BALLINASLOE LIFE

An insight into the area we live in Vol. 16 Issue 4: Oct./Nov. 2026 FREE

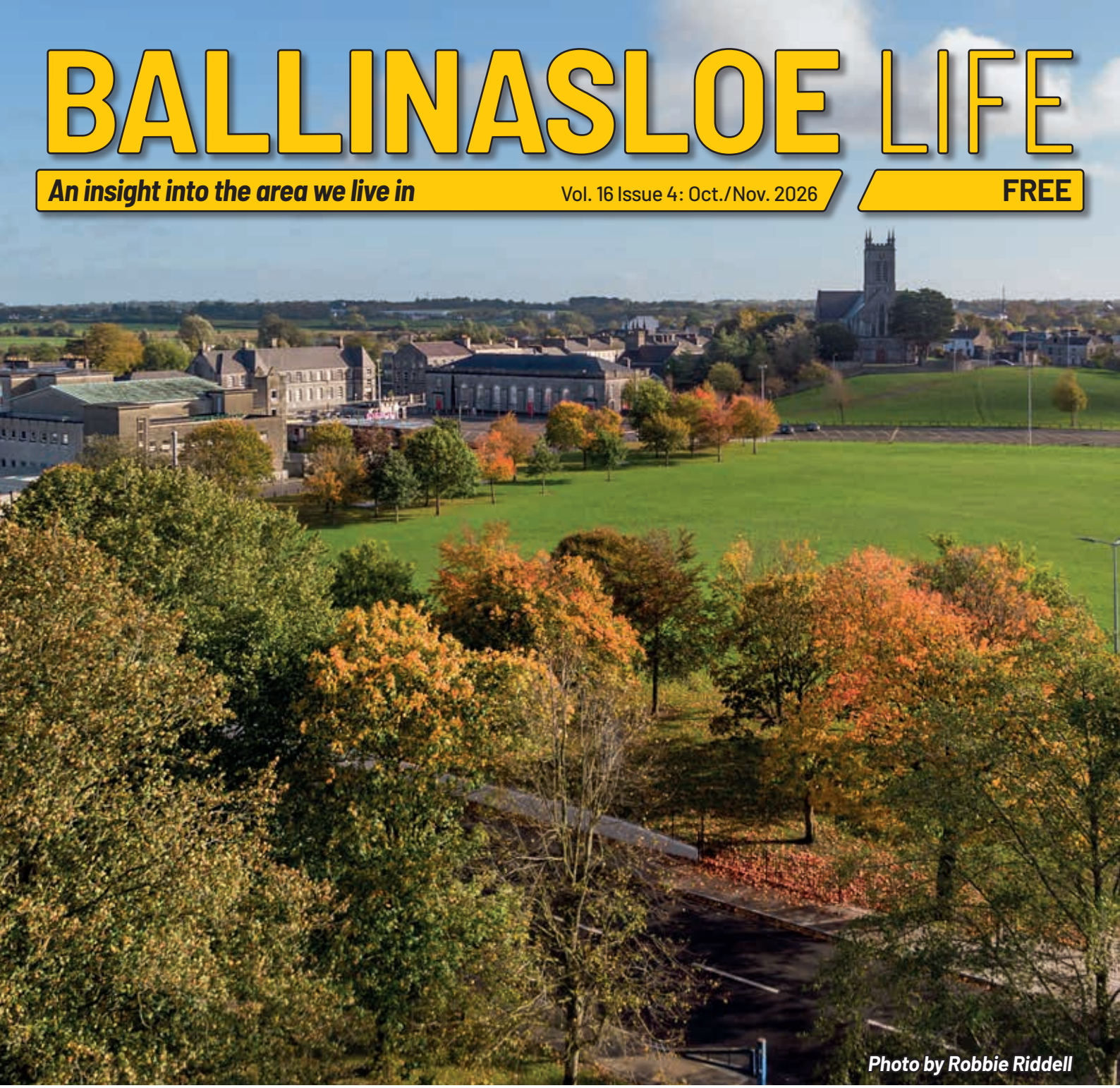


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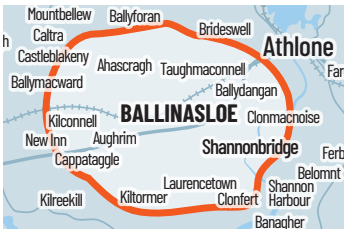
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REAMHRA

Welcome to the Autumn leaves Edition and boy is there much to read about. No sooner than the ink was dry on the Town Centre First Plan - the Government decided to back some of their shopping list - a capital project to invest in the Square and a scoping project to re imagine how the Fair Green could be utilised more than just Fairs, Circuses, Duggan Park Carparking, Team homecomings and our wonderful Multicultural Community Festival.

In the same month, the green light of full planning was given for 63 new homes in Kilgarve in a €6.6 million private investment – where there will be private homes coming to the market for the first time in a long while. The tender process for the €3.5 million R446 Active Travel Scheme for the carriage way River St to Harris Road is underway with completion envisaged for Summer 2027.

HSE confirmations of new capital investments in staff and new buildings in PUH and finally as we are going to print confirmation that apart from cleaning up the State Heritage Site – the HSE has confirmed the sale of the Old Nurses Home and some lands to the County Council; while the rest is going to auction – concrete progress on the campus at last !

By my reckoning leaving aside the HSE investments in PUH and transforming the Nurses home into a Domestic Violence sanctuary – that's the guts of €15 million investment public and private confirmed in one September alone!

So we are awash with money and exciting future plans but again we are fighting with our toes as to who will put their hand in their pocket for the festive bulbs. I have been sadly involved with lighting this town in a variety of guises since 1998 – never have I seen the indifference of the locality as stark. There are less than 100 core businesses in the town centre most will be closed when the lights are on – they cannot (as in other towns) shoulder all the costs of marking our turning of the year. Nobody wants to be on a working group, no one wants to attend meetings but when we had no Sparks last year over 48,000 people online commented, shared or reacted with indignation over having the town dark – a fiver from half of you will fix the annual problem!

Hearing much snarling over the new cycle and pedestrian ways that are going to engulf the town – arriving to most roads . There still is a view among the Irish provincial bourgeoise that if their customers can't back their car to within 5 metres of the till drawer – they will be off to Liffey Valley. Well welcome to the 21st Century- central Govt is no longer funding schemes for town centres that place the car as the star. The town's transport policy which was approved by the Local Authority in 2021 – Ref no 300748/BCTP/01 sets out the changes with stunning clarity. In a decade every path will be 2 metres wide , useable by wheelchair and all carriage ways will be reduced to allow for the 3.5 metre or so cycle way.

Does anyone really believe that with Hormuz open or shut that the days of two car families and no bikes are here to stay?

What would of course alleviate some of the fears – with reduced taxis, is a Rural Town Shuttle Scheme that would have Shuttle busses shuttling loops around and through the new plaza of St. Michaels Square- – perhaps Train station to Dolans , IDA Park to Deerpark, The lock to Killure ; every 20 mins with a hop on hop off service and space to tie your bike or e scooter to back.

Might make a very interesting Rural pilot scheme ! Enjoy the Read!!



Colm Croffy, *Editor.*

I find it hard to believe that this is Ballinasloe Life Magazine number 94. The milestone of 100 is just around the corner. It is great to hear the ongoing positive feedback as we strive to share all the good news stories.

Have you visited the new Ballinasloe.ie website? It has been upgraded by BACD and incorporates some great local information. If you have not done so I recommend same. This is a rolling project that is updated on a regular basis.

Likewise, our Pulse Club project is going from strength to strength with many very informative visits undertaken to various Businesses in the locality on a monthly basis.

Details are circulated in advance of each monthly outing. The most recent was to Beechlawn Organic Farm and we thank Padraig & Una for their hospitality.

The big focus now is to raise sufficient funding to ensure we can get the Town lit for Christmas. Donations will be collected from Businesses over the coming weeks but that alone will not be sufficient. To close this deficit there will be a bucket collection along with a raffle for some great prizes. We are looking for volunteers to help with this. You can give your contact details to lyn@bacd.ie



Similar to every other year we need to support local businesses all year round and in particular at Christmas when the bigger spending occurs. These are the people who keep the town thriving and who are on hand to support local clubs and organisations.

As the magazine goes to print our Annual Show is ongoing with All Ireland Championships in 8 Classes. The annual Fair and Festival starts this weekend with family days the following weekend, full details inside.

Seamus Duffy,
Chairman,
Ballinasloe Area Community Clg

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Town Centre Projects Secure Regeneration Funding

By Colm Croffy

There was good news for the town recently with the approval of funding for two significant town-centre projects under Round 1 of the Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund.

Galway County Council has secured €140,000 to develop a masterplan for the historic Fair Green, while €3.7 million has been approved for the design and construction of a reimagined St Michael's Square.

Both projects are being submitted, managed and progressed by Galway County Council and represent an important step towards delivering the ambitions identified through the Ballinasloe Town Centre First Plan launched during the summer.

The Town Centre First process involved extensive community consultation with seven key projects for the town identified: the Fair Green Masterplan; River Suck; redesign of St Michael's Square; development of Ballinasloe Stories; measures to address vacant and derelict buildings; Healthy Streets walking and cycling initiatives; and a coordinated Town Centre Neighbourhood and Backlands Masterplan. The Fair Green and town-centre public realm were among the areas highlighted through the process, helping to establish clear local priorities for the future development of the town centre.



Ballinasloe Town Team members at the Fair Green following the announcement of funding for two projects identified within the Town Centre First Plan. L-R David Finnerty, Martina Flanagan, Sean Fletcher, Joe Staunton, Graham Bartlet, Conor Johnston, Joseph Burke and Lyn Donnelly. Missing From Photo Stephen Kerr, Patricia Tierney & Sean Kelly

There has been widespread political welcome for the funding – being one of just 122 towns to secure some of the new Towns and Cities Regeneration Investment Fund totalling €409 million.

Hazel Fox, Town Regeneration Officer with Galway County Council, said: "The funding approval is a very positive step for Ballinasloe and will allow Galway County Council to progress two important projects identified within the Town Centre First Plan. The extensive community engagement undertaken in developing the plan has provided a strong foundation as we now move towards the next stages of design and delivery."

Town Team member Martina Flanagan stated "We are delighted to see some of the projects that came to the fore through the Town Centre First community consultations now moving forward. The Town Team is now looking towards to the next stage, reviewing the designs, and collaborating with Galway County Council, so that together, we can deliver a project that truly reflects the community's vision and the Town Centre First framework."

The funding marks an important next stage in implementing the Town Centre First vision and builds on the collaborative work undertaken by Galway County Council, the Town Team and the wider Ballinasloe community.

There is no detailed design for St Michael's square yet, with the Galway county council regeneration team to work on detailed proposals over the coming weeks which will then go through a public consultation as part of the Part 8 (planning permission) process.

The terms of reference for the selection of consultants to come up with costed proposals for new enhanced layout and possible additional uses of the Fair Green will take place over the coming months.

Further Delay For Greenway

By Colm Croffy

There has been another delay in the construction of the Greenway to Ballinasloe following a decision by Transport Infrastructure Ireland (TII) to progress the Athlone-to-Shannonbridge section of the Athlone-Galway Greenway, while the Galway section remains on hold.

Councillors have urged both TII and the Department of Transport to include Ballinasloe in Phase 1 of the project. Cllr Alan Harney said: "It makes a lot more sense to continue on to Ballinasloe and provide onward connectivity.", while Cllr Michael Connolly said extending to Ballinasloe "makes eminent sense".

Cllr Evelyn Parsons also expressed concern about the amount of time and money that has been spent on the project so far. "This is not good enough…After six years, we have nothing but a report saying it may or may not happen."

The Galway-Athlone National Cycleway is intended to link Ballyloughane Beach with Athlone Castle, where it will connect to the existing Athlone-to-Dublin Cycleway.

TII has now decided to deliver the project in phases, beginning with a 27km stretch between Athlone and Shannonbridge.

Galway County Council cited "complex land acquisition, environmental planning and engineering challenges across varied terrain" as reasons for the continued delay.

Sadly the planners did not take on board the strong suggestions of the Greenway Advocacy Group in 2021 when determining for an impossible routing!



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Nurses' Home Purchased At Last

By Colm Croffy

Galway County Council recently confirmed they have acquired the historic Old Nurses' Home and associated lands at St Brigid's. The news has been welcomed by local councillors.

The acquisition secures the building in public ownership and creates an opportunity for future community use. Cllr Evelyn Parsons Parsons, Cathaoirleach of Ballinasloe Municipal District said it also provides greater certainty for the wider St Brigid's campus and could help advance plans for the site.



"This is a landmark moment for Ballinasloe," said Cllr Parsons.

"This is about much more than a property transaction. It is about protecting an important public asset and ensuring that its future can be considered in the context of the real needs of the community. It is also about starting the ball rolling on the development of the entire campus."

Cllr Alan Harney echoed Cllr Parson's remarks, calling the purchase "a huge milestone". He added: "Securing much needed progressed on these landmark buildings and the surrounding lands has been a key priority for me since I was elected."

Cllr Parsons said the acquisition creates an opportunity to explore future uses for the building, including the potential provision of step-down accommodation and supports for women and children affected by domestic violence, subject to feasibility, funding, planning and the necessary statutory approvals.

In 2024 Galway County Council and the HSE confirmed publicly that the 1930 landmark building is set to be converted into a domestic violence refuge centre. The original 64 acres of lands that the building is parcelled on can not all be utilised for amenity or infrastructural use owing to revised floodplain measures and requirements for the towns Flood relief scheme.

She said age-friendly and supported housing options should also be considered as part of the future development of the wider St Brigid's site.

"St Brigid's is a connected, continuous and centrally located site, close to existing amenities and services. That makes it well placed for consideration of age-friendly and supported housing options, alongside other community, health and public-service uses.

"The community has waited a long time to see progress at St Brigid's. I sincerely thank Galway County Council, particularly the senior executives and the successive and current Directors of the Housing Department, who have remained receptive and diligent in pursuing this opportunity since 2022 " stated Cllr Parsons.

Cllr Harney added: "Securing the nurses home and the surrounding lands in the ownership of Galway County is a really important first step. It will allow us to plan for the future of the building and I will be advocating for immediate works to continue the clean-up of the buildings."

"Future development plans will be subject funding and I will be liaising closely with our officials to ensure that there is a strong community benefit for any future use."



63 New Homes In Kilgarve Approved

By Colm Croffy

Planning permission has been granted in the past month for 63 homes in Kilgarve, with Galway County Council attaching 28 conditions on the development.

Phase one of the development will consist of 40 units. This will consist of: 22 three-bed semi-detached houses, four three-bed terraced houses, two two-bed terraced houses, four two-bed duplexes and eight one-bed apartments.

The second phase will see the construction of the remaining 23 units, which includes: six three-bed semi-detached houses, six three-bed terraced houses, five two-bed terraced houses, two two-bed duplexes and four one-bed apartments.



Artist's impression of the new houses for the new Estate on the left handside of Dublin Road in Kilgarve

The development promoted by Brackenside Investments is estimated to be worth about €6.5 million by the construction sector and also includes provision for: parking, bike shelters, private and communal open spaces, public realm landscaping, public lighting, water services and connections to public mains, with access through the Rathglass Estate.

It is the first substantial private residential estate to come to market since Rathbawn and Lios Garbh on the Portnick Road some 8 years ago.

The permission granted for the development comes attached with 28 strict conditions covering site construction, infrastructure, environmental protection, and financial obligations.

The developer must strictly adhere to the approved plans for construction environment management under the supervision of an Ecological Clerk of Works, with groundworks monitored by a licensed archaeologist. At least 20% of the public space on the finished site will be allocated for a "pollinator zone" and planted with predominantly native plants.

Strict controls also govern external building finishes, with all finishes to use local, natural stone only. Other rules govern boundary treatments, estate naming, and dust emissions.

Site access and internal roads must meet urban design standards and Uisce Éireann water specifications, supported by mandatory independent road safety, stormwater, and traffic management audits. The developers must also develop a traffic management plan for the construction phase.

Work on the development will not begin until the developer has received a Connection Agreement from Uisce Eireann for water services. Construction must only take place from 8am–7pm Monday–Friday and 8am–2pm on Saturdays. 13 of the units will be for Part B (Social and Affordable Residences).

Before any work begins, the developer must lodge a road reinstatement bond, establish a private management company, complete both Part V social housing and Section 47 first-time buyer agreements, and settle the required €244,059 development contribution along with a special infrastructure fee with Galway County Council.

Combined with the 50 units in Poolboy / Harbour Road, given full planning some months ago, it means that the community can anticipate another 113 residential units in the next 36 months.





Increase Local Based Ambulance Crews

By Maria Connolly

Cllr Harney has called for the introduction of a second night-time crew based in Portiuncula University Hospital (PUH). During the day, there are two crews based at the hospital; however, only one is based there at night. He added that the ambulance crew based at night is often called on to convey patients to UCHG in Galway City as it's the centre of excellence for the region - but due to the ambulance service's "dynamic deployment model", the crew based in Ballinasloe can be asked to respond to calls in Galway City or anywhere along the route on their way back to PUH. "If our ambulance based in Portiuncula has to take another patient back to UCHG for a turn-around, we could be left for hours on end without an appropriate ambulance service," he said.

Cllr Harney said that he has raised the issue at the Regional Health Forum, and brought it to the attention of the Minister for Health. "We need to see more resources deployed in Ballinasloe, East Galway, and Roscommon." In the interim, Cllr Harney has asked the National Ambulance Service to look at the dynamic deployment model to see if the crew based in Portiuncula can return to their base without being diverted to calls in Galway City.



Cllr Alan Harney, John Egan (1925 Centenary Committee Chairperson) and GAA President Jarlath Burns.

Maternity Services In PUH

With some 98% of the recommendations from the independent case analysis implemented. the hospital has seen significant investment. "We are recruiting for a seventh Consultant Obstetrician post and there are also a number of new Clinical Director posts in both Maternity and Paediatrics, while the service has opened a new department for maternity outpatients, and seen improvements in the maternity ward.", states Cllr Alan.

Cllr Harney added that it's expected the external management team will be fully wound down by the end of 2026 after the twelfth review has been completed. He noted that the next step would be continued advocacy "for a roadmap for the restoration of full services at PUH".

Capital Plan In Train For Mental Health Services

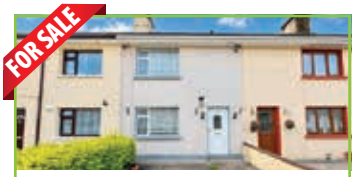
Cllr Harney also discussed the HSE's work on a Mental Health Capital Plan for improved mental health services in the town. "I've been very clear since I've been elected that we need to see acute mental health services delivered once again in Ballinasloe," he said.

He noted that PUH saw in excess of 1,000 presentations at the A&E for mental health issues in 2025, describing the figure as "hugely concerning". Cllr Harney said that the HSE is developing a capital plan for mental health services for the region and he would be continuing to advocate for additional services for the locality.

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More Expansion At Utah

By Colm Croffy

The popular department store, Utah, set up in 2008 by Val Colleran, has weathered many challenges including the economic crisis and Covid. Now it's going from strength to strength. A new sister boutique, SALT, recently opened on Main St in response to the demand for more ladies' fashion in the town. Meanwhile, Utah Outdoors (Regatta) has moved to a more spacious location within the Utah store on Society St. A new dedicated footwear department also opened earlier this year, catering for both men and ladies.



Tammie Kells, Ari Flynn, Lizzy Casey, Bridget Spain, Brenda Kelly and Val Colleran outside the new boutique, SALT.

SALT was named after Salt Lake City. "I wanted to keep the connection with Utah, and Salt Lake City is the capital of the US state," Val says. The store will stock reputable brands including Vila, Only and Pieces, offering affordable prices, on-trend styles, and something to suit every occasion.

The department store on Society St will continue to offer all the top brands in men's and ladies' fashion, including: Street One, B-Young, Fransa, Rant n Rave, 6th Sense, Diesel, Kenrow, and lots more. Meanwhile, the new footwear department will stock all the top brands including: Rieker, Clarks, Skechers, Dubarry, Heavenly Feet, Xti, G-Comfort and more, catering for men's and ladies of all ages and sizes.

Val has also diversified into other offerings. Utah Blinds is the largest supplier of Luxaflex blinds in the midlands, offering a truly comprehensive range of blinds. They offer a free home consultation with a measurement and fitting service. You can see all the options on www.utahblinds.ie. Utah Embroidery and Print also offers custom embroidery and print for work, sports, schools and clubs. The extensive range of products can be viewed in store or by visiting www.utahembroideryandprint.ie.

Val, who is originally from Beagh, has over 40 years of experience in retail and comes from a family of entrepreneurs. His late father, Bill, ran a successful wood mill business, and other siblings have businesses in the town, including An Táin, the Bread Basket and Tranquillity Beauty Clinic. Val says that he "always" had an interest in working in the retail sector, and it was strengthened by his experiences in the industry. Starting in the old Londis supermarket on Society St, he managed Penneys stores throughout Ireland and the UK, before managing the much-loved department store, "Texas".

While starting off just as the financial crisis was engulfing the western world was difficult, Val says that his top tip to any aspiring entrepreneurs would be to "stick at it! Perseverance is key". Having begun life in a 2,000 square ft premises in Marina Point, the store moved to the 11,000 square ft premises on Society St only three years later.

Val would love to see Ballinasloe become the "go to" town for shopping in the midlands, and that means, perhaps surprisingly, he would love to see more competition in the town. "I think there's room for more boutiques, more shoe stores, more retail." He says he would also like to see more supports from government for younger people who want to start out as retail is a tough sector to break into.

Val would like to acknowledge his family and staff' for their dedication and support throughout the years. Find the store online at www.utah.ie.





Ballinasloe Welcomes National Hub Summit

By Maria Connolly

Ballinasloe will take centre stage in Ireland's enterprise and remote-working community this October, when the National Hub Summit 2026 comes to the Shearwater Hotel.



Pictured ahead of the National Hub Summit 2026 (L-R): Teresa Hooks, Head of Connected Hubs and Digital Innovation; Lyn Donnelly, Hub Manager, Ballinasloe Enterprise and Allan Mulrooney, CEO, Western Development Commission.

More than 200 delegates from across the country will gather on Thursday, 22 October, bringing together hub managers and teams, representative bodies, State agencies, government departments and leading Irish and international speakers.

The invite-only event will mark the fifth anniversary of Connected Hubs, the national platform connecting remote-working and enterprise hubs across Ireland. Discussions will focus on the continued development of the National Hub Network, the future of work, knowledge sharing and the practical steps hubs can take to support their local communities.

This year's Summit will also feature an onsite Showcase Hub and an innovative Silent Stage. Using silent-disco technology, delegates will be able to tune into additional talks delivered by partners, exhibitors and hub experts.

Hosting the Summit is a welcome opportunity to showcase Ballinasloe as a progressive location for enterprise, remote working and regional development. Through Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre and Ballinasloe Enterprise Hub, the town already has a strong track record of supporting businesses, entrepreneurs and remote workers, while helping people to live and work within their own community.

Lyn Donnelly, Manager of Ballinasloe Area Community Development that runs the Enterprise Hub (BEH) and Centre (BEC), said the Summit would also provide an important opportunity for the local hub team to welcome colleagues and stakeholders from across the country.

"The Summit gives hub managers the chance to connect, share experiences and learn from one another. Every hub is different, but many of the challenges and opportunities are shared. There is huge value in exchanging ideas and practical solutions, and we are delighted that Ballinasloe will host those conversations this year."

Allan Mulrooney, CEO of the Western Development Commission, said hubs have an increasingly important role in supporting towns and communities by giving people greater choice about where they live and work and helping to sustain employment locally.

The National Hub Network is a Government of Ireland initiative developed under the Our Rural Future policy. Connected Hubs is operated by the Western Development Commission on behalf of the Department of Rural and Community Development and the Gaeltacht.

PROPERTY MATTERS

A FRESH, FRIENDLY APPROACH TO SELLING YOUR HOME IN BALLINASLOE

Choosing the right estate agent is one of the most important decisions you'll make when selling your home. For many homeowners, the temptation is to choose the agent who gives the highest valuation. I completely understand why — it's reassuring to hear that your home could be worth top dollar.

But the highest valuation isn't always the best valuation.

An asking price needs to reflect what the market is realistically prepared to pay. Buyers, not estate agents, ultimately determine the market value of a property. Pricing correctly from the outset creates genuine interest, attracts serious buyers and, importantly, can generate the competition that helps achieve the strongest possible result.

That is the approach I believe in.

I'm passionate about bringing a fresh, modern and more personal approach to property sales in Ballinasloe and the surrounding areas. Selling your home should be about much more than putting a sign outside the property, uploading a few photographs and waiting for the phone to ring. Your home deserves to be properly presented and professionally marketed.

