Live Music	10pm	The Dunlo Tavern

MAY 15, SUNDAY

Trad & Folk Session	6pm	An Táin Bar
Finnegan's Fury	7-9pm	Joe's Bar

MAY 16, MONDAY

Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main St.
----------------	------------	------------------------

MAY 17, TUESDAY

GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
-----------	-----	------------------

MAY 18, WEDNESDAY

Active Retirement Weekly Meeting	3pm	Gullanes Hotel
Soccer Club Bingo	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Set Dancing (Michael Cusack)	8:30 - 10pm	Town Hall
Trad & Folk Session	9pm	An Táin

MAY 19, THURSDAY

Vinyl Night - Jeff Collins	8pm	An Táin Bar
Women's Group	11am - 12:30pm	Ballinasloe Library

MAY 20, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Town Hall
Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main St.
AKT Stage School	7:30pm	Town Hall Theatre
Donnie O	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - An Other	10pm	An Táin Bar
Live Music	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
Texas Holdem Poker	9pm	Joe's Bar
Trad Session	9pm	Emerald Bar



For daily updates on news, events, death announcements and traffic updates - tune into our Local Radio Partner

MAY 21, SATURDAY

Sean Crehan	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - Bua	10pm	An Táin Bar
Red Tape	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
A1	10pm	Joe's Bar
Live Music	10pm	The Countryman
Live Music	10pm	The Dunlo Tavern

MAY 22, SUNDAY

Trad & Folk Session	6pm	An Táin Bar
Dave Fitz	7-9pm	Joe's Bar
Eanna Moloney	7pm	The Countryman

MAY 23, MONDAY

Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main St.
----------------	------------	------------------------

MAY 24, TUESDAY

GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
-----------	-----	------------------

MAY 25, WEDNESDAY

Active Retirement Weekly Meeting	3pm	Gullanes Hotel
Soccer Club Bingo	8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Set Dancing (Michael Cusack)	8:30 - 10pm	Town Hall
Trad & Folk Session	9pm	An Táin

MAY 26, THURSDAY

Vinyl Night - Jeff Collins	8pm	An Táin Bar
Women's Group	11am - 12:30pm	Ballinasloe Library

MAY 27, FRIDAY

Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Town Hall
Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main St.
Shane Moore	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)

Music - Boogie Men	10pm	An Táin Bar
Live Music	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
Texas Holdem Poker	9pm	Joe's Bar
Trad Session	9pm	Emerald Bar

MAY 28, SATURDAY

Happy Bar Stars	9:30pm	Shearwater Hotel (Bar)
Music - Na Riadoiri	10pm	An Táin Bar
Acoustic ninjas	9:30pm	The Brewery Lane
Live Music	10pm	The Countryman
Live Music	10pm	Dunlo Tavern

MAY 29, SUNDAY

Trad & Folk Session	6pm	An Táin Bar
Dave Mills	7-9pm	Joe's Bar

MAY 30, MONDAY

Mens Shed Open	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main St.
Matt Keane	9:30pm	The Pillar House

MAY 31, TUESDAY

GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
-----------	-----	------------------

To Advertise Your Events here please contact

ballinasloelifereporter@gmail.com or call 085 7648377 and leave a voice message. Ann Marie will be back to confirm by 10th of May



Since the Pandemic Sawdoctors Gig in October the Town Hall venue is welcoming back live audiences with the Connacht Scór na nÓg Finals for the first time in over 25 years, plus some headline Concerts from the Dinny Delaney Festival.

The In Step Stage School will put on an action-packed week taking place from April 25-28.

The Town Hall hosts the first-ever visit of the ensemble of the Dinny Delaney Uilleann Pipers festival on Saturday 30th when Paddy Keenan, will perform with Triona & Maighread Ní Dhomhnaill.

Paddy Keenan is a founding member of the legendary Bothy Band, and one of the greatest living exponents of the uilleann pipes today. Paddy is a legendary figure in the traditional Irish music scene and has picked up accolades like the TG4 Gradam Ceoil Musician of the Year award and has won a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Irish Music Association. He continues to perform and entertain audiences across Ireland with his legendary uilleann pipes.

The Town hall continues to have weekly set dancing classes and the Friday Country market in the Artisan Alley.



Paddy Keenan

Committee member Francis Leahy stated: "We are delighted that events are happening again and that life is coming back into the building. We are looking forward to welcoming all the groups and artists who will providing live theatre, music and entertainment over the coming weeks and months. It will be great to see audiences back

in the Theatre enjoying what they have missed for so long."

Stay tuned to their facebook page and website for further updates. @BallinasloeTownhalltheatre or calling (090) 964 6540.

THE HAIR GALLERY
Time for Change

APRIL OFFERS

20% off all Treatments

Check our FB & Insta for details of available appointments

Dunlo Street, Ballinasloe
Tel: 09096 43921 • 0877913520

f @tinashairgallery

bistro 18
By CS Chefs Caterers

OPEN
Monday-Saturday
9am to 4pm

Bookings and walk-ins welcome

Click & Collect
www.bistro18.ie
0909644867

10% Local business discount





Maria Killeen

Maria Killeen has just published her first book of poetry and short stories, "Romance at the Race Dance". Maria was born in Athlone, to business parents, Mary & Jim Killeen but now lives and works locally.

Maria loved reading English and liked to rhyme poetry growing up and she was always making up stories and poems as a child. At the age of fourteen years, she wrote her first poem and had it published in the Westmeath Independent (Foot & Mouth Disease). She found that if she was going through a crisis, she received comfort and ease from writing her poetry.

Maria hopes this light-hearted book of poems and short stories will lift the heart of the person who reads

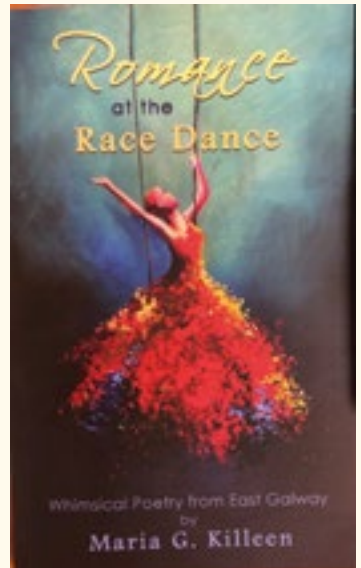
it. The poems relate to everyday living and include themes of laughter, sadness, crisis, and loneliness expressed in a simple to read style. Killeen said she toyed around with many possible titles for her collection of poetry and short stories before she settled on "Romance at the Race Dance" but she is happy with

the title she chose, in conjunction with Book Hub Publishing.

"Writing became my saviour and I found it very cathartic, so when my brother John published his own book he encouraged me to try to find a publisher for some of my own writing, which I did," she explains.

In later years Maria completed a Diploma in nurse education and also obtained an honours nursing degree from Trinity College Dublin. She also completed training in Chiropody / Reflexology and wellbeing therapies which she practices to this day. Maria who lived in Galway for many years, now lives and works in Ballinasloe as a part-time nurse in the community alongside practicing in Chiropody and Reflexology.

"Romance at the Race Dance" is priced at €9.99 and can be purchased by going on the website of Book Hub Publishing www.bookhubpublishing.com and is also available in Salmons Department Store, Ballinasloe, Daybreak, Ballinasloe and other retail outlets.



CLONTUSKERT TRACTOR RUN

St. Augustine's National School Parents' Association will host a tractor run on Sunday May 1st from Ballinasloe Rugby Club. The run is in aid of Clontuskert N.S. and East Midlands Cancer Support. Registration is at 10.00am and departs at 12 noon sharp. Entry fee is €25.00 and participants must wear HI Vis and all drivers must comply with legislation. Refreshments and raffle will be held at the end of the run in Mother's Bar in Kiltormer.



It's Time to get away

Book Today with us

LOW DEPOSIT

KellerTravel 60 YEARS
VALUE • SERVICE • EXPERIENCE

Keller Travel Main Street, Ballinasloe

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

worldchoice

Government Licence & Bonded: TA0148

Featuring some of the best contemporary pipers and musicians working in Irish Traditional music today the Festival is a welcome sign of our return to collective community fun and tune-frolics.

Named in honour of the man, the music and the legend of one Dinny Delaney (1836-1919) - and dedicated to the Genius and Tradition of Irish Uilleann Pipers everywhere the staging of the festival on the May Bank Holiday weekend will be appreciated by music lovers.

Born in 1836, just outside Ballinasloe, in the townland of Tulrush, Dinny Delaney and his sister were orphaned as children and then, at the age of 13, Dinny caught Smallpox - the often tragic condition and once life-threatening infection - that in this case leaves a young man all but blind. And Dinny and his pipes played everywhere - at weddings, funerals, corner dances, recitals, competitions and return visits to major concert halls in Dublin, Edinburgh and London. Such was Dinny's fame and impact that upon his passing an obituary was published in a newspaper in Sydney, Australia.

Building on the successful format of the original 2019 festival it will feature concerts, sessions and masterclass workshops, not just in Uilleann Pipes but in other traditional instruments ranging from fiddle to bodhran, to concertina, accordion and harp.

The concerts begin on Friday 29th April with a show from the powerhouse 'Blackie O'Connell Band' performing in the intimate venue of the newly refurbished downstairs at 'Brewery Lane'. Gifted with a fast-flowing exuberant style Blackie tours regularly in Europe, the USA and



Louise Mulcahy

Asia and his performances were recently described in The Guardian by actor Fiona Shaw as "the most exciting live music in the world!".

Saturday's concert venue is the venerable Town Hall Theatre which hosts the fearless, indomitable talents of Paddy Keenan, a piper who in the 1970's possibly did more than any other to save the Pipes from obscurity and who is described as the Jimi Hendrix of Uilleann Piping. For this concert Paddy is once again joined by Triona Ni Domhnaill, his old bandmate from the Bothy Band days as well as Triona's sister Máiréad and some special surprise guests.

The Festival's concert programme concludes in the Town Hall on the Sunday evening with a performance from Ireland's piper du jour Louise Mulcahy. Having recently explored the hidden history of Ireland's women pipers in a feature length TG4 documentary 'Mná na bPíob' Louise is a regular guest on RTÉ's The Late Late Show and her success heralds a new wave of confident, successful pipers, who also happen to be women. For the Dinny Delaney Festival Louise will be joined in concert by her father Mick and her sister Michelle.

All three concert headliners will also be providing workshops in the art of Uilleann Piping (details from www.dinnydelaney.com).



DENIS DELANEY



Sean Michael Raidson, first piper winner.



Services:



Parcel Drop Off/
Collection Point



Washing/Drying
Facilities



Car Wash/
Mini Valet



Seating Area
(Seats 50)



Full Off
Licence



Off Site
Catering



Payzone Bill
Pay Services



Like us on Facebook

"Centra Ballinasloe Dolan's/Supermac's Dolan's"

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





Ballinasloe
Credit Union
LOCAL LOYAL LENDING

Your loan is your phone.



