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Vol. 13 Issue 4: Oct '23 - Nov '23



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Welcome to the current edition where there is always a chime with the past,

Covid took lumps out of us all in terms of measuring time but because of the 5k and 10k restrictive rules – it also caused a great deal of us to pause and reflect again in some depth on the landscape, the flora, the fauna, and heritage under our feet.

Dr Gerladine Curtin, in a Ballinasloe Life Facebook video interview with us, after her talk on the Convent as the first reform school for girls, suggested that covid and the Decade of Centenaries encouraged all of us to think differently about our ancestors and role of local history under our feet. It's no coincidence that the Irish Military Archives site and the Census of 1906 site crashed on numerous occasions around the March Covid periods owing to the pressure of online interest.

Judging by the crowds in Moore, the Library, Auhgrim and indeed on the town walks – Heritage Week in town, as nationwide- is enjoying an upsurge of interest. The launch of the District Heritage Society and their eagerly anticipated programme of activities is further evidence of the need to understand better why, how, and who, did the settling of our developments.

St. Grellan is the patron saint of this townland – parish; even though St. Brendan the Navigator from the Kingdom of Healy Rae's - as the founder of the Diocese, gets all the monuments and visuals. I still don't know to this day why Grellan got such an air brushing out of the mainstream – there are wells, tempallins, graveyards, staves, and other aspects of the Saint's life in abundance. The Gaelic Leaguers

As we go to print word is filtering through that the tendering company for the Athlone to Galway Greenway has stepped away from the project as they consider it not financially viable for the company.

As we all know, the Bridge to cross the Shannon has been completed and I believe there is a very valid argument to complete the Athlone to Ballinasloe section.

Firstly, it links two towns on the rail line. Secondly, this part of the Greenway is practically all on State lands with no contentious CPO issues as on the remainder of the "proposed" route. Thirdly, this area is part of the Hidden Heartland earmarked for further "Just Transition" funding from Europe. This is an ideal opportunity for Roscommon and Galway County Councils to work together to develop this part of the route with additional investment in ancillary tourism ventures all the way along the Suck Valley way.

The draft Galway Tourism plan is being finalised and amendments should be made to ensure this project is earmarked for funding in the largest urban area off the Shannon in the Hidden Heartlands.

Based on media comments the Greenway from Ballinasloe to Galway is just as far away as the Galway City ring road. Investment in Tourism was a key element of our 10 year plan launched last year. Another key pillar was the investment in our Health services.

at the turn of the 19th Century were encouraged by the clergy to rediscover Pattern Day saints. In our locale -as well as all the landscape features – the Leaguers enshrined his legacy in the former national school, the former Football Club, and a wonderful neighbourhood in St. Grellan's Terrace who still gather ever summer for their outside grotto mass.

It was lovely to see the generation of youngsters led by the talented Ria Purcell – perform the St. Grellan's Rap with soul and movement and for it to be carried around the world on social media on St. Grellan's day. It is vital that the lore that is amongst the older generations finds its way to the next.

Memory and recall are the lifeblood of history and local heritage, but our ageing society is having to come to terms with brain degenerative disease at a rate of knots. Lovely to be able to report in these pages the new enhanced service for Alzheimer's patients and their families in the Social Services Centre. With dementia set to double in 25 years and our community reflecting an older cohort than national data – we need to be mindful of the growing number among us whose recall of their childhood or history is better than their present. The service needs volunteers too!!

Le Gach De Ghui,
COLM CROFFY,
Editor.



We are pleased to announce that following engagement over the Summer months with Laura Lynn Foundation they are establishing a base in our Enterprise Centre in Creagh, with recruitment ongoing. Portiuncula Hospital has opened additional beds in recent weeks and there are plans afoot for the provision of further additional medical facilities in the town, which is excellent news.

St Brigid's Hospital continues to be an eyesore and despite numerous commitments from the HSE over the last 12 years to put the premises on the market they continue to drag their heels and are moving forward at a snail's pace despite the old Building being completely vacated, but we will continue to press for progress.

Large crowds flocked to Ballinasloe last month for the hugely successful Larry Reynolds Music Festival and we look forward to a large influx of more visitors in October for the annual Fair.

We wish them every success with this Historic event.

SEAMUS DUFFY,
Chairman Ballinasloe Area
Community Development Limited.



Articles and Photos Welcome

NEXT ISSUE
Deadline Nov 13th

For submission of articles, please email:
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CREDITS

EDITOR

Colm Croffy

REPORTER/VIDEOGRAPHER

Liam Timmins

EVENTS GUIDE CO-ORDINATOR

Tanya Joyce

PRODUCTION AND IMAGE ASSISTANT, VIDEOGRAPHY

Letizia Burratti

CONTRIBUTORS

Ken Kelly, Barry Lally, Damian MacConUladh and various other contributors

GRAPHIC DESIGN

KPW Print, Ballinasloe

PRINT

KPW Print, Ballinasloe

PHOTOS

Robert Riddell, J&S Photos - jsphotos.ie Evelyn Donellan, Michael S. Kelly, Sarah Kilduff.



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WHAT'S INSIDE

LOCAL NEWS

- 4 Planning Updates
- 5 Poolboy Landfill Transformation
- 6 Dooley's Corner
- 7 Tourism Activator Key

BUSINESS

- 8 Solar PV Energy Company Launches
- 9 New Salesman for M6 Motors
- 10 Bells and Bristles Dog Groomer
- 11 Crafting Memories
- 12 New Hub Seeks Entrepreneurs
- 13 New Chroi Naofa NS Build
- 14 Pulse Networking Evening
- 15 National Children's Hospice as Town Base

COMMUNITY

- 16 Busy Library Programme
- 17 People of the Year Awards
- 18 Exhibition Success
- 19 New Dunlo Ward in Portiuncula
- 20 Award for Cian
- 21 Cultural Programme
- 24 Auhgrim Broadcast on RTÉ Service
- 25 Onam Celebrated Locally
- 27 Mindful Birthing New Service
- 28 New Alzheimer Service Expansion
- 30 Schools Reunion Plans
- 31 Facelift for Town Hall
- 32 Out and About
- 34 Events Guide

SCHOOLS RULE

- 37 New Student Council in Creagh
- 38 Leaving Cert Results
- 39 First Day at School

CULTURE

- 40 Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds
- 41 Band's Summer Progress
- 42 Celebrating a Century of Music
- 43 Snow White Panto
- 44 Fair and Festival 2023
- 45 Group 8 Celebrate Culture Night

SPORT

- 46 Big Welcome for Heather Payne
- 48 Hurling Making Huge Strides
- 49 Godfrey Gibbons
- 50 Underage Continue to Thrive in Soccer
- 51 Historic First All-Ireland Golf Champions
- 52 Tennis Club Enjoys Busy Summer
- 55 Road Runners Busy Months Ahead
- 56 Underage Talent Continues in Rugby

HERITAGE

- 57 Heritage Autumn Plans
- 58 The Mental Hospital
- 61 Moore Celebrate Heritage Week
- 62 Obits
- 63 Down Memory Lane
- 64 Ploughing Championships 1944
- 66 Ballinasloe History Walk



BEC
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Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre,
Creagh, Ballinasloe. Co. Galway
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Public consultation is now open for a new housing development at St. Joseph's Place, now in its Part 8 planning stage.

The Council proposes to construct 8 terraced houses at St. Joseph's Place, expanding the current estate. 2 single storey two-bed dwellings and 6 two-storey two-bed dwellings of a total area of 3746sq meters and 14 units are anticipated.

Renewable energy measures will be provided for each build alongside associated car parking, rear and front patios, new estate signage and other ancillary site works. The developments have been researched and planned by McKenna Consulting Engineers.

The Council encourages the public to provide their feedback on these projects. Plans and particulars can be found at the Ballinasloe Civic Offices or the Council's Submissions can be made until Friday October 13, and can be made in writing to the Galway County Hall at P.O. Box No. 27 or online at planning.localgov.ie/en/search/application.

Meanwhile, an application by Ross Engineering Ltd requesting a new business and technology plant at the IDA Business Park has been delayed with a further information request surmising that previously unrecorded archaeological remains may exist on the proposed site of 7450sq meters, which development works could disturb.

The Council has now requested that an Archaeological Impact Assessment (AIA) be conducted on the grounds, requiring an archaeologist to inspect the site and submit a final report to Department and Planning Authority with their findings. In the event archaeological material is present, further mitigation measures will be required on site. This measure was not undertaken by the four current separate planning developments to the front of the park.

The local authority has also requests the inclusion of a mobility management plan, a revised site map, a letter of feasibility



Josephs Place 3D Interpretation

by Uisce Eireann, a drawn surface water drainage layout, elaboration within the proposals Policy Objective, as well as an Appropriate Assessment resulting from the location's proximity to the River Suck Callows; if Ross Engineering Ltd were to submit another application.

A housing development of 13 dwelling houses by Glentaun has recently been refused by An Bord Pleanála. The development, submitted by applicants Niamh and Shane Dolan, proposes a 1920sq meter estate of three-bedroom builds each with two parking spaces, along with all associated road and park works.

Meanwhile another housing estate has been rejected by the Galway County Council, which would have been located on the west side of town applied by Rathbaun Housing Development.

The rejection comes as the land is currently zoned in the Local Area Plan in Residential Phase 2, meaning it cannot be built as the plan gives preference to Phase 1 lands until 2028. Additionally, some raised concerns regarding the feasibility of the existing wastewater and public water network.

Applicant Raymond Sheridan has resubmitted his application for six single-storey terraced houses at Townparks, Moycarn. Each house intends to facilitate two-bed family housing for a total of six units, alongside associated parking spaces, an access entrance and exit, and additional ancillary works.

The Limehill Esker application of 165 units behind Tesco remains awaiting a decision from Bord Pleanala which was due last December !

NO CHANGE TO TOWN'S CONSTITUENCY

A long-awaited review of Dáil constituencies recommends Ballinasloe remain in Roscommon-Galway, three seater.

The Electoral Commission, brought forward significant proposals including the suggestion Galway East should increase from a three-seater to a four-seater consistency.

Also significant, the review recommends that more than 16 thousand people currently in the Roscommon-Galway district be moved to Galway East. Ballinasloe's inclusion in this transition was strongly speculated but the proposal maintains the town in its current constituency.

It remains to be seen how the loss of 32 electoral areas will affect local politicians based in the district. The Clontuskert electoral area has been returned to Galway East.

"Ballinasloe needs a TD. I've been a voice for Ballinasloe in the Seanad & within Government and with the support of the town as TD at the next election for Roscommon Galway area. Fighting for investment like the 50 bed ward block for Portiuncula Hospital, new enterprise and jobs e.g. recent announcement on LauraLynn hospice and interest from companies in IDA business park, Housing, investment in schools e.g. Creagh NS, St Teresa's & new school for Scoil An Chroí Naofa and working with community groups all around Ballinasloe in Galway & Roscommon. Elected as a Cllr for Ballinasloe MD I will continue to support groups and the people in this area" states Sen Aisling Dolan.

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The journey towards a sustainable future for the town took a significant step as Galway County Council appoints consultant firm, Brady Shipman Martin for the Poolboy Landfill Remediation project.

In years past, the landfill accumulated waste from the entire county until its closure in 2005. The site, situated south of town, opposite the M6 has now been approved by Galway County Council for its feasibility as a recreational eco-park and has been included in the County Development Plan 2022-2028.

Within the proposal are mentions of an open-space park amenity for community use which include sustainable energy and climate action measures. How the park will sit with the rewetted Bord na Mona bog surrounding it will be interesting for habitat preservation.

The latest appointment of consultants has been confirmed by Cllr Evelyn Parsons, an avid environmentalist, who previously championed the project's inclusion in the recent County plan.

Brady Shipman Martin are one of Ireland's largest planning, landscape and environmental specialists, and were responsible for sketching Tramore Valley Park's transformation from a Cork City Landfill to a 70-acre public amenity space.

"I welcome appointment of consultants on the Poolboy site's remediation and transformation as a very positive development finally for a community that has suffered a long time. The appointment of Brady Shipman Martin heralds the start of a transformative change, aiming to revitalize the site into a thriving eco-park. There will now be an opportunity to positively shape a vision for the site to deliver a healthy, safe, and environmentally sustainable Ballinasloe" said Cllr Parsons.

€6 million has been set aside for remediation works on the site upon the 2014 Municipal Council takeover through the Landfill Remediation Fund 2013, with its commitment being

detailed in the Galway County Council capital account 2020 and other documentation.

Cllr. Parsons stressed a remediation plan and process should be in place within the 2022-2028 lifetime, as per Galway County Council's legal requirements to return the site to public use according to the High Court Order Justice Kearns 1999.

"It is imperative that remediation obligations under the 1999 High Court Order are fully adhered to. It is my view that the principle of environmental justice must be upheld in delivery of a Public Park for the local community."

Plans and other elements included in the park will be shaped and influenced by community engagement. Among suggestions explored by Cllr. Parsons include an ambitious skatepark facility and an outdoor recreation park, complete with activities and zip lines for younger generations.

In the coming weeks, a public consultation will be held in Ballinasloe and online, allowing community members to contribute their ideas and aspirations for this project. "It is crucially important to have the community's voice heard in the public consultation" Dr. Evelyn concludes.



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The welcome refurbishment of a key entry point eyesore corner to town has been given statutory approval with the decision of the Municipal District Council to proceed with PART 8 planning for Dooleys Corner.

The proposal was formally made by Cllr. Dermot Connolly and seconded by Cllr. Michael Keaveny at a recent meeting.

Dermot Connolly spoke about how he had first mooted the idea to Rahel Logue nearly four and half years ago and that "it was a momentous day for the Cnoc Dunloea Community and birth place of the renowned Gaelgeoir and Writer Eoghan Ui Thuraisc to see such a huge repurposing and revitalisation of a town centre development for local housing" He went on to stage that "he was pursuing with the Irish Language Officer of the Council how best the legacy of the area might be preserved."

The Council will renovate and extend the series of existing terraced buildings on Dunlo Hill for a residential housing development encompassing 10 duplex one bed apartments, one single-storey one bed apartment and two duplex double-bed apartments for a total of 15 units each. Each built is approximately 44sq meters in size and will all include renewable energy design measures.

Proposed Dunlo Hill Development



Included in the outline is Dooley's Pub which will be developed into community centre on the ground floor and basement area. Partial demolitions will be conducted, although conservation of the building's exterior will be a key focus during construction phases.

The existing courtyard behind the site will be adapted, creating a new semi-public pedestrian route through the development along with provisions of bike parking and bin storage, to give a Mews effect but it will not be available to motorised traffic.

McKenna Consulting Engineers in their extensive briefing to the Councillors explained some of the reasons behind the delay with the Bat Analysis and Conservation and Heritage analysis of the 1828 built edifice.

Cllr. Michael Connolly welcomed the removal of the eyesore and called on the officials to force the owners of other crumbling eyesore sites in town to tidy them up or move enforcement orders on them as it was "spoiling the good work of the recent town enhancement programme".

Cllr. Dr. Evelyn Parsons wondered what community group would be allocated the facility to manage? Director of Services Liam Hanrahan advised that they had a number of service organisations regionally in mind and would be in harmony with the Voluntary Housing Association contracted to manage the complex.

"These Part 8s to day signal additional new social and affordable housing for over 24 families and attracts dereliction I do hope when names for the development are being considered that we can find ways to accentuate the O Tuarisc connection with the location or indeed find some sculpture or Art Work that would be testament to his contribution to the Teanga and literature" stated Cllr. Parsons.

Public consultation is remains open for two new housing developments at Dunlo Hill and St. Joseph's Place, both in their Part 8 planning stages. Tendering will proceed before December end.

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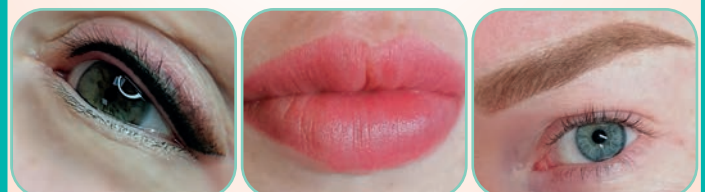
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Members of the Municipal District Council were enthusiastic to learn that despite the shortcomings in the County's first draft Tourism Plan, the approval of a fulltime new Tourism Activator Officer – funded by the Just Transition Funds and the County Council for just the Municipal area, over the coming months will be key in drawing down some of the €66 million earmarked for tourism over the next few years



Director Of Services Liam Hanrahan also confirmed to the Sept. meeting that the County Tourism Officer Post vacant for some 8 months, was in the process of being filled and whilst he could not confirm to members where the new dedicated TY Officer would have their base – he assured them that 100 % of their focus would be on the MDC area only.

Members were briefed that the new Activator would have to work very quickly with the new Tourism Officer and Hidden Heartlands to create a Destination Marketing Zone Plan for the MDC area that would map out what tourism infrastructure and activities could be supported from the EU funded package.

Members were surprised that the Officials did not wish to have the Draft County Tourism Plan tabled as a stand alone agenda. At their last meeting there was unanimity of the elected representatives that it had deficiencies when it came to action points for the Municipal Area District and for the Town with the second largest amount of bed nights in the county after Clifden and needed to be discussed.

Cllr Michael Connolly appealed to the Chair Declan Geraghty that the officials were wrong in their advice and that as the plan was in draft format the members had a statutory right to review and propose changes.

There was much discussion and the meeting supported Cllr.

Connollys demand that the amendments he outlined 1) Involving the Suck more heavily in the Shannon Masterplan 2) to include immediate action plans for Aughrim interpretative centre on par with some of the specifics for Connemara and the islands- be brought forward to the full Council meeting that would amend or adopt the plan.

Mr. Liam Hanrahan noted the members concerns and advised that the amendments would now go before the Tourism and Culture Policy Committee for appraisal, prior to full Council adoption.

Meanwhile the Company that was carrying out the preparation and development work on the Athlone to Galway Greenway has withdrawn owing to the complexity of the challenges the project faces.

Senator Eugene Murphy is aghast at the news and believes that with the new bridge opening in Athlone the original State owned route to Ballinasloe or Aughrim and then progress the rest of it later must now be considered.

“My view will not be acceptable to everybody, but all options should be looked at now and obviously it’s a major, major problem now when there is nobody to do this work, how long we are going to sit on this. The authorities must look at other options - maybe develop it so much of the way- otherwise we could be sitting around for a long time, with delays and pauses.”

Senator Aishling Dolan takes the opposite view and has urged the authorities to find a new contractor and proceed with the plans as laid out.

Meanwhile the IWAI Suck Branch secured a massive boost for marketing the town as a boating destination with a huge colourful feature Under River Suck Stories about the opportunities and fun that visitors had during the summer, in the popular Waters News Magazine.



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Justin & Phelim Donnelly & Alan Pardy

Three local businessmen have formed an ambitious new Solar PV Energy installation company Solec Solar to capitalize on the huge pent demand as Ireland aims to double its solar energy generation capacity under the new EU Solar strategy over the coming years.

Bringing over twenty years' experience in the construction industry through Donnelly Construction and Alan Pardy Electrical, the team will be based locally in Lawrencetown to service the PV solar market as Ireland moves at full speed to more sustainable energy sources.

Solec Solar are fully insured to carry out all works and are a SEAI approved installer, which is a requirement in order for the customer to receive the attractive grant aid that is available to install these systems. The Directors are Alan Pardy and Justin and Phelim Donnelly.

"Our intention is to service the domestic, agricultural and commercial markets. We have the resources to spec/design systems to suit each of these markets, East Galway and South Roscommon needs reliable specialists to do the work on the ground and Solec Solar plan to do a share of that work" explained Joint Founder Justin.

All of their systems use the very best components on the market today and are backed up by up to 25 year manufacturer's warranty, using the leading manufacturers such as Jinko PV panels, Solis and Huawei inverters and batteries to name a few.

Every customer's house or project is different, so each system is designed to reflect that and to maximize the efficiency of the system being installed.

From first initial contact, to the point of installation takes approximately 4 to 8 weeks, as they have partnered with suppliers which ensures that they have no delays in sourcing equipment or parts.

With energy prices so high, people are always looking at ways of how they can save money and one of the simplest ways is to install Solar PV, as the return on investment starts immediately after installation with savings on electricity bills and in approximately 6 years the customer would have payback of their initial investment.

Cost of solar PV has dropped dramatically in the last few years which makes them a lot more affordable. The government has also cut VAT on domestic solar from May of this year.

As Solec Solar are a local company you will be dealing directly with the principals. They are competitively priced and offer a full design, install and commission by a SEAI (Sustainable Energy Authority of Ireland) approved installer and a DAFM (Department of Agriculture Food & the Marine) approved installer.

Currently as we head to budget, there is a TAMS grant of 60% of the cost of a Solar PV system for farmers. There is also an Accelerated Capital Allowance Scheme for Commercial/Business. The ACA scheme allows companies to write off 100% of the purchase value of qualifying energy efficient equipment against their profit in the year of purchase.

"A Typical example of 3/4 bed house, using twelve 430 watt panels, a Huawei inverter, and a Smart Energy Diverter (used to heat water with excess power produced from PV) would come in at a cost of €6950 to the customer (after a grant of €2400) with payback of approximately 6 years thereafter" suggests Justin.

To find out more information check out their website <https://www.solecsolar.ie> or call Alan on 087 6204773, Phelim on 086 3838898 or Justin on 086 8205841 for further information.