High-quality photography, detailed floor plans, drone photography and video, combined with targeted online and social media marketing, can give your property the exposure it deserves. The aim is not simply to reach people who are actively searching today, but to put your property in front of potential buyers who may not yet have started looking.

And while technology and marketing are important, I believe great estate agency is still about people.

When you sell your home, you want someone you can trust, someone who knows the local market, communicates clearly and is prepared to work hard on your behalf from the initial valuation right through to the closing of the sale.

As a local estate agent and auctioneer, I take a hands-on approach to every property I represent. My goal is simple: to give sellers honest advice, outstanding marketing and a level of personal service that makes the selling process as straightforward and successful as possible.

Let's Have a Friendly Chat

If you're thinking about selling your home and would like to experience a fresh approach to estate agency, I'd be delighted to have a friendly, no-obligation chat with you.

Sometimes, the best place to start is simply a conversation.

I also provide professional property valuations for Probate, Family Law and the Fair Deal / Nursing Home Support Scheme.



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Pilates Boutique Opens On Harbour Rd

By Maria Connolly

Nichola Ryan, the highly-experienced owner and founder of the Pilates Boutique reformer Pilates studio in Athlone, has recently opened a second studio on Harbour Rd.



Members of Pilates boutique staff at the opening of the new reformer Pilates studio on Harbour Rd: Back Row (L-R): Rachel Donohue, Melissa Crofty, Chloe Finnerty and Deirdre Walsh. Middle row: Anna Gallagher. Front Row (L-R): Clementine Keane, Nichola Ryan, owner of Pilates boutique, and Andrea Lynam.

Originally from Kiltoom in Athlone, she has strong connections to the town through her family and friends. She adds: "I've wanted to open a studio in Ballinasloe for quite a while; I was just waiting for the right location and the right opportunity to come along."

Nichola said that she's "always" had a passion for fitness. She studied Commerce in NUI Galway and worked in Human Resources for many years. She then retrained as a fitness instructor and personal trainer, and it was following a car accident and a bad back injury that she became interested in Pilates. "As part of my rehabilitation, I spent a year working with a Pilates instructor in Athlone," she says. "I absolutely loved what Pilates did for me physically. It helped me recover, rebuild my strength and eventually get me back doing duathlons etc."

She decided to train as a Pilates instructor and studied the STOTT method, one of the most popular forms of modern Pilates. It combines the exercises founded by Joseph Pilates with findings from modern exercise science and spinal rehabilitation, making it an extremely safe and effective form of practice.

Nichola taught mat Pilates for over a decade before she started teaching reformer Pilates. (Reformer Pilates is a form of the exercise in which the body's movements are supported by a machine, allowing both for rehabilitation, and for more intensive exercise.) "I fell in love with it from that very first session and immediately thought, 'I'm going to open a Reformer Pilates studio someday.'" During her second maternity leave, she made that ambition a reality. Nichola has been teaching Pilates for many years, offering classes from beginner to advanced. She also teaches pre- and post-natal Pilates, and has trained in Spinal Pathologies. She's currently adding to her knowledge by studying peri-menopause and menopause coaching.

She says that the reaction from people in the town to the new studio "has been fantastic. Everyone has been incredibly welcoming... Our initial focus is simply on giving people the opportunity to experience reformer Pilates...once people experience it for themselves, we find they tend to fall in love with it." To this end, the studio is currently offering an introductory offer of two sessions for €30. (There are also pay as you go and bundle offers available online.)

For those who are already familiar with reformer Pilates and would like to consider a career as an instructor, Nichola has opened a Pilates teaching academy where she trains up and coming Pilates instructors. For more information, please visit her website at the address given below.

The studio is currently open five days a week in Ballinasloe, offering morning, evening, and weekend classes. (Hours may change in the coming months depending on demand.). Nichola eventually hopes to offer 1:1 sessions, too. She says the studio aims "to make people feel comfortable and welcome, regardless of their age, fitness level or previous experience." All exercises can be modified to suit a person's ability.

To find out more about Pilates boutique, visit the website, www.pilatesboutique.ie You can email Nichola with any queries at nicolaryanpilates@gmail.com

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Active Travel Scheme Gone To Tender

By Colm Croffy

Galway County Council is progressing plans for improved cycle routes and pedestrian walkways in town. They recently published an invitation to tender for the R446 Active Travel Scheme, which will see the development of cycle tracks and pedestrian walkways constructed on a route spanning from Bridge St to Harris Road, approximately 1.4km in total.

The project has caused some commentary locally, however, as it will see the removal of parking spaces, and a limiting of car travel routes from the Creagh side of town into the town centre.

The €3 million Scheme prior to Part 8 Planning Permission approval went up for public consultation in the library some 5 months ago and despite a town of our size with over 7,000 residents and some 100 businesses affected in the town centre – less than 50 were submissions received.



The Archeitects Impression of Dunlo Hill after the Active Travel Scheme is built

Cllr Alan Harney has been to the fore in alerting homeowners and rate payers of the changes to vehicle flow, access to town centre and provision of bus bays " I have continually pushed for the maximum possible car parking and elimination of one ways or barrier access into town from the East; the plans will be a transformative improvement for bus users, cyclists and walkers "stated the Cllr.

The proposed plans include a two-way cycle track along one side of the R446, as well as the widening of footpaths, which naturally with planting will take some 5 metres off the existing carriage ways – slowing down traffic and enhancing pedestrian crossings.

There will be a series of new and upgraded pedestrian crossings on the route and a new roundabout will be constructed at the Harris Rd junction. The aim is to connect the town's amenities with a route that provides an "attractive and realistic" option for short journeys.

The plans will also see a new drop-off area created at the crèche on Brackernagh, as well as public realm improvements including verges, street lighting, road surface works, and an improvement to the Grand Canal Roundabout.

The project is ultimately designed to deliver high-quality pedestrian and cycling facilities along the key route, which incorporates the Marina, Harbour Road, and Dunlo Hill before connecting through to Brackernagh. Two new universally accessible bus bays are being built on Dunlo Hill as well as two on Sli Na hAbhainn.

The project works are expected to take four months. Construction can only take place Monday – Friday 8am – 6pm, to minimise disruption to residents and businesses. Contractors will also have to maintain access to the routes for businesses and heavy goods vehicles.

The contractor will also be incentivised to keep to the works deadlines: according to the technical specifications, the contractor faces a €2,500 weekly penalty for every week the physical works overrun the four-month target.

A decision on which contractor to appoint is due to be made over the coming months.

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Elaine Bannerton
B.A. LLB.

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Locked In – Coffee And Coiffure!

By Maria Connolly

What started with two friends cutting each other's hair has, almost eight years later, developed into Locked In, a new coffee shop and barbershop opening in Brackernagh on Sunday, October 11.



Kyle Blackweir, owner of Locked In, the new barbershop and coffee shop opening in October.

Owner, Kyle Blackweir, is a 23-year-old from Taughmaconnell. The name reflects the thinking behind the business. "It's a statement about committing yourself to a goal or challenge. Once you've decided what you're going after, you lock in and achieve it," Kyle says.

The journey began while Kyle was in Transition Year at Garbally College. He and a friend regularly travelled to Athlone for haircuts, but neither could drive, so they began cutting each other's hair instead.

Kyle completed a barbering course in Edenderry and continued developing his skills while still at school. After he finished school in 2021, he was approached by Joe Ward, owner of Joe Ward Menswear, and offered the opportunity to cut hair from the premises.

Barbering suited Kyle's way of learning. "I liked that how good you became was largely down to yourself. If you put the work in and improve the quality of your cuts, people come back to you. You can see the results of the effort you're putting in."

University isn't something he has ruled out but he didn't get the points required for the courses that genuinely interested him, and didn't want to choose something simply for the sake of going to college. "I enjoy learning, now more than ever, but I've found I learn best when I'm actively involved in something. I had a craft in front of me that I could develop and turn into something," Kyle says.

The idea for Locked In emerged two or three years ago from a desire to create a brand around what Kyle had already built. For him, barbering and coffee have a natural connection. A haircut can be part of preparing for work, sport, an interview or an important occasion, while coffee can be part of starting the day, focusing or preparing for what's ahead. He adds: "I didn't want it to feel like a barbershop with a coffee machine in the corner. I wanted both sides to have their own identity but still work together as one place."

Having grown up locally, opening in Ballinasloe feels natural to Kyle. The Brackernagh location is close to his existing client base, with passing traffic and nearby schools, sporting clubs and Portiuncula University Hospital, yet no coffee shop on that street.

Kyle has also been very hands-on with the design and interior. With an interest in carpentry, he has been involved in almost every aspect of creating the shop.

"I want people to see and feel the quality, from the coffee they're drinking to the craftsmanship that's gone into the woodwork around them. The idea is quite simple: quality and experience."

Kyle chose Geometry Coffee Roasters in Tuam as Locked In's supplier and has completed barista training with them. "I want to set a benchmark for the standard of coffee in Ballinasloe."

Kyle plans to open Monday – Friday 7am – 7pm, and Saturday/Sunday 8am-4pm. Barbering hours will probably be 10am – 6pm.

You can find the new shop at H53 AY90. For more info, call (087) 741 2211, or find it on Facebook as Locked In, and Instagram as @locked_incoffee.



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Personal Trainer Launches Own Gym

By Maria Connolly

After many years as a successful personal trainer, Declan Murray has opened his own gym in the centre of town. The new gym is located in the alley just off Main St beside the Men's Shed, and is fully equipped for personal training sessions.



Declan in his new gym, which is located in the alley just behind Main St.

Declan is locally based and originally comes from Culliagh on the Shannonbridge Rd. He was sporty as a child, playing underage with Padraig Pearses and Moore United. After attending Moore National School and Garbally College, he studied in Sligo Institute of Technology (now the Atlantic Technological University), graduating with a Diploma in Sport and Business. He subsequently gained qualifications in Personal Training, and Nutrition.

He first became interested in the gym "to improve my physical health and take care of my mental health" and worked as a trainer in London for three years before returning home to Ballinasloe as he preferred small town life. He says "I wanted to go to Australia and started saving up, but I got settled here." He taught swim teaching at Coral Leisure, and then started as a self-employed Personal Trainer at Coral Leisure in 2017. While he was happy at Coral Leisure, he says that it had been a "dream" for a few years to have his own space, and he's happy that he has been able to make it happen.

Declan approaches personal training from a slightly different angle to many trainers. His aim is to create a "fun and pressure-free" programme for clients, where sessions are maintained at low to medium intensity, encouraging clients to return again. He says that his years of training has allowed him to create training plans that lead to "less muscle soreness and enhanced quality of life", with overall improvements in strength and fitness. He has made friends with many clients over the years and trains together with them.

He offers a range of personal training options and will be updating his packages of hybrid, online and one-to-one training for the new gym. If you would like to find out about options in the meantime, go to www.declanmurray.ie and type in "free consultation" and he will be in touch.

Declan says that there has been a positive initial reaction with 13 new sign-ups in the first two weeks. He is thankful to Owen Cunningham from Rothwell Staunton for his initial advice on set up of the business. He's hoping to make connections with other local businesses and entrepreneurs through the monthly Pulse meetings.

In his spare time, Declan enjoys hiking and Hyrox (the international fitness competitions). He also has a nine-month-old baby, which keeps him busy!

Declan is on Instagram (@declanmurrayperformance) and Facebook as DecPT. He can be emailed via declanmurraytraining@gmail.com. They gym is open mornings and evenings, and can be booked via appointment.

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Activ8 Solar Energies Team Expanding

By Maria Connolly

Solar energy has experienced an explosion in growth in Ireland over recent years. A combination of high energy costs, falling solar panel prices, grant support and the removal of planning requirements has made solar the most accessible renewable energy for farms, homes and businesses. With this exponential growth has come opportunity and one Irish company has capitalised on it.



CEO Ciaran Marron outside Activ8's headquarters in Carrickmacross.

Activ8 Solar Energies is based in Carrickmacross, County Monaghan, but also has locations in Cashel, Naas and now Ballinasloe, employing over 300 people. The company, which is celebrating its twentieth year in business, currently has a warehouse, a small office, and a five-person installation team based in Poolboy. "Ballinasloe was an ideal location to expand, providing access to a strong pool of skilled tradespeople while being well positioned to cover Galway, Offaly, Longford and Roscommon," says Eamonn Murphy, Head of Marketing at Activ8.

When its CEO, Ciaran Marron, established the company, solar technology was far from the mainstream in Ireland. Within 18 months, however, Activ8 had become the country's largest installer of solar thermal systems. The business later shifted its focus to solar PV (PV stands for photovoltaic; they're the panels seen on rooftops and businesses). "When the market in Ireland announced initiatives in 2018 for solar PV grants for the residential sector, we were all ready to hit the ground running," Ciaran said. At that stage there were seven registered solar PV installers in Ireland. Today, there are more than 500.

Activ8 is known for its innovation. For instance, rather than relying solely on standard products, Activ8 now only uses its own Atlas-branded glass solar panels; they work with one of the world's largest manufacturers to produce panels in China to the company's own requirements.



L-R: Thomas Halliday, Paul Newman, Paul Mulligan and David Ahearne, some of Activ8's employees in Ballinasloe.

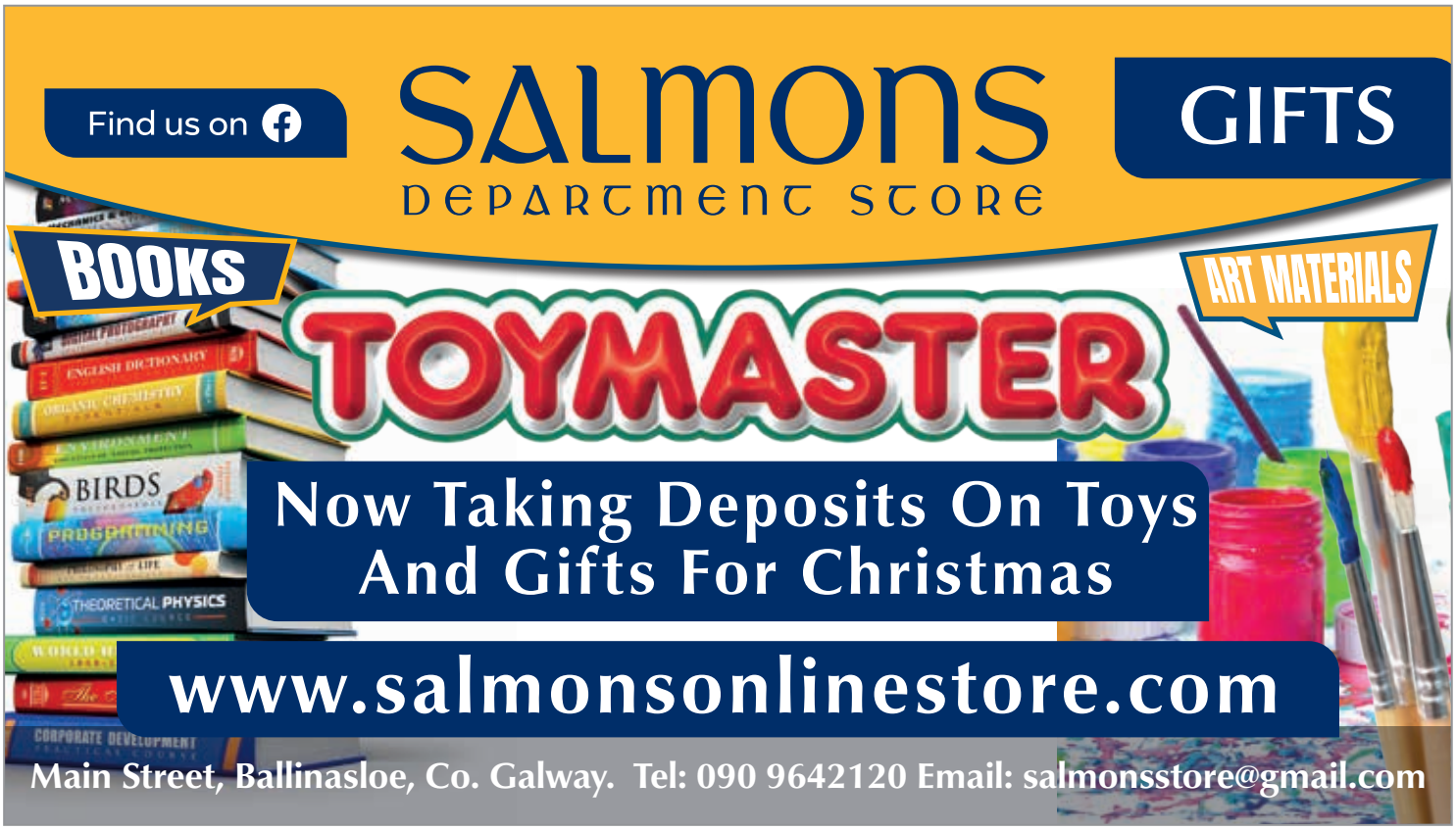
The company has also developed its own Atlas AI software, which analyses a home's electricity usage and determines when batteries should charge or discharge, when electricity should be exported to the grid and how customers can maximise returns under dynamic electricity tariffs.

Overall, Activ8 expects to complete almost 3,500 residential solar installations in 2026, alongside approximately 30MW of commercial rooftop solar projects across the island of Ireland and a further 5MW to 6MW across the UK and Europe.

Ciaran believes there is still significant room for growth in Ireland's solar market. "We've about 15% of rooftops in Ireland that are capable of being done completed," he said. He also said commercial battery storage, AI and energy trading are areas likely to shape the next phase of the business.

Due to increased demand, Activ8 are planning to expand in Ballinasloe, and they currently have opportunities for qualified electricians and roofers. Visit www.activ8energies.com for open roles. "As demand for solar continues to grow, we see Ballinasloe playing an important role in supporting our operations across the region," Eamon says.

"Our continued investment in Ballinasloe reflects our confidence in the area and our commitment to creating skilled local employment while helping more homes and businesses transition to solar energy", concludes Eamon.



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New Alterations And Tailoring Service

By Maria Connolly

Ram Soonder, an expert tailor with more than 20 years of experience in tailoring and alterations, has brought his skill and craftsmanship to his new business in Croffy's Yard, "Ramsey's Tailoring and Alterations".

Ram, who lives in Athlone, took his first steps in the clothing industry when he worked in textile company manufacturing clothes. "It gave me an invaluable understanding of how garments are made, constructed and finished, knowledge that has stayed with me throughout my career."

He moved to Ireland in 2006, and began working in clothing alterations. He spent 15 years with The Zip Yard in Dublin, before moving to The Zip Yard Athlone in 2020. "Over the past 20 years, I have worked with countless garments, fabrics and styles, building up extensive experience in professional alterations, tailoring, repairs and restyling."

Ram offers professional alterations and tailoring, restyling and resizing, repairs, zip replacements and garment adjustments for both everyday clothing and special-occasion wear. For customers who need something completed quickly, an express alterations service is also available. He also offers a professional ironing service for busy customers.

He emphasises the importance of offering a truly personalised service. "No two people – and no two garments – are exactly the same. That is why I take the time to understand what each customer needs and ensure every garment is carefully fitted and finished."

He is also passionate about the difference that professional tailoring can make to an outfit. "A beautiful outfit can be completely transformed when it fits properly. I love that moment when a customer tries on their finished garment, looks in the mirror and is delighted with how they look and feel.... when your clothes fit perfectly, you feel the difference"

Ram says that opening his own business was "something I had dreamed about for many years...the fulfilment of a lifelong ambition". Ballinasloe felt like the perfect place to establish his new venture. "I could see that there was a real need locally for a professional alterations and tailoring service where customers could receive expert workmanship together with friendly, personal attention." He adds that the welcome from local people "has been wonderful. People have been so friendly and supportive." He says that the free parking available by the shop in the Yard has been a big advantage too, making it easy for customers to drop off their garments.



Ram Soonder, who has opened Ramsey's Tailoring & Alterations in Croffy's Yard

Ramsey's Tailoring and Alterations is open six days a week, Monday – Saturday, 9am – 6pm. Ram will remain open throughout lunchtime to cater for those who work office hours and find it difficult to get errands done during the week. "Customers can call in during their lunch break, and with free parking available, the service is designed to be as convenient as possible." For any queries, call Ram on (089) 417 6393.



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Helen Fallon AIB Branch Manager Retires

By Colm Croffy

AIB will soon be saying goodbye to a familiar face as their Branch Manager, Helen Fallon retires after a long career with them. It was a case of life coming full circle for Helen, who grew up in Aughrim and who worked in branches in Galway and Gort before returning to manage the branch in Ballinasloe four years ago.



Helen Fallon, Manager of AIB Ballinasloe, who is retiring after 44 years with the bank.

Helen is the daughter of Laurence and Delia Larkin, from Aughrim. In addition to farming, her father was deeply involved in several community groups and Helen says: "we grew up seeing the importance of community involvement, supporting local people and not being afraid of hard work. In many ways, that is where the seed was sown for the career and values that have guided me throughout my life."

Following secondary school in the Convent of Mercy, Ballinasloe, Helen went to the Regional Technical College (now ATU) to study Business and Finance. When she first started working for AIB, she "never imagined" that she would still be working for them 44 years later. She worked in a range of customer service and operational roles before moving into management. When the opportunity came up to lead the branch in Ballinasloe, "it felt like a great fit... Being from the locality, it was an opportunity I was delighted to take."

Over her years in town, she has found the people to be "incredibly welcoming. It's a town with a big heart". Helen adds that she finds Ballinasloe a good place to do business as: "The business community locally is incredibly supportive, resilient and always willing to help one another. There is a...genuine desire to see local businesses succeed."

"One example of this is the monthly Pulse meetings, which I regularly attend. The meetings bring together local business owners, entrepreneurs and remote workers, providing a great opportunity to connect, share ideas, support one another and learn from each other's experiences", states Helen.

Her advice for new businesses who want to set up in the town would be: "Get involved in the community from day one. Build relationships, ask questions and make connections with other local businesses."

Helen would like to take the opportunity to thank all of her colleagues. "I've been incredibly fortunate to work with some wonderful people." She also says thanks to the customers and local businesses, and "most importantly, I'd like to thank my family. A banking career can be demanding and their support, patience and encouragement made everything possible."

"As I retire, I feel grateful more than anything else. Grateful for the opportunities AIB gave me, grateful for the friendships I've made and grateful to have spent 44 years doing a job that I genuinely loved", concludes Helen.

Next Community Development AGM

By Colm Croffy

Ballinasloe Area Community Development CLG (BACD) has a busy programme ahead, with its Annual General Meeting, a public genealogy and heritage workshop, and the National Hub Summit all taking place in the coming weeks.

BACD's Annual General Meeting will be held at 7pm on Thursday, 12 November 2026, in Ballinasloe Enterprise Hub, Society Street. All BACD stakeholders and members are invited and encouraged to attend. The AGM will provide an opportunity to review the organisation's activities and achievements over the past year, receive an update on its finances and ongoing projects, and hear about BACD's plans for the year ahead.

Ahead of the National Hub Summit, BACD will host the Cúig Cúige – Ballinasloe Pilot Workshop at Ballinasloe Enterprise Hub, Society Street, on Wednesday, 21 October, from 1pm to 3pm.

Hosted by the Genealogical Society of Ireland, this free public workshop will explore family history, DNA, local heritage, migration stories and connections with the Irish diaspora. The session will include a presentation followed by a practical workshop. Attendees are encouraged to bring along family-history questions, surnames, photographs or documents they would like to explore. Anyone interested in attending can email lyn@bacd.ie for further details.



East Galway Tourism Networking Opportunity

Tourism businesses and community organisations from across East Galway are invited to come together for the East Galway Tourism Networking Event, taking place on 28th October at the Raheen Woods Hotel, Athenry.

Organised by Galway County Council, the event is an opportunity to represent your area, make valuable connections and be part of the conversation on strengthening East Galway as a tourism destination.

The event will bring together businesses, communities and tourism stakeholders to network, share ideas and explore opportunities for collaboration.

Attendees will hear about Galway County Council's vision and ongoing work for tourism in East Galway, available funding and supports, local tourism success stories and new initiatives and resources being developed to promote the area

If you are involved in tourism, business, or your local community, we encourage you to come along, represent your area and be part of East Galway's tourism future.

For further information or to register your interest in attending, please contact Loretta Raftery, Galway County Council, at lraftery@galwaycoco.ie. Or 087 3532827.

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Local Solicitor Mary Jennings Retires

By Maria Connolly

A well-known and highly respected member of the legal community, Mary Jennings, is retiring following a distinguished legal career spanning several decades.



Mary Jennings, who is retiring after a career in law.

Mary is from the well-known Jennings family from Kilclooney. She has made a significant contribution to the local community through her professional career and her work with generations of clients. She has been a valued member of Gearoid Geraghty & Company Solicitors since 2004, where she has built a strong reputation for her professionalism, expertise and commitment to her clients.

