

Enterprise Kiltullagh

Community Newsletter

2025

Credit: akmedialive.com

It was with renewed joy that I read in the parish newsletter that Enterprise Kiltullagh planned to publish the Christmas community newsletter. It is always pleasant to receive a simple letter but to publish and make available to the entire people of Kiltullagh a community newsletter is not only pleasant to receive but it does a tremendous amount of good. People today, as you know, are so busy. They go to work and return home from work, this lifestyle gives little opportunity for people to mix together, to talk with each other, to know what's happening in the community. A simple letter like the Kiltullagh Christmas Newsletter fills that vacuum somewhat and helps people to know what is happening in the neighbourhood.

This makes people feel more part of the community and that is good. So I complement Enterprise Kiltullagh and all the people involved for the good work they do. All this helps to make Ballinlough and the areas around it better for everyone.

So now on this newsletter I send greetings and good wishes to the people of the entire parish and community and all our parishioners. At this time of year, as Christmas draws near, I also send Christmas greetings to all who live in this community. I wish and pray God's blessings on all of you.

May peace and happiness be yours this Christmas. During the past year many people have come to this area and settled here. I welcome them among us and I wish you every success.

Christmas is usually such a happy time of year but it can also be a lonely time for many as well. We all have so many memories of Christmas spent with people that we loved and were close to, so I remember especially in my prayers people who spend Christmas on their own because the Lord has called a loved one to himself. I pray God's peace and consolation on them. It is now 25 years since I came to the parish of Kiltullagh. It has been a pleasant and enjoyable time.

I humbly thank all the many people who supported me and helped me in so many ways. The generosity of so many can be admired.

But there has been many changes since I came, there was the celtic tiger, the country seemed to be doing well, plenty of work and money. This was followed by the great recession. This caused so much hardship to so many people. We also experienced the Covid19 pandemic. This brought its own suffering, claiming the very lives of many. People were unable to attend Church and unfortunately some never returned.

The world and the people of the world are always changing. In our lifetime we have seen so many new inventions. Life is easier in many ways, hard physical work is hardly heard of now. People can have a more pleasant life, Ireland is now a better place for employing people. It is good to see so many houses that were empty now be filled. But side by side with all this development, there is a growing tendency to violence. The days of leaving your house unlocked are gone, However, as a community we must be united and let us realise that the more united we are and every ready to help each other, the greater we will be able to resist this growing tendency. We have our own values that we live by, we must preserve those and hand them to the next generation.

As I look to the new year, I wish you all, as I said, a Happy Christmas and also a bright and Happy New Year. Someone once said that if we don't take hold of the future, the future will take hold of us. I think we can look to the future with confidence, sport is doing well in the parish. I complement all the volunteers that are active in organising all the sport events in the community and the many organisations that like Enterprise Kiltullagh, do excellent work. Together we can face the future with confidence putting our trust in God who will lead us into peace and true happiness

Yours
Fr Joe



Shannonside radio conducted an outside broadcast from Ballinlough in July. Senator Gareth Scahill, Daiana Belashova representing the Ukrainian community, Yvonne Ryan, EK. Rena Burke, CDC. Ray O Connor, The Old Stone House Restaurant. Aine Healy, Lough Harps and Olivia Prendergast, Empowerfit

Enterprise Kiltullagh Updates

As we near the end of another successful year, Enterprise Kiltullagh decided to return to publishing this community newsletter following requests from many in our community. We would like to thank all those who contributed articles and photographs and particularly local businesses who again this year have contributed towards the cost of printing this publication. We hope the newsletter will bring you up to date on the many positive developments in our area. 2025 has been another busy and hugely success year for the board of Enterprise Kiltullagh. We marked the retirement of Michael McGreal, Ruth Sullivan and Martha Cornwall while we were delighted to welcome new members Senator Gareth Scahill, James Fitzmaurice, Martina Greene and Dominic Healy to our Board of Directors. Michael, Ruth and Martha have all made invaluable contributions to Enterprise Kiltullagh and ultimately our community. As one of the founding members of EK, Michael was instrumental in many of our successful initiatives and his knowledge and experience of community development together with his network of contacts proved hugely important to us. I would like to thank Michael, Ruth and Martha and indeed all our board members for dedicating their time, knowledge and experience to ensure continued successful endeavours in community development.

I hope that by the time you read this newsletter that our village is decorated with new festive lighting for Christmas. EK have invested overall €6000 in new lighting and related works, a project we hope to build on next year. Our thanks to village residents and businesses who facilitated us by connecting the new lights to their electricity supply. Through a spirit of volunteerism, partnership and commitment we endeavour to make our community a better place for all.

Our Digital Hub hosted many successful initiatives since its opening including Dementia Café, IT classes for the Mens Shed and Active retirement groups.



EK members, CE Supervisor Ciaran Grogan with Dr Martin Daly TD and Olivia Prendergast at the official opening of Empowerfit

We also hosted ATU Mentors and Transition students from Castlerea Community School for a STEM Passport for Inclusion workshops as well as Sustainable energy community seminar. We are delighted with the hugely positive development of securing Euroforest Ltd as sole anchor tenant for the premises.

This move aligns with Enterprise Kiltullagh's mission to attract footfall and foster enterprise development in Ballinlough. As a result we have now relocated our digital hub to Enterprise House which we have recently renovated.

Enterprise Kiltullagh is delighted to have supported the establishment of MG Massage and EmpowerFit Health & Wellness Studio bringing new services and vitality to the village. It is wonderful to see the village being a hive of activity and we are very lucky to have these excellent services in our community. We wish both Olivia and Maryte continued success and we are delighted to have been able to facilitate these developments at Enterprise House. We were also delighted to welcome Ballinlough CDC to Enterprise House.

We recently held a meeting with Dr Martin Daly TD to discuss issues of concerns as well possible future developments. Dr Daly was hugely impressed with our projects and committed his support of future initiatives.

As sponsor of the Community Employment Scheme, I would like to thank our CE manager Ciaran Grogan and his team for their work throughout the year as they support our work and that of clubs and organisations in the area. The Rural Social Scheme under the leadership of Joe Cullen also contributes positively to the local area. My thanks to Michelle Brennan and Niall Toweey for their work in helping to compile this publication.

Continued overleaf --->



Enterprise Kiltullagh marking the retirement of Michael McGreal, Ruth Sullivan And Martha Cornwall

As we prepare to send this publication to print, we are delighted with the announcement that our application for CLAR Funding has been successful.

Enterprise Kiltullagh are being grant aided €65,000 to improve and further develop Lake O Flynn amenities and walking routes.

Finally, on behalf of the Directors of Enterprise Kiltullagh I would like to wish a happy and safe Christmas to everyone in our community and best wishes for health and happiness in 2026.

Yvonne Ryan, Chairperson.



EK DIGITAL HUB

Enterprise House, Ballinlough.