Log on to
ballinasloecreditunion.ie



Fill the online form &
share documents



Do a quick
Video KYC



Get your
personal loan

We have made the process of getting a loan easier, faster, and better for you through new innovations like these. **Because we believe that when it comes to banking, you should come first!**

apply.ballinasloecreditunion.ie/



Scan Me





Parade Grand Marshal, Joe Kelly, with Ballinasloe Town Band



Town Band members waiting for the order "Band! By the left quick march!"

Fund raising efforts will recommence with an Easter Craft Fair at the Band Hall, Dunlo Hill, which will include a Children's Easter Bonnet competition (€2 per bonnet), Monster Raffle, Cake Sale, Live Entertainment, Flower Arrangements, Jewellery, Art, Photo Exhibition, all local crafts.

All taking place - Easter Saturday April 16 from 11 am to 4 pm. The Band now looks forward to the Easter season and it will be performing bespoke recitals in the town square on Saturday mornings before Easter as a prelude to their fundraiser.

The Town Band Hall is being fully utilised by the Town Band, Music Matters and Ballinasloe Active Retirement Association Singers. Other groups can be accommodated as required. If interested contact Damien 087 4186536. A new caretaker has been installed and he maintains the hall in good condition.

The committee is currently exploring the requirement to re-point the stonework to weatherproof and dampproof the hall itself. This will be a major, and costly, undertaking.

In an atmosphere of general delight and happiness on a splendid sunny St Patrick's Day the Ballinasloe Town Band made a very

welcome return to public view as they triumphantly, colourfully, and musically led the parade behind the Army Tri-Colour Party.

The 40-member band looked resplendent parading in their bright orange and black uniforms some donated by McCamey High School and others sponsored by Cooper. They halted at intervals throughout the parade route to entertain the large crowd with "Happy", "Smoke on the Water" and the march, "Our Director". Drums and other percussion instruments were provided at the stops by a very professional outfit of "parental roadies".

For many supporters of the band and past members, as well as the audience it was a somewhat emotional culmination of some 45 months of hard, perspiring work and is testament to the members, mentors, and parents who are all striving to allow the community have its own Musical entity. The Band is one of only two Brass and Wind Marching Mixed Bands left - functioning in our county.

It's hoped to open membership to new band members from 8 to 12 years of age in the coming months. Parents can register their advance interest by contacting ballinasloetownband@gmail.com. Check Ballinasloe Town Band Facebook page for ongoing news.



Noel Madden with Brass section



Keith Kelly with the Percussion Section



Katja Connolly with the Flute, Piccolo & Saxophone section



Town Band



Edith Ward with the Clarinet Section



Ballydangan resident Eoghan Egan has just published his second novel, "The Other Side of Fear". The book is the second in Egan's trilogy of crime fiction novels. The launch took place recently at Bistro 18 in Ballinasloe. Eoghan wrote his first story aged nine. At college, he studied Computer Programming, worked in Sales Management & Marketing, but his passion for reading and writing remain.

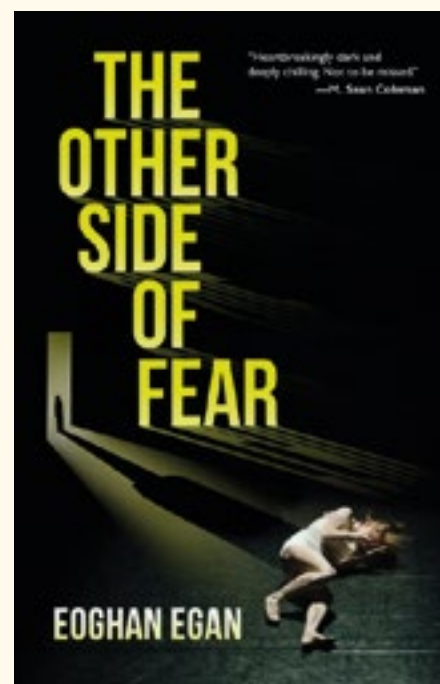
Eoghan's stories were shortlisted for the 2018 Bridport Short Story Prize, and Listowel's 2019 Bryan McMahon Short Story Award Competition. Others have been published in various anthologies. He has also completed two crime fiction novels in a planned trilogy set in the Irish Midlands, and has started work on the third.

This book is the sequel to 'Hiding in Plain Sight' which centres around a serial killer who roams the midlands of Ireland. "The Other Side of Fear" features a story about a girl who was trafficked, has gone through hell and come out the other side. Eoghan explained: "I overheard a conversation about trafficking while writing the book and it then became an element of the story."

The book has been gaining great reviews so far including acclaimed author Rob Parker describing it as: "A tense gripping, page-turner of a book. It cements Egan's place in the realm of great suspense writers."

Egan's childhood experiences were an influencing factor in his love and interest of the crime fiction genre: "I always loved the thrill of adventure and danger. My father was a fan of crime fiction and Agatha Christie and I was influenced by this. My house was also a hub for card players as my father loved playing cards and they used to tell ghost stories around the table."

Eoghan is working on the third and final book in the crime series and is also hoping to publish a selection of short stories next year.



Shop
Ballinasloe.ie

Membership 2022

Your business will benefit from an initiative that has helped local businesses generate in excess of thousands in sales in 2020 & 2021 through our various marketing ideas such as the shopballinasloe.ie online platform, ongoing digital marketing, PR, and the Town Voucher Ballinasloe.



ShopBallinasloe.ie

Sell products, sell services or simply create a profile on our growing online marketplace shopballinasloe.ie



Town Voucher

Increase your sales by allowing those with Town Vouchers to spend them with you. There has been over 100k sold to date.



Digital Marketing

ShopBallinasloe are constantly running marketing campaigns on social media promoting your local business.



Google Search

Did you know most ShopBallinasloe.ie seller profiles rank higher on Google than their own website!

Plus:

- Get your ShopBallinasloe.ie Business Page
- Get featured in our ongoing marketing campaigns

JOIN NOW AT:



<https://www.shopballinasloe.ie/shopballinasloe-membership/>

Your Local Online Marketplace





Nighttime activities at the Liskelly Festival in 2019

The summer is coming and with it Galway's newest music and arts festival opens in Liskelly Farm Aughrim - LiveStock 2022.

Just a few miles west of the town, this new festival which will take place on the 1st and 2nd of July, was inspired by a private event held in 2019, to celebrate the marriage of local man Cormac Jennings to Donegal native Sharon Sweeney.

Cormac, who teaches swimming and yoga in Coral Leisure Ballinasloe and who's home and farm are at Liskelly, Aughrim, states "The wedding festival was a crazy idea, but it was

such a buzz to organise and such a great success that we thought why not do it again, only better and share it with the public. Covid scuppered our plans for 2020 and 2021, but it also gave us extra time to prepare a great weekend! On the 1st and 2nd July, LiveStock welcomes you to camp out (although this is not compulsory!) and promises to be a fun and relaxing experience with fantastic independent music, art, food, entertainment, and activities centred around the ancient ringfort at



Festival organisers Sharon Sweeney and Cormac Jennings

Liskelly Farm in Aughrim."

LiveStock is a festival with national ambition but with its roots embedded in the community. Local artists such as the Galway Street Club, Evoke, Martin Staunton and Tom Portman form part of a vibrant and talented line-up which includes Kíla, Bunoscíonn, Jiggy, Chase Nova Band, Oski Bravo and many more still to be announced! Cormac says: "We are proud to support and promote original music from independent artists that showcase their talents through a wide range of genres."

An Art Exhibition, West African Drumming, Pottery, Iron Forging, Community Crafts, Yoga, Dance, Meditation and much more will be happening across the weekend, with an open invitation to attend workshops. The vibrant trade village will be filled with quality crafts and handmade goods. Food will be available from select vendors. No alcohol will be on sale, but attendees are welcome to bring their own (no glasses on site). Tickets price includes all seminars, workshops and activities as well as camping and parking!

Early bird tickets are on sale now. Visit their website www.livestockfestivalgalway.com and follow LiveStock Music Festival on social media for more information and updates.



Activities at the festival



Learn to change your story

Now available in Ballinasloe

Home Based Computer Course

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

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

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

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




gretb
Galway Region Enterprise Training Board



The seven clubs that received funding were Ballinasloe & District Tennis Club, Ballinasloe GAA, Ballinasloe Golf Club, Ballinasloe Rugby Club, Ballinasloe Snooker Club, and Ballinasloe Town AFC. Galway County Council also received €150,000 for upgrading the changing facilities in Leisure Centre and Pool Complex.

Sports clubs in Ballinasloe received over €600k worth of sports capital grants announced by the Government in Spring. Due to unbelievable work from clubs, boards and volunteers– as it is a very competitive process and the work is in hours preparing a strong application– clubs in the community will now be able to upgrade their facilities for all their members to avail of.

The six clubs that received funding were Ballinasloe & District Tennis Club, Ballinasloe GAA, Ballinasloe Golf Club, Ballinasloe Rugby Club, Ballinasloe Snooker club, and Ballinasloe Town AFC. Galway County Council also received €150,000 for upgrading the changing facilities in Leisure Centre and Pool Complex. The news was met with great delight from all the sports administrators.

Stephen Kerr Secretary of Ballinasloe GAA explained: “We are getting €25,000 and it will be used to remove the old timber ball stop nets on existing 2 pitches which are over 14 years old and replace with them with Galvanised Octagonal Column Poles. We also intend on extending one of the existing nets which is adjacent to the main road as it is very dangerous with balls going out on the road. We need to raise around €15,000 ourselves. And we would estimate that it would cost approximate €2million in present-day costs to provide the existing current facilities.”

Johnny Walsh Club Development Co-ordinator of the Town AFC stated: “After securing a substantial €100,000 grant from the Sports Capital Programme, the Club Committee are currently finalising preparations for the next phase of Development Works at the Curragh Grounds. These works will involve a full upgrade of the astro turf pitches, new gates, perimeter fencing and ball retention netting at the astroturf pitches and upgrading of floodlights for the pitches.”

PRO of the Tennis Club Garry Zancanaro also expressed the

club’s delight at the news: “The grant will be used for the second stage of the development: groundworks, building a third court, lights and artificial surfaces for the three courts, security system, lighting and a small clubhouse/storage facility. Having started from zero last year, the first phase of groundworks and two tarmac courts cost €82,000 and was completed using another grant, our own funds from many years of fundraising, and a loan to cover the shortfall. The land is leased from Galway Council. We must raise €7,500 to match the grant.”

Golf Club board member Barry O’Keefe also gave a statement on behalf of the club: “We were delighted that the Club was approved funding of €102,218. This grant is ring-fenced for course equipment and our ongoing drainage programme. Work on the construction of buggy paths in the lower section of the course is also well underway and is due to complete before Easter. This will be a fantastic addition to the course meaning that all 18 holes will be accessible to persons using golf buggies. The parking facility for buggies beside the clubhouse is also being extended to account for the great buggy usage.”