Mary graduated from University College Galway with a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws (BA, LLB), before completing her professional training at King's Inns, where she qualified as a barrister. She practised at the Bar for a number of years, primarily on the Western Circuit, gaining extensive advocacy experience and developing a strong grounding in litigation and court procedure.

In 2004, Mary was admitted as a solicitor and went on to specialise in civil litigation, employment law and medical negligence, while advising and representing clients across a wide range of contentious matters. She also obtained a Diploma in Employment Law, further enhancing her considerable expertise.

Throughout her career, Mary has been recognised for her thorough approach, strong legal analysis and commitment to achieving the best possible outcomes for her clients. Her experience as a barrister, combined with her practical and client-focused approach as a solicitor, made her a highly respected advocate and adviser.

For her colleagues, however, Mary's contribution has extended far beyond her legal expertise. She has been a wealth of knowledge and experience, always generous with her time and willing to share her knowledge and insights. Her knowledge of litigation, court practice and procedure in the superior courts has been an invaluable resource to those who have worked alongside her.

Having been with the firm since 2004, Mary will be greatly missed by her colleagues and clients. Her retirement represents a significant loss, not only to the firm but to the wider legal community.

Outside of her professional life, Mary enjoys reading and spending time outdoors, particularly gardening. Retirement will now give her the opportunity to enjoy these interests at a more leisurely pace, as well as to travel and spend time with her husband.

As Mary begins this new chapter, her friends, colleagues and the wider Ballinasloe community wish her every happiness in her retirement. After so many years of dedication to her profession and to those she represented, she can now look forward to a long, happy and fulfilling retirement.



End Of An Era For The Hair Gallery

By Maria Connolly

The Hair Gallery recently closed after almost 30 years in business. The salon was owned by Tina Kelly (also known as Tina Ward).



It was founded on Society St in the hallway of what was then Calahan Jewellery, and which is now Kariba's. Tina started with one employee but soon decided to expand, and as a local salon, Oliver Johns, was closing, she employed two of the staff, Josie Camon and Theresa Hardigan. The Hair Gallery then moved moved to the larger premises on Dunlo St in 1997, where it was based for the next 29 years.

Tina loved her role in the salon and says "we had great fun looking after all the wonderful clients. It was a place where people gathered not just to get their hair done, but to catch up with the staff and with other clients...a hair salon is a sociable place."

That sociability meant that life-long connections were formed through The Hair Gallery. Clients who were brought to the salon as babies returned as they grew up, and as they became mums themselves, they brought their children to the salon in turn. Tina has also trained and assisted many stylists. Some have since left the industry, but others are now running their own salons.

As such, Tina believes hair salons have a real role to play in the community. However, she notes that many have closed in recent years due to rising running costs, and the shortage of trained staff. She thinks that the long-awaited hairdressing apprenticeship qualification will make a big difference to stylist training, and to the viability of salons.

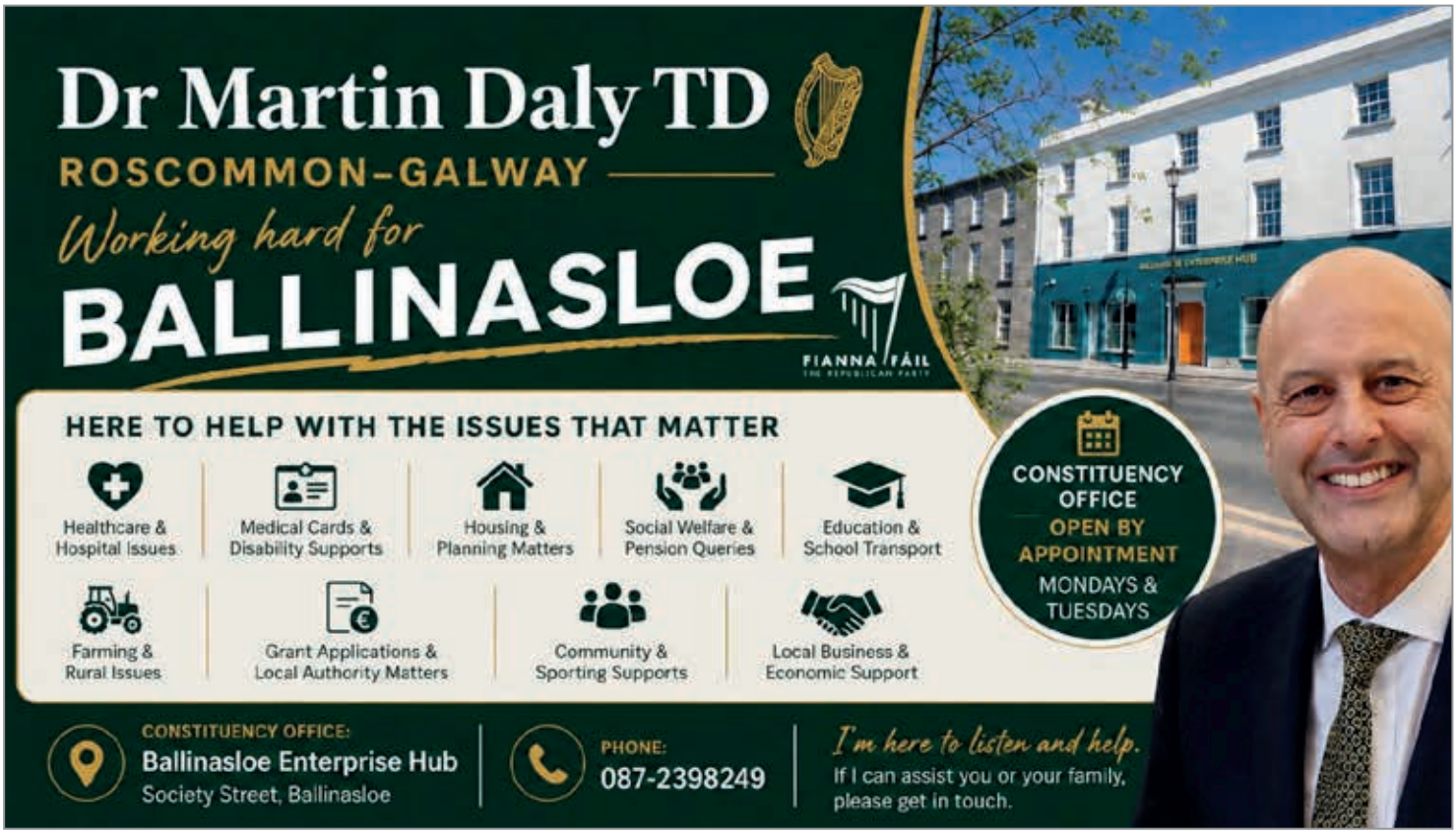
Tina grew up in Ballinasloe, daughter of Kevin and Lorrie Ward. As a teenager, she had a Saturday job with Therese Kelly at the Witches Hut, which she says gave her "a great foundation" in hairdressing. She trained at Barry's School of Hairdressing in Galway, and then worked in Barry's and a number of other salons in Galway, including Andy's Hair Care in Prospect Hill, where she also learnt barbering skills.

She returned to Ballinasloe in 1997 after the passing of her father, to support her mother and her brothers Joe, Liam, and Ronnie. In the following years, she met her partner, Brendan Kelly, and married. They have two sons, Nigel and Darragh, who both live in Australia.

When Tina came back, Ballinasloe was a thriving town. While businesses have closed in recent years, Tina emphasises all the positives there are in the town, with the hotels, the College of Further Education, excellent sports facilities and an array of sports clubs, as well as a thriving cultural sector and a very active retirement group. "It makes me sad when people say, 'we have nothing in our town'; so many towns would appreciate and love what we have...I feel we need to be more proud of our town and support it more."

Tina wants to thank all her customers for their outstanding loyal support throughout the years, and to wish Josie, the longest employee of the Hair Gallery, a happy and healthy retirement.

One of the stylists from the Hair Gallery, Aoife McDonnell, has opened a hair studio in Celtic Hair on Main St. Tina wishes her the best of luck.



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New Manager For PUH

By Colm Croffy

Portiuncula University Hospital has a new Hospital Manager with the recent appointment of Eileen Kelly to the role.



New Portiuncula University Hospital Manager: Eileen Kelly

A native of Ballinlough, County Roscommon, Eileen brings more than 25 years of healthcare experience, having worked across a range of clinical, academic and senior management positions within both the public and private health sectors. She graduated from University College Dublin with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) in Radiography in 1999 and began her career as a radiographer, holding a number of clinical posts before joining Galway University Hospitals in 2007 as a Clinical Specialist Radiographer.

In 2014, she returned to University College Dublin as a lecturer in the School of Medicine. She re-joined Galway University Hospitals in 2016 as Radiography Services Manager.

Since moving from clinical practice into healthcare management in 2018, Eileen has held a number of senior regional leadership roles, including working with the patient flow improvement project team and serving as Clinical Services Improvement Manager in the Office of the Chief Clinical Director for the Saolta University Health Care Group. She also served as General Manager for the Women's and Children's Network for HSE West and North West and, until recently, was General Manager for Maternity Services at Portiuncula University Hospital. During her 18 months in this role, she supported the delivery and ongoing development of maternity services.

Throughout her career, Eileen has led a broad range of service development, quality improvement and transformational change initiatives, with a strong focus on improving patient care, operational performance and healthcare delivery.

Commenting on her appointment, Eileen said: "I am delighted to be starting this new chapter as the General Manager in Portiuncula University Hospital and to have the opportunity to serve the local community in Ballinasloe. I have had the pleasure of working in PUH since January 2025 and I have been struck by the hospital's warm and friendly atmosphere, as well as its commitment to putting patients and their families at the heart of everything it does. I feel privileged to be working in a hospital that is such an important part of the locality and I look forward to listening, learning and working alongside our staff, patients, families and community partners. I am excited about building on the great work already taking place and contributing to a hospital that the local community can continue to feel proud of."

Meanwhile enabling works for the new approved Emergency Department are well underway with anticipated completion for Spring of 2027. The new general X – ray room replacement is advancing, due for completion late Spring 2027 according to updates at the most recent HSE health Forum.

On the restoration of the full suite of Maternity Services the Forum was advised that 11 out of the 12 Maternity Reviews have now been completed with families and then 12th and final due for completion at the end of October.



Local Woman Receives Prestigious Award

By Colm Croffy

Sherifat Ukachukwu recently received the Outstanding African Healthcare Leader Award at the African Healthcare awards gala. The ceremony was held in Dublin as part of the African Health Summit Ireland Conference.



Sherifat Ukachukwu, Clinical Skills Learning Coordinator, TUS, who received the Outstanding African Healthcare Leader Award at the African Health Summit Ireland conference.

The award recognises individuals who have demonstrated leadership, excellence and a sustained commitment to improving healthcare through education, innovation and collaborative practice.

Sherifat, who is Clinical Skills Learning Coordinator at the Technological University of the Shannon (TUS) and is based on the Athlone campus said that, having worked in Ballinasloe for several years, it felt like "the natural choice" to move here. "It has been a wonderful move. What stands out most is the strong sense of community and genuine friendliness here. There is a real warmth to Ballinasloe, making it a lovely place to live, work, and put down roots, " she notes.

Sherifat is registered as a nurse, midwife, and public health nurse in Nigeria, and a registered general nurse in Ireland. Having completed her Bachelor's degree in Nigeria, she studied a specialised neonatal nursing programme before earning a Master of Science in Nursing in Leadership and Quality Healthcare at TUS. Starting out as a staff nurse, she then transitioned into roles focused on nursing education and professional development. "Every step along the way has reinforced just how vital high-quality instruction and hands-on skills training are for delivering excellent patient care," she says.

In her current role, she coordinates clinical skills education and oversees educational audits across the university's nursing programs. "My role involves working closely with students, academic staff, and healthcare partners to deliver practical training, clinical simulation, and assessment. At its heart, it is about helping students build the hands-on competence and confidence they need to become safe and effective healthcare professionals", explains Sherifat.

Sherifat was both gratified and humbled to receive the award. "I've put a lot of hard work, long hours, and passion into my career, so to have that dedication recognised on this level feels truly wonderful. At the same time, an achievement like this is never a solo journey. It reflects the collective effort, support, and guidance of the amazing mentors, colleagues, students, and communities I've had the privilege of working alongside." She hopes the award will encourage other African healthcare professionals "to believe in their own potential, own their hard work, and keep pushing forward."

For the future, she would like to continue advancing clinical skills training, quality improvement, and educational innovation, "especially in supporting students from all backgrounds. Mentoring emerging healthcare leaders who might not traditionally see themselves represented in leadership is also a major priority." She adds that: "leadership carries a real responsibility to lift as you climb and inspire others...true success isn't just personal progression, it's about creating opportunities and opening doors for others."



Anne Cooney, Clinical Allocations Manager, TUS; Sherifat Ukachukwu, Clinical Skills Learning Coordinator, TUS, and Olayinka Aremu, Executive Director, AfriHealth Ireland, at the African Health Summit Ireland

Outside of work, Sherifat enjoys spending time with her family and friends, and also does crocheting "as a creative way to unwind". She finishes by saying that she deeply appreciates being in a "welcoming town outside of my professional routine".

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Autumn Physical Activity Initiative

By Maria Connolly

Galway Sports Partnership is rolling out a series of inclusive, community-focused physical activity programmes across Ballinasloe as we move into the autumn and winter months.

Chair Yoga at Ballinasloe Library
A gentle, accessible six-week chair yoga programme begins 23 October, running 2–3pm each Friday in Ballinasloe Library. All ability levels are welcome.



To check availability or book:

- Email: ballinasloe@galwaylibrary.ie
- Phone: 091 509551

Learn to Swim Programme with Swim Ireland

Also starting on Friday the 23rd of October, in partnership with Swim Ireland, Galway Sports Partnership is delighted to offer a supportive and confidence-building six-week Learn to Swim programme for Active Retirement groups at Coral Leisure. This initiative is designed to help participants feel comfortable in the water, improve mobility, and enjoy the social and wellbeing benefits that swimming provides. The class is from 2-3pm.

To learn more about this event or register;

- Email: dm.ballinasloe@coralleisure.ie
- Phone: 090 9645755

Introduction to Strength Training

Galway Sports Partnership is also delighted to collaborate with local fitness coach Brian Brennan, who will deliver two four-week Introduction to Strength Training blocks at his Studio in St. Michael's Square. These programmes are designed to help participants build confidence in a gym setting, learn correct technique, and develop functional strength that supports everyday movement.

These small-group sessions also offer a great social element, helping people connect while building healthy habits.

- Women's Block: Starts Tuesday, 24 November, 1.30–2.30pm (runs until 15th December)
- Men's Block: Starts Thursday, 26 November, 1.30–2.30pm (runs until 17th December)

Book:

- Phone: 0872688004
- Email: info@brianbrennan.ie



Brian Brennan who is delivering Introduction to Strength Training with Galway Sports Partnership

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Aisling Dolan Joining Croí Heartsafe Team

By Colm Croffy

Former Senator Aisling Dolan is "delighted" to join Croí Heart and Stroke Charity, which is celebrating 40 years of saving lives. Croí offers free health checks, rehabilitation programmes, and brings heart health services into local communities.



Aisling is joining the team at Heartsafe, a life-saving initiative with Interreg, North West Europe partners, and Irish partners, the National Ambulance Service and Local Authorities.

Everyone is aware of the devastating loss for families and friends when a person experiences a sudden cardiac arrest, but CPR (cardiopulmonary resuscitation) can increase the chances of survival if given within the first six minutes.

The Heartsafe team are building Heartsafe communities by supporting rural communities with CPR training and by strengthening Community Responder Networks. The project is also encouraging people and businesses to register AEDs (defibrillators) with the ambulance service so they are registered on a map in case of an emergency.

The focus of the pilot regions is the West and North West of Ireland, initially Galway city and Sligo. Ballinasloe is fortunate to have a strong National Ambulance Service Community First Responder network.

Aisling was involved in healthcare in previous roles, and as a Seanad representative she worked to ensure that the 50-bed block was opened at Portiuncula University Hospital, and to plan for more beds in the Emergency Department.

On her appointment, she says: "I'm excited to continue working with volunteers in local communities, to make a difference in the lives of people living in the West."

Heartsafe are currently conducting a survey on how best to support volunteers who perform CPR. You can fill this in via the **QR code:**

If you're interested in Heartsafe CPR training, please email heartsafe@croi.ie.

Aisling would also like to say thank you to everyone who fundraises or makes donations to Croí to continue heart health activities. She adds: "I look forward to seeing you around town!"

Tidy Towns Awaiting National Result

By Maria Connolly

Judging for the Tidy Towns National competition took place over the summer, and the committee is anxiously awaiting its result, which is due soon. This year, Ballinasloe also entered a short video under a Special Award category. The video was produced by a group of local student volunteers.

Dunne's SuperValu of Ballinasloe is main sponsor in the Local Competition again this year. This competition recognises and rewards nominees in the following categories:

best-kept small, medium and large gardens; best-kept estates/residential area; best-kept containers; best kept window displays/shopfronts, and awards for educational/training facilities.

Applications for the competition have now closed, and the judging is expected to take place shortly after this magazine goes to press. All judging is carried out independently. There are prizes for first, second and third place in each category. There will also be an environmental awareness/biodiversity award, which will be nominated independently.

The Tidy Towns committee wishes to thank its many supporters and volunteers who come out every Saturday morning from 10am - 12pm for litter picks and recycling initiatives. The group has been focussing on the recycling banks in town, encouraging users to keep them clean and to report any instances of discarded rubbish at these sites.



Padraig Lyons, Tom Madden, Pol Pollin, John Fallon, Dr. Kareem, Gerry and Noreen Kenny, Martin Lyons and Robert Togher - Saturday morning clean up

As always, the committee welcomes new members and volunteers. You can get in touch by email, ballinasloetidytowns@gmail.com, phone (086) 817 9580 or via Facebook (search for Ballinasloe Tidy Towns).

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Louise Creaven In Pro Boxing Title Decider

By Maria Connolly

Louise Creaven, from Killimordaly in Co Galway, is set to fight for an Irish professional title in October. It's a historic occasion, the first ever women's professional title fight in Irish boxing.



Louise Creaven The Champ

Louise is the daughter of John and Anne Creaven and has strong Ballinasloe connections. John and his brothers Gabriel and Joseph ran Hayden's Hotel for a number of years. Her grandfather, Billjo, and grand-uncles Jimmy and Jack are steeped in Galway hurling. Jimmy and Jack were both on the historic 1951 Ballinasloe Hurling team which won the County Senior title.

The Australian Based Galway Boxer will face Christina Desmond for the Boxing Union Of Ireland Women's Super Lightweight Title at the Parochial Hall Arena in Cork City on Friday October 9th in what is a historic FIRST EVER Irish title fight in Woman's professional boxing.

Galway Bay FM have confirmed they are going to broadcast the fight and it will also be streamed on the web – via the louise creaven Instagram/facebook channels.

Louise's journey to boxing is an unorthodox one. She left Killimordaly for Australia twelve years ago and her time Down Under was initially "one big party". Unfortunately, Louise was also battling an eating disorder so severe it could have killed her.

The roots of her disorder date back to some comments about her body when she was only 12. "It completely changed the way I saw myself," she says. "Food stopped being food. Exercise became punishment...and the frightening thing is, you could have looked at me and had absolutely no idea what was happening inside my head", states Louise.

When Louise found boxing, everything changed. "I found my calling", she says. However, her habits didn't change overnight, and she had to step away from boxing while she sought treatment.

When she recovered and returned to the sport, she won a title, and now, she will face Christina Desmond for the Boxing Union of Ireland Women's Super Lightweight Title – a historic first professional fight for women at this level.

Louise adds that recovery and getting her life back means more to her than any title. "Being able to sit at a table, eat a meal, laugh with the people I love, make memories and actually be present in my own life will always mean more to me than any belt."



Louise Creaven in action

Recently she shared her story during Australia's Eating Disorder Awareness Week and this year, "sharing my story feels even more important because I'm about to come home to Ireland for a very special night", notes Lousie.

The Australian-based boxer urges anyone who is suffering from disordered eating to seek help. Bodywhys, the Eating Disorder Association of Ireland can be contacted on their helpline at: (01) 210 7906 and email support: alex@bodywhys.ie.



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Portiuncula Convent Nuns 75th Year Jubilees

By Colm Croffy

Two sisters formerly of Portiuncula convent, Sisters Sarah Duggan and Helena Mitchell recently celebrated 75 years of religious profession. Fr. Declan McInerny was the chief celebrant at a special Mass in the Franciscan Convent for them.

Both Sisters entered the convent in the dark days of the 1940's. Sarah comes from Clonmel and entered Portiuncula Convent in 1947. Helena hails from Ballinamore Bridge and entered in 1949. Both were aged 19 years.

After profession, they were assigned to overseas missions – Sarah to Guildford, Zambia and to Australia where she spent 40 years; and Helena to Zambia, Zimbabwe, New Zealand for 24 years and finally to Australia. They went willingly to wherever the need was greatest and served with faith and generosity, believing that this was where God of wanted them. They worked tirelessly and were loved and appreciated everywhere they went.

Many of their families and friends came from far and wide and were delighted to join Sarah and Helena to celebrate this wonderful occasion; their presence made this milestone unforgettable.

Both Sarah and Helena now live in the Franciscan Convent in gentle, well-earned retirement. Their peaceful presence is deeply appreciated by the Sisters and staff in the convent, who thank them for all they have been and done over the years.



L-R: Sisters Sarah Duggan and Helena Mitchell, who recently celebrated their 75th year of religious profession with celebrant Fr. Declan Nerney

Pulse Club Gets Out And About

By Colm Croffy

It has been a busy few months for BACD's Pulse Club, with the August and September events taking networking out of the meeting room and into more relaxed surroundings.

The first Pulse Club Summer BBQ was held at Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre in Creagh in August and proved a huge success. With no formal agenda, the evening was simply about bringing people together for good food, good company and plenty of conversation. It was fantastic to see businesses from across the local community, along with BEC tenants and Pulse Club regulars, catching up and making new connections. The feedback was so positive that the Summer BBQ is already set to become an annual event.



Brian Brennan, Graeme Gullane, Patrick Carrig, Una McDonagh and Michael McCullagh at the Summer BBQ hosted in BEC, Creagh

In September, Pulse Club went organic with a very special visit to Beechlawn Organic Farm, hosted by Padraig and Una Fahy. Attendees enjoyed a behind-the-scenes look at the farm and heard the fascinating story of how Beechlawn grew from just one acre in 2002 to 40 acres of field-scale organic vegetable production and 18 employees today. The visit was rounded off with a fantastic farm-to-fork lunch, prepared by local chef Maura Rynne using fresh organic produce grown at Beechlawn.



Padriag Fahy of Beechlawn Organic Farm and local Chef Maura Rynne who recently prepared food for the Pulse Club meet up at Beechlawn Organic Farm

BACD would like to thank everyone who attended both events and, in particular, Padraig, Una and Maura for making the September visit such a memorable and enjoyable Pulse Club event.Pulse Club is free to join and open to the wider business community. For details of upcoming events, contact lyn@bacd.ie

Project Description	Project Location	Funding Sought
Playground Upgrade at St. Grellans, Ballinasloe	Ballinasloe	€ 66,874.20
Playground Upgrade at Rathbawn Estate & installation of two public lights at the playground	Ballinasloe	€ 72,500.00
3v3 Basketball court at Coral Leisure Centre	Ballinasloe	€ 42,000.00
Wheelchair accessible ramp to the side entrance of Town Hall Theatre	Ballinasloe	€ 40,042.00
Digital Learning & Training Infrastructure Enhancement Project	Ballinasloe	€ 30,000.00
Outdoor fitness equipment and replacement of existing roof at St. Gabriels Club	Aughrim	€ 62,729.35
Refurbishment works to St. Catherines Community Hall	Aughrim	€ 30,338.00
Outdoor play equipment at Fairgreen, Ballinasloe	Ballinasloe	€ 32,939.94
Enhancement of community park, creating an inclusive, biodiverse and culturally welcoming space	Ballinasloe	€ 10,237.44

Some €387,714 of applications made by Galway County Council for the town under the new Siol programme - decisions expected in late November .

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Dr Martin Daly TD – Working For Ballinasloe

By Maria Connolly

Dr Martin Daly TD continues to work on issues affecting Ballinasloe, while encouraging local people and community organisations to bring concerns and ideas to his office.

School transport remains a significant concern for local families. Dr Daly recently met with education representatives. He is pursuing these concerns at Government level, while examining whether changes to Local Link services could offer practical solutions.



He is particularly pleased to see what DEIS+ is delivering for Scoil an Chroí Naofa. The school has secured two additional roles, including a full-time mental health and wellbeing coordinator, while the Deputy Principal will now become a non-teaching role. These are significant additions which will strengthen the school's capacity to support pupils, families and staff.