Part of the Connected Hubs network
Avail of Remote working facility
High speed broadband, kitchenette facilities
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Community Alert

The main aim of the Community Alert Committee is to provide services that enhance the security of people's lives in the Ballinlough and Granlahan area

The principle work so far has been to facilitate the installation of security equipment for people over 65 years of age. This equipment is free to install and, is funded by the Department of Community and Local Government but there is a monitoring fee to be paid by the recipient annually.



Castlerea Community School TY Students Complete STEM Passport for Inclusion Programme

Transition Year students from Castlerea Community School recently completed their Level 6 STEM Passport for Inclusion course in partnership with ATU Sligo. The programme was delivered locally thanks to the wonderful facilities available at the Enterprise Kiltullagh Digital Hub.

Students developed their skills in coding, programming and data analysis, gaining hands-on experience and insight into future STEM pathways. We are very fortunate to have access to such a high-quality facility in our community.

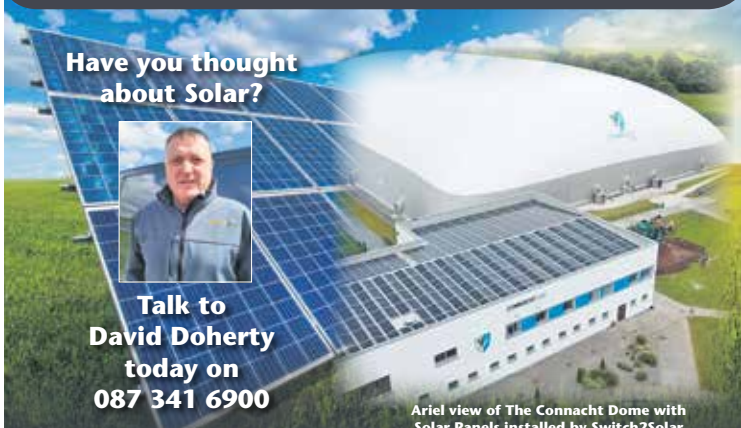
A sincere thank you to everyone at Enterprise Kiltullagh for supporting our students and strengthening the valuable link between CCS, EK Digital Hub and ATU Sligo.





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Kiltullagh Branch Supporting People With Special Needs



Seamus Caulfield volunteering at Night and Day Festival Lough Key Forest Park

Kiltullagh Branch has entered its 50th year and will celebrate its Golden Anniversary in September 2026. It has been a long and successful road, thanks to the people of Ballinlough, Granlahan and Cloonfad who have stood together as a support symbol for people with special needs. A Huge amount of money has been raised in the parish over the years but the spirit of kindness and caring has made that an easy task. Each year, we take this opportunity to say thank you so very much to the people who have supported us every step of the way. We are also very encouraged by and grateful for the ongoing support of the people of Cloonbonniffe. Phil Kelly did trojan work in the area and her efforts are realized to this day, we have many Cloonbonniffe 300 club members, Mile buíochas. There is no doubt but services for people with special needs are still greatly lacking, but the change in acceptance, encouragement and education, over the years, has been enormous.

Ballinlough / Granlahan Active Retirement Group

recently introduced a Book Club to their activities. Book no.3 was "Flowers for Algernon" by Daniel Keyes, written in 1958. This is the story of Charlie Gordon who was born with a very low IQ. He was chosen as the perfect person for surgery that would turn him into a genius. Alas, the surgery brought him heartache and loneliness. So, Charlie finished up as he had started. He outsmarted all his doctors and everybody he knew on his enhanced journey. Sadly, the surgery was not a success. This book poses two questions : Why does society think it knows best what is good for people like Charlie? Who is to say that Charlie was not happy as he was? Perhaps the answer to these two questions lies in accommodating the growth of the people's ability and

ensuring that tools required for success are available. We must consider that it may be much more important to enhance than to change. Society must make sure that supports are in place to enable each person to reach their potential, not somebody else's idea of what their potential should be. Book no 9 on the reading list was "Leaning on Gates"...by Séamus O'Rourke. Séamus lived with his uncle in America as a young man. His cousin, Brian, has Down Syndrome. O'Rourke loved his cousin Brian. He said that apart from a weakness for the Benny Hill Show on repeat, his cousin Brian was perfect. As Séamus saw it Brian had a way of teaching people about themselves. O Rourke could see his real cousin, not Down Syndrome. This is what we must all aim for, to see who people are and to accept their person, place and right.

Kiltullagh Branch is delighted with it's financial success, year after year. The monthly 300 club draw made a profit of €5312 in 2024. We thank all the people who paid €24(many members paid €25) for the years membership. Great thanks is due also to the 10 people who collect from members each year. We received €263.05 in donations in 2024 . We thank Granlahan Men's Shed group for €260 received in November 2024 from money raised at their Coffee morning. Thanks to the people who bought our Christmas cards, we sell them for the County Roscommon Association.

Kiltullagh Branch had the great pleasure of donating €500 to St. Michaels School, Castlerea and €200 to the Sunflower Garden, Roscommon towards their Christmas festivities. IHCPT got €500 towards the cost of their annual trip to Lourdes each Easter.

The annual Kiltullagh Branch Christmas Party was held in Tully's Hotel, Castlerea, on 12th December 2024 for People being supported in the Castlerea area. It was a very festive occasion with Christmas Dinner and music. Kiltullagh Branch members pay for their own food and drinks on the day, and get great joy in sharing the money you entrust to us with the people who are being supported. Thank you!

Our deep sympathy goes out to all the people who have been recently bereaved. May God comfort you all in your time of sadness.

We wish all our supporters a very happy Christmas and a healthy and peaceful New Year. Nollaig Shona agus Athbhliain Faoi Mhaise daoibh go leir.

Branch Members :

Joint Chairpersons : John Ryan/Eileen Brennan

Secretary : Mary Caulfield

Joint Treasurers : Teresa Hebron/Margaret Mc Guire



Wishing all our
customers a very
Happy Christmas &
Wonderful New Year

The Kilmore Inn
Ballinlough

"This Christmas the Kilmore Inn is celebrating 7 years open. We wish to thank all our loyal customers and wish to say it has been a pleasure to be a part of this wonderful community and look forward to seeing you all this Christmas and in the coming year."

3 Separate Cosy areas
Private function room available
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HOUSE**
RESTAURANT

Happy Christmas!

& BEST WISHES FOR 2026

From Ray, Mags & Team

DECEMBER 22	CLOSED
DECEMBER 23	CLOSED
DECEMBER 24	1 PM – 5 PM
DECEMBER 25	CLOSED
DECEMBER 26	CLOSED
DECEMBER 27	5 PM – 9 PM
DECEMBER 28	1 PM – 7 PM
DECEMBER 29	CLOSED
DECEMBER 30	CLOSED
DECEMBER 31	5 PM – 9 PM
JANUARY 01	1 PM – 5 PM

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Knitting & Crochet Group

"A Stitch in time saves nine"

This year was a busy year. We meet each Wednesday at 2pm in Ballinlough CDC centre.

We made lovely knee blankets for Roscommon Hospice. A few of our ladies enjoyed going to Tarmon National School where we taught 4th class knitting. By the end of term we all produced a beautiful wall hanging which is proudly displayed in the school.