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Now entering their thirteenth year in business, M6 Motors are growing their team as they welcome Neil Molloy as a senior salesperson. Since its foundation in 2011 by Alan Naughton, the Kilgarve based car dealership expanded from a two-man operated outfit to a business now employing in-around a dozen employees.

Some might recognise their newest salesman as a cohost on the Galway Bay FM show 'Mollie in the Morning'. Although Neil continues to enjoy a career in radio and television after twenty-five plus years in the industry, he has always been eager to return to the practise of sales. Prior to his appointment, Molloy has worked for major names in the trade including Heineken Ireland and Richmond Marketing.

"This was an easy decision for me" Neil notes, "my passion for cars and love for sales all in one, the perfect job."

Neil Molloy is no stranger to town. Originally from Attymon, his late mother Mary worked as a nurse in St Brigid's Hospital. He also spent time working in his uncle's drapery store, Michael Ward Menswear

"I love Ballinasloe, it's almost like a homecoming for me and it's great to have family living here. I get a great kick talking to costumers and being able to make a connection with the town, especially GAA fans who all know my Uncle Willie and of course my Aunt Thelma.



She lives just down the road from M6, so that will be handy for the odd surprise lunch visit" laughs Molloy.

Owner Alan Naughton expressed his delight with the new appointment: "Neil's been a costumer of ours for years and has always shown a keen interest in what we do here. It seems like he's always been with us, except now he is selling cars. He is also Eanna's cousin (General Manager with M6 Motors) so they really work well together and have the same sense of humour, which I have no doubt will be seen on our social media pages."

Now settling into his new role, Neil has his sights set high at the car dealership: "I am looking forward to working with an amazing group of people who are passionate about local enterprise and how important business is in the local community."

M6 Motors are open Monday to Friday from 08:30 to 18:00, and Saturdays from 09:00 to 16:00. The business can be contacted on (090) 964 5801 or www.m6motors.ie.



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NOW ENROLLING for 2023-2024

A new replacement owner, Jena Louise, has acquired Sandy's Dog Grooming Salon in Dunlo St., with the premises being rebranded as 'Bell's & Bristles'.

Sandra Mularska had operated her salon since September 2012 at Church Hill, and has since moved store to Dunlo Street. Due to personal circumstances, Sandra announced she would be closing shop, returning to her home country of Poland where she hopes to open a new practise and train beginners of the trade to her best ability.

The Canine Grooming specialist found it was difficult finding a suitable replacement, until meeting Jena Louise from Manchester. Following a period of "intense training" and researching the particular styles for each of her dog clients, Sandra stated she now feels comfortable handing the keys to the new owner.

"I can assure you that the salon will continue to provide services at the highest level, and that Jena and I focus not only on the perfect coatcuts, but also on making every dog feel comfortable and safe with us" Sandra emphasised.

Reflecting on a memorable moment working at the salon, Sandra remembers an encounter with a regular dog she assumed was called 'Spot'. Only upon transferring the client database onto Jena did she realize the dog's name was in fact Mallow. Over the years, the owner decided not to correct her as she found the title to be sweet, and fitting as the dog had a white spot on his lip.

Jena herself has been professionally dog

grooming over the past six years in the UK, and opened her first parlour in 2020 now overseen by her former colleagues. She always planned to move to Roscommon, the home county of her partner, and now resides locally with their two babies Theodore and Ellie.

She first encountered the opportunity upon a Training Day last year hosted by Sandra in Asian Fusion, a particular style used by both specialists. "I had an incredible time and highly recommend any groomer who has the opportunity to work with her to do so" encourages Jena.

The new salon will provide full/mini grooms, Bath and Blow dries, handstripping, breed trims, and puppy introduction grooms for all breeds. Jena states: "I enjoy creating cute, but practical styles for pet owners that accentuate their best features".

The job can come with its challenges, requiring extensive knowledge and experience in dog behaviour and handling, nutrition, anatomy, dental, pesticides and more. She finds some dogs need more time to overcome anxieties, and some require extra work when the fur is tangled.

Regardless, Jena is open to the task, welcoming clients Tuesday to Friday between 9:00 and 16:00 for appointments. Rates are entirely dependent on the individual dog and needs. To get in contact, you can message the salon at Bells & Bristles Ireland on Facebook or Instagram, or call them at (086) 665 4069.



Former owner Sandra Mularska with new owner Jena Louise.

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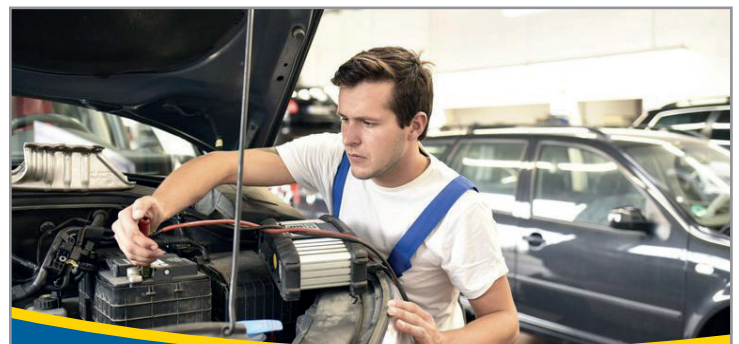
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In a world filled with mass-produced goods, there's something truly magical about handcrafted items. Honoria Mitchell Black, the creative mind behind Candles By Occasion, is one such artisan who has dedicated her passion to crafting personalised candles for all of life's special moments. Her journey from Sydney to becoming a renowned candle maker is inspiring.

Honoria's venture into the world of candle making began with the brand Wicked Candles in Sydney. She started with hand-poured scented soy wax candles, igniting her passion for this craft. Over time, her vision expanded, and she realised the potential of creating candles tailored to specific occasions – birthdays, christenings, weddings, memorials, graduations, communions and more.

What sets Candles By Occasion apart is the meticulous attention to detail and the commitment to quality. Honoria will work closely with you to bring your vision to life, ensuring that every candle reflects the essence of your special occasion. Unlike many others in the market, Honoria's candles do not feature paper labels, stickers, or plastic wraps that can deteriorate over time and peel off. When you choose a candle from Candles By Occasion, you're not just getting a product; you're investing in a lasting and beautiful keepsake.

To make the shopping experience even more delightful, Candles By Occasion has launched a brand-new website www.candlesbyoccasion.com, offering a 10% discount code on all candles ordered before 30 October. This exciting launch is a testament to Honoria's commitment to staying connected with her customers and providing them with exceptional value.

The reach of Candles By Occasion extends far beyond the local community. These exquisite candles are now shipped worldwide, with orders coming in from the UK, Dubai, Sydney, the US, and more. The ability to touch lives and add warmth to special moments across the globe is a testament to the universal appeal of Honoria's creations.

Honoria is not only an entrepreneur but also a community builder. She is a proud member of the ShopBallinasloe community initiative, which has significantly contributed to promoting her business and fostering local support. Her journey is a prime example of the importance of community engagement for small businesses.

As Honoria reflects on her journey, she offers invaluable advice to aspiring entrepreneurs, especially those starting small. She emphasizes the importance of connecting with other small businesses to build a supportive network. In today's digital age, she highlights the significance of being active on social media to establish relationships and promote your business effectively. Honoria is also an active member of the Ballinasloe Entrepreneurial Club, known as The Pulse Club, where she continues to contribute to the local business ecosystem as well as co-founder of local marketing agency Araya.

It is more than just a candle-making business - It's a celebration of life's special moments, a testament to craftsmanship, and a symbol of community spirit. As Honoria crafts each candle with love and dedication, she invites you to share in the warmth and light of Candles By Occasion, making your cherished moments even more memorable and for LIFE Readers a special discount code of 10% if available with Bsloe10 !



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Works are ongoing on Society Street, Ballinasloe, transforming the Old Bank Chambers building into a remote working hub, aptly named the “Ballinasloe Enterprise Hub”. This Enterprise Hub is a sister building of the Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre in Creagh.



space or using the hub for meetings, remote work, co-working space, enterprise space or hotdesking the Expression of Interest form is available at

www.bacd.ie or by contacting Lyn Donnelly at lyn@bacd.ie or 090 96 46516.

BACD Clg, the new owners of the building are carrying out the project works and are currently looking for formal expressions of interest from prospective users/tenants.

Manager of the project Lyn Donnelly stated “Since we started the renovation, we’ve had high interest and as a result started an informal waiting list. We have contacted everyone on that list and are now reaching out to others who may have an interest in availing of space. This will allow us to gauge the demand and fully optimise the space in the hub.”

The works commenced on site in March 2023 by John McNamara & Sons Ltd and are scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2024, which will also coincide with the BACD clg 25th Anniversary. The project was given a welcome boost recently with grant aid received from Galway Rural Development through the LEADER programme to purchase the furniture for the hub.

The total cost of the project is over €1.5m and as BACD is a not for profit community development company were eligible to apply for partial grant funding. Funds were received from the Just Transition Fund, the Town & Village Fund & GRD LEADER Programme. BACD are backing the project with their own reserves and a business loan from Ballinasloe Credit Union.

When the project is completed, the building will be able to cater for over 40 people. If anyone is interested in renting



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The Board of Management at Scoil an Chroí Naofa has been granted the green light to construct a new two-storey complex, with planning approval finally provided by Galway County Council with conditions.

After demolishing their neglected front-facing school and replace it with a modern building covering 3,546sq metres, including three additional classrooms for a total of 18 on site. An access road will be built adjacent to the library, along with safe pick-up and drop-off points at the site's rear. Also noted in the application are the inclusion of a new playing pitch and external play areas.

An updated facility has been long requested by the school's executive. Planning Permission has been sought throughout the decade, but no final approval has been made until now.

With close to 300 students, Scoil an Chroí Naofa are already overwhelmed with the numbers they have. The students and faculty are finding it increasingly difficult to operate .

Conditions including all appropriate road-safety features, pronounced public lighting, provides bicycle stands, and marks set-down areas and parking spaces with appropriate signage are attached.

Tender documents for construction will now be

assembled, and the Department of Education will take over the next steps for the new €10.5 million build.

"This project has been a major priority for me and I have spoken often with Minister for Education Norma Foley on the importance of this school" states Senator Aisling Dolan. She congratulated the efforts of the current Board of Management and Principal Christine O'Malley lobbying for the new complex, investing their time to now make it possible for pupils and staff.



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Next Pulse Meeting:
(Last Thursday of the month)
Thursday October 26th
@9.30am in Gullanes



Julie Sheridan, Dermot Salmon, James Burke and Joe Glennon



Padriag Lyons, Julie Sheridan, Gillian Morgan, Jennifer Sheridan



Honoria Mitchell Black, Matina Flanagan, Martha Kenny



Val Colleran outside the New Regatta Great Outdoors Store located on Main Street



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LauraLynn, Ireland's Childrens Hospice, has chosen Ballinasloe as a new regional base for West, Midlands & North-West. This is only the second Regional Service base (after Mallow) to be established outside of Dublin, with many families nationwide using the excellent support services of the National Children's Hospice.

The news comes as LauraLynn also announce that they have successfully undergone an Assurance & Accreditation programme with CHKS, a leading provider of healthcare intelligence and quality improvement services.

Speaking at LauraLynn, as they announce the expansion of their Community Team to Ballinasloe, Minister for Health, Stephen Donnelly, commented *"I am delighted to be at LauraLynn today to help announce the opening of LauraLynn's Ballinasloe Community service. It's wonderful to visit the Hospice in Dublin today and have the opportunity to speak with some of the team and the families that the charity support. It's wonderful to hear the incredible impact having services available close to home makes and it is an important step in our goal to ensure universal access to end-of-life care"*.

LauraLynn in the Community is an extension and enhancement of the care and supports available to families at their purpose-built facility in Dublin. In 2022, following the opening of the Mallow based community team providing care and supports across Cork and Kerry, LauraLynn saw a 139% increase in referrals across the service with

a 100% increase in the Cork and Kerry region alone. The Mallow based team extended their reach to support families in Limerick in May of this year which has been much very welcomed by families across the county.

Chief Executive Kerry McLaverty and her team have been welcomed by all shades of public opinion over the past few days.

The LauraLynn Hospice hosted an open recruitment day late last month in the Shearwater Hotel where Nurse Managers, Palliative nurses, Music & Art Therapy were warmly welcomed to find out more about roles and service provision.

In welcoming the news, Senator Aisling Dolan paid tribute to the work of the BACD team - Ballinasloe Area Community Development under Chair Seamus Duffy and Manager Lynn Donnelly have developed available office space both in the Centre in Creagh and now the Hub in Society St which will open soon. "Thanks to their work we are able to host much needed services for families in our region" the Senator concluded.

Chair of BACD, Seamus Duffy stated that "The LauraLynn foundation has been providing Children's Hospice care to families since 2011 and we are delighted that they have set up a base in Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre to service the west of Ireland. Thank you to Siobhan Horkan Director of Paediatric Nursing Saoilte University Healthcare Group and Mary Warde Head of Primary Care Services Community Health Care West for all the ground work they did in bringing this service to our town".

To find out more <https://www.lauralynn.ie/join-our-team>



Seamus Duffy Chair BACD, Rebecca Candon Family Support Team Manager Laura Lynn, Liz O'Donoghue Assistant Director of Nursing Laura Lynn, Marie Lynch Community Team Lead Laura Lynn, Annmarie Carroll Director of Nursing Laura Lynn, Lyn Donnelly Manager BACD, Siobhain Horkan Director of Paediatric Nursing Saoilte University Healthcare Group.

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Its all go at the local Library this Autumn with an action-packed programme lined up.

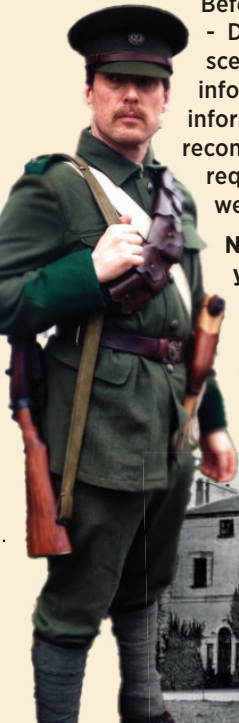
A day-long event on Saturday October 21, provided by Galway Public Libraries' Decade of Centenaries programme consisting of two Civil War era demonstrations at 11:00 and 12:00, and a talk later by Marie Boran on East Galway's Landed Estates at 14:30, is scheduled first.

Marie is the Special Collections Librarian in the University of Galway and was one of the primary researchers for the Landed Estates database documenting the lands of historic houses nationwide between 1700 to 1914. She was also involved in the Skehana Heritage Group's display on 'The Big Houses of East Galway' in 2019.

Beforehand, reenactor of Claoimh Living History - Dave Swift, will demonstrate entertaining battle scenarios, spreading awareness of rich resources informing us of our island's past. Craft displays and informative talks, with the aid of museum-quality reconstructions, will also be in focus. No booking is required for these demonstrations, and all ages are welcome.

Next is Artlink Collective's annual exhibition, this year titled "Presence" running from Wednesday October 4 until Saturday October 28.

After the sudden loss of one of its members Christine Coveney, the Midlands group found it appropriate to use the word 'presence' in its broadest sense, following its impact on their own



personal, creative and unique artworks.

A launch by Galway Ceramicist Susi Coveney and an opportunity to meet the artists in the Church Gallery is on offer. Participating this year includes Kate and Lucy Kelly Desmond, Bernard Dooley, Jackie Eastwood, Ness Porter Kelly, Rosemarie Langtry, Martin and James McDonnell, Noreen O'Sullivan, Catherine Patrickson and Anne Towers.

Between November 14 and 30, GRETB will present a photography exhibition created by the many community groups who participated in their education courses. The event is free and can be accessed during the libraries opening hours.

Lastly at 14:30 on November 17, as part of the TULCA Festival of Visual Arts, the Ballinasloe Library will feature a screening of a short film Abandoned Goods.

TULCA is a celebration of contemporary art advocating for collaboration with Irish curators to present provoking, visual exhibitions. This year, their showcase is titled 'Honey, Milk and Salt in a Seashell Before Sunrise' deriving its name from a description of an Irish folk cure. Various exhibitions during the 17-day festival will showcase the West of Ireland as a landscape of medical infrastructure and control, citing St. Brigid's Hospital as a major inspiration for the showcases.

The short film featured at the library will tell the tale of the Adamson Collection. Recently discovered, the compilation is one of the major bodies of British 'asylum art' containing roughly 5,500 objects created between 1946 and 1981 by patients in Netherne psychiatric hospital in Surrey, England.

Through archiving, reconstruction, 35mm rostrum photography, interviews and observational footage, the film explores the transformation of the objects in the Adamson Collection from clinical material to revered art objects. It will then explore the lives of its creators, and the changing contexts in which the objects were produced and displayed.

A discussion between this year's curator Iarlaith Ní Fheorais and an invited speaker, will follow. The event is free. For further updates on events being hosted in the local Library, stay tuned on their Facebook page at 'Europe Direct Ballinasloe'.

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The Ballinasloe People of the Year awards are taking place on November 16th in the Shearwater Hotel, with nominations now open. Members of the public are encouraged by the organising committee to nominate worthy candidates for the different categories. Anyone can submit a nomination by simply downloading the form (at bacd.ie or ballinasloe.ie) and submitting before October 5th.

The Awards honour and highlight special and talented individuals or groups who have contributed to our community or have achieved excellence and represented our community regionally and nationally.

This year marks the fourth awards ceremony following a sabbatical during Covid and are organised by Ballinasloe Area Community Development (BACD) Clg in conjunction with main sponsor Ballinasloe Credit Union. On the night of the awards ceremony, members of the community will be recognised in the areas of Arts & Culture, Community, Volunteerism, and Sporting Achievements under the following categories:

1. Arts, Culture and Heritage Award
2. Sports and Recreation Volunteer Award
3. Sports and Recreation Team Award
4. Sports and Recreation Individual Award (Local and National Level)
5. Youth Volunteer Award
6. Volunteer Award
7. Volunteer Group Award
8. Hall of Fame Award (Lifetime Achievement Accolade)

Certificates will be presented to all shortlisted nominees and Awards will be presented to the overall winners in each category. The MC for the night is Darren Frehill, RTE's top broadcaster and former Garbally College Student.

In contrast to previous year's ceremonies, they will also be acknowledging our international athletes who have represented Ireland in their specific sporting fields. Our sport stars will be directly invited, and their achievements acknowledged at the awards ceremony, separate from the 8 award categories.

The event is also being supported by KPW Design & Print, and the Shearwater Hotel & Spa.

For further details and to download the nominations forms see www.ballinasloe.ie / www.bacd.ie or contact Lyn in Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre info@bacd.ie or 0909646516.



At the remote Choill Tigh Gallery near Cappataggle, the Celtic Eye Art Group produced and delivered a unique exhibition, through August and September, titled 'Lands of Legends' themed around Celtic Goddesses and their association with Irish heritage, nature, land, myth and legends.

The multi-talented collective of artists undertook numerous events and campaigns together, determined to portray and protect the biodiversity of the local karst environment.

"Our land is our canvas and its beauty is our palette" captions the motto for the latest exhibit which featured craftwork, acrylic paintings, poetry and music encompassing its sacred theme.

Nicola Bowes, a founder of the Celtic Eye Group, hosted the launch and run of the showcase at her home gallery in Choill Tigh. The project was produced in collaboration with ÉIRÍ and the Karst Farming Group with contributions from guest artists, the Irish Wheelchair Association and St Hilda's Athlone.

The opening day on Saturday August 19 brought many visitors, welcomed by Jeremy Turkington of Hometree Conservation. Encircling the range of artwork on display, some attendees shared their reflections. "It was an amazing day, and I was honoured to be asked to speak at the opening" expresses Ged McMahon, a self-

taught landscape artist from County Meath. Senator Aisling Dolan congratulated the group on their showing, offering a new artistic perspective of East Galway's landscapes and biodiversity.

Nicola Bowes described the launch as: "a wonderful weekend full of incredible, song, laughs, fun and education." She added "A special thank you to all our friends who helped us on the day and over the past few weeks in getting our exhibition ready". Nicola also extended her gratitude to Natasha O'Brien, who could not join them on the day.



Celtic Eye Art Group members at the Land of Legends exhibition



Talented singer and musician Eleanor Shanley spent the following Sunday afternoon at the gallery, while also performing her song 'Dragonflies'. The Ballinasloe and District Heritage Society and Gables Art Group paid a visit to Choill Tigh for their own impressions during the exhibit's run.

Artist Kieran Jackson offered a late addition to the display presenting his St Brigid and Celtic Goddess Sculptures on August 19 for anyone who chanced by.

The exhibit remained open until September 16 on an appointment bases, also offering the artwork for sale. "It was a great few day of communities coming together in a positive way to highlight the Unique Karst Landscape of South Roscommon" surmises Nicola Bowes.

Ged McMahon speaking on the launch day

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A new 12 bed extension has opened in Portiuncula, nearly doubling the existing number of single-rooms within the hospital while also helping to relief recent overcrowding issues.

Located in the old Outpatients Department, the new Dunlo Ward offers eight single rooms and two double bedded rooms all with ensuites included. Each are equipped with modern state-of-the-art facilities such as the digital Irish National Early Warning System which provides Laboratory and Radiology diagnostics for each patient.

The extension facilitates paediatric care, while some beds are also allocated for end-of-life and complex palliative care.