At Portiuncula, Dr Daly welcomes the continued development of the hospital, particularly in emergency care. Having worked as a GP for many years, he understands the frustration of patients and families navigating waiting lists, referrals and access to treatment. His office regularly assists people by making representations and establishing what options may be available.

Flood relief remains a priority. Following Minister Kevin 'Boxer' Moran's visit, Dr Daly sought a clear timetable for the Ballinasloe scheme. It is now at design stage and is intended to protect 309 homes and businesses. Public consultation is scheduled for early 2027, with construction scheduled to begin in 2028, subject to planning. The focus now must be on maintaining momentum and ensuring that timetable is adhered to.

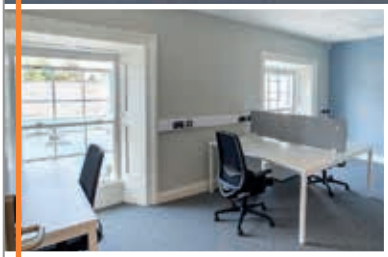
There is also an opportunity to develop a research and innovation initiative in Ballinasloe, linked with third-level education and local expertise, and involving the IDA as the proposal develops. While still at an early stage, Dr Daly is working to explore the opportunity and secure the Government support needed to bring it forward.

The constituency office in the Ballinasloe Enterprise Hub on Society Street is open every Monday and Tuesday.

Local people, clubs and community organisations are encouraged to use it. Whether there is a project that needs support, a funding opportunity worth pursuing, difficulty accessing a public service or an issue that deserves greater attention, call in and speak with the team.

You do not need to know which Department, agency or funding stream to approach. Bring the issue to the office and the team will help establish the best route forward. Effective representation begins with knowing what matters locally and hearing directly from the people of Ballinasloe is central to making the strongest case for the town.







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Major Investment In Municipal Gym

By Maria Connolly

Coral Leisure Ballinasloe in conjunction with Galway County Council are delighted to announce details of the upcoming refitting their gyms

This exciting venture sees in excess of € ½ million euro of investment across 2 of the most used facilities owned by Galway County Council and managed by Coral Leisure in both Ballinasloe and indeed Tuam.

This investment is a huge show of confidence in the future of both leisure centres in Tuam and Ballinasloe and is future proofing the facilities for further growth in the coming years.

This co-investment by Galway County Council has been praised by Coral Leisure Operations Director, David Moore "as very forward thinking and we look forward to working even more closely with Galway County Council for many years to continue to develop and grow both Coral Tuam and Coral Ballinasloe. This is not just an investment in the facilities, but an investment in the people of both communities, which Coral Leisure is proud to be a central part of."

Michael Owens, Director of Services with Galway County Council said

"The significant investment by Galway County Council together with Coral Leisure, in Tuam and Ballinasloe Leisure Centres, is an investment in people, communities and a healthier future for generations to come. The upgraded facilities will empower individuals and families to make positive choices every day. Galway County Councils' investment reflects a bold vision for the future, recognising that strong communities are built on healthy, active and connected citizens. By providing more modern spaces that encourage participation, inclusion and lifelong wellness, Galway County Council is helping to create thriving towns where people can live well, age well and flourish together.

Now is the time to embrace the opportunities these facilities will offer. Whether you are taking the first step on your fitness journey, looking to improve your wellbeing, reconnect with your community or support your family's health, we encourage everyone to get involved and make the most of these upgraded amenities.



L-R: Barry Johnson, Operations Manager and Fitness Instructor, Amy Kenny, Pool Manager and Fitness Instructor and Tristan Mc Donagh, Fitness Instructor and Class Instructor

Galway County Council further look forward to working in continued partnership with Coral Leisure Management Limited on both Leisure Centres over the years ahead."

A special open day will be held on 17th Oct. at the Ballinasloe Centre to mark the unfurling of the investment.



Creagh/Ballinasloe Community First Responders

By Maria Connolly

Creagh/Ballinasloe Community First Responders are a group of volunteers who live in the locality and respond to medical emergencies when alerted to them by the National Ambulance Service. They can perform CPR, use an AED (automated external defibrillator), and provide assistance to people having a heart attack or stroke until the paramedics arrive. The group has been operating for over 10 years and has been involved in many life-threatening emergencies since its formation.



Presentation of cheque for €4,090 by Dermot Killeen to Aidan Curley, Chairperson of Creagh/ Ballinasloe Community First Responders. L-R Ger Coughlan, John Cotter, Helen Harney, Fr Neylon, Aidan Curley, Dermot Killeen, Dermot Harney, Hugh Collins, Liam Clogher, Declan Harney, Seamus Clogher, and Sean Finneran

The volunteers do not receive any government funding and are totally reliant on fundraising and local contributions to purchase and maintain AEDs, AED cabinets and equipment.

Recently they increased the number of defibrillators available locally to 19. The latest two were installed outside Garbally Demesne and Killeen's Pub in Toher. Many thanks to Dermot Killeen for placing the AED in a prominent position outside his premises.

The group are also extremely grateful to Dermot and his wonderful committee for organising a hugely successful 5km walk or run recently. They raised over €4,000 for the purchase of AEDs and equipment.

The group also wish to extend thanks to Karyn Lyons from Galway Rural Development, for funding the new defibrillator installed at Garbally Demesne and to Patrick Clarke for granting permission to place the AED outside his premises.

They would also like to thank Gateway Credit Union for their continued support.

For anyone interested in joining this worthwhile organisation or for further information, please contact CreaghBsloeCFR@gmail.com, Facebook (Creagh/Ballinasloe CFR Group) or X: (@CfrCreagh).

Local Fundraisers Raise Over €6K For Charity

By Maria Connolly

Conor and Emily Lyons recently organised a cardiac screening and fundraising event in Fohenagh Community Centre.

The event was held in conjunction with the Dillon Quirke Foundation, a charity set up in to remember Dillon Quirke, a young sportsman who died from Sudden Adult Death Syndrome. The charity aims to raise awareness of the condition and prevent cases if possible. The event facilitated cardiac screening on underage players from Ahascragh-Fohenagh Hurling Club and Ahascragh-Caltra Camogie Club.

Conor and Emily previously raised money for the Dillon Quirk Foundation at the Paris Marathon earlier this year. In total, they raised €6,210 for the foundation and presented the cheque on the day. Also in attendance were Dr Martin Daly, Cllr Alan Harney and Ollie Turner from Galway Bay FM who interviewed Conor and Emily.

All who supported this cause, to all who attended, to Conor and Emily and to the Dillon Quirke Foundation for facilitating this hugely important cardiac screening event were thanked.





Clonfert College Celebrates Leaving Cert Results

By Eamon Chin

Clonfert College marked a special day for its Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied students as they received their results on 21st August.

The first cohort under the amalgamated Clonfert College, students returned to the school to collect their results, with the day being described as one filled with celebration, excitement and emotion.

In a message shared on social media, the school congratulated its Class of 2026 and praised the hard work, determination and perseverance shown by students throughout their time in secondary education.

For students, Results Day marks the culmination of an important stage in their education, with many now looking ahead to the next steps in their journeys, whether through further education, apprenticeships, training or employment.



Leaving Certificate students at the Mackney campus receiving their results

Clonfert College wished its Leaving Certificate class well for the future and encouraged students to take pride in their achievements and in how far they have come.



L-R: Aoibhin Coughlan, Eabha Hardiman, Erin Godswill, Ms Caroline Jackson (Deputy Principal), and Laura Trappe



L-R: Aoibhin Coughlan, Oisin Murphy, Evan McKeon and Eabha Hardiman



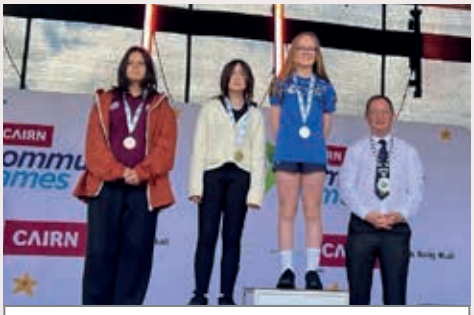
L-R: Louis Greene, Ross Glynn, Euan Kelly, Cody Greene, Niall Doran and Kealan Doran



Local Girl's Community Games Success

By Maria Connolly

Andreea Popescu from Esker Hills recently received a bronze medal in the National Community Games Under-14 Art competition.



Andreea (left) at the medals presentation

Andreea, who was born in Romania, moved to town when she was a baby after her father, Andrei, was offered a contract job with a local firm. Her mother, Diana, says the whole family, including Andreea and her two brothers, have settled comfortably into the town. "Ballinasloe has a fantastic, tight-knit community. The welcoming atmosphere and friendly locals made us feel right at home straight away", states Diana.

Diana explains that Andreea showed an interest in arts and crafts as a young child. She has participated in local and school art competitions in the past, but this is her first national success. When asked why she likes drawing so much, Andreea says: "I like expressing my thoughts in my sketchbook by creating my own characters. I also like how drawing is calming and makes you relaxed. I like how you can experiment with different techniques and try different styles."

The National Community Games Art Final was held in Carlow, with 44 girls from across Ireland representing their counties. The counties were notified in advance of a possible list of topics. Four topics were chosen on the day, and competitors asked to choose to draw or paint one picture.

Andreea was "delighted" when they picked camogie as a subject: "because I practised drawing camogie and I remembered being at Croke Park for the Galway vs Cork All-Ireland final so I decided to draw that. When the winners were being called out... I was a bit shocked but incredibly happy."

She has just started at Clonfert College, and Diana says that she "hopes to continue studying different techniques and perhaps enter more local/county/national exhibitions as she gets older."

Andreea would like to say thank you to her family and friends for supporting her art, to her teachers at Scoil An Chrói Naofa for encouraging her, and to her Saturday Art Club teacher. "Finally, thank you to the Community Games volunteers for giving me the chance to represent our town and county."



The children who started in Naíonáin Bheaga at Scoil Uí Cheithearnaigh.



Junior Infants on their first day of school at Scoil an Chroí Naofa



The Junior Infant intake at Creagh National School



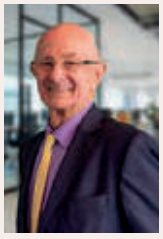
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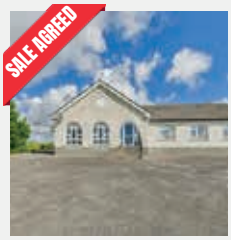
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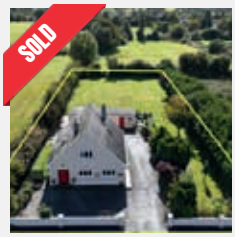
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The Caltra Cuans Gaelic 4 Mothers and Others team which played an exhibition game at Croke Park on the day of the All Ireland Ladies Senior Football Championship Final between Galway and Kerry. All had a very enjoyable day out.



Adrian Ahern GCU, pictured with Herbie Parker & Seamus Bellew at launch of their book: *Ballymacward – Cill Mhaol Cosna, Where It All Started*



Eleanor Shanley and RTE Presenter Mary Kennedy with members of Gables Art Group Ballinasloe. (L-R): Margaret Dooley, Marirose Cullinane, Eleanor Shanley, Mary Kennedy, Maura Warde, and Carmel Dillon.



Logan Fallon Junior Powerlifter with Grainne Murphy CEO Gateway Credit Union



James Caulfield celebrates his 25 Years Anniversary Long Service Acheivement Award with LIDL , Ballinasloe.



Sean Madden, Gateway Credit Union with Kilconnell Cricket Team



Joe Kelly Senior pictured with memebers of the wider Devlin Family at the Pop Up launch of the late Gerry Devlin Vintage Photo Collection of townspeople and their history during Heritage Week



Pictured are former pupils of Ard Scoil Mhuire recently at a reunion in Gullane's hotel. Back row (L-R): Evelyn Forde Donnellan, Ann Kelly Dervin, Brid Mullins Keighery, Maree McManus Holland, Mary Payne Mangan, Ann Finneran Treacy, Dympna Egan O'Brien, Mary Kelly, Marie Mulrynan, Felicity Fenton Hannon, Mary Carty Grenham, Frances Murphy, Bridie Flynn Kelly, Margaret O'Brien Daley, Ann Comer Hogan, Pauline Byrne Kennedy, and Aine Fallon Hynes. Front row (L-R): Carmel Carney Farrell, Dympna Kelly Mahoney, Geraldine Mullins Ward, Eithne Kelly Robotham, Una Folan Walsh, Katheleen Burnell McManus, and Ethel Kelly Egan.

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L-R: Mark Dunne (Element Logic - award sponsor), Ciaran Duffy (Director), Shane Barton (Sales/Marketing/Digital), Ladislav Polak (Sales Manager) RackZone.ie won B2B eCommerce Website of the Year at the Irish eCommerce Awards 2026. Element Logic, a warehouse automation firm, sponsored the category. Almost 400 of Ireland's eCommerce professionals attended, and €12,346 was raised for Barnardos Ireland on the night. It was the frst time RackZone.ie based in Poolboy ever won such a prestigous award for the sales and marketing innovation.



Cumann Camógaíochta Béal Átha na Slua in Croke Park on All Ireland Final Day



(L-R): Derek Haynes, Gary Devlin, Paul Dolan and Hugh Dolan at the Galway Gravel Grinder



Mrs Mary Caufield , Pte Simon Caufield 127th Battallion Costume Barracks Athlone, and James Caufield pictured being welcomed home , from overseas deployment in South Lebannon his second tour of duty in his 19th year of service with the Irish Defence Forces.



Diamond Anniversary

Michael and Ann McCullagh, Mountpleasant, celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary in late August with a family gathering attended by their children and grandchildren, who came from near and far. The couple were married on 30 August 1966 in Ann's native village of Kilmore, Co. Wexford. To mark this milestone, the happy couple returned to Sitges in Spain, where they honeymooned many moons ago.



(L-R): Miriam Darcy with Fiona Quinn, Local Creative Youth Partnership Cork Coordinator. Congratulations to Miriam, who won Best Female Actor for her role in Mythological Love in The Hospital Arts Festival Limerick recently. Miriam was one of eight talented young people who are part of Spotlight Moore Drama Group, and who performed at the festival. The play was written and directed by Tom Costello. The group also represented their GAA club Pádraig Pearses in the All Ireland Scór na nOg drama final earlier this year.



Tina Earls with Verna Ryan, daughter of Denis Ehan, Mary Egan, daughter-in-law of Denis Egan and Eileen O'Brien, Daughter of Denis Egan one of the original Players on the 1925 All IReland Winning Galway Team

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OCTOBER EVENTS GUIDE

October 1, Thursday		
Yoga with Ju	10am - 11am	Upstairs at Jorena's Shop
Ciorcal Comhrá	11am - 12pm	Gullanes Hotel
Board Game Evening	7pm	Bsloe Library
Beginners Tennis	7pm - 8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	7pm - 9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Folk & Trad Session	9pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
October 2, Friday		
Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Centre
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Digital Drop In	11am - 1pm	Bsloe Library
Lego Drop-in Session	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Bsloe Library
Find the Joker	10pm	An Tàin Bar
October 3, Saturday		
Kilconnell Bingo	Dr8pm Game 8.30pm	Kilconnell Hall
Live Music	9.30pm	Lukers Shbridge
Live Music	10pm	JJ Killeens/ Fallons Bar
Live Music	10pm	Millars Bar
October 4, Sunday		
Bsloe Horse Fair	All Day	Bsloe Town
Bsloe Battle of the Bands	Afternoon	Fair & Festival Sound Stage
Free Coaching for Ladies	2pm - 3pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Traditional & Folk Music	6pm	An Tàin Bar
Live Music	7pm	JJ Killeens
October 5, Monday		
Bsloe Horse Fair	All Day	Bsloe Town
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Bsloe Act.Retire. Knitting session	10.30am - 12.30pm	Gullane's Hotel
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	10.30am - 12.30pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Ret Aerobics	2pm - 3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
October 6, Tuesday		
Breastfeeding Support Group	10am - 11.30am	Youth Work, Marina Point
Learn English with Fáilte Isteach	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Dyslexia Awareness Week Session	3pm - 4pm	Bsloe Library
Bsloe Act.Retire. Aerobics	7pm - 8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfield
Bsloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Fair Galway Life 1750 - 2000	8pm	Gullanes Hotel
October 7, Wednesday		
Free Duplo Play Morning	11am	Bsloe Library
Social Bridge	11am - 1pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfield
Crafty Girls Craft Group	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Baby Rhyme Time	11.30am	Bsloe Library
REGARI Recovry Anxious-Anchord	1.30pm - 4.30pm	Clonfert Family Centre
Bsloe Act.Retire. Monthly Meeting	3.00pm	Gullanes Hotel
Dyslexia Awareness Week Session	3pm - 4pm	Bsloe Library
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Live Traditional and Folk Music	9pm	An Táin
Live Music	9.30pm	JJ Killeens
October 8, Thursday		
Yoga with Ju	10am - 11am	Upstairs at Jorena's Shop
Ciorcal Comhrá	11am - 12pm	Gullanes Hotel
Dyslexia Awareness Week Session	3pm - 4pm	Bsloe Library
Board Game Evening	7pm	Bsloe Library
Beginners Tennis	7pm - 8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	7pm - 9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Folk & Trad Session	9pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
October 9, Friday		
Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Centre
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Digital Drop In	11am - 1pm	Bsloe Library
Dyslexia Awareness Week Session	3pm - 4pm	Bsloe Library
Lego Drop-in Session	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Bsloe Library
Fireworks Display	Entertainment 7pm Fireworks 8.30pm	Marina Car Park
Festival Street Tug of War	9.30pm	Main Street
Find the Joker	10pm	An Tàin Bar
Down the Road	10pm	Brewery Lane
October 10, Saturday		
Kilconnell Bingo	Dr 8pm Game 8.30	Kilconnell Hall
Sean Slattery and the Connections	3pm - 5pm	Bsloe Fair & Festival Stage
The Gamblers	5pm	Bsloe Fair & Festival Stage
Steam Parade & Display	8pm	St Michael's Square
3 Men & a Bass	10pm	Brewery Lane
Live Music	10pm	JJ Killeens / Fallons Bar
October 11, Sunday		
Food & Craft Market	9am	St Michael's Square
Static Vintage Show, Street Display	10am	Main St & Society Street
Puppet Show and Street Magician	From 12pm	Society Street
Dog Show	Etry 12pm Show 1pm	St Michael's Square
Motorbike Stunt Show (3 shows)	1.30, 2.30pm, 3.30pm	Dunlo Street
Adlt Baking /Jr Baking/Craft Comp	Entries fm 11.30am	Dunlo Street
Free Coaching for Ladies	2pm - 3pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Jr Tractor Derby/Kids Tug of War	4.15pm	Dunlo Street
The CEOs	6pm	Brewery Lane
Live Traditional & Folk Music	6pm	An Tàin Bar
October 12, Monday		
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Bsloe Act.Retire. Knitting session	10.30am - 12.30pm	Gullane's Hotel
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	10.30am - 12.30pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Ret Aerobics	2pm - 3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
October 13, Tuesday		
Learn English with Fáilte Isteach	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Bsloe Act.Retire. Aerobics	7pm - 8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfield
Bsloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
October 14, Wednesday		
Free Duplo Play Morning	11am	Bsloe Library
Social Bridge	11am - 1pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfield
Crafty Girls Craft Group	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Baby Rhyme Time	11.30am	Bsloe Library
REGARI - Somatic App 2 Recovery	1.30pm - 4.30pm	Clonfert Family Centre
Bsloe Act.Retire. Meeting	3.00pm	Gullanes Hotel
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Live Traditional and Folk Music	9pm	An Táin
Live Music	9.30pm	JJ Killeens
October 15, Thursday		
Yoga with Ju	10am - 11am	Upstairs at Jorena's Shop
Ciorcal Comhrá	11am - 12pm	Gullanes Hotel
Intro to European Folk Dancing	11.15am - 12.45pm	Bsloe Library
Board Game Evening	7pm	Bsloe Library
Beginners Tennis	7pm - 8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	7pm - 9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Folk & Trad Session	9pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
October 16, Friday		
Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Centre
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Digital Drop In	11am - 1pm	Bsloe Library
Lego Drop-in Session	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Bsloe Library
Robbie	10pm	Brewery Lane
Find the Joker	10pm	An Tàin Bar
October 17, Saturday		
National Harp Day free concert	4pm	Moore Community Hall
Kilconnell Bingo	Dr8pm Game 8.30pm	Kilconnell Hall
Meet the Fawkers	10pm	Brewery Lane
Kevin Barrett	10pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
Live Music	10pm	Joes Bar / Millars Bar
October 18, Sunday		
Free Coaching for Ladies	2pm - 3pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Let Loose Party	2pm - 6pm	An Tàin Bar
Live Traditional & Folk Music	6pm	An Tàin Bar
Karaoke Night	7pm	Bsloe Rugby Club Bar
Live Music	7pm	Joes Bar
October 19, Monday		
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Bsloe Act.Retire. Knitting session	10.30am - 12.30pm	Gullane's Hotel
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	10.30am - 12.30pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Ret Aerobics	2pm - 3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
October 20, Tuesday		
Learn English with Fáilte Isteach	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Bsloe Act.Retire. Aerobics	7pm - 8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfield
Bsloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
October 21, Wednesday		
Free Duplo Play Morning	11am	Bsloe Library
Social Bridge	11am - 1pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfield
Crafty Girls Craft Group	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Baby Rhyme Time	11.30am	Bsloe Library
REGARI - Changing My Mindset	1.30pm - 4.30pm	Clonfert Family Centre
Bsloe Act.Retire. Meeting	3.00pm	Gullanes Hotel
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Live Traditional and Folk Music	9pm	An Táin
Live Music	9.30pm	JJ Killeens
October 22, Thursday		
Yoga with Ju	10am - 11am	Upstairs at Jorena's Shop
Ciorcal Comhrá	11am - 12pm	Gullanes Hotel
Board Game Evening	7pm	Bsloe Library
Beginners Tennis	7pm - 8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	7pm - 9pm	Emerald Ballroom
James Connolly The Musical	TBC	Bsloe Town Hall Theatre
Folk & Trad Session	9pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
October 23, Friday		
Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Centre
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Digital Drop In	11am - 1pm	Bsloe Library
Kids Halloween Disco	3pm - 5pm	Shearwater Hotel
Lego Drop-in Session	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Bsloe Library
James Connolly The Musical	8.00 p,m.	Bsloe Town Hall Theatre
Live Music	9pm	JJ Killeens
Live Music	9.30pm	Lukers Shbridge
Find the Joker	10pm	An Tàin Bar
DJ Colm	10pm	Brewery Lane
October 24, Saturday		
James Connolly The Musical	8.00 pm	Bsloe Town Hall Theatre
Kilconnell Bingo	Dr8pm Game 8.30pm	Kilconnell Hall
Live Music	9pm	Lukers Shbridge
Live Music	10pm	JJ Killeens / Millars Bar / Joes Bar
Red Tape	10pm	Brewery Lane
Joe Gibbons	10pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
October 25, Sunday		
Free Coaching for Ladies	2pm - 3pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Traditional & Folk Music	6pm	An Tàin Bar
Live Music	6.30pm	Lukers Shbridge
Grapevine	10pm	Brewery Lane
Live Music	7pm	JJ Killeens
October 26, Monday		
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Bsloe Act.Retire. Knitting session	10.30am - 12.30pm	Gullane's Hotel
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	10.30am - 12.30pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Ret Aerobics	2pm - 3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
October 27, Tuesday		
Learn English with Fáilte Isteach	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Bsloe Act.Retire. Aerobics	7pm - 8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfield
Bsloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
October 28, Wednesday		
Free Duplo Play Morning	11am	Bsloe Library
Social Bridge	11am - 1pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfield Rd
Crafty Girls Craft Group	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Baby Rhyme Time	11.30am	Bsloe Library
REGARI - Changing My Mindset	1.30pm - 4.30pm	Clonfert Family Centre
Bsloe Act.Retire. Meeting	3.00pm	Gullanes Hotel
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Live Traditional and Folk Music	9pm	An Táin
Live Music	9.30pm	JJ Killeens
October 29, Thursday		
Yoga with Ju	10am - 11am	Upstairs at Jorena's Shop
Ciorcal Comhrá	11am - 12pm	Gullanes Hotel
Board Game Evening	7pm	Bsloe Library
Beginners Tennis	7pm - 8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	7pm - 9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Folk & Trad Session	9pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
October 30, Friday		
Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Centre
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Digital Drop In	11am - 1pm	Bsloe Library
Lego Drop-in Session	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Bsloe Library
Barrell of Laughs Comedy Club	7.30 - 10.30 pm	Brewery Lane
Jukebox John	10pm	Brewery Lane
Find the Joker	10pm	An Tàin Bar
October 31, Saturday		
Live: The Tumbling Paddies	Doors 7pm	Lukers, Shbridge
Kilconnell Bingo	Dr8pm Game 8.30pm	Kilconnell Hall
Halloween Fancy Dress - DJ John	8pm	Inn 1691
Live Music	9.30pm	Lukers, Shbridge
Live Music	10pm	JJ Killeens
Halloween Party Night	10pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
DJ Colm	10pm	Brewery Lane
Live Music	10pm	Joes Bar