One of our members showed us all how to create little rabbits from simple knitted squares.

Come and join us and enjoy a game of bingo and a cup of tea. We would love to welcome some new members. "Déanann go leor lámha obair éadrom"

Marion

It is hoped to have a public information evening in the new year when Community Gardai will attend to deal with any queries .

For more information you can contact
Chairperson Mary Ruane Granlahan
Secretary Miriam Winston Ballinlough
Treasurer John J Gregg Cloonlough

Xmas at Campbells Bar!

Sat 6th of Dec- Jenna Sloane

Sat 13th of Dec - Grumpy Old Men

Fri 19th of Dec - DJ Spin Mobile

Sat 20th of Dec - Bill Haugh

Mon 22nd 'Kids Xmas Jumper Disco' 5 -

7pm

Fri 26th of Dec - David Godfrey - Xmas

Jumper night in aid of CROI

Sat 27th of Dec - The Crystals

Sun 28th -CAMPBELLS MYSTERY TOUR

Wed 31st of Dec - Bandjaxed

Thurs 1st of Jan - Bill Haugh 7pm sharp

Campbells Bar would like to wish all our customers and community a happy, healthy & Merry Christmas & New Years.

Thank you for your continued support, It's been our pleasure and here's to another year!

Ho Ho Ho



Ballinlough Church News

2025 was a year of two celebrations for both Fr. Joe Feeney and Helen Finnegan.

Fr. Joe celebrated his 80 Birthday during the Summer with a Special Celebration to mark same.

The celebration started with concelebrated Mass in the Church which was attended by Parishioners, Fr. Joe's family, classmates and neighbours.

The celebration continued in the GAA Centre with refreshments and Cake. Various presentations were made to Fr. Joe from many organisations such as local schools, GAA and from the combined pastoral councils.

Autumn came and Helen Finnegan retired from her long service as Sacristan. Helen has given many years of loyal service to the role carrying out many roles from preparing the church for various occasions to altar flowers and taking care of sacred vessels and vestments. A meal to celebrate Helen retirement was celebrated locally and attended by Helen friends, neighbours and members of the pastoral council

Ballinlough Gun club

Game propagation association

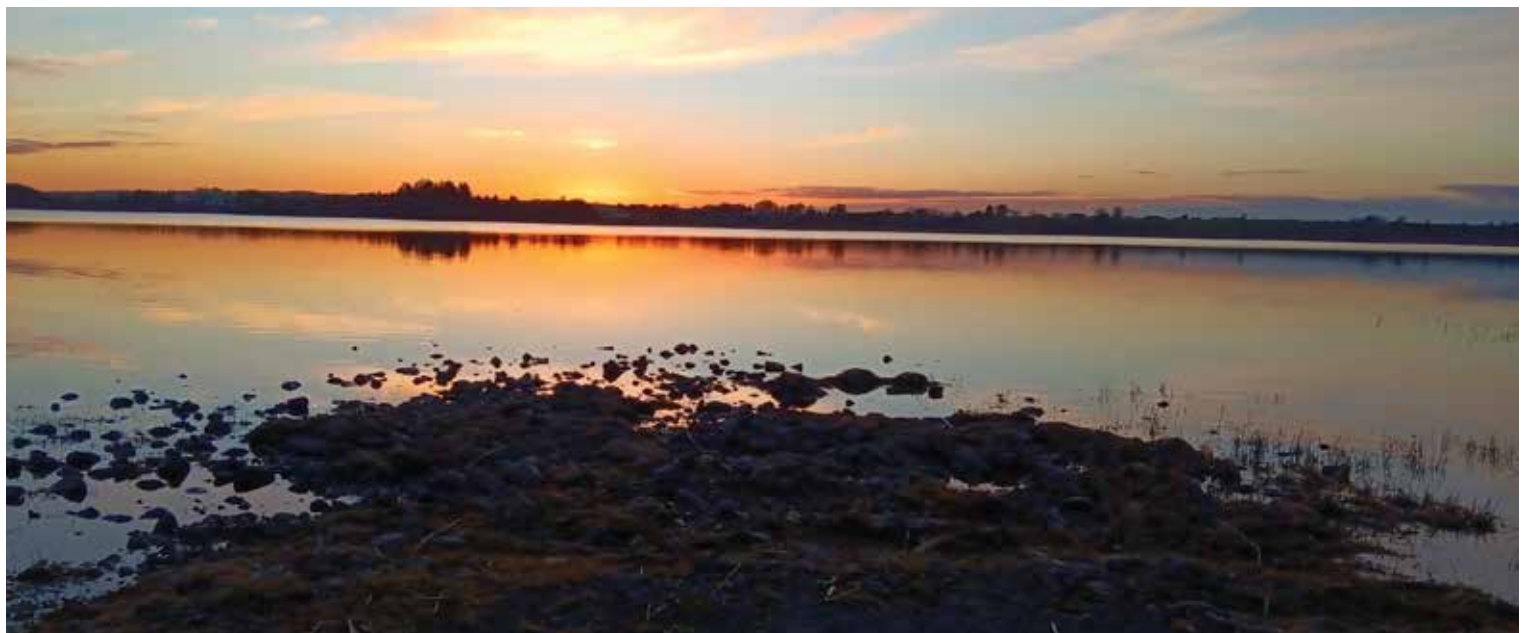
The club was first initiated in the mid 1950s, making it one of the longest running organisations in the area. Its philosophy could be summed up by quoting the US President Theodore Roosevelt, a keen hunter and conservationist who said there is an obligation on us all to hand on our wildlife and habitat in a better shape than we found it. The club is affiliated to the National Association of Regional Game councils which has 27 thousand members countrywide.

When we see the common sight of pheasants in the countryside few realise that they are not native birds to Ireland and are widespread and thriving due to the work of gun clubs who breed and release these birds, monitor and set up feeding programmes to ensure their survival. All ground nesting birds are predated on by foxes, mink grey crows and other predators. This is just nature, a fact of life and a targeted vermin control programme is necessary to ensure a balance.

In recent years club members have purchased incubators, set eggs and reared the pheasant poults to young adulthood before releasing. A time consuming and expensive exercise. The club has also purchased adult birds from areas far removed to enhance the breeding strain and genetic strength of the breed. The last order of such stock ran into thousands of euro, which was supplemented by a generous donor.

The club recently had its 45th annual Novembers Day competition. Club members are very aware of the amount of unspoilt habitat in the area and are grateful for the goodwill of the land owners and

farmers. The fact that the countryside is relatively unspoiled and has good habitat for wildlife is a great advantage. We hope that future generations will continue to enjoy fieldsports and the joys of the countryside.



Michael Glaveys GAA & LGFA

Underage teams enjoyed a very good season in 2025. Our ABC Programmes for U6 Boys and Girls were well attended by our newest stars in 6-week training blocks during the summer.

The U8 & U10 boys teams trained on a Wednesday evenings weekly at 6.30pm in Glaveys and played numerous blitzes' during the season, these players showed great improvement as the year went on.