Hospital Manager James Keane explains the new ward will provide improved conditions for those staying at Portiuncula along with supplying additional capacity. "It will ease patient flow from the Emergency Department and throughout the hospital, while meeting the required national standards and delivering enhanced quality care to our patients" states James.

The total cost of the project amounts to €5.11 million, funded through the HSE 2020 Capital Plan.

Discussing the new isolated spaces, Senator Aisling Dolan emphasises: "Single rooms are crucial to manage infection control and to give patients dignity and privacy with families. There is severe pressure in the Emergency Department with high numbers of patients presenting over the last few weeks. We have excellent healthcare teams in the hospital, and close to an extra 200 people working in the hospital, however it is an old building dating to the 1940s and much space is required. This new development will relieve some of this pressure and also give space for children and paediatrics in the Emergency Department" she concludes.

Construction continues apace on the new €15 million ward block providing 50 accessible single bedrooms to the existing premises. Its current timeframe indicates it will be completed

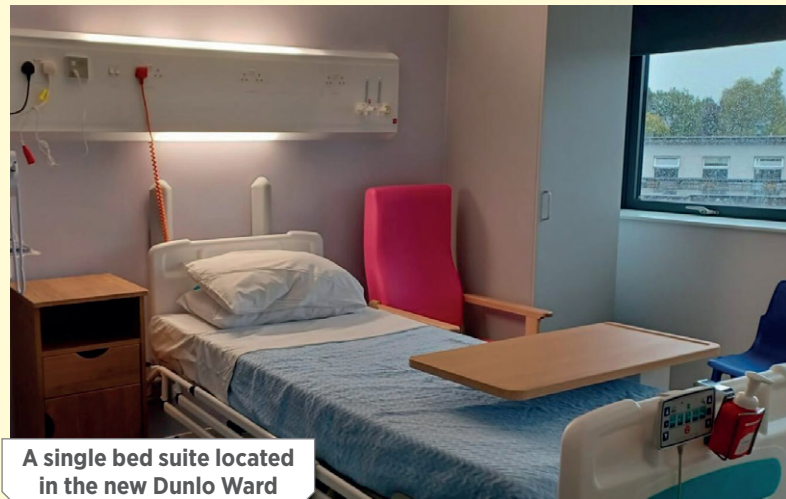
in the latter half of next year – approximately 9 months.

The hospital also recently welcomed a designated room for bereaved patients. The 'Willow Suite' is a single occupancy space funded by the National Infants and Women's Health programme in which grieving families will be sensitively cared for.

Included are shower and bathroom facilities, Bluetooth speakers, an equipped kitchenette and oil diffusers. Colourful artwork encompasses the room which overlooks the quiet hospital gardens where a seating beside a willow tree will soon be completed.

"While the birth of a baby is normally a very joyful experience for women and their families, sadly, there are times when a baby dies before or shortly after birth" explains Director of Midwifery at Portiuncula, Deirdre Naughton.

"We hope this important new suite will give grieving parents a comfortable space to spend time with their baby and to create memories. It allows a family to grieve with dignity, with respect for the personhood of their child" she explained.



A single bed suite located in the new Dunlo Ward



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There was huge success for Ballinasloe boy, Cian Loughnane, at the annual Green Schools' Water Awards. The awards were hosted by An Taisce and Uisce Éireann. Eight regional winners were chosen to attend the awards ceremony in Dublin where they were recognised for their exceptional poster creations.

Junior Infants pupil Cian Loughnane, aged 5, of Newtown National School, Creagh, took home the top award in the Junior Primary Category (Infants - 2nd Class) for his poster based on the theme, "Local Water Actions for Global Change". Cian was the winner in the Western/Northern Region which incorporated all of Connacht, Clare, Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan.

Cian's prize was a certificate of achievement, his poster professionally framed and a €250 voucher for Art and Hobby. Cian attended the awards ceremony in Dublin with his parents, Áine & Alan Loughnane. Cian's reaction was, "I can't believe I've won; I can't wait to go to Art and Hobby!"

Cian's school were very proud of him to represent Newtown N.S. at such a prestigious event, held just before the summer holidays. All the staff and pupils were very excited when



Cian and his Poster

they heard Cian's fantastic news. His teacher, Leona McCourt was delighted that a pupil in her class had won. Cian's Mum, Áine, is also a teacher at Newtown N.S. The posters were drawn at school and were sent to the Green Schools' headquarters in Dublin, where they were shortlisted and forwarded onto Uisce Éireann, where the final winners were chosen.

There were almost 3,000 entries from all over Ireland for both the Junior and Cian felt very lucky to be chosen as one of these winners and was the youngest winner at the awards.

Cian has always loved drawing and colouring, even from his earlier days in Pre-School at The Village Crèche Glentaun, where he was constantly drawing houses and tractors! Cian has two brothers, Éanna, aged 7 and Donncha, aged 3. His family are very proud of his achievement and his brothers cannot wait to get to Art and Hobby with him for a share of the spoils!

Cian's grandparents, Ann & Seán Hogan, Creagh and Mary & Pádraig Loughnane, Clonfad are extremely proud of his achievement at such a tender age.

His winning poster will now be used in a National Calendar for 2024!

CHRISTMAS LIGHTS PLANS

Plans are progressing for this seasons Christmas Lights with several meeting of the Lights Team undertaken. Given increases in costs, Businesses can expect an increase in their subscriptions that James Burke the Business Contribution Co Ordinator will be calling to them about over the coming weeks. There will no draw for the community to assist in the fundraising of the estimated €25,000 to erect the current sets of lights and features but a special Go Fund Me Page is being launched to facilitate locals and those overseas who wish to light a light by thinking of family and friends over the festive season be they at home or away or no longer with us by way of a donation and message. If this campaign goes well it is hoped that some darker zones of the town can be festooned with some new features and lights.

Plans are still at a tentative stage for a Festive Switch on Ceremony at the Top of St. Michael's square for the last Saturday in November the 25th around 5.00 pm.

The Go Fund Me Page can be found at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/ballinasloe-xmas-lights>

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Following a brief summer break, An Grúpa Comhrá agus Cultúir are back and resuming their regular occasions while promoting the social and cultural activities of Pádraig Pearses at their Woodmount Clubhouse.

The group focuses on all things Irish-traditional, hosting an assortment of gatherings including Irish-speaking events, trad music sessions, jiving sessions, and many other pursuits.

Over the last year, the body has reactivated the club's interest in Scór na nÓg and Scór sinsir. Historically Pádraig Pearses has secured 60 Roscommon and 6 Connacht Scór County titles since the 80s, but in recent years their involvement within the GAA Cultural competition has significantly tapered off.

During the most recent contest, the club reached the county -finals in a variety of categories. Notably, county winner Grace Dooley went on to compete in the Connacht finals performing a self-composed recital.

The grúpa regularly leave their Woodmount hideout for trips, spanning the entire country, where everyone is encouraged to speak Irish. Just outside the area, they have seen Saint Bridig's

Well in Brideswell, the Derryglad Museum in Curraghboy and the 400BC dated La Tène Stone in Castlestrange.

Since August, the group's weekly Comhras have returned. Members meet every Tuesday at 20:30 at the clubhouse for a chat as Gaeilge, provided with a cup of tea in hand and some bites on offer.

New for the grúpa are Irish classes, every Saturday at 10am, coinciding with the Football Academy sessions. While the young future sports stars are training, parents and guardians are invited to the Club Function Room to hear a short discussion on the club's efforts to promote the language.

Classes range from 20 to 30 minutes, have an informal approach and will focus on the fundamentals. This project envisions that, while kids learn a bit of Irish in school and on the field, a parent can keep up their standard and learn the language accompanied by their children.

The club continues trad sessions during the bank holiday weekends for a growing number of performers. Their latest gathering brought 17 musicians and singers together, all performing together in a symphony of Irish music. The Junior music sessions will soon regroup on Sunday October 15 from 17:00 to 18:30.

Next the Grúpa will host their Cheoilchoirm Ghaelach Oíche Shamna on Saturday October 28; a Halloween show incorporating music, song, dance, and all cultural links to the ancient festival. The organisers hope to conduct the event through the medium of the Irish language.

For any further information on these events, you can contact Language and Cultural Officer Mary Darcy at (085) 776 0652.

Scor Na nÓg Team and Mentors 2023



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Now in their seventh year, the Architecture at the Edge Festival 2023 promises a selection of events which will provide a fresh perspective on some of our town's landmarks.

AATE are a non-profit organisation based in the West who explore architecture and design in social, political and cultural contexts, while also hosting their annual festival which incorporates their ideals into a variety of exhibitions and showcases.

Among the events to keep an eye on this year is the 'Faith in the Future', a project aiming to revitalise church buildings which are unused or closed altogether. An exhibition presenting survey work, mapping, and archival material of the St. John's Church on the Hill will be featured, alongside exploratory drawings of church repurposing projects in Flanders, Belgium.

Additionally, a series of wool-felting workshops will take place where up to 20 participants will be guided through the art wet-felting, a process of creating felt from wool through a combination of friction, soap and water. No previous experience in the craft is required.

The project is led by Beibhinn Delaney, in collaboration with Marie-Caroline Kawa and Lara Clifford. Beibhinn Delaney hopes it will be "a catalyst for conversation, storytelling, and exploring a shared vision for the future of the place we are paying attention to."

The exhibition will be open from Friday September 29 to Sunday

October 8 between 12:00 and 17:00. Workshops will be hosted on Friday September 29, Tuesday October 3, and Saturday October 7, from 14:30 to 16:30. The classes are free and bookings can be made on Eventbrite at "AATE x Faith in the Future: Felting Workshop 1".

For further updates, see their Instagram page at [aate_faith_in_the_future](#).

During this time, architect Dominic Daly will premiere a short film exploring Ballinasloe's often forgotten sites. Dominic describes the film as a collage of drawing, video, field recording, photography, music and spoken word, condensing a month of intensive research into the production. Only last year, the young architect showcased some of his findings in an AATE exhibition titled 'GROUNDWORK' addressing crisis faced by rural Irish towns today.



Leas Cathaoirleach Evelyn Parsons and architect Dominic Daly at his exhibition 'GROUNDWORK' last October.

Cllr Evelyn Parsons, Leas Cathaoirleach of Galway Co. Cl, extended her best wishes to him: "I congratulate and wish Dominic Daly every success with his continued architectural work and am delighted with his focussed exploration of Ballinasloe Town. It is fantastic to see this work ongoing in different contexts and now on screen."

The film will be showcased on Saturday October 7 at 16:00 in the Pálás Cinema Galway Screen 3, free for admission. "I would like to extend an invitation to the people of Ballinasloe to the premier of the film, preceded by a talk by myself", bids Dominic, "I hope to see some familiar faces there."

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Members of the Devlin family with the diocesan candle.



Hazel Cogavin reading during the closing mass.



Current and former Garbally students: James Butler, Sean Ronaldson, Alan Harney, Brendan Rice and Ben Feehily.



Bishop Michael Duignan with Ard Scoil Mhuire students Mairead Gately, Niamh Costello and Saidbhe Concannon.



The pilgrimage committee Mary Barrett, Fr Pat Conroy, Dr Serena Whelan, Clement Flanagan, Bishop Michael Duignan, Marcella Fallon, Alan Harney, Ciara Lynch & Mary Dempsey. Missing: Michael Burns.


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Television viewers tuning into their weekly Service on Sunday on RTÉ One, got the chance to watch a special Harvest Eucharist recorded by our Church of Ireland parish in East Galway.

Harvest Thanksgiving is an ancient tradition of giving thanks to God for the blessings of creation, for its rich diversity and our place within it; for our daily food and for those who work to bring it to us. In this special Harvest Eucharist, the parishioners of the Aughrim & Creagh Parish Union offered back to God the finest fruit and vegetables from their own gardens and farms, as symbols of the harvest.

In this time of climate crisis, services like this one remind that the fruits of creation are not mere commodities to be consumed and exploited. They should always be handled with humility and shared generously, with grateful hearts.

In recent years, the parish has made a firm commitment to care for creation, launching a number of ecological initiatives in the Aughrim area, in response to the problem of climate change. Their actions have been simple, but the results have been profound.

“It all started with opening up to the wider community private church land, in order to develop the Aughrim Climate Action Park and the Rectory Garden Project” explains Rector John Godfrey. **“Instead of farming that land for profit, we now use it as an educational and spiritual resource which is offered freely to the whole community.”**

Together with local churches, schools and Aughrim’s community employment scheme, the parish is now using those projects to model a more sustainable lifestyle. They are growing their own fruit and vegetables, planting trees,

hedgerows and wildflowers, enhancing the local river and creating spaces for rest and reflection.

“In all of those things, we are being reminded day by day that the land itself, together with the food and wildlife it sustains, is precious and sacred” says Archdeacon Godfrey. **“Each changing season reminds us to be humble; each flower that blooms reminds us to be grateful; and every crop that ripens inspires us to be generous.”**

The Live Broadcast on Sunday 17th September at 11.10am on RTÉ One, is still available to view throughout the coming month on the RTÉ Player.



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Echoes of the Chenda Melam drums filled Moore Community Hall where the Ballinasloe Indian Cultural Community hosted another fantastic occasion, celebrating the vibrant Onam festival. Among the pageantries were dance performances, instrumental performances, and a mouthwatering culinary journey of the country's best cuisine.

This is the second event hosted by the BICC following the success of the EVE-23 gathering in April. Onam itself is a 10-day celebration welcoming the rice harvest, with roots in South India. Additionally, the period commemorates the exiled King Mahabali's annual return to his state of Kerala after being banished by his opposition.

The festivities at Moore Hall saw over 300 participants, including representatives of both the Indian and Irish communities. Activities commenced as early as 07:00 with the creation of Pookalams, carpets of intricate floral designs created by hand.

At noon, a formal inauguration ceremony marked the official beginning of the day. A captivating recital followed of the Chenda Melam, a traditional percussion ensemble, along with a group performance of the graceful Thiruvathira dance.

The event peaked when a talented group of approximately 50 performers came together for a beautifully choreographed flash-mob, dancing in harmony with a fusion of diverse musical styles.

However, the highlight for many attendees was the grand Onam Sadhya, a feast featuring 19 distinct vegetarian dishes. The culinary experience showcased a variety of flavourful plates native to Kerala cooked by volunteers in the community.

Dancing and musical recitals continued late into the evening with groups competing for the best performance. The night crowned team Manjappada as champions, followed by second place team Chembada, and third team Shamrocks.

The BICC committee were pleased with the event's success as a heartwarming family gathering where numerous Irish and Indian guests enthusiastically participated. They expressed their enthusiasm for organising future occasions, intending to host more inclusive and open gatherings for the Ballinasloe community and surrounds which foster cultural exchange and solidarity.

BICC President Aju Abraham thanked the events many sponsors including the Ballinasloe Credit Union, Money Maximising, Viswas, Asia Land, Nearby Athlone and Confident Travel Limited.

Further updates on upcoming and ongoing activities can be found on their Facebook page at "Bicc Ireland Malayali".



Chenda Melam musical ensemble.



Attendees enjoying the Onam Sadhya feast.

Ballinasloe People of the Year Awards 2023

Shearwater Hotel, 16th November 2023 with MC Darren Frehill

Nominations now Open for 8 categories

1. Arts, Cultural and Heritage Award
2. Sports and Recreation Volunteer
3. Sports and Recreation Team Award
4. Sports and Recreation Individual Award
5. Youth Volunteer Award
6. Volunteer Award
7. Community Group Award
8. Hall of Fame Award (Lifetime Achievement Accolade)

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Entrepreneur and mother of two, Nicola Glynn, has recently changed business direction to a new venture in Mindful Birthing, offering mental health services for pregnant women during their labour and delivery.

Since founding her last project MindMama, an online service dedicated to supporting mothers experiencing postpartum stress, the Lawrencetown mum has herself become a parent to a second child. "I read a lot about home birth and knew that was what I wanted for my second" Nicola recalls. "While



Nicola Glynn, transitioning from MindMama to Mindful Birthing

preparing for my home birth, I completed a Hypnobirthing course and all of a sudden everything made sense. Only after reading books and attending the course, did childbirth actually make sense. I felt informed, confident and so excited about having my second."

Her MindMama page has since been converted to Mildfulbirthing, maintaining her following of over 1100 followers. Asked if she still maintains her services with her past post, Nicola commented: "I still operate as a very honest and open person regarding the challenges of parenting however, I do it through a different lens now."

Hypnobirthing incorporates the use of hypnosis to help control breathing and manage pain during labour and birth. Her online one-on-one sessions assist women and partners to gain confidence and empowerment to tackle their journeys.

"Having worked in mental health in the area of early intervention and prevention for several years, I know this approach works. Meeting women during pregnancy to address anxieties, worries and informing them of choices and options gives them ownership over their childbirth."

Nicola offers packages of three and six sessions in the lead up to delivery, along with a Pay-As-You-Go option for any last minute panics. The trained practitioner claims these techniques have proven to reduce caesarean birth rates, episiotomies, rates of post-natal depression, and in some cases provide better outcomes for breastfeeding.

Nicola recalled the experience of a client who was carrying her third and final baby. Her prior experiences brought about difficulty and stress, therefore she hoped to leave off on a positive experience note for her last delivery.

Together they managed and planned her workload so she could commence four weeks maternity leave, worked self-care into her daily practise, offered meditation sessions, and developed deep breathing techniques during labour.

Nicola received a photo following the delivery of the parents and newborn together, with the mum attaching the caption "best birth yet!!!". During a catch-up call (offered to all clients), she relayed it had been an amazing experience where she felt calm, confident and in control of her labour.

Nicola envisions that in ten years' time, there will be Mindful Birthing centres all over Ireland incorporating all aspects of perinatal care under one roof.

"My goal is for every woman who works with me to have a positive and helpful birthing experience" Nicola pledges. "This does not always necessarily mean a natural, pain free birth but rather that the woman herself comes away from childbirth feeling empowered and proud of what she has achieved, no matter how it unfolded".

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Striving to deliver the highest possible quality care and support for people living with dementia, the Alzheimer Society of Ireland (ASI) Day Care Centre in Ballinasloe have increased capacity to accommodate new clients.

There are over 64,000 people in Ireland currently living with dementia, with the numbers predicted to rise to 150,000 by 2050.

There are 50 ASI Centres across the island offering supports for individuals with dementia. The Brackernagh hub currently operates each Friday from 10:00 to 15:00, providing tea and lunch to all service users.

Guests are welcomed to relax in their spacious day room. A seating area is offered outside to take in some fresh air and enjoy the good weather and, during the colder months, a fire will be lit for a comfortable home experience.

Person-centred care is offered to all clients. Highly trained ASI staff deliver activities which support individual skills and talents including gentle exercises and art sessions. Chiropody sessions are hosted monthly through Foot Focus's Anne Scott for those interested. Their latest expansion in capacity was made possible since they grew their team-base to three carers and a newly appointed manager Niamh Lynch.

Niamh joined the Day Centre last March and has spent the last seven years supporting elderly patients with any difficulties they might have. "I really enjoy working with older people as they have a huge element of fun and life experience" she explains.

"It's great to be able to give back to people within your community and this service provides, not only for the individual attending, but the family member who is providing care for the older person by affording them time to themselves each week. It is a wonderful service in a homely, relaxed environment."

Niamh is a mother of four and owner of three dogs. The Co Ordinator also has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Social Care and has spent many years working in child protection and



Helen with new ASI centre manager Niamh

the disability sector. Whenever she finds a break between the madness of work and homelife, she enjoys going out for a walk or an occasion hike.

Referring to the great work she and her crew provide at the Day Centre, Niamh notes: "We provide high standards of care in a lovely, friendly setting. On returning from the pandemic, it is so important for people to have a social outlet in a safe and welcoming environment."

Since March, their services have been steadily developing and gaining increasing visibility within the community. Alongside their growing team, the Day Centre has been receiving enquiries from people looking to volunteer to assist.

Niamh suggests that anyone living with dementia, their carers, or families should get in touch if they require assistance. "We strive, every day, to provide the highest standards of care and support for our beautiful clients; we take great pride in the service we deliver to our clients and their families."

"We have the potential to have up to 11 or 12 clients per day", she determines, "so we want to let people know there is now increased capacity and help available for people in the wider Ballinasloe catchment area."

The catchment area for the Day Care Centre covers the town and all surrounding towns or villages. They can be located at the Social Services Building, Brackernagh H53 KC98.

Niamh can be contacted by phone at (086) 145 0513 or by email at niamh.lynch@alzheimier.ie.



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Maggie and Helen preparing arts and crafts activities

The Clontuskert community turned up in spades for their Family Fun Day, hosting activities for all ages in the local field. Events including the horse-shoe throw, welly throw, kids' gymnastics, and tug-o-war were huge fun highlights that afternoon. Simpler Competitions were also held for the young, including the three-legged race, sack race, and egg and spoon.



The Kids sprints during the Clontuskert Fun Day

The Ballinasloe Golf Club challenged visitors to practise on a mini-golf course, alongside St. Gabriel's Ladies Football Club who hosted their own training sessions for anyone who chanced by. Those strolling the field might have also picked up some home-baked goods, or enjoyed some music and dancing showings by local performers.

They day was widely enjoyed by all who attended. Rainfall plagued the early hours of the morning, but by the afternoon

skies cleared. "It was wonderful to see young and old enjoy the festivities" expressed Darina Cooke, member of the Parents' Association.