NOVEMBER EVENTS GUIDE

November 1, Sunday		
Free Coaching for Ladies	2pm - 3pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Traditional & Folk Music	6pm	An Tàin Bar
Live Music	6.30pm	Lukers, Shbridge
Live Music	7pm	JJ Killeens
Live Music	7pm	Joes Bar
November 2, Monday		
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Bsloe Act.Retire. Knitting session	10.30am - 12.30pm	Gullane's Hotel
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	10.30am - 12.30pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Ret Aerobics	2pm - 3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
November 3, Tuesday		
Breastfeeding Support Group	10am - 11.30am	Youth Work, Marina Point
Learn English with Fáilte Isteach	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Bsloe Act.Retire. Aerobics	7pm - 8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfields
Bsloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
November 4, Wed		
Free Duplo Play Morning	11am	Bsloe Library
Social Bridge	11am - 1pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfields
Crafty Girls Craft Group	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Baby Rhyme Time	11.30am	Bsloe Library
REGARI - Building Healthy Boundaries	1.30pm - 4.30pm	Clonfert Family Centre
Bsloe Act.Retire. Monthly Meeting	3.00pm	Gullanes Hotel
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Live Traditional and Folk Music	9pm	An Táin
Live Music	9.30pm	JJ Killeens
November 5, Thursday		
Yoga with Ju	10am - 11am	Upstairs at Jorena's Shop
Ciorcal Comhrá	11am - 12pm	Gullanes Hotel
Board Game Evening	7pm	Bsloe Library
Beginners Tennis	7pm - 8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	7pm - 9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Folk & Trad Session	9pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
November 6, Friday		
Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Centre
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Digital Drop In	11am - 1pm	Bsloe Library
Lego Drop-in Session	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Bsloe Library
Robbie	10pm	Brewery Lane
Find the Joker	10pm	An Tàin Bar
November 7, Saturday		
Town Band Concert	TBC	Bsloe Town Hall Theatre
Kilconnell Bingo	Doors 8pm/ Games 8.30pm	Kilconnell Hall
Live Music	9.30pm	Lukers, Shbridge
Live Music	10pm	JJ Killeens
Shea'D	10pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
Live Music	10pm	Joes Bar
The CEOs	10pm	Brewery Lane
November 8, Sunday		
Free Coaching for Ladies	2pm - 3pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Traditional & Folk Music	6pm	An Tàin Bar
Live Music	6.30pm	Lukers, Shbridge
Live Music	7pm	JJ Killeens
Live Music	7pm	Joes Bar
November 9, Monday		
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Bsloe Act.Retire. Knitting session	10.30am - 12.30pm	Gullane's Hotel
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	10.30am - 12.30pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Ret Aerobics	2pm - 3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Darts with Special Host Phil Taylor	6pm	Shearwater Hotel
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
November 10, Tuesday		
Learn English with Fáilte Isteach	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Bsloe Act.Retire. Aerobics	7pm - 8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfields
Bsloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
November 11, Wed		
Free Duplo Play Morning	11am	Bsloe Library
Social Bridge	11am - 1pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfields
Crafty Girls Craft Group	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Baby Rhyme Time	11.30am	Bsloe Library
REGARI - Social Media & Dig Skills	1.30pm - 4.30pm	Clonfert Family Centre
Bsloe Act.Retire.Meeting	3.00pm	Gullanes Hotel
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Live Traditional and Folk Music	9pm	An Táin
Live Music	9.30pm	JJ Killeens
November 12, Thurs		
Yoga with Ju	10am - 11am	Upstairs at Jorena's Shop
Ciorcal Comhrá	11am - 12pm	Gullanes Hotel
Intro to European Folk Dancing	11.15am - 12.45pm	Bsloe Library
Board Game Evening	7pm	Bsloe Library
Beginners Tennis	7pm - 8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	7pm - 9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Folk & Trad Session	9pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
November 13, Friday		
Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Centre
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Digital Drop In	11am - 1pm	Bsloe Library
Lego Drop-in Session	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Bsloe Library
Down the Road	10pm	Brewery Lane
Find the Joker	10pm	An Tàin Bar
November 14, Saturday		
Kilconnell Bingo	Doors 8pm/ Games 8.30pm	Kilconnell Hall
Live Music	9.30pm	Lukers, Shbridge
Live Music	10pm	JJ Killeens
3 Men & a Bass	10pm	Brewery Lane
Live Music	10pm	Joes Bar
Dollar Daly	10pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
November 15, Sunday		
Free Coaching for Ladies	2pm - 3pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Traditional & Folk Music	6pm	An Tàin Bar
Live Music	6.30pm	Lukers, Shbridge
Live Music	7pm	JJ Killeens
Live Music	7pm	Joes Bar
November 16, Monday		
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Bsloe Act.Retire. Knitting session	10.30am - 12.30pm	Gullane's Hotel
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	10.30am - 12.30pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Ret Aerobics	2pm - 3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
November 17, Tuesday		
Learn English with Fáilte Isteach	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Bsloe Act.Retire. Aerobics	7pm - 8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfields
Bsloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
November 18, Wed		
Free Duplo Play Morning	11am	Bsloe Library
Social Bridge	11am - 1pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfields
Crafty Girls Craft Group	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Baby Rhyme Time	11.30am	Bsloe Library
REGARI - Roots & Relationships	1.30pm - 4.30pm	Clonfert Family Centre
Bsloe Act.Retire. Meeting	3.00pm	Gullanes Hotel
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Live Traditional and Folk Music	9pm	An Táin
Live Music	9.30pm	JJ Killeens
November 19, Thursday		
Yoga with Ju	10am - 11am	Upstairs at Jorena's Shop
Ciorcal Comhrá	11am - 12pm	Gullanes Hotel
Board Game Evening	7pm	Bsloe Library
Beginners Tennis	7pm - 8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	7pm - 9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Folk & Trad Session	9pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
November 20, Friday		
Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Centre
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Digital Drop In	11am - 1pm	Bsloe Library
Lego Drop-in Session	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Bsloe Library
Barrell of Laughs Comedy Club	7.30 p-m - 10.30	Brewery Lane
Cash Returns Trubute (Johnny Cash & June Carter)	Doors 7pm/Show 8pm	Shearwater Hotel
Adam & Sean	10pm	Brewery Lane
Find the Joker	10pm	An Tàin Bar
November 21, Saturday		
Kilconnell Bingo	Doors 8pm/ Games 8.30pm	Kilconnell Hall
Live Music	9.30pm	Lukers, Shbridge
Live Music	10pm	JJ Killeens
Beggars Velvet	10pm	Brewery Lane
Live Music	10pm	Joes Bar
Katie Henshaw & Mike Flynn	10pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
November 22, Sunday		
Free Coaching for Ladies	2pm - 3pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
A Winter's Eve of Music and Song	3pm	Kiltormer GAA Complex
Live Traditional & Folk Music	6pm	An Tàin Bar
Live Music	6.30pm	Lukers, Shbridge
Live Music	7pm	JJ Killeens
Live Music	7pm	Joes Bar
November 23, Monday		
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Bsloe Act.Retire. Knitting session	10.30am - 12.30pm	Gullane's Hotel
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	10.30am - 12.30pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Ret Aerobics	2pm - 3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
November 24, Tuesday		
Learn English with Fáilte Isteach	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Bsloe Act.Retire. Aerobics	7pm - 8pm	Coral Leisure Centre
Bridge Club	7.30pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfields
Bsloe GAA Bingo	8pm	Emerald Ballroom
November 25, Wed		
Free Duplo Play Morning	11am	Bsloe Library
Social Bridge	11am - 1pm	Bridge Rooms, Sarsfields
Crafty Girls Craft Group	11.15am	Bsloe Library
Baby Rhyme Time	11.30am	Bsloe Library
REGARI - Art & Recovery	1.30pm - 4.30pm	Clonfert Family Centre
Bsloe Act.Retire. Meeting	3.00pm	Gullanes Hotel
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom
Live Traditional and Folk Music	9pm	An Táin
Live Music	9.30pm	JJ Killeens
November 26, Thurs		
Yoga with Ju	10am - 11am	Upstairs at Jorena's Shop
Ciorcal Comhrá	11am - 12pm	Gullanes Hotel
Board Game Evening	7pm	Bsloe Library
Beginners Tennis	7pm - 8pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	7pm - 9pm	Emerald Ballroom
Folk & Trad Session	9pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
November 27, Friday		
Indoor Country Market	9am - 1pm	Social Centre
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Digital Drop In	11am - 1pm	Bsloe Library
Lego Drop-in Session	3:15pm - 4:15pm	Bsloe Library
Live Music	10pm	Brewery Lane
Find the Joker	10pm	An Tàin Bar
November 28, Saturday		
Kilconnell Bingo	Doors 8pm/ Games 8.30pm	Kilconnell Hall
Cathy Hopkins Dance Show	7pm	Bsloe Town Hall Theatre
Red Tape	10pm	Brewery Lane
Fionnán Seale	10pm	Gibbons Pillar House Bar
November 29, Sunday		
Free Coaching for Ladies	2pm - 3pm	Bsloe Tennis Club
Live Traditional & Folk Music	6pm	An Tàin Bar
Live Music	6.30pm	Lukers, Shbridge
Live Music	7pm	JJ Killeens
Live Music	7pm	Joes Bar
November 30, Monday		
Men's Shed Meeting	10am - 2pm	Cullens Yard, Main Street
Bsloe Act.Retire. Knitting session	10.30am - 12.30pm	Gullane's Hotel
Bsloe Act.Retire. Bowling	10.30am - 12.30pm	Emerald Ballroom
Bsloe Active Ret Aerobics	2pm - 3pm	Coral Leisure Centre
IKKI Karate	7pm - 8pm	Emerald Ballroom

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Fri.	2pm - 3am		
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CLONTUSKERT ROUNDERS CLUB



The U12 and U9 Clontuskert Rounders players who took part in a Go Games Exhibition Game at the Men's All-Ireland Rounders Finals



Players and Coaches from Clontuskert Rounders Club (in green on left), Erne Eagles Rounders Club from Co. Cavan and Carrickmacross Rounders Club from Co. Monaghan. The teams took part in Go Games exhibition games at the Men's All-Ireland Rounders Final recently.

Clontuskert Rounders Club's Under-9 and Under-12 players were delighted to round off a fantastic 2026 season by taking part in a Go Games exhibition game, held at the GAA Rounders Men's All-Ireland Finals in Co. Offaly recently.

It was a wonderful opportunity for the young players to represent Clontuskert Rounders Club, enjoying a great day of rounders alongside teams from across the country. The event was broadcast live on TG4 Sport's YouTube Channel.

Following an exciting season, juvenile training has now finished for 2026. All the players, parents, coaches, volunteers, sponsors and everyone in the local community who supported Clontuskert Rounders Club throughout the year, have been warmly thanked.

Adult rounders training will continue indoors for winter. Please contact the club Secretary Darina Cooke at (087) 770 3880 for more details.

BLOSSOM HARP TO MARK NATIONAL HARP DAY



Blossom Harp Ensemble. Back row (L-R): Eoin Muldowney, Jean O'Conor, Sarah Cunningham, and Caoimhe Lyons. Front row (L-R) : Muireann Clarke, Aoife Greaney , Molly Kenny and Farragh Clarke. Missing from the photo are Breege Clarke and Grace Byrne.

Following their win earlier this year in the Navan harp competition, Ballinasloe's Blossom Harp ensemble are eagerly preparing for Lá na Cruite/National Harp Day on Saturday 17 October. To celebrate the day, they will be performing at a concert in Moore Community Hall with other artists and musicians. The event starts at 4pm and is free.

Each year, Lá na Cruite/Harp Day brings performances, workshops, and impromptu sessions across the country. Prior to the concert, there will be a free workshop at 11am with Padraig Collins, a harper from Ballina, and a "Hands on Harp" session at 3.15pm, where anyone can try the instrument for themselves.

Performers at the afternoon concert will include Padraig Collins, North West Harps, Blossom Harp Ensemble, students from Music Generation Roscommon, and members of Padraig Pearse's music group. Blossom Harp Ensemble are well known and established, while it will be North West Harps first time performing together at a concert (although they have played at other events before).

The event is free thanks to Cruit Éireann/Harp Ireland, Roscommon County Council, the Creative Ireland Programme, Creative Communities, the Arts Council, and the Heritage Council.

MINISTER VISITS ST. TERESA'S SPECIAL SCHOOL



Peter Burke, (Board member of St. Teresa's Special School) Seamus Duffy (Chairperson BACD) Hildegarde Naughton (Minister for Education and Youth of Ireland) Breda Kerns (Chairperson, Board of St. Teresa's Special School, Kieran Stenson (Principal St. Teresa's Special School) Cllr Alan Harney, Dr. Martin Daly TD, Pat O' Sullivan (Board of St. Teresa's Special School)



Pupil Niamh O'Dowd, with staff member William Mooney presenting flowers and a card to Minister Hildegarde Naughton on her recent visit

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Recovery College Mental Health Education

By Maria Connolly

REGARI Recovery College, a community-based service that aims to support, maintain and promote positive mental health, will be returning to Ballinasloe this autumn with a series of eight workshops. The modules are open to everyone over the age of 18 and attendees don't need a mental health diagnosis. "All you need is an interest in mental health and wellbeing," says Dermot Flatley, a Recovery Education Facilitator with REGARI.



Some of the Team at the Regari Recovery College based at The Lodge, Athlone Road, Roscommon Town. (L-R): Dermot Flatley, Recovery Education Facilitator, Orla O'Duinn, College Director, Chloe Costello, Peer Educator of Discovery College West, and Noel Hoare, Recovery Education Facilitator.

REGARI stands for Roscommon and East Galway Advancing Recovery in Ireland. It is one of three sister colleges in the West of Ireland, along with one in Castlebar and another in Galway City. Recovery colleges use an adult-learning educational approach to support mental health and wellbeing rather than a clinical model.

Dermot explains that another key feature of REGARI is that its modules are "co-produced and co-delivered. This means our modules are shaped by a diverse range of voices, including people with lived experience of mental health challenges, family members and carers, people working in mental health services, and anyone with an interest in mental health and wellbeing. Rather than seeing people simply as recipients of information, we value everyone as having knowledge, experience and something to contribute."

From late September – November, REGARI will be hosting eight workshops including: "Finding My Spark", "From Anxious to Anchored", "A Somatic Approach to Wellbeing", "Changing My Mindset", "Building Healthy Boundaries", "Social Media & Digital Skills", "Roots and Relationships", and "Art & Recovery". Each module lasts three hours and offers a mix of education, reflection and practical exploration as well as mindfulness and other wellbeing practices.

While the sessions are interactive and include discussions, reflections and group activities, Dermot is keen to stress that "there is never any pressure to speak or share anything personal. Everyone can participate in a way that feels comfortable for them." Participants do not need to speak in front of a group, and the atmosphere is welcoming and inclusive. Attendees can join the workshops at any point during the term, and there is no requirement to complete the full programme.

There is a registration fee of €5 for the term, and all modules are free to attend after that. For further details, please contact Regari Peer Educator Amanda Hunt on (087) 968 4352 or email regarirecoverycollege@gmail.com. You can also check the Facebook timetable for details of upcoming workshops: www.facebook.com/Regarirecoverycollege.

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Curious About Toastmasters?

By Maria Connolly

The local Toastmasters Club meet every second and fourth Thursday evening from 7pm - 9pm at the Enterprise Hub, Society St, Ballinasloe, H53 TH24.

The club provides a structured platform for individuals to practice and refine communication and leadership skills in a supportive, friendly, "learn by doing" environment. Members join to achieve a variety of personal and professional goals. These include building self-confidence, and overcoming stage fright and the fear of speaking in front of audiences of any size. It also assists in improving presentation skills: members learn how to structure speeches, use body language, and master vocal variety.

Another valuable by-product of attending Toastmasters consistently is developing leadership abilities by gaining hands-on experience in time management, meeting facilitation and team motivation. Attendees learn to think on their feet and respond quickly and coherently without any preparation thus mastering impromptu speaking in the process.

There are no instructors in a Toastmaster's meeting, which runs to a tightly timed agenda. Members take turns from week to week to fill the vital meeting roles which keep the session running smoothly. These roles build administrative and real-time leadership skills.

A key element of Toastmaster's meetings is the value assigned to evaluations, which are at the heart of the educational programme. Evaluations provide the vital feedback loop that drives continuous speaker growth and communication mastery.

Beyond regular meetings members can step into club officer roles for a year, such as President, Vice-President Education, Secretary, Treasurer, PRO and membership, to manage club operations and practice executive leadership.



Toastmasters: Back Row, (L-R): Brendan Harding, Teresa Falvey, Joe Bergin and Trevor Wood Front Row (L-R): Siobhan Keenan Fitzgerald, Therese Kinahan, Viv Tyndall and Chris Collins

Every person has a unique voice and a unique story that sets them apart. At Ballinasloe Toastmasters, the group encourage speakers to share their stories authentically and build confidence in their voice, to inspire others through their experience, perspective and ideas.

If you've ever wanted to become more confident, communicate with impact, or develop your leadership skills, Toastmasters is the place to be: it really helps to change people's lives.

Take action today, don't hesitate, plan to attend the next few meetings... the club look forward to seeing you there, and bring a friend.

Roscommon Rose

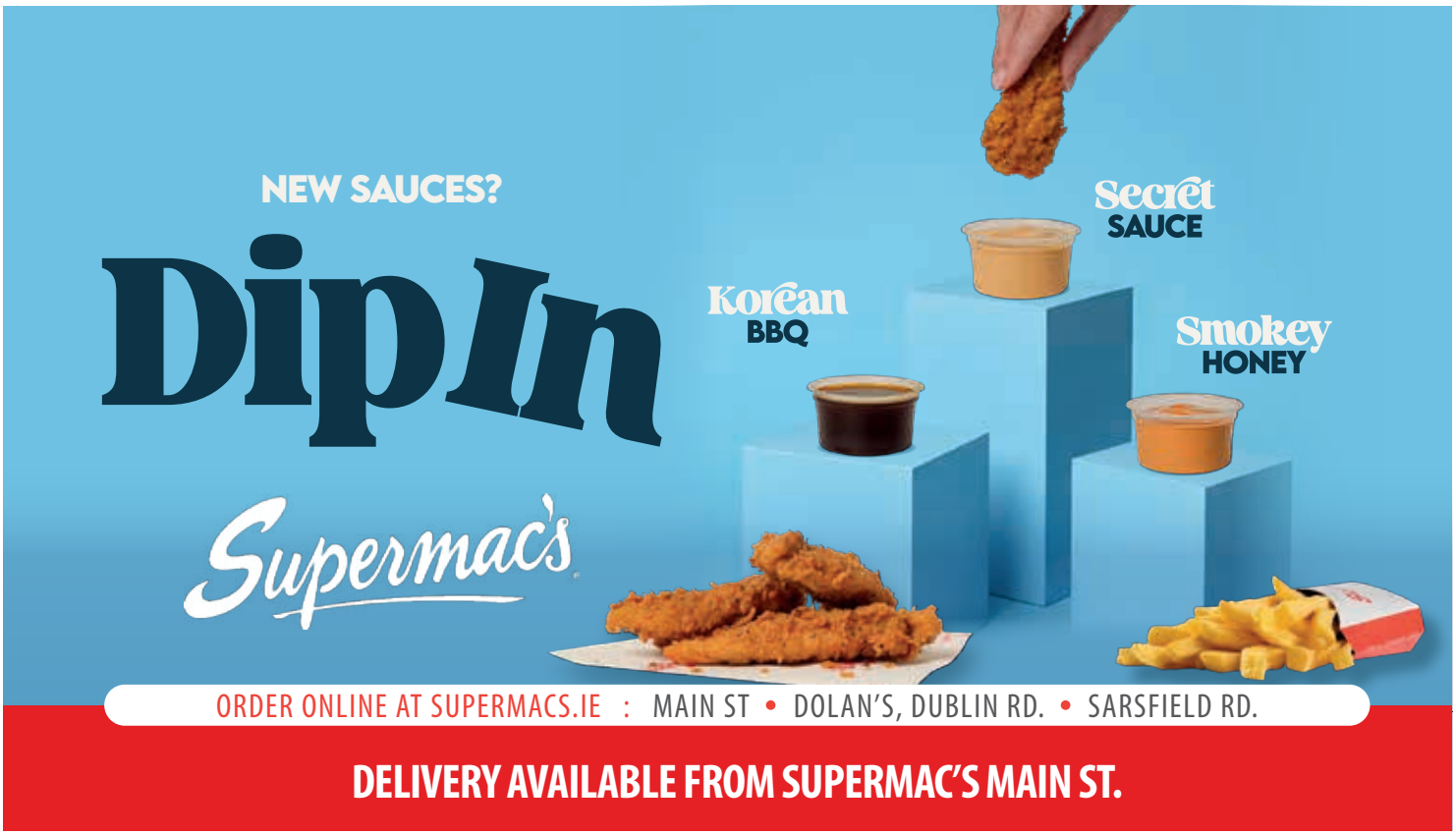
By Colm Croffy

Congratulations to the Roscommon Rose, Rebecca Collins, who represented the county in the Rose of Tralee with such grace, confidence and warmth. She carried herself with incredible dignity throughout the entire experience, and everyone is so proud of her and all that she has achieved.

Rebecca's father, Martin, is a native of Fohenagh, Caltra while her mother, Fiona, was nee Finnerty from Kinclare in Caltra. Her proud grandparents are Bridie and Joe Finnerty, also of Kinclare, Caltra.

Rebecca thanked everyone who supported her along the way. "The amount of texts, messages, calls and well wishes the family received was absolutely overwhelming, it was one of the most memorable experiences of a lifetime, I am hugely grateful for all", stated Rebecca.





Hundred Acre Wood Preschool Expands

By Maria Connolly

Louise Killeen Caulfield, from Lusmagh near Banagher, fulfilled a long-held dream last year when she opened her own pre-school, Hundred Acre Wood, in Eyrecourt. This year, the pre-school has expanded to offer a breakfast club and after-school service to children in the adjoining national school, St Brendan's.



Louise Killeen Caulfield, owner of the Hundred Acre Preschool in Eyrecourt.

Louise says that she "always" wanted to work in childcare, even as a teenager. "Any chance I got to babysit family and friends I always took it; I even volunteered most of the time." She was so certain about the career that it's the only course she looked into on her CAO application: "I didn't have to think twice about what I was applying for, I knew it was childcare. I didn't have a plan B."

She graduated with a BA in Early Childhood Care and Education from TUS Athlone and spent the next six years working in two childcare facilities. "I made friends for life, learned so much more, and made the best memories with all the children. Watching them grow and learn and head off to "big school" (primary school) always filled me with pride; seeing the confident, caring, happy little people complete a big milestone, and knowing I supported them getting that far!"

When the opportunity came up to open her own pre-school in Eyrecourt, she took it straight away. "I was so excited...opening my own preschool service was always a dream of mine." It only took a few months for her to get the pre-school up and running thanks to "constant support and endless hours of hard work" from Louise and her family and friends. She chose the name because she has always been a Winnie the Pooh fan (the Hundred Acre Wood is where Pooh and his friends live). "It was just a perfect fit for me and my business."

The pre-school started off with six students last year. "We made so many memories throughout the year and they will always hold a special place in my heart as my first class," Louise says. She worked alone in the first year, but this year with numbers increasing, she has hired two staff members to join the team.

The philosophy at Hundred Acre Wood Pre-school is: "child-led learning through play, respecting each child's individuality, building strong partnerships with families, promoting kindness, inclusion and well- being; but most importantly; having fun and making the best memories! We support the children to be the best versions of themselves."

In addition to thanking her family and friends, Louise is also grateful to her colleagues in St Brendan's National School, who "welcomed me with open arms in 2025 and are always there for support and guidance.

The Hundred Acre Wood Pre-school is open Monday to Friday from 9am – 12pm. The breakfast club operates from 8am – 9pm, and the afterschool club from 2pm – 6pm Monday – Thursday, and 2pm – 5pm on Fridays.

The pre-school is an ECCE (Early Care Childhood and Education scheme) service, accepting children from aged two years, eight months to five years, eight months. The breakfast club/ afterschool service is partnered with the National Childcare Scheme (NCS).

Spaces are still available in the pre-school and after-school service. To enrol your child, please email: Hundredacrewoodpreschool25@gmail.com or contact (089) 241 8130.

A Dimmer Christmas Without €10,000 Fundraising

By Colm Croffy

Christmas is a special time in Ballinasloe, and this year the Christmas Lights Committee is urging the community to make a special effort to help keep the town shining.