Rugby Club PRO Kevin Keane stated: “Brilliant news for our club with the announcement of the Sport Capital Grants. We have been awarded €100,989 in grant aid under the scheme for the improvement and updating of the club facilities. A huge endorsement of the work being done in the club and its value to the local community. We are thrilled for everyone involved in the successful application.”

Ballinasloe Snooker Club also received €6,779 which will go towards upgrading their current facilities on Society St at the Emerald Ballroom.

The news is a very welcome boost to the area and adds to the list of nearly €15 million of Government investment in Sporting, Leisure and Amenity facilities under the Sports Capital Scheme over the past two decades.

Senior Team
who narrowly lost out
in the Junior Final



u14 team
who progressed into
the Plate Quarter-
Final



u16 team
who progressed into
the Cup Semi-Final



Ballinasloe RFC came up short in the J1 C League Final against Ballyhaunis recently in Creggs. Having battled hard in adverse weather conditions they were edged out by a by a more experienced, streetwise Ballyhaunis team with the score finishing 15 to 7. The senior side also crashed out of the Junior Cup the previous week losing away to Galwegians and they will now move into the Shield competition to face Sligo.

Coaches Noel Mannion, Tom Finn and Conor Higgins have focused on growing the panel this season from the fourteen who fielded in an early season friendly, to over thirty currently playing. The team suffered only two defeats in the league all season. This talented young team will have benefited greatly from this year's experience and as they continue to mature, have a bright future in the years ahead.

There was recent success in the underage ranks with the U16 Boys beating Loughrea Rugby Club in the Cup and now have a home semi-final to look forward to versus the winners of Buccaneers and Westport. The u14 side also progressed to the plate quarter-final after a 36-14 win over Corrib.

The official switching on of Ballinasloe RFC's LED Lighting upgrade on our training pitch took place recently. The Club project was funded by Galway County Council who awarded the club €6,931.12 in grant aid under the Climate Action Opportunity Fund 2021. The provision of LED Lighting on the training pitch and car park Lighting will have a positive environmental impact on the club's Carbon footprint. The hope is that their initiative will inspire other clubs and associations in the area to take part in other sustainable projects.

Marina Downey
CATERING

Available for all your
Home Catering Events

- Communion,
- Confirmations
- Birthdays
- Weddings
- Funerals



087 2311385
marinadowney31@gmail.com

Ballinasloe's Matthew Devine played a starring role as the Ireland U-20 rugby team claimed Grand Slam success in the Six Nations championship with emphatic over Scotland in Cork last month.

As the only Connacht player in the Ireland U-20s squad, Matthew Devine had extra reason to celebrate after the five out of five wins, after he played a key role in delivering the country's third age-grade Grand Slam.

Devine was among the try scorers against Scotland, touching down in the left corner after his own clever kick had outwitted the Scotland defense. He had a great tournament and it was his fourth try of the campaign. The former Garbally College student finished as Ireland's leading try scorer in the competition.

The talented scrum-half (who plays for Galway Corinthians and Connacht) is a son of Mike Devine and a legendary figure in the Athlone-based Buccaneers club. In addition to his rugby prowess, Shannonbridge native Mike was part of Offaly's All-Ireland winning U-21 football panel in 1988.

Sport is also embedded in the DNA of Matthew Devine's maternal family. His mum, Catherine is a sister of a former Galway footballer from the 1980s, Ballinasloe man Barry Brennan.



Family Celebrations after win!



Ireland's Grand Slam tour of the Rugby Clubs in 2009 - in Ballinasloe Rugby Club with Dad Mike Devine, Grandad Mike Devine, (RIP), Eamon Howley, with the Devine brothers John, Joseph and 7 year old Mathew - minding the trophy!

20-year-old Devine plays at scrum half and has featured on Irish underage squads on his path up. He has grown up in Ballinasloe and began his rugby with the local club there while he also played with Garbally College, winning a Connacht Schools' Senior Cup with them.

Mike Devine has coached sides involving his son in recent years in Ballinasloe and Garbally.

"To come through the age-grade system in Connacht was really good, and as the only (Connacht) one here, I'm delighted. Someone has to fly the flag!" he declared.

"It's an unbelievable feeling," Devine said. "All the hard work we have put in over the last few months as a group has paid off. We are extremely well-coached and we're a great group together. We all get on really well. It's brilliant. Even the stuff off the pitch - in the team room, table tennis, pool, that brought everyone together" he explains.

"The coaches put a really big emphasis on that. To be the single lad from Connacht and to be mixed in with the group really early was great. From the first camp, everyone knew we were going to be best mates," states the young Connacht man.

Like many of his Ireland teammates, Matthew comes from a multi-sport background having played Gaelic football through to his late teens.

"I would have played until I was about 16 in Ballinasloe GAA and a little bit in Garbally as well. Probably played football from when I was U6 all the way up to about 16, and when you get to that age you have to make a decision on what sport you want to prioritise" he casually describes.

"My dad would have brought me up and coached me from a very young age. I would say I was seven or eight, up until U18s. He was one of my coaches in Garbally College as well, from 13 onwards to my Leaving Cert." concludes Matthew.



Try Scorer of the Tournament

BALLINASLOE SNOOKER CHAMPION

Paul Keighery has had unprecedented success in Galway this season picking up three ranking trophies and is currently the number one ranked snooker player in the county.

His most recent victory was the City Singles Championship in Galway where he won the tournament comprehensively without dropping a single frame.

Ballinasloe Social Club started off the year with a bang after launching their first coaching programme for juniors aged 7-17. With over 35 juniors of all ages taking part in the programme which was held over four nights and was run by committee member Paul Keighery who is a qualified snooker coach. PJ Nolan also attended the final session, is a national snooker coach and development officer.

The club also hosted TY students from Garbally on two different days for coaching programmes recently with over 20 students attending with committee members Paul Keighery, Adam O'Connor, Tony Ferns and Joby Kelly overseeing the sessions.

Open Monday to Friday from 5pm (for non-members) for anyone who wishes to come in and avail of the facilities to see if they would like to join in the future. You just have to pay for the lights which is €2 for 30 minutes of play. A club steward will be on duty at all times during opening hours.



Paul Keighery winner of City Singles Championship

The Club's magnificent run in the FAI Junior Cup, the largest Junior Soccer Competition in Europe, came to an end with a last 16 defeat away to favourites Pike Rovers FC from Limerick.

The 'Town' put up a very credible performance on the day and the game was very evenly balanced throughout. At halftime the tie was scoreless and Ballinasloe had several near attempts on goal. However, it was not to be and Pike Rovers edged out a 2 goal victory in the end.

The club's senior A team are now focused on finishing their season on a high with their Connacht Cup quarter final game away to Corrib Rangers. The first team are also very well placed in the Premier Division of the Roscommon and District Soccer league and sit just 5 points behind off top spot with 3 games less played.

There was more success of late with the club's under 12 A team qualifying for the Connacht Cup semi-final after a magnificent win in the away to Kilglass Enniscrone FC. The management group of Mark Duffy, Gary McLoughlin, John Conway, Trevor Kelly, Vanessa Lloyd, James Coyne, Debbie Donnelly and Rob Haden are extremely proud of their team and are now busy preparing for the semi-final away to Strand Celtic, which is due to be played on the weekend of 9th/10th April.

The Club are back organising a very well supported Community Bingo every Wednesday in the Shearwater Hotel who have come on board as the club's new main sponsors. There is a guaranteed pay out every week of €2,270. The Club have also recommenced the weekly 50/50 draw and this draw takes place each Wednesday at the Bingo.



The Club's Senior A team – after a brilliant run in the FAI Junior Cup



Under 12 A team who qualified for the Connacht Cup semi-final



Physiotherapy &
Sports Injury Clinic

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

SPECIALIST TREATMENT FROM CHARTERED PHYSIOTHERAPISTS

- Keith Fox - Irish Rugby Physiotherapist
- Darragh Bolton - Chartered Physiotherapist
- Mark Gallagher - Chartered Physiotherapist
- Fergal O Reilly - Chartered Physiotherapist
- James Sheerin - Chartered Physiotherapist
- Aaron McDermott - Chartered Physiotherapist
- Robbie Fox - Sport Masseur Connacht Rugby

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

**NOW
OPEN**

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

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



www.actionphysio.ie



The Ballinasloe & District Vintage Club took part in the Ballinasloe St. Patrick's Day Parade and provided great entertainment for all spectators. A member of the club even transported the Queen of the Fair in the parade! Some classy cars and vintage tractors were all on show in what was the first public outing for most of their members in 2 years.

The group also held a track day in Tynagh to raise vital funds in aid of the Ukrainian people. Voluntary contributions were given on the day in what was a very rewarding day for all.

The club held their AGM recently where they reflected on a very successful year, with one of the highlights being the €500 that was raised at a car and tractor run and presented to Galway Hospice on the night. They discussed their plans for the year including partaking in classic car road runs, some organised by them and some by neighbouring clubs which they support.

The biggest event each year for the club is the static display in the streets of the town, the last Sunday of Fair Week - where over 100 vintage cars, all types of steam engines threshing display and this year some other motoring displays are being planned.

The following committee was elected for the year: President Peter Enright-Mooney; Chairman Christy Ward; Secretary Ivan Mullen; Treasurer Mike Glynn; P.R.O Desmond Harney.



Local Kiltormer driver Frank Rafferty competing in the Galway International Rally which took place on the 5th and 6th of February. The car he's driving is a Ford Sierra. Photo: Eye To Eye Photography



Cooper

The No. 1 Helmet in Hurling

NEW In Stock

Hurling/Football Rebounder Net

Mini Goals

Cycling Helmets

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

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

The GAA season is well and truly underway in Ballinasloe with all age groups back training.

Their Nursery programme is also up and running on Saturday mornings from 10.30am to 11.30am and is open to new members, boys and girls, to come and try it out. The age groups catered for in this programme are Boys U7 (years of birth 2015/2016/2017) and Girls U6 (Years of Birth 2016/2017). It introduces this age group to both Hurling and Football in a fun way and is a great for developing their coordination and general fitness.

The main emphasis is making sure that the kids have fun and enjoy themselves in a safe supervised environment. For more information on this programme contact Shane Kenny on (086) 362 4580 or Gary Coyne on (086) 387 1872.

This season the club are doing a major promotional drive on the weekly lotto as it's one of the club's main income generators. You can do the lotto from your own home by logging on to www.ballinasloe.gaa.ie and it only costs €2 per play. You can become a club lotto member by filling in a simple online form and automatically have your numbers entered every week.

Ballinasloe GAA Bingo takes place every Tuesday night at 8pm. Doors are open from 7pm onwards and you're welcome to have refreshments and chat with friends before bingo starts. Refreshments are available again at the break. To accommodate as many people as possible the committee have decided to restart their online bingo. The online bingo will run alongside the hall bingo. Books are on sale in the hall for the hall bingo and books for the online bingo can be purchased by clicking on the link on our website www.ballinasloe.gaa.ie or our Facebook page, Ballinasloe Bingo.