The organisers at the Community Development Group acknowledged every volunteer who supported them, whether by providing food and refreshments at the Community Clubhouse or treating kids to face-painting. Additionally, they praised the many businesses, clubs and individuals who made the event possible.

For a full album of the day's activities, see their Facebook page at 'Clontuskert Community Development Group'.

VINTAGE CLUB HIGHLIGHT OF OCTOBER FAIR

Shannonbridge village was alive on Threshing Day with music, food, and naturally the sounds of the old thresher under the backdrop of the warm autumn sunshine.

That afternoon, the Ballinasloe and District Vintage Club demonstrated the seeding process of the heavy machine. Earlier in the morning, they departed Gullane's Hotel for one of their regular Car and Tractor Runs, making their way towards Shannonbridge for the event.

Those wandering the village that day would have also noticed the club's rare collection of Triumph Spitfires on full display. In case anyone missed them, the vintage vehicles will also be shown on October 8 during the second weekend of the

Ballinasloe Fair when the Club will host their annual popular display in the heart of the town.

Missing for two years due to the Pandemic and then an official storm warning means that it will be keenly anticipated return !!



Ronnie standing beside Triumph Spitfire



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Members of Garbally College 1963 Leaving Certificate Year pictured at their 60th Anniversary Dinner in Dublin.

Front l-r: Noel Mullins, Michael Hickey, Michael O'Grady, Paddy Coffey, John Molloy, Des Madden, Kevin McNamara, Billy Flynn. Back l-r: Philip Morrissey, Sean Kelly, Connal Herr, Fr. Joe Broder, Patrick McGinley, Ronan Scanlon, Ignatius Byrne, John Cogavin, P.J. Barrett, Colbert Kearney, Brian Fahy.
Gurteen natives: John Molloy and John Cogavin
Pictured at the 60th anniversary dinner.

A very active group of Garbally College Past-Pupils is in the process of organising a get-together of former senior hurling and football stalwarts from the years 1970 to 1975 inclusive. This was a particularly rich period of hurling and football talent in the college, with many players going on to represent their county at various levels, and a number winning All Star Awards.

Pride of place goes to 1970 Senior B Football Team that galloped through Connacht in capturing the very first football title - at the first attempt - for the school. Not far behind was very talented 1975 senior hurling and football teams that came up just short in very competitive Connacht championships. Their cause was not helped by having to play three finals in different codes in the same week.

This special Reunion will take place in Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe on Saturday 25 November, beginning with dinner @ 7pm. Those wishing to attend should contact (as soon as possible) one of the following : Andy Fenton 086 8170538; John Goode 087 7428024; Michael Dolphin 087 2240227; Colm Grogan 087 6318525; Mike Minton 087 2342664; John Manton 087 2210400; Peter Burns 087 2422332.

SCHOOL PALS TO REGROUP AFTER 46 YEARS



Garbally College past pupil reunion of the Leaving Cert class of 1967 takes place in Ballinasloe on the 26th October.

All the past pupils will be either 74 or 75 years of age. Many will be residents locally with some others originally from town but now moved elsewhere.

They will be meeting at the old entrance to the college building

(opening especially for us on the day) on Thursday 26th October at 1.15pm for mass and a reception, followed by

Dinner at Gullane's Hotel for Dinner at 5.30pm.

Chief organiser is Mattie Kilroy and can be contacted mattie.kilroy@gmail.com

"I came to Garbally College as a boarder in 1962. The fee was £70 for the year and increased by £20 in 1963. We were pampered students compared to the "day boys" who also paid fees. They all cycled long journeys in all weather conditions. There were no facilities for day boys apart from the use of a shed to shelter their bicycles and themselves from the rain. They also had to eat their own food that they supplied in the shed. There was not even hot soup provided on cold wintery days. My hat goes out to the day boys, who earned their education. We boarders were handed it on a plate" stated Liam Lally, one of the past pupils.

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Scaffolding surrounded the exterior of the Town Hall Theatre as it sees its most significant refurbishment in years, following many months of painstaking work and preparations.

McCormack Construction are carrying out the stonework and internal finishings of the building. The Ahascragh-based company are credited for lending their masonry to the village's recently opened distillery.

The original Building was constructed in 1842 as an Agricultural Show Hall and at the turn of the Century its ownership was transferred to the Parish where it was remodelled as an Edwardian Theatre and operated as the Temperance Hall and the Plaza Picture Hall – with other Multi use function rooms for Billiards, Music, Cards and meetings. Dances were held in the venue up to the arrival of Emerald in the early 60s. In 1987 the building was gutted in a State funded ANCO scheme and refurbished within and without – being formally re- opened by President Hillary in 1988. The Voluntary Community Society obtained a long term lease from the Church in 2012 and successfully invested some €160,000 of grant aid into re-roofing the building, refurbishing toilets and Foyer and improving the ancillary dressing rooms.

Voluntary committee member Alan Harney was pleased to appoint local contractors for the works: “Community is at the heart of all we do withing the building, and it’s great that we’ve been able to appoint contractors from within the county to bring this project to fruition” he noted.

While the rear stonework sees a major facelift, decades of pollution and grime have been power washed from the theatre’s façade. Beautifully crafted double-glazed windows are currently being installed by Geraghty Joinery of Claregalway, replacing existing panes dating to the 1980’s, completed under the ANCO restoration of the time.

The major renovation project was made

possible through just over €250,000 in grant aid awarded through the Community Centres Investment Fund in 2022. The voluntary committee met their 5% match-funding target after raising €30,000 from all fundraising activities. Over 250 separate donations landed in across the globe from Edmonton, San Francisco, Dubai and Melbourne, along with contributions from national theatre groups, businesses and individuals within town.

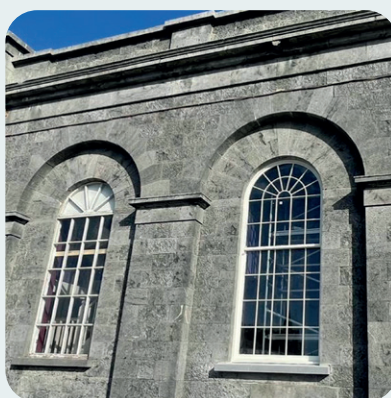
A bucket collection held over two days in June raised €1,200 and their Summer Variety concert raised over €8,000 from its raffle and ticket sales.

The Town Hall committee were completely overwhelmed by the community support they received from this endeavour. “We are so grateful and appreciative of every single donation we received throughout this campaign” states voluntary committee Chair Máire Hughes, “the goodwill and support the community has for this special building has been made very clear to see” she continued.

“It has been a long few months, and we are delighted to see the results of it all come to fruition in the refurbishment work being carried out right now. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to everyone who donated or supported our campaign in any way, and we can’t wait to welcome you all to the newly refurbished theatre once the work is complete”.

If anyone is interesting in taking home a piece of Ballinasloe history, the removed windows and doors from the theatre are up for sale. Further queries can be made to the Voluntary committee by email at ballinasloetownhalltheatre@gmail.com or on their Facebook page at ‘Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre’.

This successful project means that within a short dozen years or so, the volunteer led company has between state grants and community fundraising expended close on ½ a million euro in keeping one of the town’s cultural and heritage gems alive and operational for future generations.



Old and new windows side by side



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- 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



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OUT AND ABOUT



Bishop Michael Duignan presiding at the Annual Grotto Mass at St. Grellan's Estate this summer pictured with Fr. Allman and Fr. Madden and members of the organizing committee and participants to the liturgy.



Pictured at the announcement of a grant from the Credit Union Social fund to Creagh NS school building development were - Grainne Murphy, CEO BCU, Aine Bleahan School Principal, Sean Madden BCU Chairman; Frank Gallagher Board of Management member CNS Student Council Members - Patrick Reilly, Aoife Goode, Nik Aimal Andik Najib, Zara Riaz, Oscar McKeon.



President of Ballinasloe Golf Club Angela Lyons with her husband Joe and daughters Hilary and Lorraine at her prize giving.



Tomas Gullane sponsored a set of training jerseys for the Ballinasloe GAA Junior footballer Squad - with Captain James Shaughnessy.



Pictured at the Launch of Family Fun Day taking place on Sunday 8th October as part of the 2023 Ballinasloe Horse Fair & Festival: Ciara Croffy, Larry Reynolds, Des Harney Bslloe Vintage Club, Maeve Greally, Willie Glynn, Kieran Egan, Mary Phelan, Mal Croffy, Niall Clarke & Street Performer Meg Bhogal.



Rev. Bernie Costelloe and members of the Care and Catering staff at the Ballinasloe Community Nursing Unit Summer Garden Party in Creagh.



Pictured at the launch of the Traditional Sheep Display taking place on Saturday 7th October at the 2023 Ballinasloe Horse Fair & Festival: Dermot Connolly, Ciara Croffey, Street performer Meg Bhogal, Tom & Oisin Murphy.



Some of the Care team who were helping with the Strawberries and Cream at the Ballinasloe Community Nursing Unit Summer Garden Party in Creagh.



Bridget Goode, Kate Mitchell The Birthday Girl, Beata Bakowska all part of the Ballinasloe Community Creche Team.



Galway County Council Officials & Councilors, An Garda Síochána & F&F committee members pictured at the Launch of The 2023 Ballinasloe Horse Fair & Festival. Larry Reynolds, Declan Rock, Pearse Doherty Event Co-Ordinator, Cllr Michael Connolly, F&F Chairman Mal Croffy, Liam Hanrahan Director of Services GCC, Cllr Declan Geraghty Ballinasloe District Chairman GCC, Derek Troy District Engineer GCC. Mary Phelan F&F secretary, Cllr Evelyn Parsons, Donal O'Grady, Meave Greally, Ciara Croffey, Cllr Tim Broderick, Superintendent Finbar Philpot & Kieran Egan.

OCTOBER EVENTS GUIDE

October 1, Sunday

CU Horse & JD Pony Fair Lunging Comp	12 noon	Fairgreen
Horse Fair & Market Stalls	All Day	Town Grounds
Tennis Beginners Club Session	10-11.30am	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Club Session	11.30-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Traditional Music	6pm	An Tain Bar
Traditional Music Sessions	9.30pm	Valerie's of Aughrim

October 2, Monday

Horse Fair & Market Stalls	All Day	Town Grounds
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yrd
Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retirem Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retirement Bowling	10.30-12.30	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retirem Knitting / Crafts	10.30-12.30	Gullane's Hotel
Bsloe Snooker & Billiards S Club Meet (M-F)	5pm-8pm	Social Club
Tennis, Ladies Night	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court

October 3, Tuesday

Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Cuidiu Breastfeeding Support Group	10am-11.30	Youghliffe, Marina P
Bsloe Active Retirem Aqua Aerobics	7-8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30 pm	Bridge Rms, Sarsfield
Bsloe Active Retirem Walking Club	10.30am-12.30	Running Trk, Bkernagh
Tennis Junior Development Prog	5pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Mixed Doubles Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Grúpa Comhrá Gaeilge & Cultúir Meet	8.30pm	Pearses GAA Club Hse

October 4, Wednesday

Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yrd
French Conversational Class - Lizzie	11am-12n	Gullane's Hotel
Chair Yoga (50s+)	11.30am	Ballinasloe Library
Crochet and Knitting Group	11.15am	Ballinasloe Library
Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retirem Monthly Meet	3pm	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis, Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Bsloe Active Retirement Book Club	3.30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Active Retirem Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retirement "Bridge"	11am-1pm	Bridge Rms, Sarsfield
Traditional Music	9pm	An Tain Bar
Live music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge

October 5, Thursday

Food, Fashion & Fun Night	7.30pm	Shearwater Hotel
Irish Conversation Class With Padraig	11am-12	Gullane's Hotel
Reflexology	10am-12.30	Bsloe Cancer Sup Cntr
Tennis Junior Development Prog	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Cardio Tennis	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Bsloe Active Retirem Singing Class	10.30am-12.30	Bsloe Town Band Hall
Bsloe Active Retirem Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retirement Bowling	7-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Line Dancing Classes	8pm-10pm	Moore Com Hall
Traditional Music	9pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge

October 6, Friday

Ballinasloe Indoor Country Market	9am-1.30pm	Bsloe Social Centre
Storytime	2.15pm	Ballinasloe Library
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yrd
Youth Drama Classes	6pm-8.15	Moore Com Hall
Indian Head Massage	10am-2pm	Bsloe Cancer Sup Cntr
Tennis, Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Music, The 2 Q's	10pm	Brewery Lane
Music, Na Riadoiri	10pm	An Tain Bar
Traditional Music	9pm	Broderick's B, Kilconnel
Traditional Music Session	9.30pm	Emerald Bar
Music in the Canal Bar - Shane Moore	10pm	Shearwater Hotel
Supermacs Fireworks & Family Fun	7pm	Ballinasloe Marina
Street Tug of War	9pm	Main Street

October 7, Saturday

Horse/Foal/Sheep Fair	All Day	Fairgreen
Market Stalls	All Day	Town Grounds
Music on Festival Soundstage	12noon	Town Centre
Festival Concert (80's themed Band)	8.30pm	Town Centre
Ballinasloe Town Band Concert	12noon	St. Michael Square
Tennis Supervised Junior Ses (4-11)	11am-12n	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Supervised Junior Ses (12+)	12n-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Music, Matt and Conor	10pm	An Tain Bar
Music, Red Tape	10pm	Brewery Lane
Music	10pm	Millars Bar, Ballydangan
Live Music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Music Canal Bar, Niall Ruthledge	10pm	Shearwater Hotel
Live Music	9pm	Lukers Bar, Sbridge

October 8, Sunday

Food and Craft Market	9am	Town Centre
Bsloe & District Vintage Club Display	10.30am	Main St.
Children Art and Bakery Competition	11am	Town Centre
Motorbike stunt show	1.30pm, 2.30, 3.30	Town Centre
Dog Show	1pm	Town Centre
Juvenile's street Tug of War	2pm-4pm	Society street
Children Tractor Racing	4pm	Society street
Tennis, Beginners Club Session	10am-11.30	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Club Session	11.30-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Traditional Music	6pm	An Tain Bar
Live Music	10pm	Brewery Lane
Traditional Music Sessions	9.30pm	Valerie's of Aughrim
Social Dancing, Liam Mannering	5pm-7.30	Shearwater Hotel
Country Danc, P Feeney (sup B Jermyn)	9pm	Shearwater Hotel

October 9, Monday

Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yrd
Bsloe Active Retirem Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retirement Bowling	10.30-12.30	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retirem Knitting / Crafts	10.30-12.30	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis, Ladies Night	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court

October 10, Tuesday

Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retirem Aqua Aerobics	7-8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30 pm	Bridge Rms, Sarsfield
Bsloe Active Retirem Walking Club	10.30-12.30	Run Track, Bkernagh
Tennis Junior Development Prog	5pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Mixed Doubles Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Grúpa Comhrá Gaeilge & Cultúir Meet	8.30pm	Pearses GAA C House

October 11, Wednesday

Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yrd
Crochet and Knitting Group	11.15am	Ballinasloe Library
French Conversational Class Lizzie	11am-12 n	Gullane's Hotel
Chair Yoga (50s+)	11.30am	Ballinasloe Library
Massage Therapy	10am-12.30	Bsloe Cancer Sup Cntr
Bsloe Active Retirem Informal Meet	3pm	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis, Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retirement Book Club	3.30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Active Retirem Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retirem "Bridge"	11am-1pm	Bridge Rms, Sarsfield
Live music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Traditional Music	9pm	An Tain Bar

October 12, Thursday

Irish Conversation Class With Padraig	11am-12	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis Junior Development Prog	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Cardio Tennis	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Bsloe Active Retirem Singing Class	10.30-12.30	Bsloe Town Band Hall
Bsloe Active Retirem Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retirement Bowling	7-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Line Dancing Classes	8pm-10pm	Moore Com Hall
Traditional Music	9pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge

October 13, Friday

Ballinasloe Indoor Country Market	9am-1.30pm	Bsloe Social Centre
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yrd
Reiki	10am-1.30pm	Bsloe Cancer Sup Cntr
Storytime	2.15pm	Ballinasloe Library
Tennis, Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Youth Drama Classes	6pm-8.15	Moore Com Hall
Music, Down The Road	10pm	Brewery Lane
Traditional Music Session	9.30pm	Emerald Bar
Music in the Canal Bar, Glen Flynn	10pm	Shearwater Hotel

October 14, Saturday

Fairy Tale Stage Show	2pm	Bsloe Town H Theatre
Tennis Supervised Junior Ses (4-11)	11am-12n	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Supervised Junior Ses (12+)	12n-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Halloween Pumpkin Patch	11am-5pm	Lukers, Sbridge
Ceoil na nOg teaching sessions with	Evening	Pearses GAA Club H
Aisling O'Sullivan	time	
Music, Steve Reilly	10pm	Millars B, Ballydangan
Music, 3 Men & A Bass	10pm	Brewery Lane
Live Music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Music, Adrian Rabbitte	10pm	Gibbons Pillar Hse
Music, Canal Bar Michael Reagan	10pm	Shearwater Hotel
Live Music	9pm	Lukers Bar, Sbridge

October 15, Sunday

Tennis, Beginners Club Session	10am-11.30	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Club Session	11.30-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Evening of Music for senior citizens	4pm	Moore Com Hall
Junior Traditional Music	5pm-6.30	Pearses GAA C House
Traditional Music	6pm	An Tain Bar
Halloween Pumpkin Patch	11am-5pm	Lukers, Sbridge
Social Dancing, Michael Collins	5pm-7.30	Shearwater Hotel
Country Danc R. Mizell (sup S Reilly)	9pm	Shearwater Hotel
Traditional Music Sessions	9.30pm	Valerie's of Aughrim

October 16, Monday

Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yrd
Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active retirem Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retirement Bowling	10.30-12.30	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retirem Knitting / Crafts	10.30-12.30	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis, Ladies Night	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court

October 17, Tuesday

Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active retire Aqua Aerobics	7-8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30 pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Bsloe Active Retirem Walking Club	10.30-12.30	Run Track, Bkernagh
Tennis Junior Development Prog	5pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Mixed Doubles Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
An Grúpa Comhrá Gaeilge & Cultúir	8.30pm	Pearses GAA C House

October 18, Wednesday

Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yrd
Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
French Conversational Class Lizzie	11am-12 n	Gullane's Hotel
Crochet and Knitting Group	11.15am	Ballinasloe Library
Chair Yoga (50s+)	11.30am	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Active Retirem Informal Meeting	3pm	Gullane's Hotel
Bsloe Active retirement Book Club	3.30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Active Retirem Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retirement "Bridge"	11am-1pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Tennis, Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Live music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Traditional Music	9pm	An Tain Bar

October 19, Thursday

Irish Conversation Class With Padraig	11am-12	Gullane's Hotel
Reflexology	10am-12.30	Bsloe Cancer Sup Cntr
Tennis Junior Development Prog	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Cardio Tennis	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Rosway Walkers Member/Reg night	8pm-9pm	Gullane's Hotel
Bsloe Active Retirem Singing Class	10.30-12.30	Bsloe Town Band Hall
Bsloe Active Retirem Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Ballinasloe Active Retirem Bowling	7-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Line Dancing Classes	8pm-10pm	Moore Com Hall
Traditional Music	9pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge

October 20, Friday

Ballinasloe Indoor Country Market	9am-1.30pm	Bsloe Social Centre
Storytime	2.15am	Ballinasloe Library
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Youth Drama Classes	6pm-8.15	Moore Com Hall
Tennis Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Social Dancing (Pat & Susan Murray)	9.30pm-12	Moore Com Hall
Music, Rob and Brown	10pm	Brewery Lane
Traditional Music Session	9.30pm	Emerald Bar
Music in the Canal Bar, Saddletreamp	10pm	Shearwater Hotel

October 21, Saturday

Blossom Harp Ensemble (N Harp Day)	3pm	Town Band Hall
Bsloe Music Soc Centenary Concert	8.30pm	Bsloe Town H Theatre
Decade Centenaries (Claiomh Reenact)	11am-12n	Ballinasloe Library
Egalway Landed Estates talk (Marie Boran)	2.30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Tennis Supervised Junior Ses (4-11)	11am-12n	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Supervised Junior Ses (12+)	12n-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Halloween Pumpkin Patch	11am-5pm	Lukers, Sbridge
Music, Colum Carroll	10pm	Millars Bar, Bangan
Music, The Goodfellas	10pm	Brewery Lane
Live Music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Music, High Reel	10pm	Gibbons Pillar House
Music in the Canal Bar, Sean Crehan	10pm	Shearwater Hotel
Live Music	9pm	Lukers Bar, Sbridge

October 22, Sunday

Tennis, Beginners Club Session	10am-11.30	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Club Session	11.30-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Halloween Pumpkin Patch	11am-5pm	Lukers, Sbridge
Traditional Music Sessions	9.30pm	Valerie's of Aughrim
Traditional Music	6pm	An Tain Bar
Social Dancing, Teddy & Cathal Barry	5pm-7.30	Shearwater Hotel
Country Danc J Brady (sup J Mollov)	9pm	Shearwater Hotel

October 23, Monday

Bsloe Town Band - Bsloe GAA League	12noon	Bsloe GAA Grounds
Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Bsloe Active Retirem Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retirement Bowling	10.30-12.30	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retirem Knitting / Crafts	10.30-12.30	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis, Ladies Night	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court

October 24, Tuesday

Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retirem Aqua Aerobics	7-8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30 pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Bsloe Active Retirem Walking Club	10.30-12.30	Run Track, Bkernagh
Tennis Junior Development Prog	5pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Mixed Doubles Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
An Grúpa Comhrá Gaeilge & Cultúir	8.30pm	Pearses GAA Chouse