Given the shortfall in last year's project for Christmas 2025, they have set a €10,000 community fundraising target. This money will specifically fund the Christmas tree and lighting of the town square, the centrepiece of festive celebrations in the town.

80 local businesses are being encouraged to underwrite the costs of lighting in their own respective streets, helping to create a festive atmosphere throughout the town while allowing the community campaign to concentrate on the tree and the square.

SCAN ME

The committee have set up an I Donate page **(Scan Code Here)** which is live now, and if the target is not reached by the 15th of November, only a small set of illuminations be erected and there will be no switch on event Whether you can give €5, €10, €20 or more, every donation will help. If enough Volunteers can be found a flag day or draw may be needed to make the target. In essence we will have only ourselves to blame !!

A major part of this year's fundraising effort is Forever 80s Galway Radio. The station currently attracts approximately 8,000–9,000 listens every month and broadcasts 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Tune in at forever80sradio.ie. Local larger businesses, perhaps with no town centre presence can support the Christmas Lights through advertising and programme sponsorship, with their contributions helping fund this year's display.

Importantly, the Ballinasloe Christmas Lights are organised and run by a voluntary committee. They are not a Galway County Council project and are not funded by Galway County Council, meaning the annual display depends on local business support, community fundraising and volunteers.

For further information, to volunteer or to support the campaign, contact lyn@bacd.ie.

Advertising Space Available Here - Contact martina@bacd.ie 09096 46516

Clontuskert Winter Concert Returns For 2026

By Maria Connolly

The Clontuskert Charity Concert Committee are delighted to announce the return of the popular "A Winter's Evening Concert of Music and Song" on Sunday 22 November 2026. The concert will take place in Kiltormer GAA Complex at 3pm. Last year's sold-out event raised €9000, which was divided equally among local charities.

This year the Committee are delighted to announce another star-studded line-up, including: Louise Morrissey, the Conquerors, Frankie, Keith and Lorraine Mc Donald of Reeling in the Showband Years, Derek Burke from Crystal Swing, and PJ Murrihy, along with local artists. Comedian Frank Forde will be the MC for the evening. The beneficiaries of this year's concert will be East Galway and Midlands Cancer Support Centre, Eyrecourt Social Services and St. Augustine's National School. This will be an evening that you certainly won't want to miss.



Derek Burke from Crystal Swing

Tickets are €20 and will be available on Eventbrite or by ringing (087) 259 0302. Speaking on behalf of the Committee, Chairperson Katie Costello would like to extend a huge thank you to everyone that supports the concert in any way. The Committee look forward to welcoming you at the concert.



PJ Murrihy, who will be appearing at 'A Winter's Evening Concert of Music and Song' on 22 November



Performer, Louise Morrisey, who will be at 'A Winter's Evening Concert of Music and Song' in Kiltormer GAA

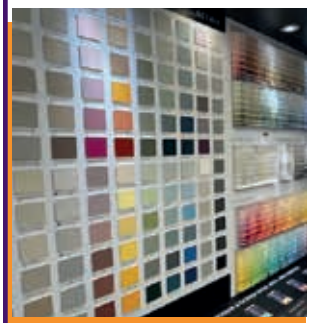


Frankie, Lorraine, and Keith McDonald from Reeling in the Showband Years

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Library To Host Children's Book Festival

By Colm Croffy

Ballinasloe Library recently celebrated the great reading success of children at their Summer Stars ceremony. Nearly 400 children took part, keeping the library buzzing with activity over the summer. Children received a certificate and medal from Cathaoirleach Councillor Evelyn Parsons and Senior Executive Librarian Jo Vahey.



L-R Senior Executive Librarian Jo Vahey, Cathaoirleach, Councillor Evelyn Parsons, Summer Stars Awardee Tiernan Fahy with Dad Padraic Fahy

The next event is already on the horizon as October is Children's Book Festival across Ireland. Michael Smith, author of Tom Crean: Ice Man, will be enthralling local students with his stories of ice adventure. Keep your eyes out for a wonderful mural of book characters created by artist and illustrator Kathy Ross with the help of local school children. Halloween is always a treat for staff and there will be spooktacular crafts and story times. There may also be some ghouls and witches working during mid-term this year.

For Dyslexia Awareness Week, the library is holding a drop-in information session from 3-4pm daily on October 6-9. They will explain the resources available for dyslexic readers young and old, and demonstrate how to use them.

Europe Direct Ballinasloe, based in the library, is a local EU information centre serving Galway, Roscommon and Longford. As one of nine Europe Direct Centres in Ireland, it connects citizens with the European Union by providing accessible information on EU policies, funding opportunities, citizen rights and current initiatives. Through events, workshops and educational activities, the centre helps bring Europe closer to local communities and encourages public engagement with EU affairs.

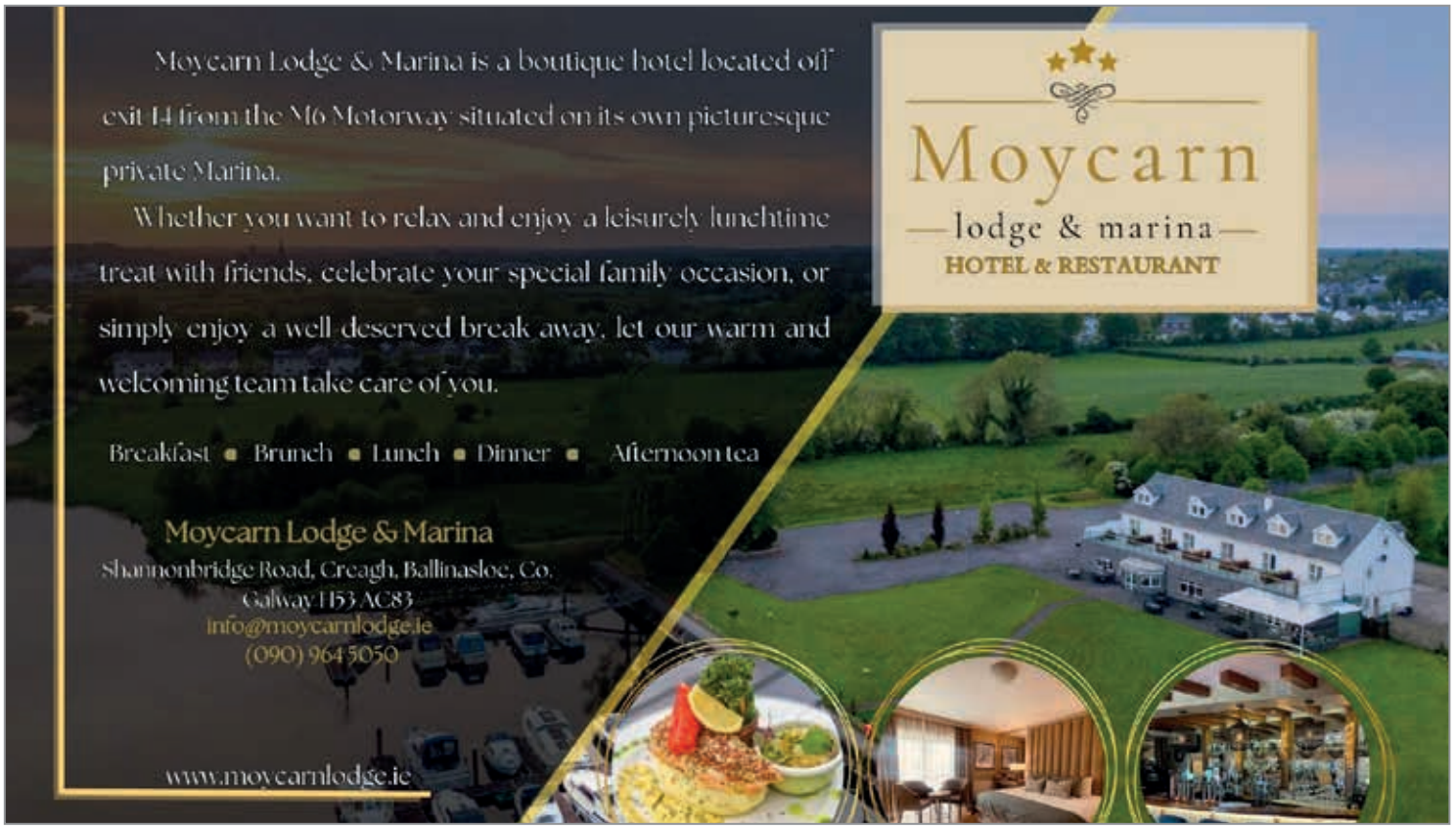
In 2026, Ireland holds the rotating Presidency of the Council of the European Union from 1 July to 31 December. To mark this important occasion, Europe Direct Ballinasloe will host a special art exhibition in November celebrating the cultural and artistic links between County Galway and Estonia, Ireland's partner country for the Presidency programme. The exhibition will showcase creativity, cultural exchange and the shared European values that connect communities across borders.

One of Europe Direct Ballinasloe's flagship annual events is the Soapbox Public Speaking Competition. Open to two different age categories; 16 and under, and 17 and over, Soapbox challenges young people to research and present their views on European topics and issues that matter to them. Regional finals are held in Europe Direct Centres across Ireland, with winners progressing to the national final in Dublin. The competition promotes critical thinking, communication skills and active citizenship, while giving young people a platform to have their voices heard on the future of Europe.



Library Assistant, Mary Healy, Senior Executive Librarian, Jo Vahey, Cathaoirleach, Councillor Evelyn Parsons, and Executive Librarian, Joe Jennings at the Summer Stars ceremony.

The regular events of the library now include a Friday Digital Drop In from 11am-1pm. All questions about a phone or laptop can be answered. Fáilte Isteach's English classes are back on Tuesdays at 11 too. Pop into the library to find out more about events in October and November.



Acclaimed Writer Launches New Book In Salmon's

By Maria Connolly

Ballinasloe-raised Sheila Bugler is a much-admired writer famous for her series about crime-solving journalist, Dee Doran. She has also written several stand-alone works, and launched her newest stand-alone novel, *The Stepmother,* in Salmon's store recently.



Sheila Bugler, author of The Stepmother

Sheila was born in England and moved to Ballinasloe at the age of six. She grew up in the town and attended Newtown National School. Her father, Dr Harry Bugler, was a local GP and is well known in the area. He and his wife Deidre still live in the town.

She went to boarding school in Athlone at Our Lady's Bower, before studying Psychology at the University of Galway. Following this, she worked across Europe and as far away as Argentina before settling in the UK. She lives in Eastbourne, in East Sussex, with her husband, Sean but still makes it back to Ballinasloe regularly: "about three – four times a year", Sheila says.

Her latest book, The Stepmother, is a white-knuckle domestic thriller that dives deep into the complex legal and emotional realities of non-traditional families. Sarah arrives at school one ordinary day to pick up her stepchildren, only to find that their father, Mike, took them out of school earlier. He's not returning her calls, and then sends her a text message, saying, "Don't go home, it's not safe". Worse is to come when Sarah is told by police that as she and Mike are not legally married, and he is the children's father, there is nothing they can do. Sarah needs to work out what to do and what Mike has been hiding before it's too late...

The Stepmother is Sheila's eleventh novel. Early reviewers have praised the book's addictive pacing and emotional depth. One said: "It had more twists than a corkscrew! There was always another twist or piece of action that kept my attention. A truly fantastic book!" Another said it was "a must-read for psychological thriller fans! while a third described it as a: "gripping, emotionally charged thriller."

The launch in Salmon's attracted a crowd of devoted crime fiction fans and interested local readers, and Sheila was available to sign copies. She chose to launch the book in Ballinasloe for several reasons. "Dermot Salmon has always been really supportive of my books, and I've done lots of book signings there in the past," Sheila says. "I wanted to have a book launch in the town, and everyone there has been lovely to me. I did an event in the library a few years ago and lots of people came."

You can find Sheila on Instagram: @sheilabuglerauthor. She's also on Substack

(https://substack.com/@sheilabugler) where she shares advice and writing tips for aspiring authors.





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Fleadh Cheoil Success For Local Dancers

By Colm Croffy

Dancers from the Sarah Clogher School of Dancing in Ballinasloe were celebrating All-Ireland success recently as one of their teams won a bronze medal at the Fleadh Cheoil in Belfast.



The 15 – 18 Girls teams who placed First and Second in the Connacht Fleadh

It was the culmination of a long journey for the dancers that began in January. They were formed into groups according to age, and prepared for team dancing, dedicating their weekly classes and extra workshop days to their teams. Additional practice was necessary to bring their Ceili teams to the level needed for the Fleadh competitions.



The 12 – 15 Girls team with their teacher, Sarah Clogher

The first stage in the competitions was the Galway Fleadh, which took place in Claregalway. The school had great success, winning four Galway Fleadh Titles. Two teams also won silver medals, meaning six teams qualified for the Connacht Stage.

This Connacht Fleadh in Mohill was very competitive with only three teams qualifying from each round. The school were thrilled to come home with three Connacht Champions medals and two silver-winning teams, and five teams qualified for the All Ireland Fleadh.

Belfast was an amazing experience for all the dancers: making memories with their friends and confidently dancing and busking up and down the streets. To great excitement, the fantastic "Under 12 Mixed Four Hand Ceili team" achieved third place in their category, bringing four precious All-Ireland bronze medals home. It was a very proud moment for the school, the dancers, and for all the families and supporters who travelled up to Belfast. The memories will be cherished forever.

One of the medal-winning dancers, Leona Harney, said: "The Fleadh was very enjoyable, great venue, great atmosphere, lots of things to do and great people!" Another one of the dancers, James McHugh, actually flew from his holiday in France to be at the Fleadh. He said it was "brilliant and to win a medal was just the best."

Congratulations to all the brilliant teams on their amazing journey this year at the Fleadh. Their commitment and dedication all year to their teams and fellow dancers is truly admirable and recognised with their fantastic results through all the stages.

With classes based in Ballinasloe, Taughmaconnell, Moore and Ballinahown contact School Director Sarah at 353 85 708 1344 or at sarahclogher1@hotmail.com for enrolments and further details.



The All Ireland bronze-medal-winning Mixed Team Under 12 from the Sarah Clogher School of Dance



Town Hosts Indie Author's Conference

By Maria Connolly

Ballinasloe was once again the host of the annual Indie Author's Ireland event, which was held at the Shearwater Hotel. The event, which is attended by authors across the country, brings together all genres and offers a range of presentations including author readings, writing craft workshops and panel discussions. It's aimed at independent authors (those who self-publish their work).



Kerry Manning, local author who hosted some events at a recent Indie Author's conference in the Shearwater hotel.

Laurence O'Bryan asked if human writers can fight back as AI writing slips through the cracks, while writer and poet Karl Clancy talked about the considerations of cover design.

It was most interesting to hear from Amanda Kilkenny who runs the Inkbound Society, which has a beautiful bookshop in Gort that is dedicated to supporting independent writers.

The panel discussion this year was led by Carolann Copeland from the Carousel Aware Prize for Independent Authors. The CAP awards are an annual literary prize in Ireland that showcase self-published books while raising funds for the mental health charity Aware.

Panel topics included editing, wearing different hats as an author, changes in the industry and the Libraro experience (Libraro is an online platform with patented copyright protection that allows indie authors to share their work securely).

The panel included Ballinasloe-based author Kerry Manning, who is responsible for bringing this event to the area. "The organisers were looking for a venue that was central to visitors travelling for Cork, Dublin and as far afield as Donegal and Sligo. As I live in the area, I decided to suggest the Shearwater Hotel. The town is perfectly located for an event of this type and why shouldn't it be host to literary events?"



Panel at the recent Indie Author's Conference: L-R:Eamonn O Cleirigh, Editor, Dolores Keavany, Children's author and illustrator, Mary Minnock, Libraro prize finalist, Carolann Copeland, Chair of the Carousel Aware Prize, Kerry Manning, local author, Siobhan Maher, Author and Doug Hobson, Author.

On Saturday Kerry held a "Welcome to Ballinasloe" meet-up prior to the event where copies of books by local authors were gifted. The event was supported by Salmon's department store. Kerry has also organised other events for authors including the Irish Writers Salon, also held at the hotel.

Learning to Love Lucy and *Rose has a Right to Happiness* are Kerry's two novels and are available at Salmon's.

Comedy Club To Provide Laughs!!

By Maria Connolly

Breda Larkin's Barrel of Laugh's Comedy Club in Brewery Lane is hosting two exciting nights over the autumn.

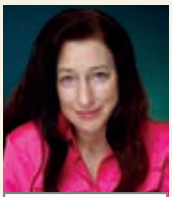


Kate Moylan, appearing at Barrel of Laughs November 20th.

On October 30, Danny Ryan and Breda Hegarty will take to the stage. Danny is a regular in Ireland's top comedy clubs. The winner of the national "Show Me the Funny" competition, he has also performed at Electric Picnic, Vodafone Comedy Carnival, Longitude, and has brought his solo shows to the Edinburgh Fringe Festival. Breda is an emerging star of Irish comedy, winner of the Best New Act 2025 at the Bray Comedy Festival and Best Comedian at the DICFF Stand up Competition.

On November 20, it's the turn of Colin Murphy and Kate Moylan. Colin is a comedian from Downpatrick, County Down. He is best known for his television work hosting and co-writing The Blizzard of Odd, The Unbelievable Truth, and as resident panellist on The Blame Gamefor BBC Northern Ireland and The Panel for RTÉ. Kate is a Dublin-based alternative comedian bringing together sketch, cabaret and professional wrestling in a uniquely physical and gloriously chaotic style of comedy. She was named by RTÉ Culture as one of 10 Irish comics to watch, and has performed at the Dublin Fringe Festival.

Doors will open at 7.30pm on both nights, with the shows starting at 8.15pm. Tickets are €18 and can be purchased through Brewery Lane Facebook page.



Breda Hegarty, appearing at Barrel of Laughs October 30th.

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Clontuskert Community Building Unveiled!

After taking a break in 2025, the Clontuskert Summer Fun Day made a welcome return following months of preparation by the Croí Clontuskert Community Development group.



Some of the Original Pitch Committee members and family representatives: Back row (L-R): Michael Callaghan (representing his father Micheál Callaghan, RIP), Mike Concannon, Micheál Callaghy, Gerry Coone, Tony Larkin (representing his father Laurence Larkin, RIP), Fr Anthony Kelly (representing his brother Padraig Kelly), John Sheil, Christy Gilchrest, and Jimmy Brien

It was a particularly special occasion as Emma Mitchell and Jodi Frehill, representing the victorious Galway Ladies Football team, brought along the Brendan Martin Cup.

An important milestone for Croí Clontuskert, following the Summer Fundraising Raffle, the newly refurbished community building was officially unveiled by members of the original Sports Pitch Committee along with family representatives. Their hard work and vision in the 1980s led to the development of the sports pitch and the original dressing rooms.

An incredible €9,205.83 was raised, which will go towards the ongoing development of the community facility.

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Town Band Recruiting New Junior Members

By Maria Connolly

It's all go in the Band Hall these Thursday evenings as the Town Band rehearse tunes for the new band year. After enjoying the sun over the last few weeks, it is now time to prepare for their upcoming public performances.



Ballinasloe Town Band playing at the Unveiling of the 1925 Galway Commemorative Plaque at the Duggan Park.

The Band will be maintaining their traditional link with the Great Ballinasloe Horse Fair by playing on the streets at the fair's family day, Saturday 11 Oct. Preparations are also underway for an exciting collaboration with Ballinasloe Musical Society when they combine to host a Movies & Musicals Concert in the Town Hall Theatre on Saturday 7 November.



JJ Smyth, grandson of Willie Smith, the corner back on the 1925 winning All-Ireland Galway team.

A concerted drive will be taking place over the next few weeks to recruit new members for the Junior Town Band. Students from 5th Class upwards are invited to make contact with the band if they missed the recent Open Night.

Lessons will be provided on brass, woodwind and percussion instruments. Contact Damien on (087) 418 6536 or Frank on (087) 990 4651. So, accept the invitation to come make music, make friends, and be part of something amazing.

Adults who wish to join the band are very welcome, especially those who may have played with the band in their youth and would like to get back to music-making.

It was a proud moment for the long-serving member and cornerstone of the town band, JJ Smyth, and the wider Smyth family recently at Duggan Park. They were present to witness the unveiling of the Memorial Plaque by GAA President, Jarlath Burns to recognise the achievement of the 1925 Galway Football team on winning their first All-Ireland title. Willie Smyth was the corner back on that team. He was also a proud member of the Town Band, establishing a strong familial and musical association that has continued up to today. He was the beat of the band, playing the side drum. It was, therefore, especially poignant that his grandson, JJ was present with the band to entertain the crowd and proudly play the National Anthem as they gathered for the unveiling of the plaque.

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B'sloe Panto Returns With Robin Hood

By Colm Croffy

Panto season has started with a bang in Ballinasloe! Auditions for B'sloe Panto's yearly production took place recently in the fabulous Town Hall Theatre. The day was a huge success, with over 230 kids, teens and adults auditioning for a part in this year's show, Robin Hood. The committee and production team were all blown away by the turn-out, and were delighted to spend the afternoon immersed in so much excitement and buzz.

Rehearsals for the chorus groups and main cast are set to get underway as soon as the October Fair finishes up. The extremely talented local Choreographer, Ria Purcell, will be looking after the movement of the various chorus groups. She has worked with several musical societies and schools, as well as running her own dance school.



Long-time Musical Director of B'Sloe Panto, John Roe

Offaly native, Louise McEvoy, is returning as Director. An accomplished actor and director, she regularly takes part in plays, musicals and pantos throughout the midlands both on and off the stage.

The B'sloe Panto production team would not be complete without their stalwart Musical Director, John Roe. A vastly experienced and highly sought-after MD, he can always be trusted to lead the show musically and has been with the company pretty much from the beginning!!

The production team had the unenviable task of choosing the main cast from such a large pool of people.

The main cast selected is as follows: Patrick Hanrahan as Robin Hood, Shantelle Hodgins as Maid Marian, Ceyda Kara as Eliza, Fiachra Ó Maoldúin as Lord Morish, Mike O'Reilly as the Sherriff, Koby Campbell as Paul, Des Grealis as Widow Hood, Tom Devine as Friar Tuck, Ornaigh Gavin, Karen Dowd and Patricia Riddell as the leaders of the Merry Women, and the redoubtable Panto Staple - Pat Vaughan as King John. Some Villagers and Merry Men/Women will also be cast from chorus groupings.

B'sloe Panto's production of "Robin Hood" will run from Mon December 7 to Sunday 13 in the Town Hall Theatre. Tickets will go on sale in mid-November. Follow B'sloe Panto on Facebook or Instagram to stay updated.



Choreographer for B'Sloe Panto's 2026 show, Ria Purcell



Louise McEvoy, Director of the 2026 panto in Ballinasloe

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GAA President Opens New Facilities

By Maria Connolly

It was a proud day for Ballinasloe GAA recently as the club officially opened their upgraded facilities with GAA President, Jarlath Burns. The celebrations included a ribbon-cutting, a walk around the upgraded facilities, and light refreshments with members and guests. It was a fantastic milestone for the club and community.

The club are also celebrating as the Under-15 Football team took home their cup in a very exciting game against Caltra in Duggan Park. They won on a scoreline of 1-09 to 2-05. Well done to all the players and management. Congratulations too to Man of the Match, Dylan Corcoran.



The Under-15 team who recently won their cup with Mentors Cathal Coleman and Sean Riddell.



The Under-11 hurling team who recently took part in a football blitz in Dublin.

As part of the celebrations for the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the Galway All-Ireland football champions of 1925, the Under 14s recently participated in a football blitz. Mountbellew Moylough, Dunmore McHale's, Kilconly and Ballinasloe provided the players for the 1925 team, the first from Galway and Connaught to win an All-Ireland football Final, and it was entirely apt that these four clubs were the participants at the blitz.

Playing on the same pitch that members of the 1925 team graced many times added to this special day. Ballinasloe came out on top of the four teams after defeating Kilconly in the first game and then Mountbellew by the narrowest of margins in a brilliant final that went right down to the wire.



The opening of the new facilities at Duggan Park. L-R: Paul Madden, Gary Coone, Jim Lally, Shane O'Connell, Club Chairman, Jarlath Burns (GAA President), Noel Dillon, Gerry Seale, Brendan Hayes, Tommie Kelly (Treasurer Galway Co Board),Willie Ward, Francis Healy and Laura Howley.



Under-14 football team who recently took part in a football blitz. The blitz was organised to celebrate the unveiling of a plaque commemorating the 1925 team who won the All-Ireland.

The Under-11 Hurlers also recently took part in a hurling blitz at Faugh's GAA Club in Templeogue in Dublin. The boys played against Faugh's, Turloughmore (County Galway), O'Donovan Rossa (County Antrim) and Ardclough (County Kildare), putting in super displays throughout the day and showcasing all their hard work from the year. The boys had a great run in the blitz, and all are very proud of them. Faugh's were thanked for the invite.