Our U12 Boys played their Spring and Summer Leagues and enjoyed a day trip to Monaghan Harps for the Feile Peile Oíge where they competed strongly.

The U14 and U16 Combined team were promoted from Div 2 League to Div 1. Championship with our reaching the Sheild Final. These 2 teams excelled during the year playing at a high level. Our U15 Feile Team played superbly in the regional series in the COE in June. Our U18 Combined Minor Boys team were very competitive and showed great commitment throughout the season. The Combined U20 Teams Season commences in October.

Glavey's were colourfully represented in the Cloonfad St Patrick's Day Parade in March. On the LGFA side, this was a very good year for all teams, Our U8 & U10 Girls trained on a Wednesday evening in Glaveys, they played many blitz games during the summer.

The U12 Girls had a good season showing great commitment and improvement. The U14's won their League and performed very well in the higher division for Championship.

The U16 had a fantastic year, they won the Div 2 League and are through to the Div 1A Championship Final, an unbeaten season so far says it all about this small but talented group. Quite a few of these players won a Junior Connaught Title with BSC in Spring.

The U19's Team enjoyed a very competitive Championship narrowly bowing out at the semifinal stage. 2025 will go down as a very successful season for all our underage teams, fielding teams at all ages and competing well against the big clubs.

As always participation in the club is open to every young boy and girl in our area and all are welcome. We would encourage every player to keep playing our games and return in 2026 even if you didn't play this year.

The club facilities are first class with all our coaches trained and fully vetted, as always new coaches are welcome to join and help. Congratulations to our all our club players who represented Roscommon this year. A big thanks to all our experienced coaches for creating a safe, welcoming, enjoyable environment for our young players to prosper. Our senior players have been more than generous with their time helping when asked. It takes a lot of committed volunteers to run a successful underage season; great credit goes to all who sponsored teams or helped in any way.

2025 was a stand out year for our LGFA adult teams given that this was the first year in the club's history that we fielded two adult teams.

Our Intermediate ladies were very unfortunate to not progress into the final stages of the championship having narrow defeats, but it was important for them to retain their intermediate status which they did for another year.

We also for the first time partook in the Junior Championship reaching a semi-final. The semi-final was a nail-biting affair and the team losing out by a single point.

A huge credit is due to the management team of James Hussey, PJ Fleming, Kieran Connolly & Lorraine Murphy Mulligan who did a stellar job with both teams. A special mention to say congratulations to Helena Cummins on her accolade of the Golden Glove Award, Helena beat off stiff competition for this national LGFA award and we are immensely proud of her. Helena is a well-deserved recipient of this award which is demonstrated in her goal keeping skills for Roscommon and her club.

Our Senior men also reached a Senior County Quarter final but narrowly lost out to St Faithleachs. We have retained our senior status for next year and have much to build on for 2026. A big thank you to the management team of Iain Daly, James Heneghan, Bernie Osgood, Mick Flatley & Sinead Osgood for all your efforts. Iain has stepped away from the Managers position and the club cannot thank him enough for all his hard work and we wish him the best.

At the time of this article our Junior B men are in a county final. This is a tremendous achievement and win or lose the team and management have done the club proud.

Well done to all our adult players who represented Roscommon in 2025. From all our club members thank you to everyone who continues to support our club, and the door is always open for new volunteers & members. Glaveys Abu.

Images overleaf

1 Intermediate LGFA

2 Four Heneghan brothers who made history when they played against Western Gaels in Senior Championship- Niall, Cormac, Cathal & Darragh.

3 GAA Under 8 boys

4 Roscommon development players under 15

5 LGFA under 19

6 LGFA Under 8's

7 Helena Cummins accepting her Golden Glove award

8 GAA Under 16

9 LGFA Under 10

10 Family affair- family members of Heneghans and Ruane all part of our Senior mens team

11 BCS Junior Champions 2025



Lough Harps *Underage football season 2022:*

Lough Harps had another great 2025 season with the following age groups : U7s mixed, U9s mixed, U11 Europa mixed, U11 Champions, U12 boys/girls, U12 girls and U16 boys teams.



U7s

Lough Harps under 7s enjoyed a great season of training and games. We travelled to matches and mini blitz event in Dysart, Cloonfad, Ballaghaderreen, Moylough, Ballymoe and Castlerea. The end of year blitz was held in Shiven Rovers grounds and we had two U7 teams taking part. Everyone enjoyed a few hours of great matches. Thanks to the coaches for their hard work and the parents for bring the players especially travelling to matches.



U9s mixed



The U9 season kicked off in April with an excellent turnout at training, as both boys and girls returned eager to get started. Our opening fixture took us to Cloonfad for a closely fought local derby, setting the tone for what would become a busy and exciting campaign.

Across the season, the team participated in a series of games and blitzes against Castlerea, St. John's,



Dysart, Ballymoe, Roscommon, and Ballaghaderreen. These matches provided valuable experience, with the players showing steady improvement week after week. The year wrapped up with a great performance at the final blitz in Shiven, where both our boys and girls teams proudly represented the club and demonstrated great skill and determination.

Well done to all the children for their fantastic effort, progress, and enthusiasm throughout the season. Thanks to all involved with this team.



U11s played some great games

Our u11s had another successful year on the football pitch in 2025 with over 20 children taking part over the course of the season. Our champions team had plenty of victories throughout the year but were in hard luck losing their semi-final on penalties to Moylough. Our europa team brought home the silverware winning the trophy final vs a strong Skyvalley team. A cracking game ended 3-3 before harps won the the penalty shootout 3 goals to 2. Congratulations to Cathal Duggan and Conor on making the Roscommon academy squad

Our **U12s** were placed in the Premier Division this season – a very tough division – but the team rose to the challenge. They played some fantastic football throughout the year and were never out of any game. The boys & girls had some great wins along the way, including reaching the 7s Cup Final in Shiven, where they narrowly lost 1–0 to Roscommon Town. This team also reached the Cup Semi-Final, again facing Roscommon, and put in another strong performance. In the league, they continued to impress and finished second overall – a brilliant achievement



in such a competitive division.

A huge thank you to David and Gerry for your time, dedication, and commitment to the team.

U12 Girls Team

Our U12 Girls had an amazing season – only our



second year having a girls team – and they continue to go from strength to strength. Competing in the Premier Division this year, they faced some very strong opponents and were unlucky in a number of games. Despite that, the girls showed fantastic improvement in their skills, confidence, and overall football throughout the season.

Their next challenge was the U12 Divisional Cup, where they met Moore United both home and away. They won both fixtures in superb fashion, securing their place in the final in Lecarrow against Glen Celtic. The girls put in a brilliant performance on the day and came out on top with a 2–1 victory.

A huge well done to all the girls and well done to everyone involved – a fantastic achievement!

U16s

What a season for these lads! We began with a very small squad and gained a few players throughout the year – and the team grew stronger every week.