October 25, Wednesday

Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Massage Therapy	10am-12.30	Bsloe Cancer Sup Cnt
French Conversational Class Lizzie	11am-12 n	Gullane's Hotel
Crochet and Knitting Group	11.15am	Ballinasloe Library
Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
Chair Yoga (50s+)	11.30am	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Active Retirem Informal Meeting	3pm	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis, Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Bsloe Active retirement Book Club	3.30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Active Retirem Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retirem "Bridge" game	11am-1pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Live music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Traditional Music	9pm	An Tain Bar

October 26, Thursday

Irish Conversation Class With Padraig	11am-12	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis Junior Development Prog	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Cardio Tennis	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Bsloe Active Retirem Singing Class	10.30am-12.30	Bsloe Town Band Hall
Bsloe Active Retirem Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retirement Bowling	7-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Line Dancing Classes	8pm-10pm	Moore Com Hall
Traditional Music	9pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge

October 27, Friday

Ballinasloe Indoor Country Market	9am-1.30pm	Bsloe Social Centre
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Crime Book Club	12noon	Ballinasloe Library
Storytime	2.15am	Ballinasloe Library
Reiki	10am-1.30pm	Bsloe Cancer Sup Cntr
Youth Drama Classes	6pm-8.15	Moore Com Hall
Tennis, Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Music, Brego	10pm	Brewery Lane
Traditional Music Session	9.30pm	Emerald Bar
Music Canal Bar, Niall Ruthledge	10pm	Shearwater Hotel

October 28, Saturday

Tennis Supervised Junior Ses (4-11)	11am-12n	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Supervised Junior Ses (12+)	12n-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Music, The Goodlife	10pm	Brewery Lane
Live Music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Halloween Concert in Gaeilge	8pm	Pearses GAA C House
Cancer Sup/Halloween Fncy Dress Fundr	8 pm	Gullane's Hotel
Music Canal Bar, Amy Brennan	10pm	Shearwater Hotel
Live Music	9pm	Lukers Bar, Sbridge

October 29, Sunday

Tennis, Beginners Club Session	10am-11.30	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Club Session	11.30-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Music, Padge Bennett	10pm	Millars Bar, Bangan
Traditional Music	6pm	An Tain Bar
Music, The Fuppin Grassholes	10pm	Brewery Lane
Traditional Music Sessions	9.30pm	Valerie's of Aughrim
Music, Joe Wynne	10pm	Gibbons Pillar House

October 30, Monday

NOVEMBER EVENTS GUIDE

November 1, Wednesday

Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Bsloe Snooker & Billiards Soc Club mee (M-F)	5pm-8pm	Social Club
Crochet and Knitting Group	11.15am	Ballinasloe Library
French Conversational Class Lizzie	11am-12n	Gullane's Hotel
Chair Yoga (50s+)	11.30am	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Active Retire Monthly Meeting	3pm	Gullane's Hotel
Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
Tennis - Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Bsloe Active Retire Book Club	3.30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retire "Bridge"	11am-1pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Live music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin Bar

November 2, Thursday

Irish Conversation Class With Padraig	11am-12	Gullane's Hotel
Reflexology	10am-12.30	Bsloe Cancer Sup Cntr
Tennis Junior Development Prog	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Cardio Tennis	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Bsloe Active Retire Singing Class	10.30am-12.30	Bsloe Town Band Hall
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retire Bowling	7-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Line Dancing Classes	8pm-10pm	Moore ComHall
Traditional Music	9pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge

November 3, Friday

Ballinasloe Indoor Country Market	9am-1.30pm	Bsloe Social Centre
Youth Drama Classes	6pm-8.15	Moore ComHall
Storytime	2.15pm	Ballinasloe Library
Indian Head Massage	10am-2pm	Bsloe Cancer Sup Cntr
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Comic Con	TBC	Ballinasloe Library
Tennis, Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Traditional Music Session	9.30pm	Emerald Bar
Traditional Music	9pm	Broderick's, Kilconnel
Music, Down The Road	10pm	Brewery Lane
Music in the Canal Bar, Paul Dawling	10pm	Shearwater Hotel

November 4, Saturday

Tennis Supervised Junior Ses (4-11)	11am-12n	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Supervised Junior Sess (12+)	12n-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Comic Con	TBC	Ballinasloe Library
Music, Toxic Twins	10pm	Brewery Lane
Music, Cowboy Roadshow	10pm	Millars, Ballydangan
Live Music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Music, Kevin Corry	10pm	Gibbons Pillar House
Music in the Canal Bar, Shane Moore	10pm	Shearwater Hotel
Live Music	9pm	Lukers Bar, Sbridge

November 5, Sunday

Tennis, Beginners Club Session	10am-11.30	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Club Session	11.30-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin Bar
Traditional Music Sessions	9.30pm	Valerie's of Aughrim
Social Dancing, Bernie Heaney	5pm-7.30	Shearwater Hotel
Country Danc, D. Ryan (sup A. Roe)	9pm	Shearwater Hotel

November 6, Monday

Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retire Bowling	10.30-12.30	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retire Knitting / Crafts	10.30-12.30	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis, Ladies Night	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court

November 7, Tuesday

Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Cuidiu Breastfeeding Support Group	10am-11.30	Ywork Ire, Marina Pt
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	7-8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30 pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Bsloe Active Retire Walking Club	10.30-12.30	Run Track, Bkernagh
Tennis Junior Development Prog	5pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Mixed Doubles Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
An Grúpa Comhrá Gaeilge & Cultúir	8.30pm	Pearses GAA C House

November 8, Wednesday

Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Massage Therapy	10am-12.20	Bsloe Cancer Sup Cntr
Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
French Conversational Class Lizzie	11am-12n	Gullane's Hotel
Crochet and Knitting Group	11.15am	Ballinasloe Library
Chair Yoga (50s+)	11.30am	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Active Retire Informal Meeting	3pm	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis, Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Bsloe Active Retire Club	3.30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retire "Bridge" game	11am-1pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Live music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin Bar

November 9, Thursday

Irish Conversation Class With Padraig	11am-12	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis Junior Development Prog	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Cardio Tennis	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Bsloe Active Retire Singing Class	10.30am-12.30	Bsloe Town Band Hall
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retire Bowling	7-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Line Dancing Classes	8pm-10pm	Moore ComHall
Traditional Music	9pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge

November 10, Friday

Ballinasloe Indoor Country Market	9am-1.30pm	Bsloe Social Centre
Youth Drama Classes	6pm-8.15	Moore ComHall
Storytime	2.15pm	Ballinasloe Library
Reiki	10am-1.30pm	Bsloe Cancer Sup Cntr
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Tennis, Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Traditional Music Session	9.30pm	Emerald Bar
Boogie Men	10pm	An Táin Bar
Music, Rob & Brian	10pm	Brewery Lane
Music, The Wistlin Donkeys	Evening	Shearwater Hotel
Music Canal Bar, Michael Reagan	10pm	Shearwater Hotel

November 11, Saturday

Tennis, Supervised Junior Ses (4-11)	11am-12n	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Supervised Junior Ses (12+)	12n-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Music, 3 Men & A Bass	10pm	Brewery Lane
Music, Nightowls	10pm	Millars, Ballydangan
Live Music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Music, Trevor Cavanagh	10pm	Gibbons Pillar House
Music in the Canal Bar, Lal Lee	10pm	Shearwater Hotel
Live Music	9pm	Lukers Bar, Sbridge
Ceoil na nOg teaching ses A.O'Sullivan	Evening	Pearses GAA C House

November 12, Sunday

Itosu-Kai Karatedo Ire Nat Tour	10am	New Inn Sport Complex
Tennis, Beginners Club Session	10am-11.30	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Club Session	11.30-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin Bar
Traditional Music Sessions	9.30pm	Valerie's of Aughrim
Social Dancing, Andy Feery	5pm-7.30	Lady Gregory, Gort
Country Danc, C. Buckley (sup A. Feery)	9pm	Lady Gregory, Gort
Music in the Canal Bar, Shane Moore	10pm	Shearwater Hotel

November 13, Monday

Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retire Bowling	10.30-12.30	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retire Knitting / Crafts	10.30-12.30	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis Ladies Night	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court

November 14, Tuesday

Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	7-8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30 pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Bsloe Active Retire Walking Club	10.30-12.30	Run Track, Bkernagh
Tennis Junior Development Prog	5pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Mixed Doubles Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
An Grúpa Comhrá Gaeilge & Cultúir	8.30pm	Pearses GAA C House

November 15, Wednesday

Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Bsloe Active Retire Informal Meeting	3pm	Gullane's Hotel
French Conversational Class Lizzie	11am-12n	Gullane's Hotel
Crochet and Knitting Group	11.15am	Ballinasloe Library
Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
Tennis, Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Bsloe Active Retire Book Club	3.30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retire "Bridge"	11am-1pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Live Music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin Bar

November 16, Thursday

Irish Conversation Class With Padraig	11am-12	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis Junior Development Prog	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Cardio Tennis	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Bsloe Active Retire Singing Class	10.30am-12.30	Bsloe Town Band Hall
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Ballinasloe Active Retire Bowling	7-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Line Dancing Classes	8pm-10pm	Moore ComHall
Traditional Music	9pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge

November 17, Friday

Ballinasloe Indoor Country Market	9am-1.30pm	Bsloe Social Centre
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Storytime	2.15pm	Ballinasloe Library
Tulca screening Abandoned Goods	2.30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Youth Drama Classes	6pm-8.15	Moore ComHall
Tennis, Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Traditional Music Session	9.30pm	Emerald Bar
Music in the Canal Bar, Shane Moore	10pm	Shearwater Hotel
Music, Brego	10pm	Brewery Lane
Music in the Canal Bar, Billy Mac	10pm	Shearwater Hotel

November 18, Saturday

Cathy Hopkins Dance Schl Showcase	7pm	Bsloe Town H Theatre
Tennis Supervised Junior Ses (4-11)	11am-12n	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Supervised Junior Ses (12+)	12n-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Music, Mary Coughlan And Her Band	Evening	Moore Com Hall
Music, DJ Ben	10pm	Brewery Lane
Live Music	10pm	Millars, Ballydangan
Live Music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Music, Cruisín	10pm	Gibbons Pillar House
Music in the Canal Bar, Kora	10pm	Shearwater Hotel
Live Music	9pm	Lukers Bar, Sbridge

November 19, Sunday

Tennis, Beginners Club Session	10am-11.30	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Club Session	11.30-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin Bar
Traditional Music Sessions	9.30pm	Valerie's of Aughrim

November 20, Monday

Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retirement Bowling	10.30-12.30	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retire Knitting / Crafts	10.30-12.30	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis, Ladies Night	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court

November 21, Tuesday

Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	7-8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30 pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Bsloe Active Retire Walking Club	10.30-12.30	Run Track, Bkernagh
Tennis Junior Development Prog	5pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Mixed Doubles Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
An Grúpa Comhrá Gaeilge & Cultúir	8.30pm	Pearses GAA C House

November 22, Wednesday

Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Massage Therapy	10am-12.30	Bsloe Cancer Sup Cntr
French Conversational Class Lizzie	11am-12n	Gullane's Hotel
Crochet and Knitting Group	11.15am	Ballinasloe Library
Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retire Informal Meeting	3pm	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis, Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Bsloe Active retirement Book Club	3.30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retire "Bridge" game	11am-1pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Live music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin Bar

November 23, Thursday

Irish Conversation Class With Padraig	11am-12	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis Junior Development Prog	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Cardio Tennis	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Bsloe Active Retire Singing Class	10.30am-12.30	Bsloe Town Band Hall
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Ballinasloe Active Retire Bowling	7-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Line Dancing Classes	8pm-10pm	Moore ComHall
Traditional Music	9pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge

November 24, Friday

Ballinasloe Indoor Country Market	9am-1.30pm	Bsloe Social Centre
Youth Drama Classes	6pm-8.15	Moore ComHall
Storytime	2.15pm	Ballinasloe Library
Crime Book Club	12noon	Ballinasloe Library
Reiki	10am-1.30pm	Bsloe Cancer Sup Cntr
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Tennis, Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Traditional Music Session	9.30pm	Emerald Bar
Music, Th 2 Q's	10pm	Brewery Lane
Music in the Canal Bar, Paul Dowling	10pm	Shearwater Hotel

November 25, Saturday

Tennis Supervised Junior Ses (4-11)	11am-12n	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Supervised Junior Ses (12+)	12n-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Céili Dancing	9pm	Pearses GAA C House
Music, Let's Dance	10pm	Brewery Lane
Music, Michael Regan	10pm	Millars, Ballydangan
Live Music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Music, Alan O'Neill	10pm	Gibbons Pillar House
Music in the Canal Bar, Sean Brennan	10pm	Shearwater Hotel
Live Music	9pm	Lukers Bar, Sbridge

November 26, Sunday

Ballinasloe Town Band Concert	12noon	St. Michael Square
Tennis, Beginners Club Session	10am-11.30	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Club Session	11.30-1pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Traditional Music	6pm	An Táin Bar
Traditional Music Sessions	9.30pm	Valerie's of Aughrim
Social Dancing, John Molloy	5pm-7.30	Shearwater Hotel
Country Danc R. Mizzell (sup J.Molloy)	9pm	Shearwater Hotel

November 27, Monday

Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Ballinasloe Active Retire Bowling	10.30-12.30	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Retire Knitting / Crafts	10.30-12.30	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis, Ladies Night	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court

November 28, Tuesday

Ballinasloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active retire Aqua Aerobics	7-8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30 pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Bsloe Active Retire Walking Club	10.30-12.30	Run Track, Bkernagh
Tennis Junior Development Prog	5pm-7pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis Mixed Doubles Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
An Grúpa Comhrá Gaeilge & Cultúir	8.30pm	Pearses GAA C House

November 29, Wednesday

Ballinasloe Men's Shed Meeting	10am-2pm	Men's Shed, Cullens Yd
Karate Itosu - kai Beginner's Classes	7pm	Emerald Ballroom
French Conversational Class Lizzie	11am-12n	Gullane's Hotel
Crochet and Knitting Group	11.15am	Ballinasloe Library
Bsloe Active Retire Informal Meeting	3pm	Gullane's Hotel
Tennis Club Night	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Ballinasloe Active Retire Book Club	3.30pm	Ballinasloe Library
Ballinasloe Active retirement Group	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre

November 30, Thursday

Aqua Aerobics	10am-12.30	Bsloe Town Band Hall
Ballinasloe Active Retire "Bridge"	11am-1pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Live music	10pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge
Traditional Music	9pm	An Táin Bar

November 30, Thursday

Irish Conversation Class With Padraig	11am-12	Gullane's Hotel
Reflexology	10am-12.30pm	Bsloe Cancer Sup Cntr
Tennis Junior Development Prog	6pm-8pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Tennis, Cardio Tennis	7pm-9pm	Bsloe Tennis Court
Bsloe Active Retire Singing Class	10.30am-12.30	Bsloe Town Band Hall
Bsloe Active Retire Aqua Aerobics	2-3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bsloe Active Retirement Bowling	7-9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Ballinasloe Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge rms, Sarsfield
Line Dancing Classes	8pm-10pm	Moore ComHall
Traditional Music	9pm	Fallons Bar, Sbridge

To Advertise Your Events here please contact ballinasloelifeporter@gmail.com or call 09096 45831 and leave a voice message. We will be back to confirm by 10th November.

OUT AND ABOUT



Ireland's International Women's Soccer Star Heather Payne with members and young well wishers at Pearse's GAA Club House for a special Reception to honour her and past member Rugby International Star Aoibheann O'Reilly.



St Theresa's, St Anns, St Grellans Residents thanked all those who took part in our fundraising drive to buy and install their own Defibrillator at 18 St Grellans Tce. It was installed by Oliver Mullen Electrical contractor.

Committee members who planned and pushed and fundraised: Nora Dowd, Helen Fogarty, Marie Fogarty, and Linda Dowd



Pictured at the announcement of a grant from the Credit Union Social fund to Scoil Ui Cheithearnaigh for playing area development Grainne Murphy, CEO BCU, Rory O Hanlon School Principal, Sean Madden BCU Chairman with 4th Class students.



Enda Jennings, Lena Donoghue, Jackie Cunningham, Conor Murphy, Noreen Kenny, Angela Lyons, (Club President), Mark Connelly, John Donnellan, (Men's Captain), Gavin Hynes, John Hurley (Team Manager) Golf Ireland Rep, Jamie Corbett, Adeline Naughton (Team Manager) Rita Staunton, (Lady Captain) Ciaran Smith, Mary Goode, Aidan Grenham, Aiden Bergin, Katie Connolly.



Creagh NS opened their academic year with a newly elected student council, incorporating a diverse group of hardworking pupils ranging from 5th to 6th class

The representatives for 2023-2024 are Oscar McKeon, Zara Riaz, Nik Aimal Andik Najib, Patrick Reilly, Ben Kelly, Hannah Burns, Hooriya Fatima, Charlie Ferns, Seán Loughnane, David Lyons, Aoife Brown and Maeve Campbell.

The Council immediately sprung into action following their appointment. Moved by the plight of Libyan people who were recently devastated by natural disaster, the students found it appropriate to offer their support.

A No Uniform Day fundraiser was organised with the

assistance of their coordinator Mr. Shane Dolan. The school community responded in a compassionate and enthusiastic manner, raising to the tune of €1,700 collected in the space of 24 hours.

Many members within the school community maintain close ties to Libya, only making this fundraising campaign more meaningful.

“We are very proud of our pupils and so grateful to our parent population who have demonstrated once again their generosity and empathy in such a real and meaningful way” voices Áine Ní Cholleráin Bleahene, Principal of Creagh NS.

“We look forward to lots of initiatives from the Council over the next year.”



Student Council of Creagh NS 2023-2024



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Ardscoil Mhuire's Class of 2023 reuniting at the school following the release of their Leaving Cert results



Former Garbally College student Tom Cafferky who received the highest grade (625 points) in the Leaving Cert, here pictured with Deputy Principal Ms. Collette Quinn and Principal Mr. Paul Walsh.



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Newton NS Junior Infants - First Day at School



New students in Naionáin Bheaga who started in September with Gaelscoil Ui Chearnaigh



Ria Purcell of the Mikshake Academy with many of her troupe who starred and recorded the St. Grellan's Day RAP at Gaelscoil Ui Chearnaigh for Sept 17th Grellans Day in association with the Ballinasloe and District Heritage Society.

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Photos - Winners of Fiddle, Art & Busking Competitions, Sponsors, The East Galway Style Exhibition, The Committee and a selection of musicians from Seattle, Italy, Sligo, Leitrim, Kildare, Waterford, Castledaly, Antrim, Cork, and Boston enjoying the sessions.

Throughout a balmy Indian summer weekend, you would be forgiven for thinking you were in the heart of the Costa Del Sol was it not for the melodic sounds of trad music, singing, and dancing that filled the September air from the early to late hours of the mornings. Ceol, Craic agus Spraoi, best describes the atmosphere that filled the streets for the second weekend of September, as crowds of people flocked to the town from as far away as Boston, Seattle, Italy, Japan, UK, and many counties of Ireland to participate in the high-quality programme of events that was on offer for the 10th Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds. Such was the large volume of musicians that attended, that the music sessions overflowed outdoors on to footpaths, beer gardens and carparks.

Chairperson Martina Flanagan stated, “as a committee we are delighted to see our Féile grow and become established as a welcoming Féile on the Trad festival calendar. Each year we thrive to build on the success of the previous year, with the goal to make every year our best Féile yet by adding something special. This year we achieved that again with our “East Galway Style” Exhibition. Our success is a culmination of hard work and dedication from our committee and to have reached a milestone of celebrating ten years is fantastic and we look forward to the next decade. This year our festival programme was shared by Fáilte Ireland/Ireland's Hidden Heartlands, who have already reached out looking forward to continuing their partnership and working with us next year. All of which is positive for what Ballinasloe has to offer on its doorstep for tourism.”

The Féile brings a welcome boost to local businesses as the taverns, B & Bs, and hotels are booked out and many locals open their homes to accommodate visitors. The dates for next year's festival are 5th - 8th September 2024 and not to be missed. Bigi Ann.

 By Liam Timmins



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Following a well-deserved break from rehearsals and performances, the Ballinasloe Town Band are back with full batteries charged preparing for their next grand show.

Prior to the holidays, the musicians gave a thrilling performance at the Ballygar Carnival to an encouraging crowd. The festival's committee were delighted to welcome them for another year, livening the village's Main Street with melody and talented instrumentation.

The Band also performed to a full 400-seat auditorium in the Town Hall Theatre during the Summer Variety Concert. They were accompanied on the night by the Blossom Harp Ensemble, Slua Drummers, Milkshake Dance Academy and many other individual local talents.

They now look forward to the next few busy weeks ahead, introducing a new line-up of music under the baton of Keith Kelly. The ensemble has been gathering regularly at their Band Hall during the past weeks, while also embracing the outdoors in front of St. Michael's Church for some practice.

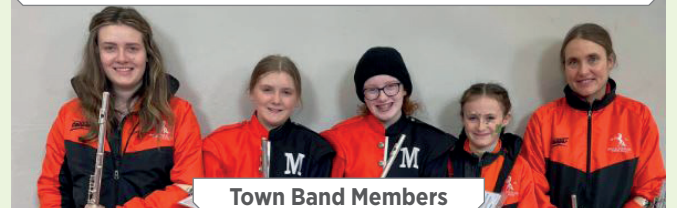
October Fair Weekend will be their next public outing, taking to the streets to play a recital in the Square. Rehearsals will then begin thereafter refreshing Christmas tunes and Carols for the run up to the annual December performances.