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New Rugby Club Season Begins

By Maria Connolly

Ballinasloe Rugby Club has kicked off its 26/27 Season with teams across all age groups returning to training at the club. Memberships are now open for renewal and members can renew through the club's app, Ballinasloe RFC, which is available to download from your app store. Memberships can also be renewed on the club website: https://ballinasloerfc.ie/club-membership/

To celebrate the beginning of the new season, the club will host a karaoke night in the clubhouse bar on Saturday October 18 to coincide with the Senior Men's first fifteen J1A League game, which kicks off 7.00pm. The club would like to invite everyone along to join them for a fun-filled evening of rugby followed by music and drinks and possibly some singing for anyone who can hold a note.

As always, the club welcomes new members across all age groups. If you or someone you know is interested in giving rugby a try, please don't hesitate to get in contact with one of the club's Coordinators who will steer you to the right training session or put you in touch with the relevant coach for a chat.

Contact details for the Coordinators are as follows:

- Niamh Connaughton: Mini's Coordinator (for all boys and girls aged 7 to 12). **(089) 446 1374**
- Karyn Berrigan: Girl's Youth Coordinator (for girls U14, U16 and U18.5) **(086) 069 5186**
- David McKeigue: Boy's Youth Coordinator (U13, U14, U15, U16, U17, U18.5). **(087) 937 0283**
- Noel Mannion: Senior Men and Director of Rugby **(086) 252 8110**

The Club congratulated Bernie Power and Brian Lynch, the July and August 50/50 draw winners. To be in with a chance of being the next 50/50 winner, you can enter their monthly draw through the club app or drop in to the clubhouse during training sessions or match days and pick up a 50/50 draw envelope at the bar.

For all younger ages, keep an eye on club socials as the club will be hosting a Minis disco in the clubhouse during the run-up to Halloween.

You can keep up to date with what's happening by following the club on Facebook: @Ballinasloe Rugby Club or Instagram: @rfc_ballinasloe. You can also find their senior men's fixtures for the upcoming season on their event guide if you would like to pop to the club for some rugby and a pint!



David McKeigue, Boy's Youth Coordinator



Karyn Berrigan, Girl's Youth Coordinator



Senior Men's Coordinator and Director of Rugby, Noel Mannion



Niamh Connaughton, Minis Coordinator

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Padraig Pearses Minor Boys Champions

By Maria Connolly

Padraig Pearses Minors were crowned Division 1 Minor Football Champions after a thrilling contest that went all the way to extra time in front of a huge and passionate crowd. They defeated Roscommon Gaels in a highly competitive match that was a great advertisement for Minor football. This great team follows in the footsteps of previous Minor Division 1 Champions in 2015, 2006, 1982 and 1972. Special congratulations go to the players and management. The commitment, hard work and dedication shown throughout the year have been outstanding.

In other competitions, the club are into the Senior Football Championship Semi-final following an extra time win over Michael Glaveys. Pearses were six points down after 40 minutes, but finished strongly, winning by 10 points after extra time. It's expected that the semi-final against Boyle to be played on Saturday 3 October in Hyde Park.

Meanwhile, the Ladies Football Intermediate team scored a comprehensive semi-final win over Michael Glaveys on a 6-12 to 1-3 scoreline and now await their County Final, which is currently scheduled for Saturday 10 October in Ballyleague.

The Annual Club Fundraiser is well underway with sales going well at various events. The primary sales events take place in and around the Ballinasloe Fair on the first two weekends of October. If you are available to sell tickets at any event, please contact any club officer or member of the fundraising group.

The Red Tigers Football academy has now come to a close for 2026. The season finished with a fun activity morning, including everything from parachute games to egg and spoon races. The kids received a nice goodie bag as well as a medal and football. Thanks to all sponsors for supporting the gifts.

Meanwhile, the Under-8 and Under-10 teams in all four codes have been enjoying a series of blitzes and Go games. The Under 8 Camogie team played in an end of season blitz with teams from all over Roscommon. They played against Roscommon Gaels, Oran, Tulsk, and St Dominic's, showing all the skills they have picked up throughout the season.

In non-competitive action, the Gaelic for Mothers and Others group continues to meet up on Monday evenings at 8.15pm. New players are always welcome, and no football experience is needed. It's a perfect way to get out, get active, and meet new people. The G4M&O team recently played in the G4M&O National Festival in Naomh Mearnóg, Dublin. There was great fun, friendship and football on display as the team played Moyne Templetuothy (Tipperary), Na Fianna (Dublin), Armagh Harps (Armagh), & St Fintan's (Wexford).

In cultural news, the club will be competing in seven out of the eight categories in the Scór na nÓg semi-finals in Lecarrow Hall on 16 and 17 October. Go n-éirigh an t-ádh leo.

Finally, Cómhrá Gaeilge returns to the Pearse's clubhouse every Tuesday at 8pm. New members welcome. Please contact Mary Darcy (085) 776 0652 for information. Bígí Linn!!



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Ballinasloe Town AFC Player Turns Professional

By Maria Connolly

The club as per usual is a hive of activity at the moment with the new season just underway and club teams competing in their various league divisions.

Just before the new season started, club player Keegan Kelly represented the Galway League in the Under-13 SFAI Inter League semi-final versus the Cork league, which was played in Cork. The game went to extra time with Cork emerging as the victors. Keegan played extremely well throughout the tournament.

Alea Doherty also represented the Galway League in the inter league Under-12 Irish final versus the Mayo league. Unfortunately, Galway were beaten by the Mayo league in this national final.

Club players Harry Kinsella and Nathan Kelly were also selected by Athlone Town to play in the Shamrocks Rovers Friendship International tournament which included teams such as Shamrock Rovers, Crumlin United, Wicklow and Leyton Orient. Well done to all four players.

The Clubs Senior Men's team have got their 2026/27 season off to a tremendous start with victories in their first two games in the Galway League. In their first game, they defeated West Coast United by 5-1 away from home, while in their second game they overcame East Galway United on a 4-1 scoreline. This is the club's first time back in the Galway Men's League after some 50 years playing in the Roscommon and District League.

All the club's youth teams at every age level up to 18 (boys and girls) have started the season well and are looking promising for the season ahead.

The club wish to congratulate club player Kye Mongan who has just made the leap up to League of Ireland level and has signed for Athlone Town for the coming season. Tremendous news also for former club player Keela Donnelly Meehan, now with Athlone Town, who was recently called into the Irish Under-17 squad for two games versus Belgium.

The club recently completed the very successful community event and fundraiser, "75 Miles for 75 Years", whereby participants either walked, jogged or ran a total of 75 miles over a calendar month. Funds were raised for the club, and two fantastic local organisations: Ballinasloe Social Services Centre and Corlann (formerly the Brothers of Charity). This great community event also served to highlight 75 years of soccer in Ballinasloe as the club celebrates its anniversary throughout this year. At a presentation ceremony in the Shearwater Hotel, the club presented cheques for €2,600 to Ballinasloe Social Services Centre and €1,350 to Corlann Services from monies raised in the event. €5,000 was retained by the club for development purposes.



Ballinasloe Town AFC Senior Men's team following their first game of the season. The team is managed by Gary Egan and Warren Coyne.



Presentation of cheques raised from the Ballinasloe soccer club "75 Miles for 75 years fundraiser" were (L-R): Michael Janusz, Manager, Shearwater Hotel, Ellen Egan, Club Treasurer, Teresa Coughlan, Ballinasloe Social Services, Johnny Walsh, Club PRO, Mandy Rocke, Ballinasloe Social Services, Bjorn Manning, Club Chairperson, and Niamh Sheppard of Corlann services.

The latest development works at the club grounds, Shearwater Hotel Park, have just been completed. These consisted of a state-of-the-art 500-lux LED floodlight system at the club's main pitch.

To commemorate the 75th anniversary, the club history book has just gone to print. It's expected the launch will be late October with a function in the Shearwater hotel.



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Strongwoman Wins Silver Strength Competition

By Maria Connolly

Sharon Williamson placed second earlier this year in the Four Nations Competition for strongwomen in Liverpool. It's the latest success for the Monaghan-born woman, who has been competing for over 10 years now.

Sharon, who is originally from Ballybay, is well known around Ballinasloe for her role as Gym Manager with Coral Leisure. However, her path to fitness and training was circuitous. "Believe it or not, I went to study hairdressing after school, and it just wasn't for me," she says. She's worked in a range of roles in retail, hairdressing salons and a pub, "but fitness, health and leisure has been the career", she states.



Sharon Williamson at an event for Strongwoman Ireland.

As so many people do, she originally joined the gym to lose weight, and she loved seeing the results. While working at Coral Leisure Monaghan, she entered a competition and "realised I was stronger than I thought and it went from there." She placed first in two nationwide competitions, and has been competing nationally and internationally since then.



Sharon Williamson, who placed second at the Four Nations competition in Liverpool earlier this year.

A strongman/strongwoman competition usually has 5-6 events testing strength with various implements. The Four Nations Competition included a 175kg deadlift, an overhead lift, a sandball loading race; a "farmer's" run while carrying 80kg per hand, and finally, lifting a sand ball to shoulder height at multiple weights. On her success, Sharon says: "I'm happy with second place, but it's still not first!" Sharon's next competition will be at the Irish Nationals in January in Galway, when she's hoping to qualify for the UK or European Championships.

She's also sharing her expertise with younger people who are training in strength events, including Youth European Powerlifting Champion, Logan Fallon. She was full of praise for Logan, saying he "puts in serious effort and makes the conscious decision to train as part of his routine... He's in school, he works and still makes time."

For anyone interested in getting involved in strength competitions, Sharon recommends talking to someone who has competed already. She's also on the committee for Strongwoman Ireland, a body that can also advise on how to get involved.

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Young Golfer Represents GB And Ireland

By Maria Connolly

Ballinasloe Golf Club member, Isaac Oliver was recently selected to represent Great Britain & Ireland in the Jacques Léglise Trophy. This is a truly outstanding achievement and one of the highest honours in underage amateur golf.

The Jacques Léglise Trophy is the annual international match between the very best Under 18 players from Great Britain and Ireland and the Continent of Europe. The calibre of player to have competed in the event speaks for itself, with Jon Rahm, Viktor Hovland, Tommy Fleetwood, Luke Donald, Sergio Garcia and José María Olazábal among those to have played in the match before going on to reach the very top of the professional game. Everyone at the club was extremely proud to see Isaac earn such a prestigious international honour.



Pictured on the Captain's Prize Weekend are Ballinasloe Golf Club Captain, Stephen Ruane (R) and winner of the Captain's Prize, Derek Cusack

At the other end of the age spectrum, Michael Turley recently celebrated his 90th birthday with a round of 18 holes! All at the Club congratulated Michael on reaching this milestone.

There were two more celebratory weekends taking place over the summer. First up was Stephen Ruane's Captain's Prize weekend. Congratulations go to Derek Cusack, who claimed the Captain's Prize after an excellent performance, edging out Kevin Tierney in the tie-break. It was a superb achievement and a well-deserved victory. Club Members were hugely appreciative of Stephen for his generosity, commitment and hard work all year and for delivering such a memorable weekend. East Galway & Midlands Cancer Support also thanked club members for supporting their charity appeal during the weekend.

President Gerry Barrett also recently celebrated his President's Weekend. Matthew Rafferty won the overall President's Prize, with Derek Cusack coming second in the Men's Competition and Sheila Glennon coming second in the Ladies' Competition. All congratulated the winners and paid special thanks to Gerry and his family on what was a very special President's Weekend.

The golf club also recently held a 9-hole fun scramble event. This had a great turn-out with 48 members taking part in teams of three. It was great to see so many new members out and a great opportunity to get to know fellow members. First place went to Eoin O'Morain, Ella O'Morain and Pat Groarke; second place to Katie Connolly, Margaret Creaven and Anne Marie Crehan, while Cathal Concannon, Bridie Lucas and Christina Coughlan finished in third place. The Annual Spooky Scramble will take place over the Halloween period. Watch out for future events.



(L-R): Senior Captain, Mattie Curley, with Michael Turley, who recently celebrated his 90th birthday.



President Gerry Barret, presenting the winner Mathew Rafferty with the Annual President's Prize.



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Camogie Club Successful Season

By Maria Connolly

Ballinasloe Camogie Club is preparing for the end of a successful season. It has been particularly encouraging to see the growth in numbers across the club, with more girls getting involved from Under 7 up to Juniors. This growth is a testament to the hard work of coaches, parents and volunteers.

The Under 8's, 10's, 11's & 12's have enjoyed a series of Go Games Blitzes and challenge games throughout the season. Meanwhile, the Under 12 girls had a memorable day in the summer when they took part in the Camán to Connacht event in Pearse Stadium. They also took part in the Ada English Trophy Under 12 game against Padraig Pearses, a commemorative match that has been played between the two clubs for many years.



Juniors and management who are through to the Junior C1 Championship Semi-Finals

One of the standout moments of the season came when the Under 14 girls reached the League Final against Turloughmore two. The girls delivered a superb performance in the final, which went to extra time, and they were unlucky to lose out by just one point.



The under 14's ahead of their League Final

The Minor team also enjoyed a successful campaign this season, reaching the Championship Semi-Final.

The Junior team currently sit top of the table in the Junior C1 Championship. The squad has shown great consistency and determination throughout the campaign, producing a number of impressive performances along the way, and they are now through to the Championship Semi-Final on October 4. Everyone in the club wishes the team and management the best of luck for the rest of the championship.

Another memorable highlight for the club came when Galway supporters from Ballinasloe Camogie Club travelled to the All-Ireland Camogie Final. It was a great day out for players, families, coaches and supporters, and a chance for younger players to see camogie played at the very highest level.

The club's main fundraiser for the year, a Cake Sale, will take place during the October Fair. This event supports the continued development of players. Come along to enjoy some delicious home baking, and keep an eye on the club's Facebook page for further details.

Snooker Club Starts New Season

By Maria Connolly

The new season has started at Ballinasloe Snooker and Social Club. New members, both Junior and Senior, are always welcome to pay the club a visit. They open from 5pm to 9pm Monday to Friday. Use the side door of the Emerald Ballroom to access the club; they are upstairs on the first floor. The club is over a century old, a source of pride, and the facilities at the club are the best in Connacht.

The club run a series of competitions throughout the year that commemorate past members. There are also team events. A handicap system is used to even out the winning odds.

There are two games enjoyed on the green baize. Both are precision cue sports that demand a high degree of accuracy, strategy and positional awareness. Snooker emphasises sequential scoring whereas billiards rewards versatile shot-making.



Club member Thomas O'Connor with his grandson, Luke

Paddy Keane I.P.A.V.

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Katie Gibbons European Eventing Medalist

By Maria Connolly

Local girl Katie Gibbons and her horse, Milchem Free Spirit, were part of the Irish Junior eventing team who recently won silver at the 2026 FEI Eventing European Championships for Young Riders and Juniors. The competition was held in Sweden this summer.



Katie Gibbons on her horse, Milchem Free Spirit, at the recent FEI European Eventing Championships for Young Riders & Juniors

The other members of the team who competed were: Maeve Deverell, Zara McCarthy, and Carla Williamson, while Izzy Barrett and Niamh Verkade rounded out the squad. Maeve also won a bronze medal in the individual competition. The team is overseen by Debbie Byrne, Youth Eventing High Performance Eventing Manager at Horse Sport Ireland.

Eventing is a three-part competition that examines a horse and rider in different conditions. Dressage rewards grace, harmony, and coordination; cross-country tests endurance and fitness, while show-jumping tests agility and precision. Candidates acquire penalty points or "faults" if a horse fails to clear an obstacle, for example, or respond to a command. The points from each rider and team are added together, and the team with the lowest number of faults wins.

Katie said of her success: "It was an incredible experience in Sweden". She thanked her coaches Cormac Rafferty, a high-performance show-jumping Coach at Horse Sport Ireland, and Heike Holstein, a Dressage specialist. She also thanked "management, coaches, sponsors, and everyone behind the scenes".

Katie is the daughter of Godfrey Gibbons and Marie Dunne and has just finished her leaving certificate. Her older brother, Godfrey is also known for his horsemanship and was a member of the bronze-winning team at the FEI Under-25 World Championship Event earlier this year.

Cycling Club Enjoyed the Summer

By Maria Connolly

It was a wonderful summer and our cycling club made the most of it every weekend. They continue to ride out regularly on Sunday morning, travelling all over the region. One group sets off at 8.30am, the other at 9am, and there's always the incentive of a coffee stop with ice cream or donuts to get them out on the road.

The club have been offering youth road training, and it has paid off with one member of the club winning the Connacht MTB in Sligo recently. Others placed in the event. Club member Derek Hayes also finished third in the Galway championship, while Gary Devlin won round six of the Galway Interclub Summer League.

Several club members also took part in the 100km Epic route for the Galway Gravel Grinder competition. Although it was a tough day, all said they would go back again.



Paul and Cormac Dolan out for a Sunday training spin.

The youth section has been taking on some different routes, with one weekend seeing them travel along the Hymany way, while on others, they went to Kinnity Castle and the Slieve Blooms for some mountain biking.

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Tennis Club Redevelopment Project To Start

By Maria Connolly

The courts have been busier than ever this summer with the recent warm weather. The 2026 Midland League is approaching completion with the ladies' team reaching the final for the first time. Both men's teams have reached the semi-final stage, and it's possible there could be an All-Ballinasloe final.

Some of the club's members recently competed in the Birr Wilmer Open. Despite soaring temperatures, one team reached the quarter-finals in the Mixed Doubles. Martin Sibanda and Robert Riddell went all the way to the final in the Men's Doubles but missed out in a very close match. Last year's Connacht Champions also represented Connacht in an Inter-Provincial final in Nenagh recently. Various club opens will take place throughout the autumn.



L-R: Lisa Brennan, Club Coach, with Riya, Sam Ted, Tomek, and Mairead Hurley, Junior Coordinator. Junior coaching continues on Friday afternoons.

The weekly programme continues as normal, with dedicated Women's, Men's and Mixed Social Tennis nights remaining as popular as ever and providing great opportunities for members to play, improve and enjoy the social side of the club.

Adult coaching continues on Thursday evenings. As a Tennis Ireland affiliate club, the club is also happy to announce sponsored coaching events for members and non-members:

Women in Sport: On Sundays, there is free coaching between 2pm-3pm for ladies looking to try tennis, take up a sport, and meet people.

Introduction to tennis: Free coaching is available for adults. Non-members are welcome and equipment is supplied.

The Junior programme continues to go from strength to strength and junior coaching continues on Friday afternoons 2:30pm - 6:30pm. Contact Lisa on (086) 221 5843 for further information. The annual Junior Club Championship took place recently; thanks to Ballinasloe Credit Union for sponsorship.

Off the court, the club development project was delayed due to a request for additional engineering reports, but all required information has been submitted and it is hoped that construction will start in October. The club's sustainability subcommittee is working on planting and incorporating biodiversity projects on the club site.

Membership is always open and details can be found on www.ballinasloetennis.net. See you on the courts!

Cricket Club Celebrates Third Anniversary

By Maria Connolly

Kilconnell Cricket club are going from strength to strength since their inaugural day three years ago. Brendan Hogan, Club Chairman says, "We have put East Galway and Kilconnell especially firmly back on the cricket map. Over 100 years ago, Kilconnell was the leading team of the area and we intend to be again."

The club have thanked the support from Kilconnell Community Development, the people of the village, their players, and Connaught cricket union over their three years.

They hosted the second edition of the Gateway Credit Union Cup won by Meath Strikers Cricket club with the host club as runner-up. It was a great mix from around the country with Tullamore Cricket Club, Galway Indians, Roscommon Cricket Club, Kings XI Cricket Club and Athlone Cricket Club also competing.

This year, the club also hosted the first women's cricket games as Connaught Cricket Union build the game as an all-inclusive sport. There are many other forms of cricket in development, including games for people with disabilities in the years ahead.

The club is fundraising now with raffle tickets available from club members.



Niall Clark from Gateway Credit Union and Shijo George from Kilconnell Cricket Club



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GAA President Marks 1925 All-Ireland Duggan Park

By Colm Croffy

Despite the forecast predicting rain, the sun shone on Duggan Park as GAA President Jarlath Burns unveiled a plaque commemorating Galway's first All-Ireland football victory. The moment marked the culmination of an extraordinary year of work by the 1925 Centenary Committee, a group formed almost by accident, but which has delivered one of the town's and East Galway's most meaningful heritage/sporting projects in decades.

The idea began last August, when John Egan realised the centenary of Galway's historic 1925 win was approaching. With his grandfather and two grand-uncles being on that team, he contacted Michael Riddell and Joey Walsh, who also had family connections to the players (20 of the victorious 24-man squad were from the Ballinasloe club). Within weeks, a committee had formed, and in less than a year they had researched the players and extended panel, organised a major commemorative event, raised funds, and created a permanent memorial.

Their first major milestone came last November when over 250 people attended a sold-out event in Gullane's Hotel. Hosted by Galway Bay FM's Ollie Turner, the evening saw both laughter and tears as descendants shared stories of the 1925 team. The success of that night propelled the committee into the next phase: securing a plaque in Ballinasloe to honour those men.



Some of the Committee with MC Ollie Turner and GAA President Jarlath Burns

The unveiling was preceded by an Under-14s football tournament between Mountbellew Moylough, Dunmore MacHales, Kilconly, and Ballinasloe. The four teams were selected as they were the clubs from which the 1925 players came. Ballinasloe narrowly beat Mountbellew-Moylough to win the final and were presented with the 1925 Galway All-Ireland Football Champions Centenary Commemoration Cup by committee members Mike and J.J. Smyth.



Some of Galway 1925 All Ireland Football Champions Centenary Commemoration Committee L-R: Michael Riddell, Declan Earls, Niall Clarke(Gateway Credit Union), John Egan, Denis Egan, Adrian Ahearn, (Gateway Credit Union),Anne Egan, Jarlath Burns (G.A.A. President), Tina Earls, Michael Smyth, Joey Walsh, J.J. Smyth. Photo Ronan Lynch Riddell

Outside Duggan Park, the Town Band entertained a crowd of more than 200 before speeches commenced. Chairperson John Egan thanked supporters and donors for rallying behind the project.

GAA President Jarlath Burns delivered a heartfelt tribute to the 1925 team, reflecting on the difficult era in which they played and the inspiration their victory provided for future generations. He spoke of the GAA's foundations in community and volunteerism, and the importance of preserving history and family memories. "Heritage survives because people care enough to remember," he said, acknowledging the descendants present and praising the committee for ensuring the endurance of the team's legacy.

The commemoration continued in Gullane's Hotel, where historian Steve Dolan addressed a packed ballroom with a talk on Ballinasloe's "Invincibles", the team that won seven county senior football titles in a row between 1913 and 1919.

The dedication shown by the Centenary Committee over the past year is a story in itself, the plaque a very fitting memorial to their feats and lasting legacy..

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Ballinasloe Fair And Festival Heritage And Fun

By Colm Croffy

The town is once again preparing for one of the highlights of the town's calendar as the Ballinasloe Horse Fair and Festival 2026 brings together centuries of tradition, community spirit and entertainment.



Enjoying the Dog Show last year - Winners, Committee and Sponsors

The opening weekend on Sunday 4 and Monday 5 October will focus on the traditional horse fair, with market stalls and the prestigious Horse of the Fair and Pony of the Fair competitions taking place on Sunday. The Fox McFadden funfair will also be in town from 1–11 October.

From Tuesday evening, attention turns to a busy programme of heritage and festival events. On Tuesday 6 October at 8pm, Gullane's Hotel will host the annual heritage night. This year's presentation, "Snapshots of Ballinasloe Fair and Galway Life from Newspaper Reports, 1750–2000", will be delivered by Steve Dolan.

The main festival weekend begins on Friday 9 October, when families are invited to the marina car park for entertainment from 7pm, followed by the spectacular festival fireworks at 8.30pm. Main Street will also come alive that evening for the popular festival street tug of war.

Saturday 10th – Country Fair Day promises to be one of the busiest days with the horse fair continuing, with Mare and Foal Classes on the Fair Green Sand Arena. The Green will host the traditional sheep display from 10am. The Festival Soundstage will provide live entertainment in the town centre from 12pm to 6pm.

Adding further interest to the day, Her Excellency Ms Kara Owen CMG CVO, His Majesty's Ambassador to Ireland, will visit, whilst Saturday evening will conclude with a steam parade and display in St Michael's Square from 8pm.

The festival reaches its finale on Sunday 11 October, with a full programme of free family entertainment, including a food and craft market, a vintage show and street display, a festival marquee with children's entertainment, a dog show, motorbike stunt shows, and baking competitions for both adults and juniors. The afternoon will finish with the junior tractor derby and kids' tug of war from 4.15pm.