The Club's youth club is proving to be very successful, every Friday night from 7.30pm in the clubhouse for boys and girls in 6th Class, 1st year and 2nd year. It's open to all club members in that age group and they can also bring a friend who's not a member. It only costs €3 for admission. For more information, contact Kathryn Gibbons on (087) 904 6140.



The Bingo Crew From St. Patricks Day



Nursery Programme



Some Underage Ladies



Galway Hurlers Padraic and Cathal Mannion came to visit the youth club

Garbally View Nursing Home

25 Years in Business

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

Current Resident Services Provided:

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



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

The Golf Club successfully conducted the President's and Captains' Drive-Ins to officially launch the new golfing year and President Mattie Curley took the opportunity to wish all members a healthy golfing year.

On the course, the hole-in-one trend continues with Kevin Cuniffe celebrating this achievement on the par 3, 8th hole. There was further success as club member Aidan Grenham finished in 3rd place in his first EDGA championship in Portugal recently.

The ladies players have been benefitting from their inaugural Upskilling Sessions, which have been successfully running over the last few months. Led by Associate Pro Mark Staunton, all the participants have been working on various aspects of their game including chipping, putting, iron play, and driving.



Kevin Cuniffe hole-in-one

The fundraising for the State-of-the-Art Practice Area and for the Junior Golfers continues with what has become a firm favourite with members and non-members alike — the latest Last Man Standing fundraiser has now been launched and all are invited to support. It is a simple competition where you pick one golfer to finish in the top 20 in the final standings of certain tournaments. Entry is €10 and entry envelopes are available in the office, players must be entered by April 6.

They recently concluded an enjoyable St. Patrick's Day scramble event. Next



Left to right: President - Mattie Curley, Ladies Captain - Peggy Wong, Mens Captain - Mick O'Hehir

up will be the Good Friday Bonus Ball event which is always an enjoyable competition. Planning for this year's Festival of Golf is also underway and the club hopes to build on the success of last year's event where they welcomed many visitors to the course. The event will run in July this year.

Board Member Barry O'Keefe also added: "We are delighted to see so many new and returning members this year and we look forward to brighter evenings ahead and the resumption of coaching programmes for all. Society bookings for the coming year are busy and we look forward to welcoming many visitors to the club."

If you are interested in joining the golf club, please phone the office - (090) 964 2126 or email ballinasloegolfclub@hotmail.com to talk through options for beginners, improvers and returning members. You can also follow Ballinasloe Golf Club for more updates and information on the club.



The Presidents and Captains drive in
Left to Right - Junior Mens Captain Tom Cafferky, Junior Ladies Captain Rebecca Bleahan, Ladies Captain Peggy Wong, President Mattie Curley, Mens Captain Mick O'Hehir and Senior Mens Captain Sean Kelly

Call
090 9646893

Visit

thefrontroom.ie

For online purchases



@thefrontroomsal

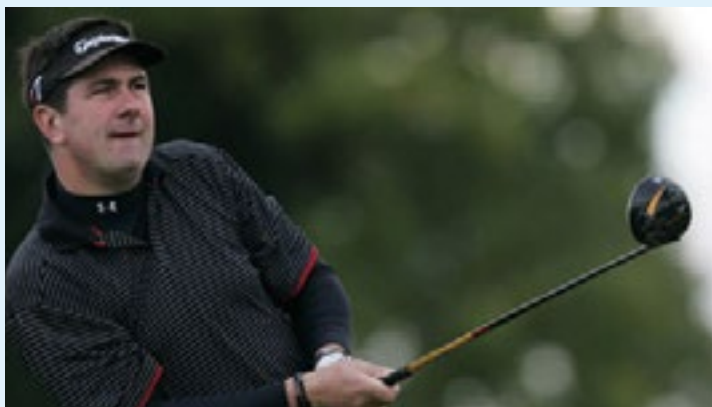


@The Front Room



@thefrontroom_ballinasloe

Ballinasloe-born Shane O'Grady is now among the top 50 golf coaches in the world and is basking in the success of his prodigy, Cavan's Leona Maguire who recently became the first Irish woman to win on the LPGA tour, with her victory in Florida.



Shane O'Grady

For the past seventeen years, Shane has been coach to Leona and her twin sister Lisa, from his base at the Blackbush Golf Club in Co. Meath. The Ballyconnell twins were introduced to Shane by their father when they were only ten years old and he took them under his wing at his coaching academy near Dunshaughlin.

The 52-year-old former member of Ballinasloe Golf Club is the son of Willie and the late Vera O'Grady of Creagh, both of whom were staunch members of their local club. Shane, who became Head PGA Golf Professional at Blackbush in 1995 said of the two Maguires, Leona seemed to have the greatest potential. "While her performances in the Solheim Cup, when Europe beat the Americans was outstanding, her victory in Florida on the LPGA Tour, was the icing on the cake" said Shane.

"We have been working together through video link while she was in Fort Myers and now I am hoping to join up with her in the States for many of the forthcoming majors. She has persevered over the past seventeen years and it has paid off. She is a very modest and determined lady" added Shane. And for her victory in Florida, Leona received a cheque for \$225,000 and hopefully more wins will follow.

WESTERN CLEANING SERVICES

PERSONALISED SERVICE SPECIALISING IN

- Window Cleaning
- Gutter Cleaning
- Roof Cleaning & Treatment
- Power Washing

For a FREE quote, please contact:

Shane Berrigan

087 751 3953

westerncleaningservices72@gmail.com



Gills Drycleaners & Launderette

Dunlo St., Ballinasloe (Formerly Harney's)

The one stop shop
for your laundry
and drycleaning needs

Specialists in wedding
dress cleaning,
boxing and preservation.

Servicing domestic,
commercial and
industrial customers

**Expert key
cutting service**

Open: Monday to Saturday
9.30am to 5.30pm
Closed Sunday

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

GERRY CROFFEY Garden Machinery

Killure Castle, Ahascragh, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, H53 K403

090 9688840 gerrycroffey.ie



HONDA

STIHL

BERG

Tanaka



gardencare

Mountfield

After a fantastic previous season, medals, trophies, shields and even a new club makeover, St. Cuan's Utd are now ready to move onto what promises to be a better and bigger season.

The club also prepare to enter girl's teams for the first year ever as the RDYSL have amalgamated with the Midwestern Girls League. This gives the girls in our community a fantastic opportunity to play in more competitive games of soccer. A 2-day Girls Soccer Launch was held recently for all girls interested and it proved to be a great success with many new faces turning up.

Registration took place for all underage players recently and saw fantastic numbers register for the upcoming season.

St. Cuan's have also formed their first ever women's soccer team and hope that this can be the start of something great and create the chance for all women interested to get involved in the sport.



St Cuan's girls youth team prepare for the new season

There will be an opportunity for underage players to register after registration day, but the club are trying to get this done as soon as possible before matches are announced. If you are interested in joining contact Tom (Director of Football) on (087) 461 0583 or Mary (Secretary) (087) 929 0193. With the addition of the new teams, the club are seeking new coaches, men and women. If you are interested in being involved with coaching or for any other queries, again contact Tom or Mary on the numbers listed above or send an email to stcuansutd@gmail.com.

CYCLING CLUB TOUR DE SHAMS RETURNS

BCC's annual fundraiser-the Tour De Shams-is back on the weekend of May 8. The event encourages all members to get out and cycle to raise vital funds for local charities and has always proven to be a huge success in previous years.

They recently organised a Bike Fit for people who felt their bicycle required some adjustments to suit their set up. Pdraig Marrey was on hand and more than a dozen BCC rider's positions were checked and adjusted to optimise speed and comfort.

The club participated in the St. Patrick's Day parade, in club gear and decorated their bikes!

They recently started a Couch to 50km cycle for new members

who would like to get out cycling more in a group. There are club days out where they organise cycles to include all club members. Each weekend there are a number of groups out cycling together covering varying distances from 50 km to 100 km.

If you are interested in joining the club you can contact them by messaging the club phone number (086) 027 3997 or through email to ballinasloeecyclingclub@gmail.com.



Club taking part in the parade

UTAH OUTDOORS

DARE 2B

REGATTA
GREAT OUTDOORS

CRAGHOPPERS



Save
30-50%
off RRP



SHOP ONLINE at utahoutdoors.ie

The club had a number of athletes competing in the Galway Indoor event in Athlone Institute of Technology earlier this month.

Caoimhe Kilkenny won silver in the girls u17 60m and 200m, Kate Kilkenny took gold in the girls u13 600m, Eva Ruane won silver in u16 girls 800m and Lisa Herrity winning bronze in a very competitive 60m sprint.

The club was also well represented at the Connacht Indoor Competition which was also held in Athlone Institute of Technology recently. Their athletes Lisa Herrity, Carrie Stephenson, Eva Ruane, Kate and Caoimhe Kilkenny all competed on the day. A highlight from the day was Kate Kilkenny winning bronze in the u13 girls 600m and bagging a new PB. And her sister Caoimhe also took home bronze in the u17 girls 60m sprint.

If you are interested in joining the club, there is a registration form to be filled out. Athletes need to be 7 years of age, they get 4 taster sessions before they commit to joining the club. Fees are €60 for one athlete, €110 for two, and €150 for a family of three or more.

As agreed at the last EGM, going forward all athletes will need to pay the registration fees, no matter what time of the year they start. The year runs from January to December and the club train every Tuesday and Thursday at the Dunlo Recreational Track from 6-7pm. For more information on joining the club contact club secretary Antoinette Stephenson on (087) 285 9167 or email ballinasloeanddistrictac@gmail.com



Kate Kilkenny



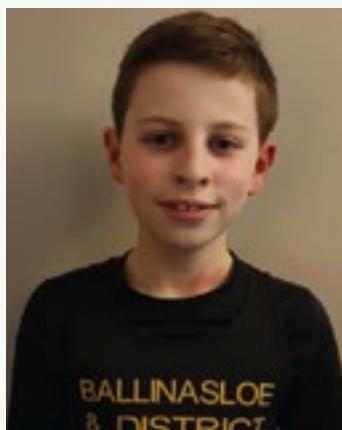
Laura Berrigan, Eirin Winters



Laura Berrigan Sinead Greene, Lisa Herrity, Kate Kilkenny, Carrie Stephenson, Eva Ruane



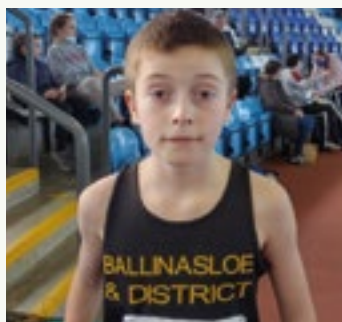
Aroa Martinez



Eoghan Downey



Peter Culleton



Logan Donnelly

EU Digital Citizenship principles

On 26 January 2022, the European Commission proposed an inter-institutional solemn declaration on digital rights and principles for the digital decade.