For anyone interested in joining the Junior Band, stay tuned

for November which will see the next recruitment drive for members. Keep an eye out on their Facebook page 'Ballinasloe Town Band' and the Ballinasloe notes of the Connacht Tribune for further details.



Secondary school students Mikolaj Zicbo from St. Joseph's College Garbally on saxophone, Ola Wdowiak from Ard Scoil Mhuire on clarinet both members of the Ballinasloe Town Band with Oscars Composer Eimear Noone launching the call for National Young Musicians Award.



Town Band Members



The Town Band ensemble performing outside St. Michaels Church.

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Ballinasloe Musical Society will celebrate a century of music and drama with a special Centenary Concert, which will take place on 21st October at 8pm in the Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre.

This will be a musical extravaganza with songs from a variety of much-loved past performances, including Oklahoma, Singin' in the Rain, South Pacific and Calamity Jane, to name but a few.

A selection of leading ladies and gentlemen will perform on the night, including Catherine Smyth, Sarah Corcoran, Seán Óg Hurley, Louise Colohan, Séamus Feerick, Rachel Goode, Patrick Byrne, David Kennedy and more. A large ensemble of past and present members will also come together to perform, with all welcome to join. Don't miss this once in a lifetime celebration of music, culture and community that will pay homage to the 100 years of live performances by Ballinasloe Musical Society, with National Broadcaster Fergal Darcy as MC.

Tickets are available on www.ballinasloetownhall.com.

Production team for their 2023 run of 'Godspell', which will take place from 19th-23rd March 2023 in the Town Hall Theatre. New to the reigns as Director is Tuam native, Ronan Lardner, who will be familiar to many as the voice of The Live Wire, the lunchtime show on Galway Bay FM. No stranger to musical theatre, Ronan has most recently directed shows in Tuam and in Castlerea.

Another new addition to the team is Jay Molyneux, who will take on the role of Choreographer. Also a Galway native, Jay has been performing since the age of 7 and is a full time dance teacher at the Genevieve Ryan Dance Academy. He has choreographed and directed many shows throughout the western region. Members and Cast are thrilled to welcome back the Maestro, Shane Farrell, as Musical Director, for his 10th show with the Society. Shane, who lives in Loughrea, is renowned country-wide for

his work as a choir master and musical director as well as for his fundraising endeavours, including recently for the recording of Sing for Saoirse at the Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre in July and is due for release in October

Plans for auditions for Godspell are being put in place and a date will be announced very soon. Keep an eye on Ballinasloe Musical Society's social media pages for more! Dates: Tue Nov 1st and Wed Nov 2nd at 8.00 pm in Gullane's Hotel.



Shane Farrell -
Godspell's Musical
Director



Ronan Lardner -
Godspell's New
Director

Jay Molyneux -
New Godspell Show
Choreographer

Fergal Darcy -
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The Ballinasloe Panto is back in swing preparing for its next staging, following the successful run of 'Cinderella' last year.

Over the last few years, the local theatre group provides a show production to rival the likes of the Gaiety in Dublin. With all the entertainment of the big city and none of the hassle or expenses, it is easy to understand why many people are now choosing Ballinasloe as their number-one Christmas pantomime destination.

'Snow White', has been announced by the Troupe as this year presentation- bringing the Disney classic back to public conscious 85 years after its cinematic release. The Panto recently concluded auditions for the production. The process saw their biggest turn-out to date with over 200 kids and youth from ages 6 to 18 pitching their talents for the roles.

Rehearsals for the show are set to go shortly after the October Fair. Ria Purcell, the talented choreographer and owner of Milkshake Dance Academy, continues again for instructing the many chorus groups, as Choreographer/Chorus Master. With a diverse array of songs and dances, to learn the students will be in for some busy (yet extremely fun and entertaining) few months.

Dave Hardiman returns as the Panto's director, who took the role for Cinderella and Ardscoil Mhuire's highly acclaimed TY production of

'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat' earlier this year. The production trio is completed by instrumental maestro John Roe, who will once again take the helm as musical director and has been engaged with the Panto troupe for most seasons since its formation.

The main cast are being kept under wraps for the moment. Stay tuned in December to discover who will be taking to the stage as Snow White, Prince Charming and the 'seven vertically- challenged excavators', along with a host of other colourful and entertaining roles.

The production of Snow White will run from December 4th to December 10th at the Ballinasloe Town Hall Theatre. Tickets will go on sale in mid-November and will be available to purchase from their main sponsor J&S Photos on Society Street, or from Ballinasloe Panto's online box office.

The Committee appreciate all the support they receive both from the local community and those further afield, recognising all the faces who regularly attend their showings, and they hope to see them again for the next production.

There is no better way to herald the start of the Christmas season - so keep a date in your diary !! To stay updated, you can follow them at 'Bsloe Panto' on Facebook or 'bsloepanto' on Instagram.



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Starting on Sunday the 1st of October, with horse sales continuing on the 2nd and 7th of October, this is a time-honoured tradition that brings together locals and visitors alike, promising fun, culture, and community spirit.

Renowned for its historic significance in Ireland's equestrian world, it's a time when the town comes alive with the clip-clop of hooves and the bustle of buyers and sellers. The fair dates back to the 17th century, making it one of the oldest and most cherished fairs in Ireland. It continues to be a hub for equestrians, showcasing magnificent horses, ponies, foals and donkeys, drawing horse enthusiasts and traders from all over the World.

The local festival committee has put together an array of activities that will take place from the 5th to the 8th of October, providing free outdoor entertainment for the community and visitors alike, creating a festival atmosphere that welcomes all.

Food, Fashion & Fun Night (Thursday 5th October): the festivities kick off in the Shearwater Hotel with an evening dedicated to culinary delights and fashion trends. Local vendors and designers will showcase their talents, offering a fantastic blend of gastronomy

and style. Celebrity Chef Derry Clarke and Galway Bay FM's Ollie Turner will headline the event. On Friday 6th October the skies will light up with a breathtaking fireworks display, a visual spectacle that will be memorable. The night will also feature a range of children's entertainment, ensuring that families can enjoy the festivities together. For music enthusiasts, the festival soundstage will come alive on Saturday 7th with a diverse lineup of performers. The crescendo of the music program will be an outdoor concert on the night of the 7th, featuring Spring Break, Ireland's premier 80's tribute band.

For those with a love for animals, the Dog Show on Sunday the 8th is a must-see event. Adrenaline junkies are not left out either, as the motorbike stunt show revs into action. The heart-pounding performances of talented stunt riders leave spectators on the edge of their seats, showcasing the thrill-seeking side. For those who appreciate the charm of the past, the Vintage Show is a delightful trip down memory lane. Classic cars, antique tractors and vintage memorabilia will be on display.

None of this would be possible without the generous support of the main sponsors. They include Ballinasloe Credit Union, Galway County Council, Supermac's, Fox McFadden Fun Fair, Gullanes Hotel, Shearwater Hotel. "We are deeply indebted to them for their unwavering commitment to making the Ballinasloe Fair and Festival a success year after year. Their contributions enable us to offer these events free of charge, ensuring that everyone can partake in the festivities" stated Chair Mal Croffy.

Mark your calendars for a week of celebration as town welcomes visitors and the returning diaspora with open arms, all thanks to the dedication of the voluntary festival committee and the generous support of sponsors. Don't miss this opportunity to be part of something truly special!



An Garda Síochána, Main Sponsors and F&F committee members at the Launch of The 2023 Ballinasloe Horse Fair & Festival, Supt Finbar Philpot, Street Performer Meg Bhogal, Luke McAllister Ahascragh Distillery, Larry Reynolds, Mal Croffy, Pat Fox Fox McFadden Fun Fair, Grainne Murphy BCU, Sean Madden BCU, Mary Phelan, Maeve Greally, Michael Janusz Shearwater Hotel & Spa, Una McDonagh Supermacs, Kieran Egan, Michelle McAllister Ahascragh Distillery, Donal McDonnell, Shane McNeill BCU and Niall Clarke BCU.

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For their thirteenth outing, Ballinasloe-based art collective Group 8 presented their annual exhibition DERELICT for Culture Night at the Ballinasloe Town Band Hall, representing the concept through the diverse talents of the collective's membership.

Group 8 is a non-profit, professional arts group formed in Ballinasloe, aiming to foster awareness, imagination and co-operative learning between artists and the community. They regularly host exhibitions, literary events, artist talks, readings, workshops, and book launches.

Since their foundation in 2009, their original cohort have expanded membership from eight to twelve creators. Their current lineup includes writers Zara Little-Campbell and Nuala O'Connor, painters Fiona Moore and John Soden, textile designer Fiona Ormsby, ceramicist Walter Coughlan, sculptor and woodturner Tommy Campbell, and visual artists Joyce Little, Lilly Kelly, Grellan Ganly and Úna Spain.

The group were recently delighted to welcome a new member, ceramicist and bridal accessories specialist Amy Uí Neachtain, who currently trades as AUN Bridal.

A recent showcase titled "On Our Doorstep" displayed a collection of artistic interpretations of the 1691 Battle of Aughrim for Heritage Week 2023. The occasion was opened by Leas-Cathaoirleach of Galway Co Cl., Cllr Evelyn Parsons, and included contributions from Abbie McGowan and Michael Riddell from Cath Eachroma 1691.

Their latest exhibition DERELICT caught the eye of the Ballinasloe public with writings, paintings, textiles, photography, ceramics, mixed media and sculptures encapsulating the concept of dereliction, whether in its concrete manifestation or its symbolic meaning.

As always, each artist or writer was free to interpret the theme in whatever way they chose.

Local historian Barry Lally officially launched the exhibition on

Friday evening September 22, while refreshments were served, attendees remained late into the night studying the variety of artwork on show.

The showcase was also open for viewing on Saturday September 23 for those who missed it. Meanwhile that afternoon, Fiona Ormsby ran a felting workshop for adults and children alike, demonstrating her textile talents.

Although their follow-up exhibition has yet to be confirmed, it is quite possible Group 8 are already piecing together next year's event. Following the success of DERELICT, their eager audience awaits what is in store next for the art collective.

Group 8 Members with Leas-Cathaoirleach of Galway Cllr Evelyn Parsons



Michael Riddell at the "On Our Doorstep" Heritage Week event.

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Family members, community figures, and past mentors from the Ballinasloe Town AFC, supporters and well-wishers, all gathered at the Curragh Grounds for a ceremony congratulating international footballer, Heather Payne on her recent accomplishments in the Women's World Cup.

The Dunlo grounds were alive on the afternoon with a crowd eager to meet the town's newest superstar. It felt only a short time ago when Heather Payne was practising on home soil, who has recently signed for Everton FC.

Payne distinguished herself during the 2023 FIFA Women's World Cup, competing against top nations in Sydney. While a hamstring injury prevented the Creagh native from playing against Canada, she was in prime condition during the Australia and Nigeria playoffs.

"Thanks to Ballinasloe in general, this is where I started my soccer career" Heather joyously stated. She paid particular tribute to her early coach Tony Coyne emphasising "I wouldn't be where I am without him".

The town's pride was seen clearly during the World Cup, with flags and posters flying along the streets and homes wishing the best of luck to the young player. "Thanks a million for all the support I received over the last few weeks and months, it

doesn't go unnoticed" she observed.

Former trainer Noel Lyons was delighted to see her accomplishments during the World Cup, attributing her success to her hard work and dedication to the sport.

Her proud father, Brendan Payne, also joined the celebrations: "It is great to have someone from the local area who's done so well, and it gives great encouragement to young players to follow their dreams and encourage them to keep playing and achieve their goals".

A meet-and-greet was hosted, where fans could receive autographs and signed jerseys from the Girl in Green. Past and Present Officials from the Club made a presentation to her on behalf of the organisation.

"Even to see all the young girls and boys that are here shows the progress that is going in women's sport, and I think that is absolutely fantastic" Heather noted.

Ballinasloe MDC Cathaoirleach, Declan Geraghty underlined the significance of Payne's achievements to aspiring footballers in Ballinasloe: "It's all about community, it's all about our youth, and it's bringing new people through the camps, and today we have the result of it here. Heather congratulations, you're doing a wonderful job, you're a great ambassador for the people. To the people of Ballinasloe, she's a credit to you all" he concluded.



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All is tense on the Ballinasloe GAA clubgrounds as the unbeaten Junior B Hurlers train for their upcoming County Final, culminating their fantastic run this year.

The lads have been on an unbroken winning streak throughout the championship beating Killimor, Kilnadeema, Castlegar, Turloughmore and Portumna.

Castlebar were tough competition during the semis, nearly taking the day with a 4-point lead in the last 10 minutes. Thankfully, with the encouraging support of the Ballinasloe crowd, the Juniors rallied and scored 1.03 before the game's end. The boys prevailed, concluding the match 1.15 to 1.12 in their favour.

Ballinasloe now faces the winners of the second Semi-Final between Turloughmore and Killimordaly (which will be decided prior to this magazine's release).

What's more the U14 hurlers have been on a great season, beating Salthill-Knocknacarra 4.07 to 3.04 in their Shield decider. Midfielder Keith Coughlan was named 'Man of the Match' after scoring an incredible personal tally of 3.02 during the game.

The Junior Women's Footballers secured their League Final against St. Mary's Killarney, made extra special for the girls as it was played on the clubgrounds to a large home crowd. The entertaining game saw Ballinasloe leading throughout and eventually running out victors 2.13 to 2.04.

The U13 Boys footballers nearly took home their campaign, but just lost out to Claregalway despite a valiant effort. Similarly, the U12 Girls Footballers narrowly lost out to St. James in the Shield Final by one point.

The U14 and U16 Girls both qualified for the championship clincher but lost out to Oughterard and Kilconly respectively. The U14 Girls still have their foot in the campaign after winning their first two matches, playing off against Corofin in their third-round game.

Outside the competitive circuit, the U9s and U11s have been honing their skills in football and hurling through the Nursery Academy. The lads were recently treated to an expert coaching session by Galway hurlers Pdraig and Cathal Mannion, Jason Flynn and Tom Monaghan, taking solid advice from some of the greats.

Meanwhile, the Ballinasloe Bingo continues each Tuesday at the 20:00 in the Emerald Ballroom and will soon celebrate its 11th birthday.

The Club Lotto Jackpot now stands at €11,800, drawing each Friday live from the clubhouse for a potential winner. Lotto tickets are €2 each and are available online at ballinasloe.gaa.ie. Draws can be seen live on their Facebook page at 'Ballinasloe GAA'.



The U12 hurlers following their match against Mícheál Breathnachs

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Ballinasloe's Godfrey Gibbons Junior and his mare Milchem Free Spirit challenged the FEI European Youth Eventing Championships in Italy and, with the support of the Irish team, secured a silver medal for home.

The past Leaving Cert pupil of Garbally College has been rooted on the field since the new year, qualifying and participating in the EI110 decider and shortly afterwards winning his two age classes at the Eventing Ireland Western Region final.

During the David Fosters Ball 2023, Godfrey won Junior Rider Award for 2023 (not being the first time he took the title!).

His prized horse, the Milchem Free Spirit (Bred by his Mum) has accompanied him from skirmish to skirmish. Since 2019, Godfrey and his trainer Ralph Conroy have practised with the mare, together growing their skillset.

Some might say the Ballinasloe rider was born for the track, starting his career with the local East Galway Pony Club. His mother Marie Dunne has acted as a major inspiration for the young athlete, occasionally competing with him.

During the Summer, Godfrey landed two wins during the Scarteen qualifiers of the Young Eventhorse series and secured a ticket for the Dublin Horse Show. For the

capital competition, he claimed first place on the back of his mom's horse 'the Milchem Miami'.

He was later selected to the Young Member squad to tackle the European Championships, travelling abroad to Montelibretti, Italy.

Managed by Sue Shortt, the Irish quartet of Heather O'Connor, Chloe Fagan, Alannah Kelly and Godfrey Gibbons challenged the Cross Country and Jumping against fierce opposition. The national squad finished the competition just behind home team Italy who took gold, while Germany collected the team bronze.

Godfrey had two fences down in the final phase and overall took a modest seventh place in the European playoffs.

Alison Corbally, Director General of The Irish Horse Board congratulated Godfrey alongside Heather, Chloe and Allanah on their team's silver medals: "This was another excellent performance at championship level for Irish youth athletes and adds to an already impressive year that has seen Ireland win multiple European medals."

With this further accomplishment under his belt, there's no doubt Gibbons will only continue climb the tiers of national and international horse-riding.



Godfrey Gibbons, Junior Rider Award Winner

PEARSE'S GAA



A wonderful memorable night in Pearse's GAA Club - towards the end of a damp summer, saw the Club honour two of its own. Internationals of Women's Rugby and Soccer sides who began their athletic sporting careers in the Woodmount Club in

Camogie and Ladies Football, were given a Special Presentation Reception. The Sec of the Women's Camogie and Football Section - Tara Flynn addressed the gathering - after the Club Chair Mike Feehily formally welcomed all to the Club house for the unique moment to salute Heather Payne; Aoibheann O'Reilly. Aoibheann was indisposed but her dad Stephen gamely stood in for her - for the photos and questions and answers sessions afterwards.

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Five footballers from BT AFC represented the Galway 2010's at the Oakham Cup in the UK, performing against some of the best teams in Ireland, England, America and Canada.

Eanna Colleran, Callum Conway, John Kelly, Fionn Duffy and Adam Lloyd were the local lads who made the squad towards the summer's end. Prior to the international tournament, they faced against the Bohemians, Cork City and UCD during the U13 Dublin Blitz.

During the Oakham Cup, the team faced big names West Ham United, Nottingham Forest, Shrewsbury Town, Cliftonville, NCE New York, Boston Boys and Futuro Academy. Overall, the Galway United 2010s placed a modest fifth with Adam Lloyd securing three significant goals during the competition.

Back in Salthill, BT AFC player Keela Donnelly Meehan, captained the county 2010s to victory during the Galway Cup. The girls tied Sligo/Leitrim 1-1 in normal time, but just defeated them afterwards 4-3 on penalties.

Meanwhile U14 captain Aaron Treacy and U13 Ameer Ayinde have been signed for League of Ireland team Athlone Town AFC.

Aaron has been an ever-present competitor for town since academy level, having starred initially in the ADSL league and Futsai competition before demonstrating his talent in the Galway FA League. The U14 player recently captained the Galway squad to win the Kennedy Cup title, becoming the first county lad to ever to claim this feat.

Ameer Ayinde has victories under his belt in the U13 GFA league and cup doubles while also recently performing an outstanding season for town scoring vital goals in crunch matches. He is also known for having a brilliant work etiquette and attitude. Both have since settled into their new team, finding new opportunities for the young talents.

The Town just began their stride through the U16 Connacht Cup, defeating the Conn Rangers 2 - 7 in the first round. The lads played well start to finish with Kyle Keighery and Tanbir Patway both taking three goals, and Spencer Dube earning his own. Matthew Tully was dubbed Man of the Match for his performance that day.

The U12's began with an unlucky start in their GFA Premier Division, overcome by Maree Oranmore 3 to 1. The opposition played a dominant first half, scoring two goals in the first 15 minutes. Despite Adam Kenny's fantastic corner into a neat finish by Keelan Kirby, Ballinasloe could not match

Oranmore this time around.

Regardless the U12's Team A would return strong in the Premier Division, besting Athenry 0 - 2 with a goal from both Kenny and Kirby.

In club developments, the Town AFC organised a well-attended Summer Camp complete with kids enjoying the sport. Despite facing inconsistent weather conditions with passing showers one day and intense heat the other, the camp was widely enjoyed by those who attended and well organised by the BT AFC committee and coaches.

Recently, the club were thrilled to agree the renewal of the Clubs Principal Sponsorship Deal with the 4 Star Shearwater Hotel /Comer Group.

Discussions on the Town AFC side were led by Club Chairperson Bjorn Manning with Club Treasurer and Development Co Ordinator Johnny Walsh. Treasurer Walsh stressing the significance of the Sponsorship Deal, emphasising the bond between both parties and their strong roots within the Ballinasloe community.

They are both looking forward to continuing this mutually beneficial relationship into the future with the Shearwater Hotel.



Aaron Treacy



Ameer Ayinde and family



Keela Donnelly Meehan holding the Galway Cup after their triumph.

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For the first time ever, Ballinasloe's Mixed Seniors team are All-Ireland Champions for 2023, crowned at the Knightsbrook Golf Club in County Meath.

Their Mixed Foursome Team have been on a roll, advancing through the All-Ireland championships, claiming the Connacht Title after defeating Barna in the provincial finals, taking three wins to push them over the line.

Through to the national quarter-finals, the club were set against reigning champions Warrenpoint which culminated at Mannan Castle. Despite a close match, the local squad won out with Aiden Grenham securing the final putt.

The weekend of September 16th and 17th was climatic for the golfers to say the least. That Saturday, they faced Tipperary in the semis and secured their victory with wins by Aidan Grenham and Lena Donohue, Mark Conneely and Mary Goode, along with Jamie Corbett and Noreen Kenny.

Only the following day, they were back out on the course for the decider clashing heads with Malahide. Ballinasloe emerged victorious, securing three early wins to defeat their Dublin counterparts.