The presentation of the Credit Union Horse of the Fair in 2025

Festival Chairman Mal Croffey said the committee was looking forward to another memorable festival:

"The Fair & Festival is a very special time bringing together our heritage, our agricultural traditions and a wide range of entertainment for all ages. As a voluntary committee, our aim is to create a welcoming atmosphere and provide as many free outdoor events as possible for local people and visitors to enjoy."

The committee also expressed its sincere thanks to all the sponsors and supporters whose financial backing makes the festival possible. Their continued support allows for the delivery of an extensive programme of free events.



Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds – Huge Success

By Colm Croffy

What has truly become a favourite traditional music weekend on the calendar for so many followers and visitors certainly did not disappoint!

Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds 2026 was another hugely successful weekend for the town with attendance up and visitors arriving from across Ireland and much further afield, including Germany, Italy, Denmark, Pennsylvania, Ibiza, Canada, Boston, Philadelphia and the UK.

From the Thursday evening launch through to the late hours of Sunday night, Ballinasloe was transformed by the sound, colour and energy of traditional music, heritage & culture. Tunes could be heard everywhere, from pizza houses to pubs, hotel bars and alleyways, while crafters and buskers brought even more life to the streets. It was that wonderful mix of planned events and spontaneous music-making that gave the town such a special buzz.

The programme offered something for everyone, and there was a wonderful sense of discovery throughout the weekend, with visitors able to experience not just the music, but the heritage, hospitality and community spirit of Ballinasloe.

The increase in visitors also resulted in more bed nights, providing a welcome boost to accommodation providers and bringing additional business to pubs, restaurants, cafés, shops and businesses throughout the town.

The Féile continues to make a real contribution to the local economy while showcasing Ballinasloe to visitors from home and abroad. And, of course, the sunshine played its part too, providing the perfect backdrop to a truly memorable weekend.

Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds has truly become an event that people look forward to year after year. With more than €30,000 required to host the festival, it would not be possible without the generous financial support of their main sponsors: Gateway Credit Union, Department of Culture, Communications and Sport, Galway County Council, Comhaltas, The Shearwater Hotel & Spa, Gullane's Hotel and Diageo.

Behind every successful festival is a team of people who make it happen. Special recognition must go to the Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds organising committee, whose passion, commitment and countless hours of voluntary work have once again delivered a festival that continues to grow from strength to strength.

Take a bow, ladies and gents!

Next year's Féile will take place from September 2nd–5th, 2027.



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Limestone Legacy Week

By Conor Johnston

Ballinasloe's Limestone Legacy Week takes place in October from Saturday the 17th to Saturday the 24th. This week-long series of events is the culmination of a year of extensive research by Ballinasloe & District Heritage Society into the history of the internationally famed limestone quarries of Ballinasloe. Limestone Legacy Week is a collaboration between the Heritage Society, Galway County Council Heritage Office and the artist collective, Group 8.

The story of Ballinasloe Limestone is not just one of the architectural heritage and social history of our own town, but one of the industrial, commercial, built and architectural history and heritage of Ireland. The height of the quarries' commercial success was in the 19th century, when architects, engineers and builders called for Ballinasloe Limestone to be used extensively in building projects across Ireland and Britain. The limestone was quarried, cut and dressed in an ecosystem of hundreds of quarrymen, stone cutters, masons and sculptors, before being transported by canal, rail and sea for use in the construction of banks, churches, houses, railways and commemorative monuments across these isles and even the United States. After a fallow period at the start of the 20th century, the Brackernagh quarries were bought by John Sisk & Co. in 1939. They set up Top Quarries, and another chapter in the story was written.



Pictured at the last Aughrim Interpretative Centre Seminar Talks Series was Pat Johnston who delivered the " Thats Women For Ya" presentation on some of the most distinguished historial ladies of the locality with Ronan Kileen Centre Co - ordinator, Breege Lynn, Galway County Council Corporate and some of the attendees.

An exhibition of art produced by Group 8 celebrating Ballinasloe Limestone will be displayed in the Church Gallery in the library from Tuesday 12th October to Friday the 23rd. From Friday 16th, an extensive research and discovery display will be added to form an exhibition called Quarried, Carved and Crafted: Ballinasloe's Limestone Legacy. A short story by Eugene Watters, partly set in Beegan's Quarry, is also being produced as a booklet for the exhibition, with sketches by local artist and Group 8 member Fiona Ormsby.

Ballinasloe's Limestone Legacy Week will be launched on Saturday, October 17th at 2.30pm in the Church Gallery, Ballinasloe Library by Professor Patrick Wyse Jackson. An authority on the building stones of Ireland, Professor Jackson is Professor Emeritus of Geology in Trinity College, Curator Emeritus of its Geology Museum, and a member of the Royal Irish Academy.

On Saturday 24th October at 2.30pm, Padraic Kilduff will give a talk in St John's Church on the role played by architect James Forth Kempster and his sons in the design of the beautiful limestone buildings in the Ballinasloe townscape and its hinterland. A new podcast documenting the story of Ballinasloe Limestone, presented and narrated by Ferghal D'arcy, will also be launched that day. A number of school outreach events will take place during the week as well. All events are free of charge and all in the community are welcome.

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Finding Their Ancestors

By Evelyn Donellan

Local Creagh native woman Evelyn Donellan assists people to find the graves of their ancestors. She updated us recently to recount on stories of two families who sought her help, including one still looking for further information on their family; if readers could help!

The first story concerns the descendants of the Dolans from Society St. Michele Jackson, her father, Commandant Joseph Fallon DSM (Retd), her sister, Niamh Kelly, and brother, Joe Fallon recently looked for the graves of their ancestors in Creagh Cemetery. At first they looked for the grave of Annie Gavin, late of Beagh, Birchgrove, who was a cousin of Commandant Fallon. Michele's dad knew where Annie was interred and brought them to the spot. Annie's parents, brother, sister and sister-in-law are also interred there and Joe is currently organising a headstone for their grave.



Michael and Maureen Traynor with Michael's brother Pete and daughter Neve at the Elizabeth Rigney monument in Creagh North Cemetery.

The next grave they visited was that of their great-grandparents, Mary and Timothy Joseph (TJ) Dolan of Society St. That grave is located in Creagh Municipal Cemetery.

Mary and TJ Dolan acquired the former National Bank of Ireland premises on Society Street from a Patrick Dolan. (It is uncertain if Patrick and TJ were related). They ran a bar and grocery business in the Pillar House for over fifty years. They had two daughters. Maureen married Michael Croghan and Winifred, known as Una, married Colonel Joseph Fallon.

Maureen and her husband took over the business and ran it until 1958 when it was purchased by Evelyn and Godfrey Gibbons. It is known today as Gibbons' Pillar House and the National Bank of Ireland stone facing has been well preserved and remains visible.

Maureen and Michael subsequently lived over Duane's Pharmacy where Michael died in 1967. Maureen continued to live there alone and passed away in 1987. They are both interred in Creagh Municipal Cemetery with Maureen's parents.

Maureen's sister, Una Dolan, married Colonel Joseph Fallon in 1925 in Ballinasloe. One of their children is the Commandant Joseph Fallon mentioned above. Una and Joseph moved from Dunlo Hill in the 1970s to Dublin.

Commandant Joseph Fallon served for many years in the Irish Army during the Northern Troubles and on UN Missions to the Middle East, earning a Distinguished Service Medal for the latter. He has written a book, Green Cap and Blue Beret: An Irish Soldier's Service at Home and Overseas, documenting his experiences.



Niamh Kelly, Michele Jackson and their brother Joe Fallon at the grave of their great grandparents , TJ and Mary Dolan of Society St.

The second group of relatives that Evelyn helped recently were descendants of the Rigney families, who were looking for Elizabeth Rigney's grave. It was a very emotional and special occasion when Michael Traynor and his wife, Maureen, having travelled from Canberra, Australia, were able to touch the memorial and read the inscription on the monument to Elizabeth Rigney. Some days later they returned with Michael's brother, Pete, and his daughter, Neve. There are other Rigney headstones in that section of the cemetery, including one for fifty-year-old Eliza Rigney who died in 1883. It is of similar but less elaborate design to Elizabeth's.

Elizabeth's son, the Venerable Archdeacon John Rigney, had arranged for the headstone to be erected in memory of his beloved mother. The story of the Ven Archdeacon and his mission to Australia has been well documented previously by Cllr Declan Kelly and in a book written by John O'Brien, The Men of 38 and Other Pioneer Priests.

The Rigney families appear to have hailed from Offaly, namely Shannon Harbour and Clara. There also appears to be a connection between these Offaly Rigneys and the family of the Venerable Archdeacon of Ballinasloe. Many of the Rigney men were Slaters and their families live on Dunlo Hill. They would have connections through marriage to the

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Rev Rigney. He returned to Ireland at his mother's request to come back to "see her close her eyes". Elizabeth, nee Lynch, died in February 1873 aged 86 years. Sometime after Elizabeth's death, her son had a fine monument erected in memory of his beloved mother.

On his return to Australia, he was accompanied by his two sisters who lived with him as his housekeepers and looked after him in his final years of ill health.

Rev John served in many parishes in excess of sixty years of his ministry, including Wollongong, Sydney and Parramatta. Monsignor John Rigney died in 1903 and is buried, at his request, in the Mortuary Chapel at Parramatta.

A Rigney memorial bell was erected at St Patrick's, Parramatta, in November 1904 in his memory. A plaque was erected in the Mortuary Chapel in 1988. It reads: "Rev Father John Rigney (Monsignor) Born at Ballinasloe Co Galway 1812 Ordained Priest at Maynooth Dec 30th 1837 Pioneer Priest of the Illawarra (1838 – 49) Died on May 9th 1903 in the 66th year of his priesthood. Erected by the faithful of the Illawarra on the sesquicentenary (190th) Anniversary 1838 -1988".

If anyone has or seeks further information, Michael Traynor can be contacted on anservices1@bigpond.com.

Canal Signage Restoration

By Conor Johnston

Ghost Signs are a phenomenon that has attracted increased interest in Ireland over the last decade. The term refers to old signs still visible on buildings, where the businesses themselves have long since disappeared. They provide a great snapshot of urban and commercial life in times past, and can generate interest in an area's history for locals and visitors alike, as well as being great visual content for Social Media feeds. One such site on Instagram - @dublinghostsigns - has over 10,000 followers.

In 2024, local heritage and photography enthusiast Robert Riddell made the Heritage Society aware that traces of the original Grand Canal Company signage were now visible on the old Canal Store building as site clearance began on a new housing development. So began 2 years of engagement by the Heritage Society with various stakeholders to ensure this valuable piece of our town's heritage was retained and restored. With the support of Anne Marie Cusack, the County Council's helpful Conservation Officer, the Society held a site visit with the site engineer Aidan Clarke, representing the developer. The meeting was attended by Cllrs. Harney and Parsons, and a plan for the retention of the signage was agreed. The plan was also supported by Graham Bartlett and the local branch of IWAI. The Canal Store is one of the oldest extant buildings in our town, with rubble masonry stonework dating back to c. 1830. The company hired for this important stone conservation project was INStone from Co. Clare. Led by Frank McCormack and Jamie Forde, the company directed all works to the masonry. A large part of the stone work itself was done by a team of local stonemasons working under Andrew Coyne. Anne Messner, a conservator and restorer from Kinvara, was the lead on reinstating the historic 'Grand Canal Co' signage on the gable end of the structure. When the scaffolding came down recently, it was brilliant to see the enhanced exterior of this important heritage building in our town looking so well.



Restored signage on the Canal Store Building, Harbour Road.



Similarly restored signage on a building in St. James Gate, where the Grand Canal Company's Ballinasloe Store was located.

As part of the rehabilitation works ongoing at the bridge, River Street, heritage blacksmith Pat Monaghan has done a great job restoring the riverbank gates. Markings identified on the gates for Conroy and JD showed that they were made in Donnellan's Forge in Glentaun and supplied to the Hardware Store and Ironmongery of merchant Laurence Conroy, Main Street, one time Chairperson of the Ballinasloe Town Commissioners.

So, when you are next strolling through our beautiful heritage town, look up and look down, and you might possibly spot a Ghost Sign, the initials from a forge, or a doorway carved and crafted by a local mason.

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An Appreciation For Franciara "Frez" Santos

Franciara Santos, affectionately known to many as Frez, was a much-loved daughter, sister, partner, mother, and friend whose exceptional warmth and kindness touched the lives of countless people.



Frez came to Ireland from Brazil in 2002 at just ten years of age, with her brother Endrew. They joined their father, Francisco Brito, and mother, Gilmarlinda Santos, who had moved from São Luiz to Ireland to build a better future for their family. Ballinasloe became her home, where she grew up and built her life.

She attended Scoil an Chroí Naoifa and later Ardscoil Mhuire. From a young age, Frez had a passion for creativity, particularly painting, crafts, dancing, music and fashion. She was part of a hip-hop dance group, competing in national competitions with her brother and friends, and she was known for her vibrant personality and love of life.

She was also someone who instinctively helped others. She taught English to fellow Brazilians, assisting them with translation and helping them to settle into life in Ireland. She began her working life at Nico's Takeway and helped to support herself through college, later graduating with a Business degree from ATU. She went on to spend ten years working with Darren Goode's Chartered Accountants and continued to further her education while working there.

Family was at the heart of Frez's life. In 2024, her greatest dream came true when she became a mother to Lucas with her partner, Ethan Coote. Lucas was her pride and joy, and she was immensely proud to be his mother. A family visit to Brazil in November 2025 was a particularly special time, bringing her together with her parents, grandparents and extended family for the last time.

Those who knew Frez remember someone who loved with her whole heart. She was kind, caring, funny and thoughtful. She could never pass someone she knew in the street without stopping to ask how they were and having a chat. She went out of her way to make others feel seen and heard, always put other people first, and took the time to make people feel special.

Ethan described her as the glue that held everyone together and his soulmate. For her brother, Endrew, she was not simply his big sister but his lifelong companion in music, friendships and shared interests. Her best friend, Iveta Polakova, remembers a friend who brought joy, confidence and warmth wherever she went.

Frez's life was filled with love, friendship, creativity and generosity. Everyone who knew her will carry a piece of her story, and her love will live on through the people she touched, most especially Lucas, who was her greatest joy.

She left this world too soon on the 6th of July; to her partner Ethan, son Lucas, parents Gilma and Francisco, brother Endrew, extended family and wide circle of friends, all our sympathies are offered.

Para sempre amada, para sempre lembrada e eternamente presente em nossos corações.

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Cyril Carrick — Remembered With Love



The sudden and untimely passing of Cyril Carrick brought profound sadness to Ballinasloe and to friends far beyond home. The remembrances of his memory paint a remarkably consistent picture: Cyril was warm, kind-hearted, vibrant, funny and, above all, generous with his time.

Those who grew up with him remember the fun of The Harbour and the playing fields of town and surrounds. Later came friendships and adventures in London and San Francisco, before life brought him home, with the love of his life, Candy, to Kellysgrove. Through every chapter, the same qualities endured. Cyril loved company, conversation and a good story. He had a distinctive presence, an unmistakable voice and a sense of fun that stayed with people.

Friends remember that Cyril, even as a busy and skilled painter and decorator, always had time for a chat. He stopped, he asked after people, he remembered their families. He could lift a mood with a story or a laugh, and one friend captured it beautifully: you left Cyril's company feeling "lighter, happier, energised". That may be one of the finest measures of a life well lived.

Behind the humour was a deeply decent man, respectful, sincere and always ready with a kind word or deed. He was often described as a gentleman, a man of knowledge, a loyal friend, and someone whose warmth made others feel welcome. He brought fun and life wherever he went, but never at the expense of kindness.

Most moving of all was the love that shone through in everything he did for his family. Cyril's devotion to Candy and his immense pride in his darling Chloe were obvious to everyone who knew him. He spoke of them often, always with joy, leaving them with a lifetime of precious memories that they will treasure forever. He was also deeply devoted to his siblings, and the closeness of the Carrick family was a deeply important part of who he was.

That is why his loss feels so sharp. Cyril did not simply pass through people's lives; he left them better for having met him. He made time. He remembered. He laughed. He cared.

Cyril had a knack for remembering song lyrics, and would often recite them, especially those from his favourite band, Pink Floyd. In the days ahead, these lyrics will remind us of his approach to life: staying curious and always appreciating the journey:

"Over the mountains, across the sea
Who knows what may be waiting for me?
I could sail forever to strange sounding names
Faces of people and places don't change

All I have to do is just close my eyes
To see the seagulls wheeling in those far distant skies
All I wanna tell you, all I wanna say
Is count me in on the journey, don't expect me to stay"

We remember Cyril's parents, Gerry and Geraldine Carrick, and we offer to his heartbroken wife Candy, his loved and adored daughter Chloe and her partner Christian, siblings Antoinette, Geraldine and Clive, mother-in-law Connie, father-in-law Richard, sisters-in-law Chrissy, Cindy and Carmel, brothers-in-law Paddy, Gary and Jeff, nieces and nephews Kate (and Ross), Gearoid, Anna, Jack and Isabel, grandniece and grandnephew Lottie and Harry, extended family, friends and neighbours, our deepest sympathies.

Dessie Keighery - A Family Man



Dessie Keighery was a man deeply rooted in family, friendship and community. Born on 5 September 1947, the eldest of Kathleen and John Keighery's fifteen children, he grew up in St Grellan's Terrace before the family moved to St Brendan's Terrace, the Village that would remain at the heart of his life.

At fourteen, Dessie began working in Dubarry shoe factory, where he formed friendships that lasted a lifetime. In 1970, he married the love of his life, Lucy Lloyd, and together they shared over five decades.

Dessie was a proud Ballinasloe and Galway man, a staunch Galway GAA supporter and a devoted Liverpool fan. He was never short of an opinion, and he expressed it with passion, humour and honesty. A gifted storyteller, he loved good company, lively conversation and the craic. In the mornings, he seemed to bounce down the road, whistling before he came into view and always ready with a word for everyone.

Fishing was one of Dessie's greatest pleasures. He knew the rivers and lakes intimately and treasured days spent along the River Clare with his brother Christy and his dear friend Patrick "Monch" Loughnane. As a respected member of Ballinasloe Angling Club, he built many enduring friendships. He was equally happy with simple comforts: turf stacked in the shed, a fire in the burner, a few steamers and familiar company around him.

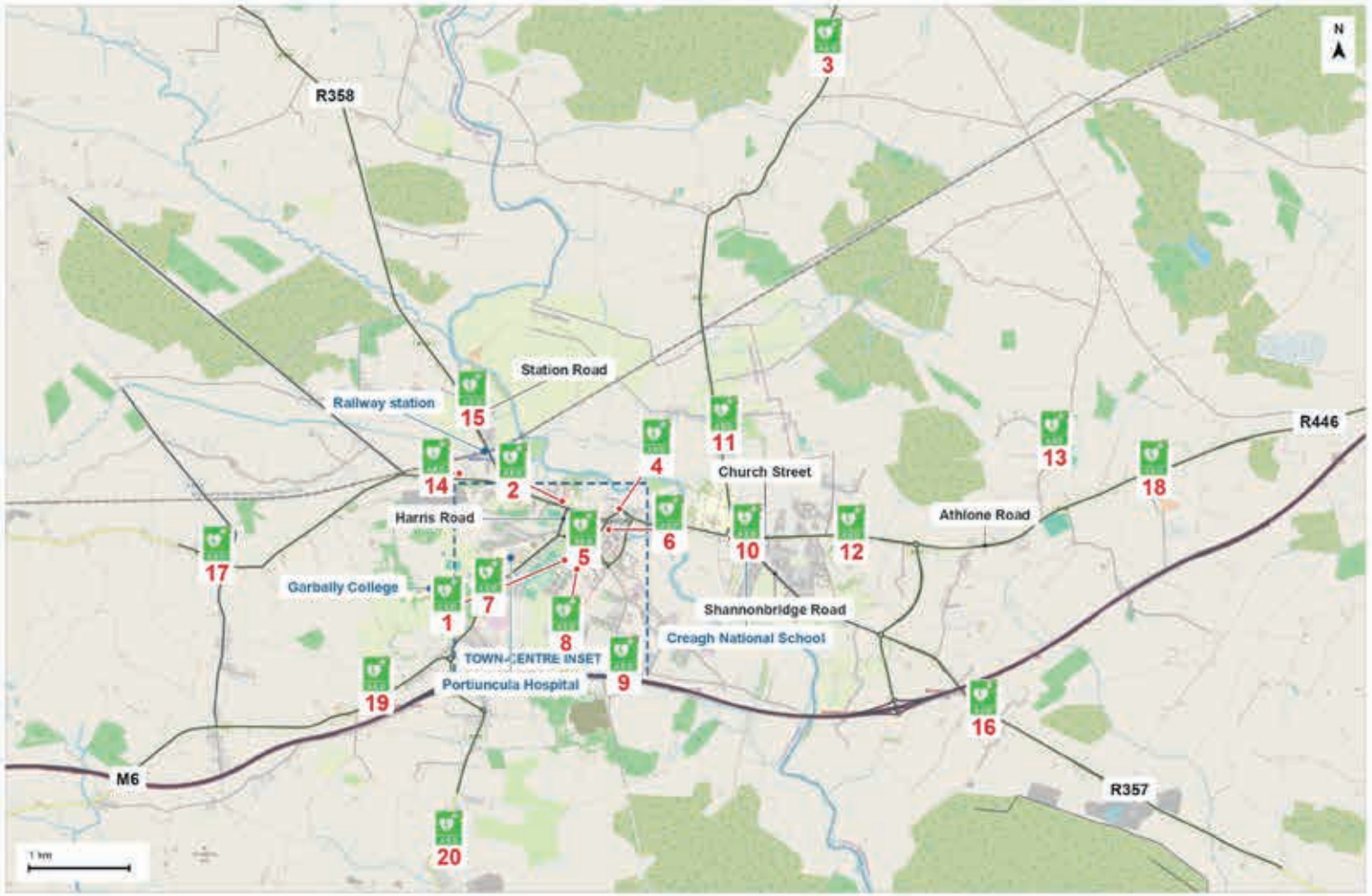
His home and community were never separate worlds. Like the households led by his mother Kathleen and Lucy's mother Nora, his door and his heart were open. Whether cutting a garden, sharing food, checking on family or stopping for a chat, Dessie made ordinary acts of care feel natural and constant.

Above all, Dessie cared for people. He loved his brothers and sisters dearly, watched over relatives and neighbours, and became woven into the fabric of St Brendan's Terrace. His passing leaves an enormous emptiness for Lucy, his family, his many friends and the whole Village. They will miss his whistle, his stories, his teasing, his kindness and the unmistakable energy he brought wherever he went.

Dessie leaves behind a wealth of memories and a life defined by love, loyalty and belonging. Dessie, you will never walk alone.

To Lucy and Pamela (Roy), John Paul (Debra), his adored grandchildren Craig (Aoife), Kai and Kayden, and his great-grandchildren Kady, Cody and Callie, his siblings Ann, Johnny, Kathleen, Pat, Mary, Mikey, Dor, Christy, Jo Jo, Bernie, Caroline, Josie and Davy, brothers-in-law, sister-in-law, nieces, nephews, grandnieces, grandnephews, cousins, extended family, neighbours and many friends, we offer our condolences.

Creagh/Ballinasloe CFR AED location Map



BALLINASLOE TOWN CENTRE

Detail of Areas 1, 2, 4-9



Compiled by Cormac Kidd on behalf of Creagh/Ballinasloe CFR Group.

Creagh/Ballinasloe CFR Group

24/7 ACCESS, PHONE 999/112 FOR ACCESS CODE

1 East Galway & Midlands Cancer Support Centre
H53 P8H0

2 Chadwicks Hardware of Ballinasloe, Sarsfield Rd
H53 N7X3

3 Killeens Pub, Togher
H53 NX49

4 Bank of Ireland, Main Street
H53 A9N9

5 Garda Station, Dunlo Street
H53 CK30

6 Post Office, St Michael Square
H53 AR25

7 1 Curragh Park
H53 W1Y2

8 101 Hymany Park
H53 R9P8

9 An Post DSU, Pollboy
H53 E368

10 Countryman Inn, Creagh
H53 P282

11 Ballinasloe Enterprise Centre
H53 F611

12 Centra - Dolan's Service Station
H53 Y5D0

13 Padraig Pearses GAA, Woodmount
H53 E398

14 Brothers of Charity, Cleaghmore
H53 Y5R5

15 Ballinasloe Business Park, Derrymullan
H53 V4Y9

16 Thomas & Catherine Murray, Culliaghmore
H53 F297

17 Dermot Connolly, Nutfield Cross
H53 KF74

18 Greenes Forge, Earlspark
H53 AE48

19 Garbally Demesne
H53 E2N6

20 Ballinasloe Rugby Club, Kellysgrove
H53 F446

Dashed blue outline: town-centre inset coverage.
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Select a marker or Eircode to open its map location.

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