- Putting people and their rights at the centre of the digital transformation
- Supporting solidarity and inclusion
- Ensuring freedom of choice online
- Fostering participation in the digital public space
- Increasing safety, security and empowerment of individuals
- Promoting the sustainability of the digital future

To find out more,
contact Europe
Direct Ballinasloe



Europe Direct, Ballinasloe Library

091 509551



ballinasloe@galwaylibrary.ie
@EDBallinasloe

By Eamon Howley

I had the pleasure of attending the opening of an art exhibition by the artist Una Watters held at the United Arts Club, 2 Upper Fitzwilliam Street, Dublin recently. Many of her Ballinasloe living relatives were also in attendance.

Born Una McDonnell in 1918, in Cappagh she attended the National College of Art at the encouragement of Maurice McGonigal. She juggled classes with her day job as a librarian. One of her paintings, The Four Masters, still hangs in Phibsboro branch library where she worked.

On the 10th of March 1945 she married Eugene Watters (Eoghan O Tuairisc) a native of Ballinasloe, who worked as a national schoolteacher in Finglas, their honeymoon was spent touring the south of Ireland in a horse-drawn caravan which Eugene had built himself.

Una and Eugene made a striking couple devoted to their art and spent many summers in Ballinasloe visiting family and friends where Una would gather inspiration for her paintings and fish on the river Suck (she was an noted angler) .

Most of Una’s work was completed at an easel set up in the kitchen of the small cottage they shared at Cappagh Cross in Finglas. Una and Eugene worked side-by-side for over 20 years, it’s inevitable that their creative impulses would become entwined. And nowhere is this seen more clearly than in her painting Malahide.

Una was also a jobbing artist. A superb draughtswoman and calligrapher, she created greeting cards and did illustrations for journals and annuals. She designed and scribed a series of exquisite booklets of religious meditations in the 1960s. She exhibited frequently in Dublin in the 1950s and 1960s.

The “Sword of Light” (also known as An Claidheamh Soluis) was the symbol chosen following an open competition to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the 1916 Rising. Una’s design was chosen for which she received an Arts Council award. According to the 1966 Commemoration Committee, the winning Sword of Light motif was meant to represent “intuitive knowledge, education and progress”.

Working primarily in oils, she was eclectic in her range – rural landscapes, semi-naïve depictions of the new suburb of Finglas, religious subjects, and in her later years paintings that moved towards abstraction.

It suggested a new direction in her work, one that she never got to explore fully. Nor did she live to enjoy the acclaim her winning Rising logo design might have brought her. According to her sister, Sheila Byrne, the Arts Council award arrived on the same day that her coffin left Dublin for burial in Ballinasloe, following her sudden death in November 1965 at the age of 47.

A posthumous exhibition of her oil paintings was organised by a grieving Eugene a year after her death. The show featured 37 works, after the exhibition Eugene gave away Una’s paintings to family and friends.

Eugene or Eoghan was so grief stricken at her sudden and untimely death that he gave away most of here work to friends and relations that the couple new in Dublin and Ballinasloe. The painting “Malahide” was given to my parents Mai and Jim Howley, and I am now the custodian of this fine work. It was lovely to see my painting on display with all the other fine works.

Many thanks to Curator Mary Morrissey, and Colbert Kearney who

have gone on a mission to trace as many of Watters’s ‘lost’ works as they can find, a quest that has brought them from the Hugh Lane Gallery – where ‘The People’s Garden’ is stored away from public view and to the Emerald Ballroom in Ballinasloe where she was thrilled to come across a tranche of Watters’s watercolours.

Now Morrissey has come together with Watters’s niece Sheila Smith to put on this exhibition of the artist’s work. “[Watters’s] pieces very rarely come up for auction because people really like them and don’t want to sell them, they’ve become attached to them. So it isn’t possible in a way to acquire new ones” states Mary.

A new blog has been set up by Mary and will introduce you to her outstanding work that features quite a number of local scenes from the forties, fifties and sixties.

www.unawattersartist.com



Eamon Howley



“Malahide, Saturday. Clouds come Henna with heat.
Salt and sun Leaves all flesh lazarous”.

So wrote Eugene in “Smithson’s Glimpse of the Three Graces” a long poem published in PEN magazine in September 1961. It’s almost a perfect transcription of Una’s painting Malahide: (1964) oil on canvas.



Red Bridge Ballinasloe



Clonmacnoise



Early employees of Cross who went to train in Lincoln, Rhode Island, USA, pictured with the Mayor of Providence, Rhode Island where the company's headquarters were. From left: Pat Hill, Peter McCarthy, later to be Manager of the Ballinasloe plant; Terry Cormican, Gerry Lally and his wife Helen, Mayor Keegan of Providence, Mattie Brennan, Billy Goode, Walter Ward, Padraic O'Neill and Ronnie Boss, Director of AT Cross USA.



The friendliness and hospitality afforded an American couple when they dropped off in Ballinasloe for lunch, over fifty years ago, played a pivotal role in attracting a major US company to set up in the town, which subsequently would employ 420 people.

Frank Wilwol, a director of AT Cross of Providence, Rhode Island, USA, together with his wife, Trudy, were accompanied by leading IDA personnel, heading to a potential site in the South when they decided to drop off for lunch in Hayden's Hotel. The genial Billy O'Carroll discovered their mission, introduced them to Chamber of Commerce members, and supported by his wife, Mr. Wilwol recommended to his superiors that Ballinasloe was the ideal location to set up a 17,500 sq. ft. plant in Ireland to manufacture their fine writing instruments.

In October 1971 building of the new plant at Cleaghmore got under way. AT Cross, which was established in the States in 1846 were barely heard of in Europe, not alone in Ballinasloe but there was a surge of applications for employment in the new factory. In August of that year a handful of new employees were sent to the States for training and those included Walter Ward, Terry Cormican, Billy Goode, Gerry Lally, Padraic O'Neill, Mattie Brennan, Tony Crehan and Pat Hill.

TOM RAFTERY CAR SALES

Clonfad, Ballinasloe, Tel: 090 9642686

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

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

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

View our extensive range of quality used vehicles on our website

www.tomrafterycarsales.ie

Member of the Society of the Irish motor industry



ISUZU

PEUGEOT

KIA MOTORS
The Power to Surprise™





At a special presentation to Frank Wilwol and family were, seated l to r: Evelyn Rafter, Trudy Wilwol, Frank Wilwol, Manager; Trudy's mother Hazel and Maureen Farrell. At back, from left: Joe Keogh, Paul Henson, Jim Kent, Tom Rankin, Des Devine and Michael Connolly.



Some of the staff in the 1970's. Back row, l to r: Michael Walshe, Joe Keogh, Joe Comer, Pat McGovern, Michael Manning, Tony Crehan. Middle row, l to r: Dolores Fortune, Patsy Gill, Helen Hennelly, Eileen Coffey, Anne Kelly. Front row, l to r: Evelyn Rafter, Frank Wilwol, Manager; Maureen Farrell, Peter McCarthy, Assistant Manager; Rita McLoughlin.

Frank Wilwol was the plant manager in Ballinasloe and in September of 1972 he was joined by Peter McCarthy as assistant manager while other clerical staff included Bob Gillis, Patricia Roddy and Marie Connolly. The new factory was officially opened on 10th May 1973 when the directors of the company, led by Ron and Brad Boss, travelled over from the USA to see their £70,000 first European manufacturing plant go into production and which would provide 100 jobs.

Over the years, AT Cross expanded, saw the workforce grow to 420, producing fine writing instruments for the European market. Many of the major airlines throughout the world were even giving Cross pens to passengers who travelled first class. The company's contribution to the local economy was enormous while staff were treated generously.

However, in February of 2000 the company announced they were closing down the Ballinasloe plant and transferring their manufacturing back to the USA. The news came as a bombshell to the workers and two years later the Cleaghmore production ceased. Despite the efforts of Government ministers and IDA personnel no replacement factory was ever secured. The town was gutted, families were devastated and the Cross pen eventually became a part of history in Ballinasloe



BILLY KING
PHARMACY

Here to help you

The Mount, Ballinasloe

T: 090 9643488

F: 090 9643483

E: billykingpharmacy@gmail.com

Open Mon to Sat 9am-6pm





Almost 500 people were killed in the Belfast between July 1920 and July 1922 and in February 1922 the Weaver Street killings were particularly horrid.

And at the same time that local Protestants were being intimidated, Catholic ex-members of the RIC were being shot at and beaten, and Catholic farmers who owned more land than the neighbours thought was justified were the targets of agitation and animal maiming.

A hundred years ago in the April / May months in our locale saw ugly sectarianism rear its head. It accelerated the continual decline of the protestant community which began 1914-1918, when a considerable number of local men were killed in WWI. Another factor is that the sons and daughters of the Protestant merchant class did generally not return to town after their education. They married coreligionists and lived elsewhere but many of the businesses on Main Street and the town center remained in Protestant hands well up until the late 70s.

The establishment of the State of Northern Ireland in June 1921 had been followed by attacks on Nationalist areas in Belfast, which continued into 1922 and resulted in thousands of Catholics being driven from their homes. The formation of the Provisional Government of the Irish Free State on 14th January

1922 heralded the beginning of a progressive breakdown in law and order.

In Ballinasloe burglaries, particularly of business premises became virtually a nightly occurrence. Though not yet officially disbanded, the R.I.C. had in effect been stood down, and on 18th March Inspector Taylor handed over the Dunlo Street barracks to Commandant Beegan, 3rd Battalion, I.R.A., when it became the local headquarters of the Republican Police, an untrained body not answerable to the Provisional Government.

The previous month, the Regiment of Royal Dragoons, as well as the Black and Tans, had left the town, which was to remain without a statutory police force until the arrival of a contingent of the recently-formed Civic Guards at the end of September.

During the months of May and June 1922, prior to the outbreak of the Civil War, a determined effort was made to rid Ballinasloe of its Protestant community, which comprised approximately 8 per cent of the town's population. At the same time a similar campaign was waged against former members of the Royal Irish Constabulary, in the course of which two men were seriously wounded in a gun attack, while others were beaten and ordered to leave the area.