Lough Harps U16 Boys reached the Challenge Shield Final, played against Shiven in Newbridge, and what a game it was. There was nothing between the sides. Shiven opened the scoring, but Lough Harps soon found their rhythm. Alan Sampaio, Liam Coggins, and Isazias all found the net before half-time, bringing the score to 3–3 at the break.

In the second half, Conor O'Shaughnessy put Lough Harps ahead 4–3. Shiven equalised, but Conor struck again to make it 5–4. Shiven levelled once more, sending the match to penalties.

Lough Harps held their nerve and won the shoot-out 4–2, claiming the Challenge Shield title.

A remarkable achievement and a fantastic end to a great season for this hardworking group of lads.

In the First Division League, Lough Harps played 9 games, winning 8 and drawing just one, finishing on an impressive 25 points. It all came down to the final game against Cloonfad, which proved to be a hard-fought battle. Cloonfad took an early lead, but through sheer determination from our boys and management, the game turned around and finished 5–2 – crowning Lough Harps as First Division League champions, winning the U16 title by just a single point.



Carrick National School



Ar Aghaidh Le Chéile

Ballinlough, Castlerea,
Co Roscommon F45 PV27
Tel: 094 964 0411
Email: Office@carrickns.ie
Website: www.carrickns.ie

It has been another busy and successful year for all our pupils, teachers, SNAs and staff here at Carrick NS. Since last Christmas the pupils have participated in many curricular lessons and many extra-curricular activities locally and further afield. We had a particularly successful year in sport winning the Roscommon primary schools girls basketball tournament and both boys and girls Cumann na mBunscol Rounders county finals. Our girls also got to the GAA Cumann na mBunscol football finals. We wish our 6th class pupils from last school year the best of luck in secondary school as they start the next chapter of their lives and education.

During the summer break there was a number of building upgrades completed to classroom doors, classroom toilets and painting of classrooms and hallways. We are heading in to a very exciting 12 months ahead with the construction of our school extension taking place. On completion, we will have one new mainstream classroom, 3 Special Education Teacher rooms, new staff toilets and 1 accessible toilet. We thank all the members of the Board of Management, the parents and the local community for supporting our school during the year.

Here are some of the many activities Carrick NS were involved in over the last 12 months since January 2025. Our boys' and girls' soccer teams competed at the Roscommon soccer blitz in Lecarrow in February on a very cold day. They played very well. Unfortunately, we did not progress to the next round but the pupils did the school very proud.

We held our Christmas plays in December 2024. All the pupils performed brilliantly in what was a very enjoyable day. From February onwards, for ten weeks, we had French lessons with teacher Carol Conlon in the 3rd-6th classrooms.

Our school choir performed at the St. Patrick's Day mass on 16th March in the Church of the Immaculate Conception, Ballinlough.

All pupils from 1st class to 6th class completed our annual swimming lessons at Claremorris Leisure Centre as part of the PE curriculum.

Our 2nd class pupils completed their 1st Confessions on Wednesday 12th March. We congratulate them.

In April, we held a Wellbeing week. The pupils had yoga classes with Gary Patterson and we held a "wear your jumper 'inside out' day" to raise awareness about people's hidden feelings inside. Teachers completed mindful activities and meditation in class. Thanks to Mrs Horkan for co-ordinating this. We also raised money for Racism Awareness Ireland by having a wear Red Day. We were awarded the Amber Flag from Pieta House for our wellbeing awareness and activities.

Pupils in 5th and 6th class completed their Confirmation in Cloonfad Church on 14th May which was a beautiful occasion for the pupils and their parents. Archbishop of Tuam, Francis Duffy, lead the ceremony with Fr Joe Feeney.

The pupils in 2nd class celebrated the Sacrament of First Holy Communion on 18th May. Our school choir performed music and songs on the day. The 2nd class pupils performed a tin whistle piece and song too. Congratulations and well done to all. Thanks to Fr Joe Feeney for his great work with the children and leading a wonderful celebration on the day. Thanks to class teacher, Mrs Martina Horkan, for her great work preparing the pupils for the sacrament.

Our pupils planted vegetables in the school polytunnel. Pupils watered and weeded these throughout the term. The most exciting part was the harvest of these vegetables in the last week of school in June.

In June, our junior and senior infants held a teddy bear's picnic on our grass area and picnic benches. These colourful benches were funded with help from our Parents Association. The children brought all types and sizes of teddys and had a fun day, playing many games and having great discussions with their teacher Mrs Denise Byrne.

The months of May and June brought much success. Our boys and girls GAA teams competed at the Cumann na mBunscol Ros Comáin blitz in May. Both teams won the blitz qualifying for the quarter finals. The girls team won their quarter final and semi-finals and competed at the finals in St Faithleach's GAA grounds in June.

Our rounders teams won the boys and girls Cumann na mBunscol 3&4 teacher school county finals in Michael Glaveys GAA pitch on 11th June. This was a huge achievement, making us multiple winners of this event over the last three years.

Gerry Nurney, from Roscommon GAA, completed the school year on Monday 16th June training GAA football skills to the pupils from Junior infants up to 2nd class and then all the pupils from 3rd-6th class every Monday throughout the year.

Our school's basketball boys and girls teams played in the Roscommon blitz. The girls went all the way winning the county final.

Instrumental music lessons with Theresa O'Grady ran

throughout the school year for all pupils in 1st to 6th classes. Children learn to play tin whistle, button accordion, fiddle, concertina, flute and banjo as part of these lessons.

Cross Country Competition: The pupils from 3rd – 6th class represented Carrick NS at the County Roscommon Primary Schools cross country running competition on Wednesday 1st October 2025 in Roscommon Gaels GAA grounds. Well done to all the children especially Ódhran Grogan who qualified for the Connacht championships which was held in Loughrea, Co. Galway.

Active Flag: Carrick NS are taking part in the Active Flag Initiative this year. Our first challenge was the “Skip around the world” challenge from October 6th – 24th. As part of this challenge each class skipped for 10 minutes every day. Each skip equated to 1km, and our combined skips allowed us to travel to various destinations around the world.

Library Trip: On Tuesday 14th October, children from 2nd – 4th class made a trip to Castlerea Library to take part in a “Make your own book” workshop with Mary Branley and Sarah O’Keefe.

Halloween Midterm Break: On Friday, 24th October before the midterm break all our pupils dressed up in some very impressive and spooky Halloween costumes. On the same day, our school Board of Management made a very special presentation to Fr Joe Feeney for his recently celebrated 80th birthday. As a token of appreciation for all the great work he does for our school and community the Board of Management presented him with a mirror inscribed with a message of appreciation as Gaeilge, a picture of the hill of Killtullagh and the Carrick NS crest. All the pupils sang some songs and recited some poetry to add to the celebration.

Christmas Shoe Box Appeal: Many thanks to our pupils and parents for support the annual Team Hope Christmas Shoe box appeal. Pupils and parents fill a shoe box with gifts for a less fortunate child affected by poverty in countries all over the world.