"I'm chuffed, thrilled for our team and club" beams Ballinasloe captain John Hurley, "there must have been no one left in Ballinasloe today, the support that came up here to Knightsbrook was immense."

"The shouts and roars I heard around the golf course I will take with me for a long, long time. I am so proud of my team."

The Ballinasloe golfers recently concluded their major competitions with Brendan Naughton taking home the Angela Lyons President's Prize, Maura Kelly the Rita Staunton's Lady Captain's Prize and Michael Brassil the Andy Fenton Senior Men's Prize. The John Donnellan Captain's Prize will be reported in in subsequent editions.

U16's Issac Oliver continues to make his name known abroad, now representing Ireland in Italy following his break at the McGregor Trophy. The upcomer also recorded a recent

victory at the U16 Boys Munster Open.

Niall Conneely placed third in the All-Ireland U14 Amateur Open, while at home John William Burke won the Connacht U14 and U16 Open Championships. Both Niall and John competed in the Connacht Close U15's, placing third and second respectively.

Some junior competitors have been hitting their stride with Caoimhe Flanagan taking second place in the Girls 13's, while Senan Greene placed third in his first ever competition in the Boys 8's.

The Club had the pleasure of hosting the South Connacht Golf Sixes league between themselves, Athlone Golf Club, Roscommon Golf Club and Loughrea Golf Club. The Sixes tourney aims to develop the skills of beginning junior golfers, where teams of six U13 players compete over six holes which are no more than 150 meters.

Their next Open Classic event will run from September 21 to 24, a four-person team event where visitors are welcome to play.

If you are interested in joining the golf club, please you can phone their office at (090) 964 2126 or email ballinasloegolfclub@hotmail.com to discuss options.



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Juniors who participated in Summer Camps with coaches Joshua Judge and Emily Riddell.

The Ballinasloe and District Tennis Club have been vigorously expanding their Junior member opportunities, introducing a new generation to the game's dynamics and discipline.

They began with a successful Summer Camp, attracting over 40 eager participants. A team of experienced players, Emily Riddell, Joshua Judge and Jack Finn ran the crash-course, hosting many fun and games over the week.

The club also pioneered their first Junior Development Programme. The initial stages of the initiative were a success, teaching kids the technical and tactical objectives of tennis, and how to apply those traits to their matches. The committee now hope to host a follow-up programme.

"We are very lucky to have our junior coaching team developing the skills of our members from ages 5-17" stated Chair Garry Zacharano, "and special thanks to Joshua Judge for this initiative."

Now entering Autumn, regular tennis activities continue apace. The club now have three men's and (possibly) two ladies teams entering the Munster Winter league, playing off in the coming months. The men's doubles team are advancing through the Midland League Division 5 tournament overcoming Loughrea, Portumna and defeating Birr Wilmer in the Quarter-Final. They will now face either Roscrea or



Club members who participated in the club's social mixed doubles event.

Killaloe in the Semi-Final.

Portumna's Division 5 team visited the courts to compete against Ballinasloe. An exciting game of fast netplay and long rallies defined the day, leading to two tense tiebreaks to decide the final score. Eventually Ballinasloe overcame and took the evening.

A mixed doubles competition was also held on the grounds, acting as a social gathering of the club's tight members-circle. Despite the abundant supply of cakes, sandwiches and other treats supplied by members, some serious tennis was played. Rachel and Joe Staunton eventually took home the Trophy, while Niamh Walsh and Paul Waters took the Shield. Emily Riddell was credited for the event, which was widely enjoyed by all.

Training sessions and gatherings are held each day of the week at the club grounds. New members of all standards are always welcome to join the club for an introductory session. Members can avail of the courts for no charge, subject to availability. For all updates, news and contacts, visit their website at <https://ti.clubspark.com/Bsloetennisclub/>.

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Some brave members of the Ballinasloe Cycling Club embarked to Arvagh, County Cavan in an attempt the 100km Breffnie 3 Province Challenge.

The event saw cyclists travelling a loop of Arvagh, Carrigallen, and Killashandra, in the process completing a tour of Ulster, Connacht, and Leinster. During its 22 years running, the challenge has raised over €1 million for cancer organisations across the country.

BCC members Gerry O'S, Gerry B, Alan, Ann, Kieran, and Clare attempted and completed the 100km stretch, travelling at an average of roughly 28kph. Meanwhile Ciara, a participant of their Couch to 50K programme, finished the 10km run also hosted on the occasion.

Earlier in the Summer, the club also challenged the Ring of Clare in Ennis, with four members attempting the 160km loop and one the shorter 120km route.

The day was especially challenging as they faced intense weather conditions. During their biggest climb on the day at "the Hand", they fought against heavy rainfall on the rise along with some road chippings on the descent.



BCC members who attempted the Breffnie 3 Province Challenge.

The East Galway Hunt Pony Club concluded their Junior Camp 2023, wrapping their week of activities which taught the fundamentals of horse riding.

The young equestrians set-up-shop at Gurteen College where they were joined by friends from Galway's Mid-County Pony Club. Each day brought lessons from qualified instructors.

The junior rider's improvement over the course of the week was clearly apparent. Some young ones, who were too nervous to jump on Monday, were flying by on Friday. A couple of the equestrians even gave the "Chase Me Charlie" trial a go, a challenge where riders repeatedly jump a single upright fence that progressively gets higher and higher.

The Junior Camp Awards concluded the week, with Kitty and Bébhinn jointly taking the Senior Camp title and Hannah receiving the Sarah Malone Perpetual Shield.

"A huge thank you to Gurteen Agricultural College for hosting us" extends organiser Jacinta Colohan "We've so lucky to have such amazing facilities available for a residential camp.

Thank you to the parents from both clubs for supervising and helping day and night. And lastly to our members, what a great bunch of kids we had for the week" she finishes.

UPCOMING COMMUNITY GAMES STAR

Clodagh Hogan from St. Joseph's Place, Ballinasloe, has just completed a magnificent season on the Athletics field which culminated in Clodagh qualifying for and competing in the National Community Games Finals held recently in Carlow I.T.

Clodagh had earlier successfully come through the Ballinasloe, Galway County and Connacht Finals before representing her Town, County Galway and Connacht in the Irish National Finals.

She is underage for the under 8s 60 metres again next year, finished in 6th place in the National Finals and is already eagerly looking forward to competing again next year.

Clodagh's parents, Francesca and Darren Hogan, are extremely proud of her achievements on the Athletics field. She is also the granddaughter of former Town Mayor Johnny Walsh, who stated that it was marvellous to see the local Community give Clodagh great support and that he is personally so proud of her.

Clodagh Hogan in her County Galway singlet at the National Community Games Finals



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Registration night for membership of the Rosway Walkers will take place in Gullane's Hotel between 8pm and 9pm on Friday 21st October. Membership for the year is €50.

Based in Ballinasloe, the Club organises a variety of walks which take place every second weekend throughout the year, as well as weekends away. They climb hills and mountains as well as explore lowland tracks and trails. Training is provided and if you think you would like to become a walk leader, they subsidise mountain skills courses for members.

Contact Club Secretary Fiona Maguire on 086 2250793

after 6pm or email roswaywalkers@gmail.com for further information. See roswaywalkingclub.blogspot.com to see what the Club is all about.



COACHES SOUGHT FOR ATHLETICS

The Ballinasloe Athletics Club are back on the Dunlo Running Track following their Summer break, dusting off their trainers and returning to their regular practice sessions. The latest training welcomed many new faces, alongside their current members.

With an increasing amount of kids joining, the club requires the support of volunteers to keep their activities going. A lack of coaches currently prevents their expansion, as membership numbers are limited to the amount of trainers. No experience is required to volunteer, only a general interest in athletics. All

training is provided by Athletics Ireland while coaching courses are paid by the club.

"As always our club wouldn't be our club without our amazing coaches, so a big thank you to them" extends PRO Dawn Slevin.

Trainings take place each Tuesday from 18:00 to 19:00 on the track, offering a great opportunity to improve your fitness and get involved with the community. Activities are suitable for all skill levels and for all the family.

For more information, contact them at (087) 138 7117.



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Since the success of their Couch to 5K, the Ballinasloe Road Runners have remained engaged, racing on and preparing for their next challenge.

The Ballinasloe (and District) Road Runners are a free community-based running group who welcome candidates of all levels, regardless of experience.

Club members gather on the Dunlo running track every Tuesday and Thursday evening at 17:30, and by Creagh Church each Saturday morning at 8:00.

They actively participate in a number of events and competitions nationwide, recently taking in the highways and byways of Mullingar, Galway, Limerick, Dingle and Longford.

“While we enjoy our running, and sometimes walking too, most importantly we also like having the après run coffee and chat too” noted Committee member Brian Dolan.

Lately they even set their sights abroad in sunny Madrid and

in Budapest where members participated in a 10km and half-marathon.

This is all to prepare for the Mammoth Annual event, the Dublin City Marathon, taking place on October 29. Twenty-two Ballinasloe contestants will participate in the 2023 edition, being the first time Fiona, Oliver, Brian, Lorraine, Trevor and Rosaleen will attempt this athletic feat. They plan to follow the relatively flat loop starting in Fitzwilliam Street Upper, pass through Phoenix Park, before turning to travel southside and finishing in Merrion Square.

The majority of BRR participants have started their marathon training programme in early July. The staggered programme usually involves 4 to 5 running sessions a week, continuously building in terms of distance, endurance and intensity.

Many athletes only just began their journey with the club following the Couch to 5k programme, showing great prowess to now challenge the 42.195km demand of a marathon. To stay updated on their progress, see the Ballinasloe (& District) Road Runners Facebook Group.



Some Members of the Road Runners - outside Creagh Church for their Sat Morning Run

On another note, Brian Dolan (on behalf of the BRR committee) acknowledged long-standing organiser Denise Boland for her involvement with the group. “Denise is deservedly stepping away from the Chef d’Équipe duties after many years of tireless work” Brian comments. “Without Denise, BRR would not be as strong a group as it is today. No doubt we will continue to see Denise in the BRR yellow vest out running. Again, thank you Denise!” he finishes.

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With the completion of major groundworks at home and the launch of a kickstart mobile app, Ballinasloe RFC have seen many positive developments during the past months. Lately, many underage players have been emerging with great triumphs, laying a new foundation on the club's enduring legacy.

Among those are Róisín Power and Catherine Fleming, who both were named to the Connacht U18's Women's squad over the Summer. Upon their appointment, the girls trained at bootcamp in Belfast and have since been engaged in their Interprovincials.

The U18's advanced with a 13-5 win over Munster at Musgrave Park, with sights set next on their bout against Leinster.

Playing in warm and sunny conditions against fierce opposition, the game was no easy task. After ten minutes of an apparent stalemate between the two teams, Róisín Power breached a strong backline to open the match with a try.

The squads went on blow for blow over the remaining runtime, with Connacht eventually taking the day at 19-15. Both girls showed great grit during the final minutes, defending their lead till the bitter end.

Meanwhile U19's Sean Power and U18's Joseph Smith were named to their respective provincial teams, the later securing his series with a final day victory against Ulster.

Aishling Keighery, Róisín O'Sullivan and Prudence Mwase were selected on the U16's Connacht squad at the High

Performance Centre, competing against all three regional squads in the Interpro Blitz.

The Senior men's team will compete in the Connacht Junior 1B League for the 23/24 season following their promotion, kicking off in early October against Corinthians RFC. The club intends to field a second 'A' team for the upcoming year.

The club also completed its latest two phases in development plans with the construction of a storage shed and the lay down of a high quality, leisure track along the ground's perimeter.

The walkway, grant aided by Clár, is open for public use although dogs are not permitted on the facility. The next phase of developments will seek the replacement and upgrading of the pitch lighting.

A new welcome addition to the club consists the launch of the 'Ballinasloe RFC' app, the first of its kind in Connacht.

Updates on all activities, news and fixtures from the Broncos to Senior squads can be found on the platform and can be downloaded from the Apple or Play Store.



Catherine Fleming and Róisín Power following their Munster victory in the Interprovincials.

New walkway installed at the Ballinasloe RFC grounds

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A fresh vibrancy to Heritage Week this year was evident all around locally. Members of the Society were involved in a number of projects and the Society itself held several events that had fantastic interest and turn out over two weekends.

In the Library, Dr Geraldine Curtin gave a talk on the 19th century reformatory school in the town, there was a collaboration with Group 8 and Aughrim 1691 to create an art exhibition themed on the Battle of Aughrim, and there was a walking tour of the town on National Water Heritage day that brought over 100 people out, and a couple of dogs, to hear talks and songs linked to water related landmarks around the town from local archaeologists, historians, authors and balladeers.

In advance of St Grellan's Day on September 17th, the Society put an emphasis on telling the story of the town's patron saint, with a particular focus on bringing the story to a new generation of children. Teaming up with Milkshake Dance and Performance Academy, the children learned the story of St Grellan through the medium of Rap and Hip Hop. The children recorded a video of the rap and hip hop dance which was put out on social media and was a fitting tribute to the

patron saint of a culturally and religiously diverse town. Local Historian Pat Johnston also did presentation class to Ms Blade and Mr. Ronaldson's 4th classes in Creagh School on St Grellan and his 'Bacall'. Mass was also held in honour of former Patron Saint of the UI Maine Kingdom at Tobergrellan.

Their monthly public meeting takes place at 8pm on October 4th in the Men's Shed, Cullen's Yard (behind the Credit Union) and as it is fair week, local historian Barry Lally will give a refresher on the Great October Fair.

On 24th October at 7.30pm in Gullanes Hotel, Dr Christy Cunniffe will give a talk on the outstanding examples of stained glass in the churches and chapels of Ballinasloe, along with the town's ecclesiastical sculpture and art.

A fundraising table quiz for the Society will take place on 22nd November at 8pm in Gullanes (tables of 4 - €40) and details of the membership plan for 2024 will also be launched on the night.

Chairperson Conor Johnston stated "following a fantastic response to the setting up of the Heritage Society, we are looking forward to growing the Society to provide a framework for a plan of scale to preserve, protect and promote the heritage and history of our town. Our area has a history and heritage of real substance, be it architecturally, archaeologically, or industrial, through sport, music and a rich social and cultural fabric and it deserves a space to celebrate this. We particularly want to reach out to, and collaborate with, other community groups to achieve this."



Society Committee Members of the new Ballinasloe and District Heritage Society
L-R: M. Riddell, C. Croffy, L. Kildea, C. Johnston (Chair),
A. McGowan, F. Maguire, C. Lucas, P. Kilduff, Z. Watters, B. Lyons.

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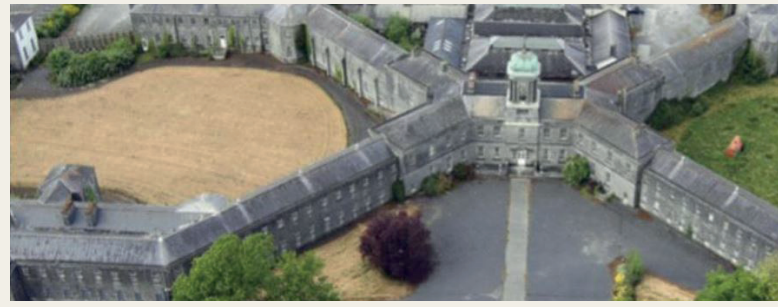
THE MENTAL HOSPITAL

“ – a magnificent lunatic asylum, that lies outside the town on the Dublin road and is as handsome and stately as a palace.”

William Makepeace Thackeray, 1842.

The Connaught District Lunatic Asylum at Ballinasloe, which opened its doors in November 1833, initially served counties Galway, Roscommon, Mayo, Sligo and Leitrim, and was established under the Lunacy (Ireland) Act of 1821. It was one of 22 such institutions built between 1810 and 1870. The architect was William Murray, whose design was influenced by the panopticon concept devised by the Utilitarian philosopher Jeremy Bentham. The principle behind this layout was to enable the manager and his staff to occupy a central structure with radiating wings from which they could monitor and administer life within the institution. This arrangement allowed the wings to be viewed from the centre, while access was only possible from one wing to the others by passing through the centre.

When the plan for the asylum was first mooted it was announced that provision would be made to accommodate 150 lunatics (schizophrenics) deemed curable. This was immediately denounced as a waste of taxpayers' money. Doubts were expressed that in the whole of Ireland there could be so many insane persons. It was felt that advertisements would have to be placed in the newspapers to attract patients. Advocates of the asylum proposed an enlightened regime whereby the inmates would be treated with kindness in a setting approximating to a home environment. This, it was believed, would have a positive effect on their prognosis: an idealistic project which, however,



never came to fruition for reasons soon to become apparent.

Recruiting suitable staff proved to be an intractable problem. Asylum keepers were regarded as the dregs of society engaged in an occupation no respectable young man or woman would dream of taking up. Most of the initial staff members in Ballinasloe had been under notice at St. Patrick's Institute and the Richmond Asylum in Dublin for gross misconduct, and were given the option of transferring to the Connaught District Asylum. Because of the near- impossibility of finding replacements, the Ballinasloe Board of Governors was obliged to turn a blind eye to their often drunken and lewd behaviour. The first medical officer appointed was Dr. William Heise, who had been managing the Richmond Asylum and was removed from his post in 1831 because of the poor condition of the institution. His appointment to Ballinasloe was terminated after it was discovered that he had made a patient, Emma Kirwan, pregnant. He went on to pursue a successful medical career in Australia.

Admissions to asylums were governed by the Dangerous Lunatics Act of 1838, legislation which remained in force, though amended from time to time, up to 1945. Anyone could bring an accusation of dangerous lunacy against another person. Having the accused committed involved a certificate from a medical practitioner and an appearance before two justices of the peace. The so-called lunatic would then be sent to the county jail and from there to the asylum. This had the effect of associating insanity with criminality in the public mind, which impacted



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negatively on how mental patients were treated well into the following century. Once the legal procedures had been followed, the asylum was required to admit and detain the individual in question regardless of his or her true state of mental health or whether the institution could properly accommodate them.



Dr. Ada English

A consequence of the 1838 Act was that the asylum quickly became unmanageably overcrowded. Workhouses used the institution to offload their senile and feeble-minded inmates. It became a dumping ground for society's rejects in a country that had an apparently insatiable hunger for institutionalism. "The Irish asylums," a critic has written, "were primarily social rather than medical creations, expanding to meet societal and community requirements, rather than demonstrative medical needs." In 1951, the town of Ballinasloe had a population of 5,596, of whom no fewer than 2,078 were patients in the mental hospital. The magnitude of the latter figure can be best appreciated when it is recalled that since the 1870s the Ballinasloe institution's catchment area had been restricted to counties Galway and Roscommon.

In 1924, Ballinasloe Asylum was re-named "The Mental Hospital", surely a problematic change in light of what a contemporary report had to say: "There is an appalling difference between the mental hospital (as an asylum should be) and an ordinary hospital, that in the latter each kind of disease is carefully treated by the best methods, whereas in the former no type of mental disease is fully treated." Another rebranding occurred in the late 1950s when the authorities chose "St. Brigid's Hospital" as a sop to popular prejudice, a name that had no association with either the history of psychiatry or the local area. It's not without significance that at the time there was no question of re-naming, say, Merlin Park

or Roscommon County Hospital, presumably because the patients treated at those facilities were suffering from "respectable" conditions that didn't need to be concealed behind the moniker of a mythical figure.

It was not until the 1930s that significant improvements in the institution took place. By now, more members of the nursing staff had formal qualifications. Dr. Ada English promoted occupational therapy, and later in the decade the Admissions block, as well as St. Enda's and St. Joseph's, the latter a TB isolation unit, were built. In December 1939 convulsive therapy, using Cardiazol to induce seizures, was introduced, later to be superseded by electroconvulsive therapy. The mid-1950s saw the widespread use of anti-psychotic drugs such as Largactil, which were effective in suppressing symptoms if not in curing the underlying conditions.

In the 1980s the emphasis shifted from institutional to community care, so that by 1986 resident patient numbers had fallen to 876. This trend continued, leading eventually to the closure of the hospital in 2013. Today the only part of the complex functioning as a mental treatment unit is a mixed ward, known as the Creagh Suite, catering for up a dozen dementia patients in the Admissions block. The rest of the building is given over to administrative offices.

Unfortunately, the original 1833 structure on Church Street was never adequately secured against trespassers. As a result, it has become a prey to vandals and a happy hunting ground for the makers of sensationalist youtube videos. What a sad fate to befall an architectural gem of historical importance once compared to a palace!

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A new venture for Ballinasloe Tidy Towns saw a great attendance at Gullanes Hotel on Monday 4th September. Tom Madden the Chairperson of the Association described as 'unique and important occasion in highlighting the importance of protecting and looking after our rich local heritage.'

Dr. Christy Cunniffe, a renowned local archaeologist stated that, 'Ballinasloe was ideally placed to promote its local and unique Georgian buildings and other special sites, its many fine hotels and local accommodations, its new town renovations and other amenities to take a big leap forward in developing the heritage agenda.'

In his presentation he also outlined the many advantages Ballinasloe has in bringing business and tourism to the town and surrounding area.

Padraig Lyons the BTT Heritage Officer, thanked Christy for taking the time out to share his expertise in the field. He suggested that it was a time for all the town and organisations to pull together

their resources with the support of the local County Council who supported the event.