Contemporary press reports paint a vivid picture of what was happening. On 10th June "The Connacht Tribune" published the following account: "Robert Orr, Brackernagh, a Protestant, who had been employed as a carpenter at Garbally, and who has a wife and three or four daughters and an invalid son, was visited by a number of armed men at about 3 o'clock on Friday morning. When they were admitted they asked for arms, but got none as none were to be had. The family were then huddled into one room and were threatened with disastrous consequences if they cried or made a noise. Orr, who was at the bedside near his invalid son, was beaten, but not seriously, on the head and received a black eye. One of the raiders, it is stated, told Mrs. Orr that she would have the leave



STUDY CENTRE

Working towards success



STUDY CENTRE

Ballinasloe

For all your Business Training Needs

- Conference and Training Room Rentals
- Computer Courses
- Manual Handling
- First-Aid - FAR, CFR and Basic First Aid

studycentreballinasloe@outlook.com | Phone: 087 0994059

the place by Monday. When she mentioned travelling expenses and asked where she was to get the money, one the raiders retorted by asking where did the Belfast refugees get the money. The house was then systematically gone through, the raiders breaking all before them, delph, furniture, lamps, windows, glasses, teapots, etc. – in fact there was nothing that was not broken into smithereens. Even items of food – bread, flour, milk, sugar – were spilled on the floor, and next morning the house presented a wrecked and dilapidated appearance.

“Mrs. Orr and the rest of the family were grief-stricken at the turn events had taken. She said they preferred to work with a Catholic any day to one of their own creed, and referred to the kindly manner they had always been treated by Catholics. They built this house themselves, and have been 40 years living there. They are natives of the County Monaghan, to which place with their personal belongings, a quantity of which was disposed of, they took their departure on Monday.”

A week later another report ran as follows: “If the campaign against Protestants which has been carried on in Ballinasloe since the end of last month is continued in similar intensity for a few weeks more, there will not be a Protestant left in the place. Presbyterians and members of the Church of Ireland, poor and well-to-do, old and young, widows and children, all alike have suffered in intimidation, persecution and expulsion. The campaign is carried out in the night-time, by unnamed persons, who give no reason for their action. The system which usually is followed is, first, the dispatch of an anonymous letter giving the recipient so many days, or hours to clear out. If this notice is disregarded, bullets are fired at night through his windows, bombs are thrown at his house, or his house is burned down. In one case, an old man who had not left when ordered to do so was visited by a gang who smashed everything in his cottage – every cup and every saucer, and then compelled him to leave the town, with his crippled son, the two of them destitute. The



Availing themselves of the opportunity in the months preceding the outbreak of civil war in 1922, on a night in May, some local members of the anti-Treaty I.R.A. mutilated and decapitated the bronze statue of the Third Earl of Clancarty that had stood on its plinth within a railed enclosure on Station Road since 1874. After sectarian slogans had been daubed on neighbouring walls, the severed head was carried into town and thrown through the plate-glass window of Rothwell's shop on Dunlo St.

list of those proscribed is added to constantly, and every Protestant is simply waiting for his turn to come.”

The campaign of intimidation was not without its critics, religious and political. Speaking a half-past eleven Mass in St. Michael's Church on Ascension Thursday, Fr. John Heenan C.C. said that he was informed that on the night previous a bomb was thrown into the drapery establishment of Mr. Wood, Main Street. That was the worst of the outrages yet committed. It was a crime against the Catholic Church and religion; it was an outrage against the teachings of the Church. And yet some people would try and find an excuse for this horrible act whereby lives might have been lost. “In the Bishop's, in my own, and in the name of the clergy, and in your name, I tender my sympathy to the victim of last night's diabolical outrage, and I denounce it as a crime against humanity and the great God of heaven.”

Again in St. Michael's Church, at 10 o'clock Mass on Pentecost Sunday, referring to the attacks on retired policemen and Protestants, Fr. Thomas Naughton C.C. said: “Lest by our silence we may be taken as condoning these outrages, I think it is our duty to say

a few words, and only a few words. They are outrages and crimes unchristian, and absolutely against the law of God. . Our silence does not by any means imply that we condone these offences, or that we encourage them, or anything of the like. We denounce them in the strongest terms as unchristian. We denounced them when they were committed by the Black and Tans, and we denounce them now when they are committed by our gallant Irish, who try to masquerade under the name of the Irish Republic.”

At last Mass on the same day, Fr. Thomas Maloney C.C. spoke of those who disregarded the 5th and 7th Commandments Those who committed those outrages were good at heart, but were led astray by their passions. “I tell you without the least fear of being wrong that any man or woman who goes out in cold blood and deliberately destroys life or property, no matter to whom the life or property belongs, is walking straight on the path to hell, and people who instruct them to commit those deeds are equally guilty. I do not say this in any bitterness or condemnation, but in order to appeal to those people to desist from such cruel acts in future.”

In the Market Square, at a public meeting on 15th June in the run-up to that month's General Election, Frank Fahy T.D. (Anti-Treaty) stated they were not in favour of persecuting people on account of their religion as had been done lately in Ballinasloe. He did not want the votes of men who persecuted others on account of their religion, and neither did the other men on the platform. “Because Belfast lost its civilization, were they, in God's name, to follow in the footsteps of Belfast and disgrace themselves? They would not do it. The seizure of grasslands and the persecution of Protestants was done by selfish people for a selfish end. There were men coming out now who were seizing the property of others and persecuting Protestants, but they would not help during the last three years when they wanted them to do so”.

On the same occasion, George Nicholls T.D. (Pro-Treaty) – portrayed in later life in our photograph – said “there was a lot of unadulterated blackguardism going on in Ballinasloe which was done by men who were never in the Sinn Féin movement, who were friends of the police and the British Army when they were in the country, and as soon as the police were gone started the robberies, plundering's and burnings. The proper place for them was in the jails”.

Concluding Part 2 to follow in next edition

BRIAN LYNCH

MOTOR FACTORS

Quality Parts & Accessories



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

T: 090 9646950 M: 087 4181464

E: bplynch63@gmail.com

Opening hours 7.30am to 6.00pm

After Napoleon Bonaparte's defeat at Waterloo the French Monarchy was reinstated leading to a period of fear and uncertainty among the French people. This ended in 1848 with the Declaration of The Second Republic. The Ganaveen farm visitor, Prince Joseph Charles Napoleon Bonaparte, was elected to the new Assembly along with his older cousin Prince Louis who was voted in as President.

His cousin, our visitor, was part of The Emperor's Government and as such was a very important person indeed. His reasons for visiting Ireland for a holiday in 1857 were to pay a visit to Donegal where his father's first wife Betsy Patterson's father had come from, and secondly he wished to see the Great Telescope at Birr.

Having explored his Donegal connections Prince Joseph sailed on his own Yacht from Derry to Galway. On mooring off Galway he was greeted by a 21 Gun Salute from a Naval ship anchored in the bay. This caused great panic in The Claddagh where the people thought the French were invading!

He boarded a train at Galway and was met at Ballinasloe by the great and the good of the town and escorted to a dinner in his honour. His Confessor, The Abbe Cruise, who had Ballinasloe connections told him the story of the Battle of Aughrim in 1691 and its link to General San Ruth and the French fallen at that most deadly affair.

He continued his journey by coach to Birr where he viewed the Telescope called Leviathan which was in its time the largest such instrument in the world. On this occasion he continued his journey in stages to Limerick where his yacht was moored waiting to take him to Kerry and later to Cork and home to France.

The Emperor on hearing the Aughrim story from Joseph, ordered a set of vestments to be made in Paris and they were delivered to The Parish Priest of Aughrim in 1858, around the time St. Michael's Church was dedicated. The vestments bearing the Imperial Symbol of The Bumble Bee may be seen in Aughrim and Loughrea museums.

Prince Joseph's second visit in 1860 was for a far more down to earth reason and was motivated by the Emperor's wish to improve French agricultural practises which were uneven and led to food shortages. On this visit Joseph arrived in Dunlaoire, or Kingstown as it was known then, and spent his first day at The Model Farm attached to The Albert College which has since become part of U.C.D. It is recorded that in the afternoon he dined at The Gresham Hotel before rejoining his Yacht.

Early the following morning he travelled to Westland Row by train and from there to The Broadstone Station by cab. It was noted he personally chose the poorest cab for himself.

From The Broadstone Station he travelled to Ballinasloe and this time was met by Lord Clancarty who treated him to breakfast at Garbally. After breakfast he escorted him to Lismany to meet Alan Pollok the owner of the most modern and innovative Farmstead at Ganaveen.



This farm and the one at Lismany were arguably the most modern in the world at that time and was developed and owned by a Scotsman named Alan Pollok. He had bought 39,000 acres mostly of the Eyre's Estate in Galway from The Encumbered Estates Board and had intended breaking it up into 4,000 acre units for renting out to suitable tenants.

Even by today's standards it was remarkable, and on the cattle side it could in one Byre-house over two hundred in two rows of individual pens accessed in the centre for feeding via individual troughs and at the rear for disposal of waste material. The by-product of the animals was turned into gas and was used to light the sheds and also to power various milling engines.

An article the following year in The Dublin Builder of Nov. 1st 1861 gives a fuller description of the scale of Pollok's undertaking which had attracted French attention and resulted in the visit of such an important observer. Apart from some fine stone buildings, there is very little evidence to be seen today of the experiment set up along the lines of Scottish Improvers.

Prince Joseph returned to Ballinasloe where Lord Clancarty showed him various other farms and then departed by train for Dublin. Having made his way back to Dunlaoire he boarded his yacht and set sail for France.

Even by today's standards he accomplished a lot in two days and this mind you in 1860!



Topline Greene's

1ST FOR BATHROOMS, TILES, DOORS AND FLOORS



Greene's Hardware Ahascragh

Phone 0909688609 • Email: martin@greeneshardware.ie

Shop
Local

Please support
our advertisers





The late Martin Tully

It was the St. Patrick's weekend of 1922, a century ago, my late father **Martin Tully**, and his friend and neighbour, Pat Craddock, went down to the Bunowen River fishing. They were both age 15 years and as youngsters their favourite spot was the Bunowen, which had a great reputation for trout fishing.

While they were there they saw some unusual objects on the river bank, allegedly dumped by the RIC. Pat Craddock took home one of the objects, which transpired to be a hand grenade and Martin Tully took home another-a detonator, completely oblivious to the dangers they could cause.

Pat Craddock's father spotted the hand grenade and knew immediately what it was. He put it on the top of a shovel and walked down to the nearby River Suck and threw the grenade into the river.

Martin Tully arrived home to an empty house with "his catch" the detonator. His father, a widower, was gone to work and his mother had died three and half years previously from the Spanish flu, so the curious Martin tried to dry his find in the fire. Within seconds the detonator exploded and blew off the tops of his thumb, third and fourth fingers on his left hand. He told us that he spent St. Patrick's weekend in the County Hospital Galway, where the County Council Civic Offices are now, under a Professor O'Malley.

Martin recovered well and became a well know carpenter and builder starting out as Clerk of works on buildings in Multyfarnham College, Co. Westmeath. Despite his handicap he was very adaptable with his injured hand and worked on many establishments in his home town. He never looked for or received any compensation or pension as a result of his injuries.

In hindsight, those two youngsters could have lost their lives on that fishing trip and I was lucky to see both of them live long lives afterwards and relate their experiences.



Sean Tully

The Parkinson's Association of Ireland recently appointed Creagh native Sinead Colleran as a Voluntary Director.