Cash for Clobber: Carrick NS is grateful to those in the community and our parent body for supporting our used clothes collections which raises much needed funds for our school. We always welcome any bags of used clothes here at the school. Please remember not to include any clothes in bad repair or any pillows/duvets.

We wish everyone in Ballinlough and in the parish of Kiltullagh a very happy and peaceful Christmas and a





More Than a Number:

Why Midlife Women Need Strength, Not Stress

By Olivia Prendergast, EmpowerFit Strength & Wellness Centre, Ballinlough

In a small community like ours, we know each other by our names, our stories, and our character, not by numbers.

And yet, when it comes to our own health and happiness, we still allow numbers to dictate how we feel about ourselves.

- The number on the weighing scale.
- The number on our clothes tag.
- The figure on our bank balance.
- Our age.
- Our calorie count.

Somewhere along the way, we started believing these numbers represented our worth.

But here's the truth a truth I say to women every single week:

You are more than a number.

You always were.

I meet women all the time who tell me, "Olivia, I want to lose X amount of pounds."

And I always ask them: Why that number?

What will that number give you? What will it mean?

Because here's the reality and I've seen it hundreds of times:

A woman can lose every pound she wanted to...

She can hit that "goal number" perfectly...

And she can still feel unhappy.

Not because she failed

but because she put her happiness on hold, waiting for a number to give it to her.

And numbers cannot do that.

- A weighing scale can't give you confidence.
- A clothes size can't give you peace of mind.
- A calorie target can't give you self-belief.

Those things come from inside.

- They come from how you feel in your own body.
- From what you can do, not what you weigh.
- From knowing you're getting stronger, steadier, more resilient.

- From lifting weights, fueling yourself properly, and showing up even on hard days.

That's the intrinsic part the part no scale can measure. And when women shift their focus from shrinking to strengthening, everything changes.

Not just their body their whole outlook.

Strength training gives women in midlife back what the world often takes from them:

confidence, energy, identity, and a sense of "I can do this."

It improves bone density, protects joints, lifts mood, supports menopause symptoms, helps maintain muscle (which naturally drops with age), and gives women the physical power they thought they'd lost.

But most importantly

It builds inner strength.

The kind that cannot be weighed.

The kind that shows up in how you carry yourself, not what you carry on the scale.

Here in Ballinlough, we're a community.

We know hardship, resilience, and support.

We know what it means to look after each other.

So, from one local woman to another, I'll say this:

Don't wait for happiness to show up when you hit a certain number.

Don't let your life be paused until you reach a target that won't change who you are.

Start focusing on how you feel, not what you weigh.

Start acknowledging your progress not in pounds, but in power.

Start choosing strength over stress.

Because you are more than a number.

You are a full story, a lived life, a strong woman and this chapter is yours to reclaim.

Do it for you.



Ballinlough Granlahan Active Retirement Association - A Busy and Rewarding Year

The Ballinlough Granlahan Active Retirement Group continues to thrive, with a vibrant membership of 44 individuals who share a commitment to community, wellness, and lifelong learning.

The group meets monthly—excluding July and August—in either Ballinlough or Granlahan. Between meetings, members take part in an array of activities that promote social connection, personal growth and overall wellbeing.

Throughout the year, members had the pleasure of hearing from a variety of speakers at their meetings. Among them were John Courell Chartered Physiotherapist (UPMC Ireland), Gary Patterson Breathwork Facilitator, Rachel Hevican Bliss Beauty Nutrition and Health Clinic Castlerea, Elaine Ellis Milliner, Lorraine Mulvey Age Friendly Ireland, Olivia Prendergast Empower Fit Ballinlough and Patrick Gill, AIB Castlerea.

A range of classes were offered throughout the year, ensuring something of interest for everyone. Physical wellbeing was supported through Wellness Stretch sessions led by one of our own members, Gentle Exercise with Kelley Hopkins (GRETB), Gym Classes with Olivia of Empower Fit and Yoga with instructors



Marese Cregg and Mags Corcoran (GRETB).

Some members enjoyed the Knitting and Crafting classes. The Knitting Group meet on Wednesday afternoons and have knitted various items including a set of blankets which they donated to hospitals. Members also took part in an intergenerational knitting project with a school where pupils learned to knit, resulting in a beautiful tapestry display.

Members continued with the craft of Card Making, producing charming handmade cards for different occasions. This class is on-going for any members who wish to take part.

Under the expert guidance of Tommy Kearney of Kearney's Gardens, Cloonfad, members explored the joys of flower arranging and gardening. From autumn wreaths and festive centrepieces to Easter arrangements and summer and spring pot planting, these sessions have become very popular within the group.

An exciting addition to the Association's programme this year was the formation of An Club Leabhar / The Book Club. Each month, members read and discuss a selected title, sharing insights and lively conversation. Highlights included reading "From a Low and Quiet Sea" by Donal Ryan, followed by a trip to see its stage adaptation at the Gaiety Theatre. Members also enjoyed attending Padraic Potts, written and performed by Seamus O'Rourke, at the Ballaghaderreen Arts Festival.

The group's excursions are always eagerly anticipated. This year's adventures included a scenic boat trip from Banagher, Co. Offaly, along the tranquil Shannon waterways, and a summer outing to Sligo, featuring tours of Lissadell House and Gardens, Dolly's Cottage, and a stroll along Strandhill Beach—topped off, of course, with a delicious meal each time.



Members also enjoyed a cookery demonstration and lunch at An Chistin in Castlerea, and some attended the acclaimed musical "Fiddler on the Roof" at the Bord Gáis Energy Theatre in Dublin.

The festive season was celebrated in style at the Christmas Party in the Percy French Hotel, Strokestown last Christmastime and plans are well underway for 25 members to attend one of the Festive Afternoons of Entertainment at the Shamrock Lodge Hotel, Athlone, this December. We also continue to support the Age Friendly Festivals held in Kilbride Community Centre, Four Mile House.

The Association remembers with affection members Chris Neenan and Breege Hanley, who passed away this year and members who lost loved ones during the year. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families and friends. May they Rest in Peace.

May this Christmas bring peace and joy to you and your loved ones and may 2026 be a year filled with health, happiness and continued friendship.



A Year of Inclusion, Innovation and Community at Ballinlough National School

2025 was a fast year! Where has the time gone? Looking back over this year we have achieved a lot as a school, especially having marked one of its most dynamic and transformative years to date. The year brought achievements across inclusion, culture, sport, STEM and community engagement!

Our proudest moment was on 11th November, as Ballinlough National School was awarded as the first 'Champion School of Sanctuary' in County Roscommon. Children from 2nd to 6th travelled to NUIG with Co-Ordinator Ms. Huane to accept their award and to perform 'We are the World'. The school's intercultural ethos, rooted in the Sanctuary Principles of Learn, Act, Share, was evident during a monitoring visit by a seven-member monitoring team in March and once again at the award ceremony. All the children were fantastic ambassadors of our school. A major development came on September 1st with the opening of the school's new Autism Class an important step in extending inclusion, integration and reverse integration within one of Ireland's oldest school communities. On September 24th we celebrated Fórsa SNA Appreciation Day, recognising the work of our SNAs Ms. Forde, Ms. Keaveney, Ms. Fitzmaurice, and Ms. Eakins.