He reminded us that for the future of tourism and new businesses in the town that this one way forward of co-operation. He said, 'the heritage has its roots in the word inheritance, so we need to cherish our local inheritance which is part of our history.'

Nichola Bowes and Mike Glynn, two local Poets read some eloquent and witty poems on Women Folklore and The October Fair.

The Chairperson thanked the many interesting booth holders - Clubs and Heritage Organisations of the area - for displaying their heritage books, literature, historical artifacts and a special thanks was given to Gerry Devlin who made a great effort to make sure his rich Black and White Photo Archive was seen by many.

The Tidy Towns are awaiting the National Adjudication Awards and are planning their Best Kept Estates and Businesses Results Reception in the next few weeks.

YOUNG MUSICIANS & EIMEAR NOONE LAUCH AWARDS

Eimear Noone, the award-winning Galway composer, and conductor has lent her support to the 2023 Top Security/Frank Maher Classical Music Awards for talented teens. With a €5,000 prize for the winner, it is Ireland's largest classic music competition for secondary schools.

The Oscars conductor took part in a photocall with the 2022 winner, violinist Daimee Ng from Dublin, and two Ballinasloe secondary school students, Ola Wdowiak from Ard Scoil Mhuire on clarinet and Mikolaj Zicbo from St. Joseph's College on saxophone, both members of the Ballinasloe Town Band to launch the call.

Eimear Noone said "Support for young artists and creative professionals is something we need more of in Ireland.

Congratulations to the team behind the Frank Maher Awards for making a positive impact on young musicians both professionally and psychologically."

The Top Security/Frank Maher Classical Music Awards were created in 2001 by Emmet O'Rafferty, chairman of the Top Security Group, to honour the memory of his late teacher, Fr Frank Maher, a pioneer in the nurturing of musical talent in secondary schools.

The Awards are open to sixth year post-primary students of string, woodwind, brass and piano. The €5,000 top prize will be used by the winner for studies. The remaining finalists will each receive a €300 bursary.

The closing date for this year's entries is Friday 6th October 2023. Further information - www.frankmaherclassicalmusicawards.com

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Information banners and historic displays decorated Moore Community Hall during their Heritage Night, depicting the community's history and offering attendees a glimpse of their shared past

Organiser Xandra Kilduff opened the proceedings, introducing Fr. Michael Molloy, parish priest. Fr. Michael launched the Heritage Map Board for public display, designed by graphic artist and historian Padraic Kilduff.

What ensued was a day of events for families and visitors alike. Those attending were treated to banners depicting historical places in the parish, a display of the Peter Naughton Collection of vintage farm implements, unusual bottles containing carved images of master craftsman Eddie Henderick, and a painting of Saint Caireac Dergain of Clonburren by Padraic Kilduff.

Nollaig Feeney, Heritage Officer from Roscommon, paid a visit,

as well as some companions from the Ballydangan Grouse Project.

Moore sportsman John Flannery was honoured with a presentation dedicated to his longstanding running career and influence in the community. His niece Patricia Williams, showcased some of his many medals spanning his years, now on loan to the hall. Also contributed were a display of books and photographs of his sporting achievements by Nigel Williams.

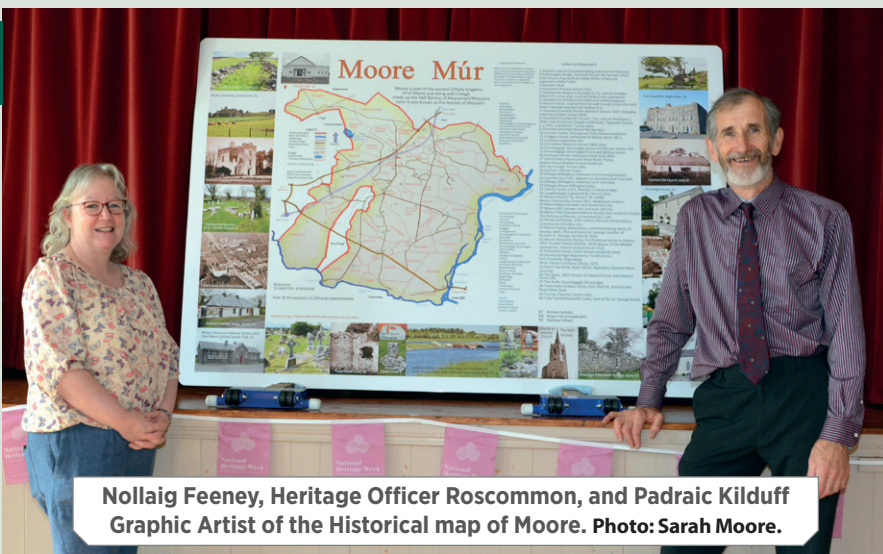
Frank Greally, a friend of Flannery and retired editor of the Irish Runner Magazine, spoke of his era and the wonderful friendships he built in the field of track and race. He later presented Patricia with a Memorial candle, inscribed in her uncle's memory. Also in attendance were some past friends, including Padraig Killeen and Martin Mulvey.

A short film of John practising with the Moore Athletics (a club he helped re-organise) was shown alongside an audio recording with James Dockery some years ago. The framed presentation on the sports superstar will remain on exhibit at the Community Hall, inspiring young athletes to match his accomplishments.

Before closing out, a DVD was shown documenting a significant day on the community's calendar. Made some years ago by former Moore Community Chairman Padraig Egan, the video explored the gathering of cars, tractors, ponies and bicycles to wonder at the arrival of a heavy threshing machine.

Within the frames - women were featured baking bread outdoors over open fire, and faces of many locals were shown, who have since passed.

Many dozen attendees returned home with a greater insight of their parish's story. The gathering was considered a success by organiser Xandra Kilduff, who you can only assume is already gearing up for next year's event.



Nollaig Feeney, Heritage Officer Roscommon, and Padraic Kilduff Graphic Artist of the Historical map of Moore. Photo: Sarah Moore.

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Born in Rathpeak, Moore, in 1936, Willie attended Earlspeak N.S. and received his secondary education in Garbally College.

He entered the mental health nursing service in St. Brigid's in 1955 and worked there until his retirement in 1999. In 1966 he married his wife Maureen, a fellow nurse, and they resided in Beaghbrabazon, Creagh.

They had a family of three, son Kieran and two daughters Fiona and Majella. Willie was a lifelong member of the PTAA and was also involved in the local parish activities in Creagh. He was a very popular member of the nursing staff in the hospital, with his kind and easy going manner and he carried out his nursing duties in a caring and professional way.

During his career, mental health policy changed from institutional to community-based care and the challenge this provided gave him great satisfaction and reward, giving his patients more recognition and a better quality of life, greatly adding to his satisfaction on retirement.

In 1967 Willie joined the Golf Club and within a short time he became a very competent and confident player. His play was tee-to-fairway, fairway-to-green, and so he found golf shots from rough and bunkers to be the most challenging. He played off a single handicap for over forty years and represented the club with distinction. He was honoured with the Club Captaincy and Presidency and significantly he served as secretary during the period when the

club was extended from 9 to 18 holes.

During this time Willie was determined to promote the game of golf and was deeply involved in setting up golf societies, particularly St. Brigid's Hospital GS in 1976. The result of his hard work was a huge increase in membership of Ballinasloe GC. Willie was secretary of that society for twenty-five consecutive years. He was also credited with involving golf in the rehabilitation programme in his workplace. The result was a 18-hole pitch & putt course beside the admission building which was later relocated to the Creagh Training Centre on the Creagh Road. Hospital management were very happy to support him in these projects.

Willie was a good friend of mine, sharing similar interests and for the last 20 years we had great fun and enjoyment as we travelled the country, playing golf and attending football matches involving our local club Pdraig Pearses and the Rossies. He also liked his card game, Progressive 25, during the winter months in the Golf Club. We had a regular phone call at night time which always centred on sport.

As this summer's golf is coming to a close, everywhere I played I was met with sympathy and support at Willie's passing and it made me realise that he did make a special impression on everyone he met. His contribution to golf, both locally and further afield, must be recognised and not forgotten so I hope that a suitable way of honouring his legacy will be found.

Rest peacefully my friend, Jimmy Flynn.



ANCEL O'CARROLL

A stalwart of Society Street and of Stage and Song Ancel O'Carroll, passed to his eternal reward on Aug 3rd.

The only Boy of Nicholas and Kathleen, their family have been entwined with the development of the town since his family were the Publishers of the East Galway Democrat.

His family love of music and song, saw the home tutored young man become a formidable Tenor and actor in the world of Light Opera. In business in 6 Society St. he founded and ran with his life friend Jo, - the memorable Ancel's Steakouse.

It more of his love of Opera and Musicals and of the stage that son David, focused on in his moving eulogy at the end of his requiem mass. He remembered fondly that for all his moments in the great dramatic roles in the Town Hall Theatre, Druid and else where it was sharing the stage with his Grandson Tim in "Oliver" in 1997 that



gave him most satisfaction.

He was an avid reader, a huge supporter of Town AFC and of course was a deft operator on the billiard table.

An Honorary Life Member of the Musical Society, Ancel had been involved for many decades. He recounted tales of helping backstage in the Town Hall with his father when he was a child. He performed in many productions, in later years he could be found helping out behind the scenes. He was also a keen producer and a great mentor to generations of people who took to the boards in amateur dramatics.

The fostering of the love of live music and great performances it something all his offspring are deeply thankful for.

As David remarked "Ancel this is your final production and thanks you certainly did it your Way."

He is deeply mourned by son David, his daughters - Nicola O'Carroll, Sarita Johnston, and Michelle Flanagan, his sons-in-law - Tim, Stephen, and Alfred, his daughter-in-law Dymna, his 11 adored grandchildren: Timothy, Odhran, Conor, Mark, Roisin, Aidan, Ciarán, Ferdia, Moya, Grace and Kyle, his former wife and best friend Jo.



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KILLALAGHTON PIPE BAND 1939



Back row, l to r: Josie O'Halloran, Michael Joe Kearns, John Donoghue, Pat Donoghue, Owen Connolly, Dan Treacy, Johnny Hynes, Martin Loughnane, Kieran Treacy.
In front: James Whelan and John Joe Treacy.

BALLINASLOE GARDAI 1954



Back row, l to r: Gardai Tony Sullivan, Joe Carey, Johnny Burns, Larry Burke.
Middle row, l to r: Gardai Peter McGinley, Tom Hyland, William Mitchell, Pat Ryan.
Front row, l to r: Garda Gerry Mullins, Supt. John A. Deeney, Chief Supt. Pat Doyle, Sgt. Pat Coulter, Det. Garda Larry Brady.

Photos courtesy of Valerie Seale.

In January 1944 Mr J.J Bergin, Secretary National Ploughing Association arrived to town accompanied by Mr Cotter, Agricultural Instructor, Roscommon to examine a field in the area with a view to hosting the National Ploughing Championships there.

A meeting in the town itself on the day, had a large attendance from the farming community in the wider environs. Satisfied with the inspection Messrs Bergin & Cotter the National Ploughing Committee decision to go ahead thrilled members of the farming and business communities during the period known as the Emergency.

The field was was about one and a half miles from Ballinasloe. Previous ploughing competitions held in the area had attracted the attention of the National Ploughing Committee, this coupled with the co-operation of farmers and people of the locality had left a positive impression on both participants and spectators. John Cobban, Shanboley and John Cunningham were highly commended for their trojan work in the successful organising of similar events. Mr Cotter was confident that a substantial grant would be given from the Agriculture Committees of Galway & Roscommon.

A general committee was formed which included members of the local clergy, County Managers, Galway & Roscommon, Secretaries,

Agricultural Committees of both counties; members of Ballinasloe Urban District Council & Chamber of Commerce; business people and members of the farming community within a five mile radius.

An advertisement in newspapers with the heading "God Speed the Plough" appealed to the public for funds and assured donors of a receipt to be issued on the spot from committee members, Chairman John Cobban; Hon Sec John Cunningham and Bank of Ireland Agent, John Fitzpatrick the Treasurer. Readers were encouraged to "give generously & give promptly". It was said "the greatest ever-known assembly of wheel ploughs would be seen at Ballinasloe when the four champions from each of seventeen counties would bring their own ploughs to be drawn by eighty pairs of splendid farm horses loaned to the committee by the farmers of Galway and Roscommon". The two mile road leading to the site of the national event was repaired in good time for the comfort of travellers both human and animal.

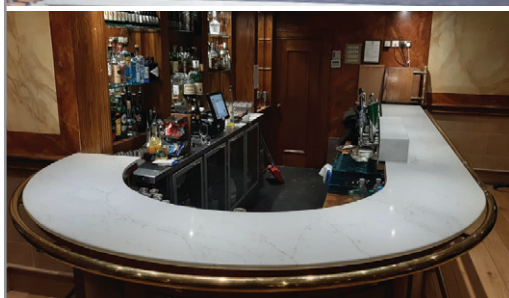
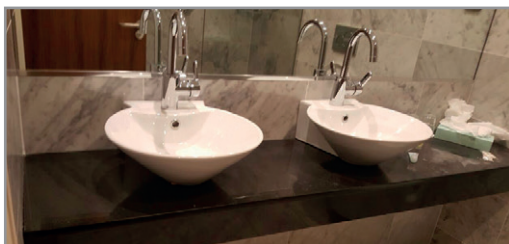
The "swing" style of ploughing was to make a return enabling all counties to compete in the championship on "terms as nearly equal as can be designed". A standard of flat ploughing had been established in Leinster & Munster, but not in the north or west, thus excluding Galway from national competitions. This style of ploughing was generally unsuitable for use in the west due to high rainfall, which didn't allow the soil to dry sufficiently for spring sowing. At that time Galway was the only county to have a printed book of rules for the guidance of county competitions. After discussions it was agreed to adopt a new national standard of ploughing referred to as "bowl-shaped" - a compromise between the Leinster flat and the Connacht partly upright ploughing. It was to be performed using a wheel plough and coulter, suiting all participants as it needed to be well skinned and packed.

The County Galway Junior Cross Country Competition was also held on the same day. The All-Ireland Turf



Michael Naughton - on whose farm the 1944 ploughing was held & John Cobban, Chairman Ballinasloe Ploughing Committee.

Old style ploughing photo courtesy of Cobban Family



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Cutting Competition had

seen a large influx of people when held in Ballinasloe in 1930s and similar attendance was expected at the ploughing event.

Judging by a contest held in Portlaoise the previous year it was expected the ploughmen would eat two tons of bread. The ladies of the local branch of the Red Cross were enlisted to help in catering for the masses.

On the eve of the event the town welcomed over eighty ploughmen and many officials who were accommodated in local hotels and private houses.

The 14th National Ploughing Championships were held at Ballinasloe on 9 Feb 1944 in a forty- acre field at Ashford, provided by Michael Naughton, which had not been ploughed since famine times. The contests were to begin at 11am and end at 4pm with results announced at 7pm in Ballinasloe. Competitions were held for senior, junior, under 30, under 21 and for the best pair of horses.

Several traders attended advertising their products to farmers. One such was Golden Grain, a mercurial seed dressing, manufactured by Hygeia, Galway, said to yield the perfect grain, beet, mangold and turnip crops! Other attractions included tossing the sheaf and guessing weights. A Ceilidhe and dance was held in the Town Hall that night.

In 1944 ploughing was predominantly horse drawn, as mechanisation did not fully evolve until the late 1940's and early 1950's, due to shortages brought about by World War II. The first tractor

ploughing class was introduced in the National Ploughing in Cloghran, Dublin in 1942.

In excess of seventy ploughmen from seventeen counties took part in Ashford in 1944, with an attendance in the region of seven thousand. Dignitaries in attendance were Bishop of Clonfert Most Rev Dr Dignan, Patron; Dr Ryan, Minister for Agriculture; Mr F. Fahy, Ceann Comhairle; Mr P. Smith, Parliamentary Secretary to Mr de Valera and Mr D. Allen, T.D., President of the National Ploughing Association. Farmers in the area provided about one hundred and fifty horses to the visiting teams.

Prize-winners were:

Senior: 1st Wexford 2nd Wicklow 3rd Kilkenny; Junior: 1st Galway 2nd Westmeath 3rd Tipperary North; Senior Individual; William Kehoe, Wexford; runner up, Stephen Dempsey, Wexford: Junior Individual M. Ward, Galway, E O'Meara, Tipperary North.

The Wilson Prize, a complete set of harness, went to the ploughman (under 30) who secured the highest marks in National Style Ploughing. The standard of ploughing was said to be greater than the previous year especially in the youth competitions. The R.D.S Cup for the best pair of Irish Draught horses was withdrawn as entries were not up to standard. Patrick Mulvey, Cloniffe, Thomastown won a prize for the best pair of farm horses.

The ladies committee were held in very high esteem as the efficiency in which they provided hearty meals to attendees was said to set a precedent for future events throughout Ireland.

Later that year a social, organised by members of the local ploughing committee, was held at O'Carroll's Hotel. Mr John Cobban presided as eighty people were catered for by hotel staff. Mr Nicholas Cotter stated that of the fourteen annual National Ploughing Championships held so far, Ballinasloe was the most successful. This success was largely due to the magnificent work of the ladies who looked after the catering, the farmers and the public who gave great encouragement for the event. Others who paid tribute to the high standard of hospitality were Rev Fr Hughes, Adm., Chief Supt. Doyle, Supt O'Halloran and Maurice Glennon, Principal of the Vocational School. Mrs Cunningham replied on behalf of the ladies.

 By Evelyn Donellan

Advertisement for the Bergin two wheel Chill Plough courtesy of Cobban Family



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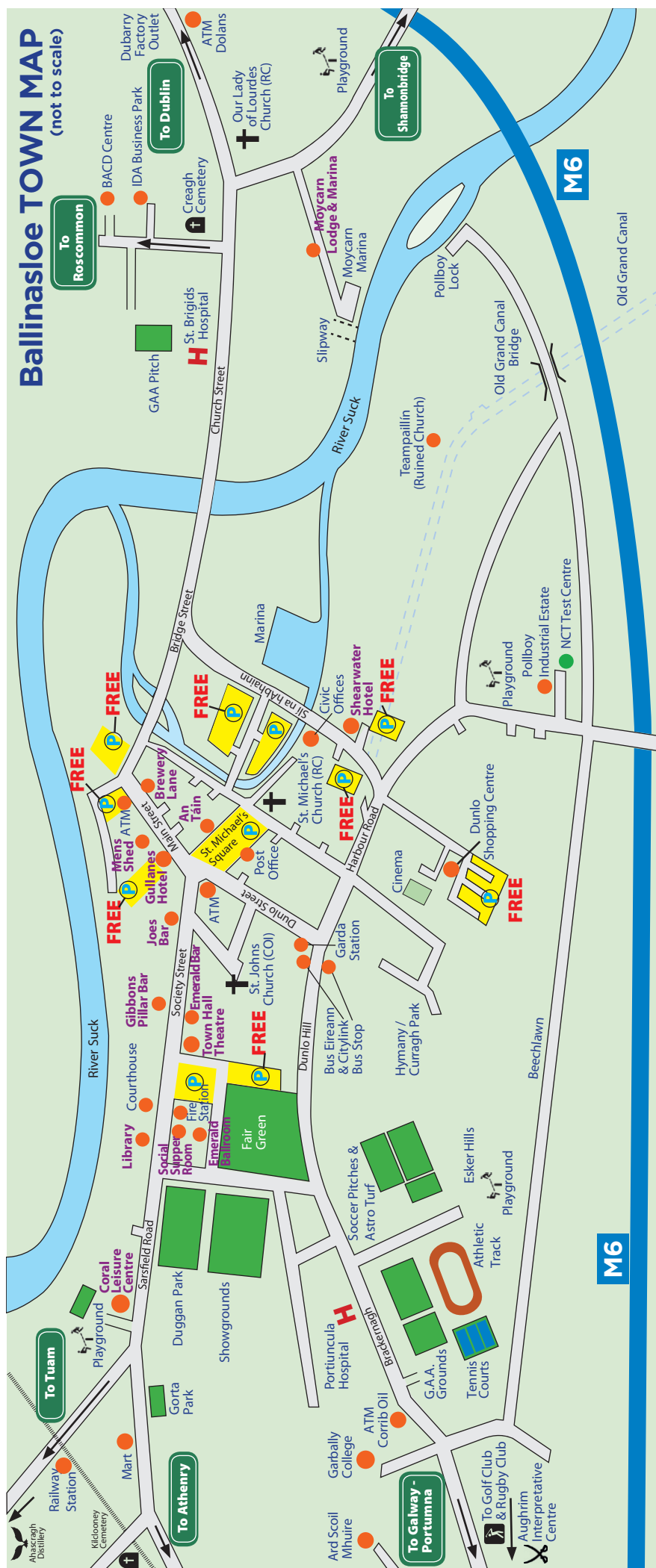
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Society Street, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway, Ireland.

Ballinasloe TOWN MAP

(not to scale)



Ballinasloe History Walk

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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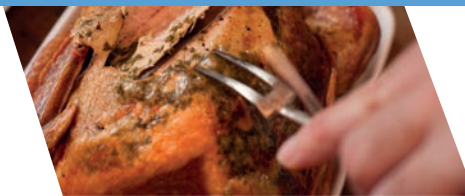


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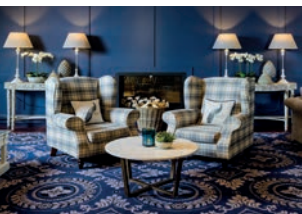
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