PAI offers a guiding light to people living with Parkinson's Disease and those who know and love them. The Association offers a freephone support line to answer any questions or just lend a listening ear and has a dedicated nurse available to talk with patients and their families. In all there are 18 volunteer-led

branches throughout Ireland forming part of the national organisation. The nearest one for people in Ballinasloe and its surroundings can be contacted here: galwaychairperson@parkinsons.ie

On top of her work with the association, Sinead works as the Community Games Operations Manager – nationwide as well as being a busy mother to Dylan, Ryan and Sophie.



Sinead Colleran

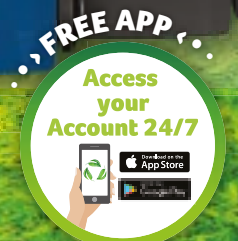
 **Barna Recycling**
Caring for your Environment

**Local, Reliable,
Affordable.**

Domestic Waste Collection

www.BarnaRecycling.com

(091) 771619





For over fifty years Ballinasloe-born **Monica (Mona) Meade** had been a fashionista to some of the First Ladys in the United States (wives of sitting presidents). Monica emigrated to the States in 1954 and following her retirement from the industry she lived in Manhattan, where she passed away earlier this year.

Having worked in Dubarry following her education in Creagh National School and the Convent Secondary School, the Portnick lady became involved in the fashion industry in New York, working from 7th Avenue. She became sales director

with Oscar Del Renta in the early sixties and organised fashion shows throughout the States. Former First Ladys Nancy Regan, Laura Bush and Hilary Clinton were among Monica's prized customers. Her private collection was also shown to Saudi Arabian princesses in the Middle East while her entourage also travelled to top stores in Paris, Greece, London, Italy and Spain.

A sister of former Galway senior footballers Sean (Ballyshannon) and Michael (Galway), Monica is also survived by her sister Eithne (New York), Eileen Dolan (Ballinasloe) and Mabel Madden (Ballymacward). She is predeceased by her sisters Anne (Carty) and May Meade.

Monica's remains were repatriated in her home town, at her sister's Eileen's home and following funeral Mass in Our Lady of Lourdes Church she was laid to rest in Creagh Cemetery.

SUDDEN DEATH OF FORMER GARDA



The unexpected passing of retired Garda **Frank Lohan**, Oatfield, Cappataggle, came as a great shock to the local community as well as to his colleagues in the force. Born on 21st February 1945, he grew up on the family farm with brothers Pat, John, Joe and sisters Ellie, Kitty and Margaret.

Having retired as a garda in 1996, Frank had joined the force in December 1964 after his early education in Killalaghton National School and Garbally College. He was initially stationed in Kilkenny, where he met his future wife, Marcella from Borris, Co. Carlow. He later served in Mooncoin (Kilkenny), Ring and Dungarvan (Waterford), Portumna and finally in Loughrea.

In 1980, Frank, Marcella and family decided to return to the family home in Oatfield. Here his love of country life, cattle and

sheep farming as well as gardening made him a highly popular member of the community. Of a quiet and friendly disposition, Frank's integration was warmly welcome and his advice on many subjects endeared him to many.

A great man of deep faith, the charitable Frank was a regular pilgrim to Knock Shrine, Clonfert Church as well as other shrines in Italy and France. At heart he was an extremely caring father and husband, always with a welcoming smile.

As his remains were brought to St. Catherine's Church in Aughrim serving and retired members of an Garda Siochana formed a guard of honour in memory of a great colleague. His final resting place was in Killalaghton Cemetery was attended by a large number of family, friends and former work colleagues.

Frank Lohan is survived by his wife Marcella, son Andrew, daughters Yvonne, Finola, Georgina and Maria; six grandchildren, sisters Ellie (Oatfield), Kitty (England), Margaret (Los Angeles), brothers Pat (Texas) and John (South Carolina) as well many other family and friends. His in predeceased by his brother Joe, in the USA in November last.

Moycarn

lodge & marina

THE MOYCARN LODGE & MARINA IS A BOUTIQUE HOTEL LOCATED JUST OFF EXIT 14 FROM THE M6 MOTORWAY, SITUATED ON ITS OWN PICTURESQUE PRIVATE MARINA.

Whether you want to relax and enjoy a leisurely lunchtime treat with friends, celebrate your special family occasion, or simply enjoy a well-deserved break away let our warm and welcoming team take care of you.



The Moycarn Lodge & Marina
Shannonbridge Road, Creagh, Ballinasloe,
Co. Galway H53 AC83

moycarnlodge@yahoo.com
(090) 964 5050



"Father John" - as he was known to everyone - was born in Togher, Ballinasloe on 14th August 1931, to John and Brigid Loughnane, third in a family of 4 girls and 2 boys. He attended Newtown national school, St Jarlath's College, Tuam and All Hallows College, Dublin (where he studied for the priesthood). He was ordained there in June 1957, to minister in the diocese of Corpus Christi, in south-east Texas, USA.

For the following 34 years, he ministered in four different parishes in the diocese: St Cyril Methodius' and St Peter's in Corpus Christi city; St Joseph's Beeville and St George's in George West. He retired to Ballinasloe in 2001, to live with his sister, Kaye, in The Pines, Creagh, for the remaining years of his life. He was pre-deceased by sisters: Mary (Fahey), Eileen (Connolly) and Kaye. He is survived by his sister, Bridie (Costello) and his brother, Tom.

For the past 20 years, Father John's smiling face had been a familiar one in the streets, shops and restaurants of Ballinasloe. He loved to meet and chat with people and share the news or a joke. Friend or stranger, it didn't matter. He was a people's person. He had an infectious sense of humour that brightened the lives of those he met. His fellow pilgrims on the Clonfert

pilgrimage to Lourdes over the years will remember his party piece, "Jerusalem" and the laughter that followed.

He was compassionate, loving and loyal. He visited the sick in Portiuncula Hospital, the elderly in nursing homes and reached out to the bereaved and troubled. He loved his family, each member right down to the last-born and related well with each one. He loved his home, his native place, Taughmaconnell, and his town, Ballinasloe. He loved all sports, and was a loyal supporter of his local clubs, GAA and soccer, and his county, Roscommon. He was always available to help out in any parish that needed him at the weekend. Every request for assistance was met with a "Yes".

His final great ambition was to celebrate his 90th birthday with family, neighbours and friends on 14th of August. Sadly, it was not to be! Covid restrictions and failing health meant a smaller family-only celebration. His health continued to slowly decline and in the afternoon of 11th February, feast of Our Lady of Lourdes, he gently slipped on to his eternal reward. May he rest in peace!



LIAM HANNIFFY - A DEDICATED DOCTOR

Dr. Liam Hanniffy, who passed away at his home in Portlaoise, was born in Ashford, Creagh, Ballinasloe ninety-three years ago. One of a family of eleven, Liam became a passionate and dedicated doctor who devoted all of his working life to the patients in his care.

He was widely regarded within the profession and was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Psychiatrists in the 1980's. Dr. Liam worked in Ballinasloe, Castlerea and Waterford Hospitals as well as in spending a year in Newfoundland before being appointed Resident Medical Superintendent of St. Fintan's Hospital, Portlaoise in 1978-a post he held for over twenty years. When he retired in the late 90's he began working as Assistant Inspector of Mental Hospitals, until his ultimate retirement at the age of 75.

Coming from a great sporting family, Liam married Ballinasloe girl, Ann Dunne in 1966 and became the proud parents of two sons and a daughter. The family made regular trips back to their home town to visit family and friends. Liam loved the outdoor life whether shooting or boating on the Shannon where he taught his children to swim.

Huge crowds turned out to bid farewell to the popular doctor when his remains were brought back to his native town for burial in Creagh Cemetery. Dr. Hanniffy is survived by his wife Ann, sons John and Dermot, daughter Ann, sister Ollie as well many more relatives and friends.



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

15% OFF
your order total
with this advert

**Specialists in Custom Designed
Memorial Cards**



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

Social dancing patrons from many parts of the country were shocked to learn of the passing of **John Joe Kelly**, Ardross, Kilconnell, following a short illness. The founding member of **Midnight Melodies** played on Tuesday nights, for over twenty years, in Gullane's Hotel, together with his wife Ann (nee O'Neill).

John Joe inherited his musical talents from his late parents, his father Patrick was a renowned fiddle player while his mother, Josie was a gifted singer, whose family, the Ryans were traditional musicians from Tipperary.

Mastering the banjo, accordion, harmonica and electric guitar at an early age, John Joe ventured full-time into the music and entertainment business. He was also a beautiful singer and with his wife Anne on the keyboards, **Midnight Melodies** became highly popular at venues throughout the four provinces.

One of the first groups to organise Afternoon Tea Dances, which attracted many "old swingers" back to the dance floor, the Gullane's Tuesday night gigs became known as "the new Lisdoonvarna." Many romances started at these dances and both JJ and Anne were invited to weddings, resulting from where couples had met at their dances.

In his homily to a packed congregation, Celebrant Fr. Gerry Geraghty said John Joe was not only respected for his talent but also for his conscientious and reliable character. He said he was generous when it came to sharing his music and creativity and would sometimes pen a poem or song for a special occasion, still finding time to give back to the local community such as playing every week in the Social Services Centre in Ballinasloe.

A skilled darts player, John Joe's family were very important to him, which saw him remember them at Christmas time especially with gifts of special flowers from his colourful garden, hoping they would be planted in their gardens as "a little bit of Ardross."

Colleagues, past and present from the musical and



entertainment world acknowledged the arrival of John Joe's remains in the Kilconnell Church and at his graveside in the adjoining cemetery with a rendition of traditional music and singing. It was a fitting farewell to a musical maestro that had such a huge following of fans, many of whom came to his funeral from all over the country to say thanks for the memories of yesteryears.

John Joe Kelly is survived by his wife Anne, brothers Gerry (Florida) and Kevin (London), sisters Bernadette Fitzgerald (Ballyforan) and Anne Cleary (Ballinasloe), nieces, nephews, nieces, uncles, in-laws, cousins, relatives and friends.

FORMER ART TEACHER PETER WEAVER



Peter Weafer, who passed away in a Dublin Hospital, just a week short of his 93rd birthday, got his first job as an art teacher in the Ballinasloe Vocational School in 1958, and during his years there he painted many of the sets for the Choral and Musical Society.

Born in the North Strand, in Dublin's Fairview, Peter lost his dad, a merchant seaman, when he was only two years old, and left school at 14 to work as a messenger boy.

He showed a marked talent for drawing and attended night classes in Marino Technical School, where his teacher was the renowned Irish artist, Sean Keating, who encouraged the youth to develop his skills by attending the College of Art.

Peter worked nights in the "Irish Press" as an advertising setter, then headed for London and later opted to travel around Europe

to see the paintings and architecture of the continent. Returning home, he worked for The Kerryman before taking up teaching. After a stint in the Connemara Gaeltacht to improve his Irish Peter got his first job as an art teacher in Ballinasloe, where he worked for over ten years.