In February Ms. Forde made us all proud as she graduated with distinction from UCD's Diploma in Inclusive School Support. The year also marked significant professional development. Staff completed certified training in Restorative Practice, Child Protection, Physical Literacy and Inclusion all aligning with the new Primary Curriculum Framework.



The school remains one of just 45 schools nationwide participating in the Department of Education's two-year Universal Design for Learning (UDL) Pilot. This whole-school approach to inclusive teaching promotes flexibility, active learning and equitable access for all pupils. The school's commitment was recognised in March when it was selected for deeper UDL research, including a visit from a UCC's Dr. Kevin Cahill. Staff members also continued professional development, with Mr. Dowd and Ms. Burke completing further UDL training in Athlone in October.

The school has placed a strong emphasis on pupil voice and social responsibility throughout the year. As part of giving pupils a voice in school life a new school uniform was introduced, reflecting their input and preferences. In March pupils marked 'Wear Red Day' raising money to support the 'Say No to Racism' campaign. A visit from Immigration Ireland allowed pupils to be recognised for their efforts, receiving prizes including a table-tennis table and GAA goals. The school also contributed €100 to UNICEF in support of children in Gaza. April saw the celebration of Neurodiversity Week, highlighting the importance of inclusion and understanding. In September, we celebrated a wonderful milestone as Ms. Jordan marked 20 years since first stepping through the school gates. In November, she addressed the Irish Primary Principals' Network (IPPN) National Conference in Killarney, delivering a powerful message on inclusion and how in our school, "nobody belongs until everyone belongs."

We strengthened our transitions partnership with Jack and Jill Playschool this year, welcoming children for a range of events including circus shows and Christmas caroling. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Sylvia Murphy for her years of service and to wish her successor Melissa Cummins the very best in the role. Senior pupils were also treated to a matinee of 'Sister Act' at Ballyhaunis Community School, while visits from post-primary teachers from Wilson's #Hospital School, Castlereagh Community School and Ballyhaunis Community School ensure supported smooth transitions for our 6th Class. In the Spring Cara Keaveney, a past pupil attending teacher training at DCU Church of Ireland Pathway, completed a successful placement in the Senior classes. In the Autumn Jessica Lynch, also attending DCU, completed a successful placement in our Autism Class.

Back in January marked the start of an exciting year in the Blue Star, our second year in a programme in which pupils' explore EU culture, geography and institutions. We were honoured to be acknowledged as the first 'Champion Teachers of the Blue Star'.

In 2025 the school welcomed Senator Gareth Scahill and Cllr. Ruth Conboy for an engaging Q&A with pupils. In July Ms. Huane and Ms. Jordan joined a delegation to Brussels to visit the European Commission and European Parliament, an opportunity that will enrich our classroom learning.

Currently, our Senior pupils are taking part in MEP Nina Carberry's EU themed essay competition. Modern Foreign Languages is going to be an important part of the New Primary Curriculum in the future so we have created links through the 'Say Yes to Languages' initiative.

To date pupils have enjoyed lessons in Spanish, Ukrainian and Portuguese and will soon begin French with Ms. Burke. Another EU initiative we applied for was through Léargas and since April we have gained Erasmus+ School status. As part of this EU co-funded programme Mr. Dowd and Ms. Jordan travelled to Venice to complete art seminars during the Halloween break.

The school's STEM journey has continued to grow after being awarded a €10,000 STEM grant in 2024, officially establishing Ballinlough National School as a STEM school. We've become a 'First LEGO League School' and this funding has enabled children to master LEGO Spike coding while younger pupils explored LEGO Discovery. STEM learning continued throughout the year, including Scratch coding workshops with Brendan Smith in June, a hands-on maths week in October and lively Science Week in November, marked by experiments and plenty of excitement.

A highlight of the year came in February, when four pupils showcased their 'Futuristic Cars' project at the STEMtacular Science Fair in Leitrim. Their work attracted national attention, featuring on RTÉ News-2Day. Two further projects were also presented at STEMtacular; one learning how to make paper and a second investigating the use of materials for clothing where the children learned the skill of hand and machine sewing. Last May all three projects were selected to be presented at the end of year UDL showcase in Portlaoise.

Environmental learning has remained a priority with pupils participating in the EU supported Waters of LIFE project, examining local waterways and biodiversity. Meanwhile, senior pupils have engaged in the GLOBE Ireland Air Quality Campaign, gathering data on traffic-related pollution.

This is real world citizen science in action. In September, the children participated in the local Kiltullagh Culture Night. Culture Night is a nationwide celebration where communities come alive with free arts events, music, storytelling and performances for all ages. As part of the festivities, the children entered the local schools' art competition, creating some beautiful and imaginative



pieces. The school also supported the Kiltullagh Community Games, with five pupils progressing to county level in June and one proudly represented County Roscommon in Carlow at the 'All Ireland Model Making' event last September.

The children have also completed artwork for the National Association of Regional Game Councils (NARGC).

Physical activity has also remained central to the school's wellbeing throughout the year. The children had a go at NFL Flag American football following Mr. Dowd's certified training in Galway and continued GAA training delivered by Roscommon GAA coach Gerry. On 11th June pupils celebrated the UN International Day of Play at NUIG, enjoyed the annual Sports Day at Lough Harps and saw senior athletes compete in the Roscommon Cross-Country Finals in October. Swimming lessons continued for all pupils as an essential part of the PE curriculum and the school now awaits the renewal of its Active School Flag. Several of our children are successfully participating in sport out of school too. We have players in Lough Harps and Michael Glavey's, children training in martial arts and children training at Castelrea Boxing Club. Congratulations to Caitlyn in 6th Class who won her Semi-Final at the Connaught Cup, narrowly missing out in the final minutes. We also continue to promote healthy eating. As a Food Dudes School, pupils participated enthusiastically in Food Dudes Week in October. In September we changed lunch provider through the DEIS Hot School Dinners Initiative and meals are now provided by local company Steak-Out Catering, a move welcomed by pupils and staff.

As a school we have continued to reflect the ethos through a rich programme of spiritual and creative experiences throughout the year.

Continued Overleaf...

Ballinlough NS continued...

Pupils have taken part in seasonal art workshops and in October participated in our annual vibrant Harvest Service with family and friends led by Rev. Xanthe Pratt. January brought a lively and uplifting New Year's Assembly from Bishop Ferran Glenfield and later that month Ms. Jordan attended a Principals' Meet at St. Patrick's Cathedral in Dublin where she had the opportunity to meet Archbishop of Dublin, the Most Revd. Dr Michael Jackson. Excitement followed in the Spring with a special visit from Marion and Rev. Simon who arrived with the prayer caravan, its first stop on the road being Ballinlough. Participation in the DCU Church of Ireland School Prayer Journey during Lent added further depth to the school's spiritual life and in May pupils travelled to St. John's Cathedral in Longford for the annual Children's School Service, with plans already taking shape for a return visit in 2026.