During his term there he met Caltra schoolteacher Eileen Kilcommons and two years later they were married, in September 1961. Peter then moved to Templeogue College in Dublin and remained there, as an art teacher, until his retirement in 1992.

The artist's other great love was the Army. While in Ballinasloe he joined the 16th Infantry Battalion and when he moved to Dublin he joined the Company 7th Battalion, first as a Lieutenant, then as a Captain and lastly as a Commandant and Company Commander until he retired in 1986. Peter was also a self-taught musician, playing the piano, organ and accordion and loved to play a few tunes at a party.

The late Mr. Weafer is survived by his wife Eileen, son Sean, daughters Maire, Aine Eileen, Cliona and Sinead, as well as many other relatives and friends. His funeral took place in Dublin.

The Garbally College Golf Classic will be held this year at Ballinasloe Golf Club on 29th and 30th April.

Organised by the Garbally College Parents' Association, Corporate Packages are available at €280.00 for a team of 4.

This includes 4 Goodie Bags, Tee Box Sponsorship, Refreshments at 8th Tee and Dinner and refreshments. The Golfers Package is available for €160.00.

Fab Prizes include Hotel stay and Green fees x 4, Dubarry Clothing, Dinner for 4, Local Hampers and much more. For more information about tee times and sponsorship you can contact Co - Ordinator Conor Ryan at conor@rycon.ie or 087-2444344.

Funds raised will go towards the educational needs - current and capital of the young men in attendance currently at the College.



The members of the Garbally Golfing Society From left, Hugh Killeen, Tom Cafferky, Charlie Mooney, Tadhg McLaverty, Ben Bleahen, Aongus McLaverty, Evan McKeown, Michael Tully and P. Walsh. Missing from photo is Liam Tully.

RELAUNCH OF PAST PUPILS UNION

By Robbie Gately

A group of past students came together in the last 18 months to resurrect and reconnect the PPU with Garbally College's past pupils.

The multi-decade alumni consisting routinely of Martin Nunan (Chair), Damian Mac ConUladh, Paddy Feehily, Declan Kavanagh, Aidan Ryan, Alan Harney, Colm Croffy, Mike Shiel, Declan Kelly, Frank Turley, Declan Geraghty, Timmy Broderick, Michael McCullagh, were aided with online discussions and contributions from a variety of classmates.

They have been working with the college authorities, Principal Paul Walshe and other stakeholders in demising and developing a proposed constitution and method of organisation.

To launch the PPU, an inaugural AGM has been organised, coinciding with the Garbally Golf Classic on Friday 29th April at 8pm in Gullane's Hotel. The business of the meeting will be to approve a working constitution, elect new officers and to set

out a programme of events for the year ahead.

Martin Nunan, Chair of the PPU Working Group stated: "I'd like to thank the group for their patience over the last few months. It has been a tough period, but we are where we wanted to be as a group for past pupils. We can now look forward to the AGM and keep momentum with our plans"

A draft constitution is available by emailing garballyppu@gmail.com. Final details for the AGM are being made but it's hoped to facilitate those not physically present via Zoom Visit - Facebook page Garbally College Past Pupils for further updates and information or contact any of the working group.



Martin Nunan

AN EMERGING AREA EVENTS CALENDAR 2022

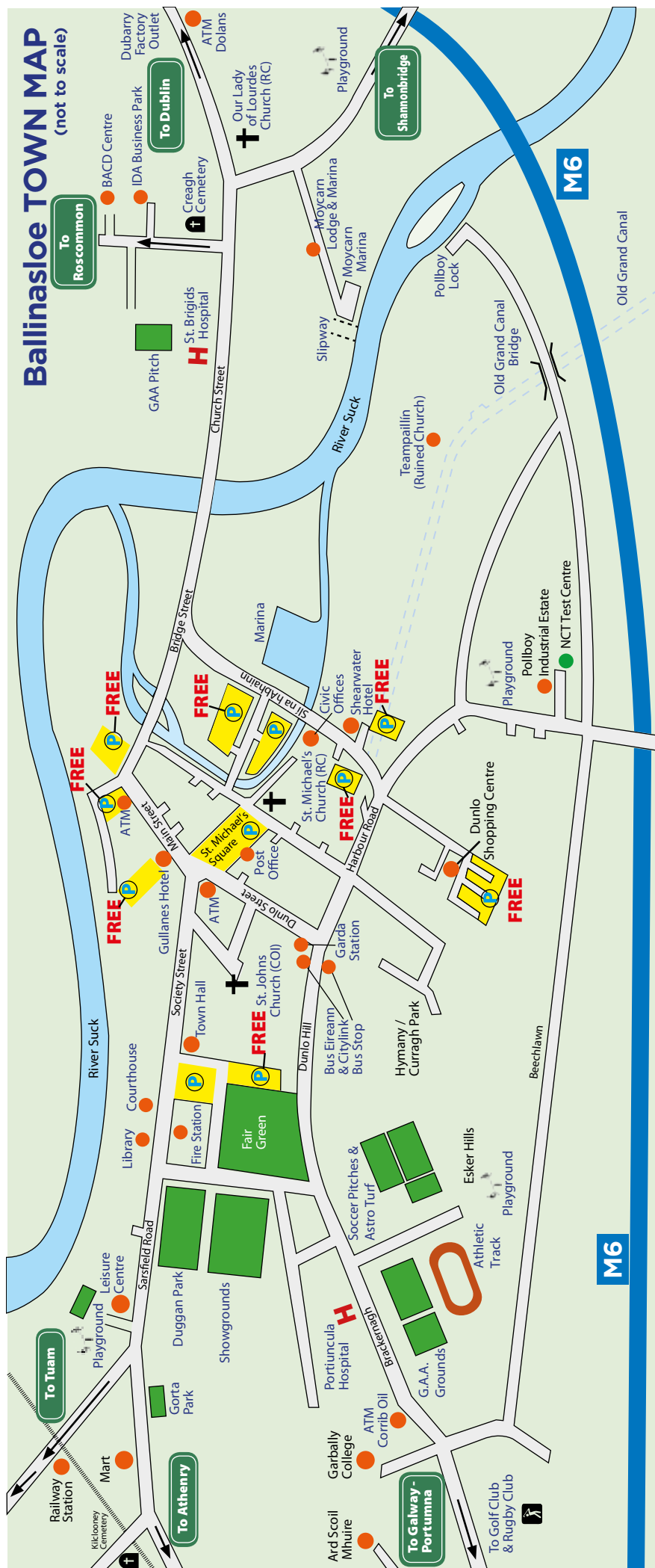
Each edition we will try and list the forthcoming HEADLINE events in our town and locale some 12 months out to give families, relations, visitors and other clubs and societies a chance to see where events are now being scheduled. Please contact us with your Key event dates as early as possible.

Shannonbridge RiverFest	16th-18th of April
Dinny Delaney Festival of Uileann Pipers	29th of April - 1st of May
Garbally College Golf Classic Fundraiser	29th - 30th April
Galway County Fleadh	20th - 22nd of May
All Ireland Heritage Boat Inland Rally	4,5,6th June
Eyrecourt Vintage Rally	19th of June
Livestock Festival Aughrim	1st & 2nd of July
Battle of Aughrim Remembrance	15-17th Of July
Ballinasloe Showjumping Connacht Finals	22-24th of July
Ballinasloe Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds	8th-11th of September
Ballinasloe Agricultural Show	24th of September
Ballinasloe Horse Fair and Festival	2nd -9th of October
Ballinasloe Vintage and Heritage Day	Sunday 9th of October
Zombie Walk	28th & 29th of October
ComicCon	4/5/6 November*
Christmas Lights	27th of November*

*Provisional

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.

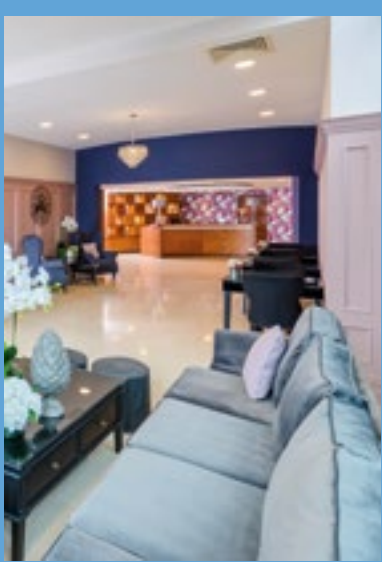
6 – From St. Michael's Church now walk up St. Michael's Square back towards the Man with the Horse Statue. Take a left into Dunlo Street, an important street in the history of the town, which contains, together with other buildings of about the same date, the late-Georgian Garda Station. The Station 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.

Please support All Our Local
Subscribers and Advertisers
HELP GROW YOUR
COMMUNITY



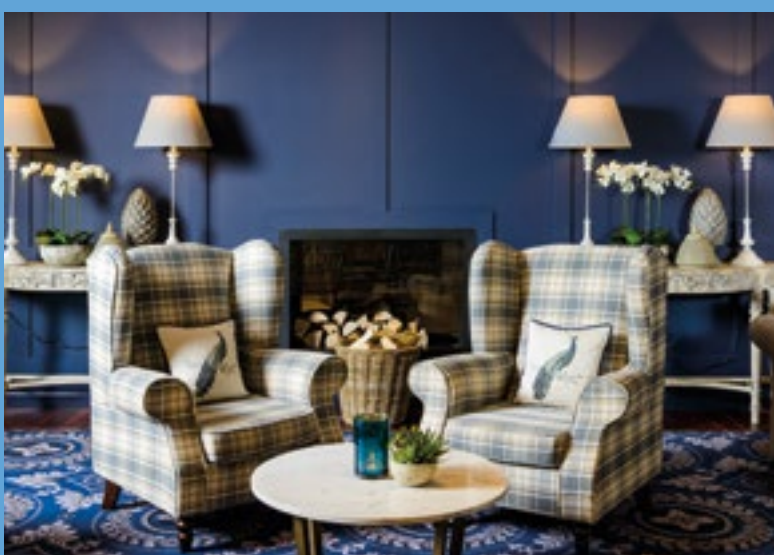


SHEARWATER

HOTEL & SPA



Book Now
090 9630400



SHEARWATER

HOTEL & SPA



MARINA POINT, BALLINASLOE, CO GALWAY

T: 090 9630400 W: WWW.SHEARWATERHOTEL.COM



COMER GROUP
HOTELS





Discover our men's and women's range of casual footwear, clothing, bags and accessories at clearance prices in our Factory Shop

FACTORY SHOP OPENING TIMES: **Monday - Friday: 10am - 5:30pm, Saturday: 11am - 5pm**

DUBARRY OF IRELAND

Est.  1937

Factory Shop, Junction 14 off the M6 Motorway, Ballinasloe, County Galway H53 H6F3 • 35 College Green, Dublin D02 N271

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

dubarry.com