Earlier in the year, the entire school community had the privilege of witnessing the Renewal of Baptismal Vows for one of the senior pupils with Rev. Xanthe and in December they gathered once again to celebrate the Baptism of another young member of the wider community during a beautiful church service.

Both occasions were very special and warmly embraced by all in attendance. As we come close to Christmas, it is a time to reflect on our ethos and the sense of community that shapes life at Ballinlough National School. This year the school held a Christmas Carol Service by candlelight in the church with an invitation welcoming family, friends and the wider community.

As the school year draws to a close, everyone at Ballinlough National School would like to extend sincere thanks to the West Midlands Credit Union Committee, the County Roscommon Association for Supporting People with Special Needs, Connaught Contractors and Enterprise Kiltullagh, whose generous support helps enrich teaching and learning in our school. I would also like to acknowledge the dedication of our staff, the enthusiasm of the children and their families, and the continued support of our Board of Management and our Patron, Bishop Ferran Glenfield.

Wishing you all a very Happy and Peaceful Christmas.

Tara Jordan

Principal

Ballinlough National School



Ballinlough & Granlahan Community Defibrillator Project

"Together, we can save a life."

COMPRESSIONS-ONLY CPR – HOW TO SAVE A LIFE

1. Check the scene is safe for you and the victim.
2. Check responsiveness – tap the shoulders and shout, "Are you okay?"
3. If no response, call 999 or 112 and get a Defibrillator (AED).
4. Give 30 chest compressions – push hard and fast in the centre of the chest.
5. Continue compressions until an AED #or trained help arrives.

LOCATIONS OF DEFIBRILLATORS (AEDs) BALLINLOUGH/GRANLAHAN

White House Hotel – **F45 AD89**

Mary Ruane – **F45 HD52**

Martin Kelly, Cloonlough – **F45 XF66**

Ian Connaughton, Grange – **F45 PY29**

Brian Wilde, Ballinlough Quarter – **F45 XP65**

Ronan Denning, Lowberry – **F45 TD925**

John Moylan, Foxboro – **F45 Y191**

Please Note: AED boxes are NOT locked – access is available to everyone in an emergency.

NEWS FROM THE DEFIBRILLATOR COMMITTEE

- It is recommended that Compressions-Only CPR be used within the community.
- We completed essential maintenance and replacements of AEDs and batteries during 2025 and this work will continue in to the coming year.
- Training available – contact 087 280 7724 for details.
- Our Annual St. Stephen's Day Walk/Cycle returns this year! Join us for fun and fundraising.
- In 2026, we will need to replace older defibrillators and boxes – please support our fundraising efforts.
- Thanks to all householders and businesses who care for AEDs at their premises.
- New members welcome! Contact any committee member to get involved.
- The defibrillators belong to everyone – please help us keep them safe and ensure each displays the OK symbol.



Ballinlough Community Development Council (C.D.C)



Ballinlough Community Development Council was first set up in 2007 as an umbrella group for several smaller groups locally and its objectives were and still are to promote development in the community, to encourage wellness, good health, and social inclusion, to be mindful of security and safety and to focus on local history and heritage. We thank all the outgoing officers who, over the years have promoted community cohesion and development through those ongoing objectives.

To relaunch Ballinlough C.D.C. 2025 we hosted a table quiz night on 2 May last in Fordes/Campbell's Bar, Ballinlough. It was a very successful and pleasant occasion.

We are now renting a social space in Enterprise Kiltullagh House in Ballinlough, Co. Roscommon and we are members of Roscommon Public Partnership Network. In August this year we installed a design on the window of our C.D.C centre which reflects our local heritage, the Crannóg on Lake O'Flynn, the Cillín or Church on Kiltullagh Hill and the Ó Súilleabháin Béara Walk which goes through Ballinlough. These three elements of local heritage are recognised nationally and internationally also.



We celebrated National Heritage Week 17-24 August and the week started and finished with bilingual Masses which included choral singing by the local Ballinlough and Granlahan choir members and traditional music by Patsy and Michelle Finan. We were delighted to host a Heritage Day where local antiques and locally knitted, crochet and handcrafted products were on display and talked about. We hosted a Ciorcal Comhrá evening with local storytelling, seanchas and the evening finished with a few amhrán as Gaeilge. The Creative Writers workshop was facilitated by Geraldine Finn poet and author and was also very well attended. Those heritage events were all held in our C.D.C Centre, Ballinlough.

The archaeologist and lecturer Gary Dempsey gave a very interactive illustrated lecture on heritage and history in the local area with particular emphasis on Kiltullagh and the various stone structures in the surrounding area. This lecture was held in the Kilmore Inn, Ballinlough.

To promote culture week from the 20 September we organised an Art Competition for the local Primary School pupils. There was a huge entry and we are most grateful to our judge Xanthe Pratt who picked the winners. The artwork was on display in the Archway at EK House.

To celebrate Samhain we had an illustrated interactive lecture on Antiquities and Early settlements in Ballinlough, Landscape and Placenames in the area, the crannog on Lake O'Flynn and the discovery of items of an archaeological nature on it, including a brooch pin. The lecture also explored the O'Flynn's and their connections to Oscar Wilde, the journey of Ó Súilleabháin Béara from Béara in Cork southwards by the Suck Valley, through Ballinlough and onto the O'Ruairc Clan in Breiffne. The lecture was presented by the eminent historian, teacher and scholar Bernie Jordan from Ballaghaderreen. The lecture was held in Campbell's/Fordes Bar, Ballinlough.

The creative writing workshop has now started, being facilitated by Siobhán Kilbride and a 6 week course for Comhra Gaeilge finished at the end of November and it is hoped a second course will take place in the new year. There is an eclectic collection of books in the CDC centre, available for book-swap and we are adding to the collection on an ongoing basis. We hope that our centre will continue to be a place for social inclusion with language café and creativity at its heart, culture nights with a rambling house vibe, a book swap facility, and a place where the arts, culture and heritage are promoted. The logo on the window articulates these features.

We hope to organise a fundraising lottery/raffle over the next few weeks and into the New Year 2026, with the draw in our C.D.C Centre in E.K House on Saturday 4 January 2026. We are extremely grateful to our sponsors for their generosity and encouragement. Finally our logo is: Community together, the foundation to success. Pobal le chéile, bunchloch an ratha.

The current officers are: Chairperson: Rena Burke, Secretary: Mary Finan, Treasurer: John James Cregg, P.R.O. Mary Tarmey, Committee Members: Marian Greene-Forde, Miriam Winston.
ballinlough.cdc@gmail.com





Jack and Jill Community Playgroup CLG

Jack & Jill Community Playgroup Christmas Update

It has been a very busy and joyful term at Jack & Jill Community Playgroup between our Playschool in Ballinlough and SAC service in Granlahan. Earlier in the school year, we experienced a change of management, and we are so grateful for the warmth and support shown by families and the wider community during this transition. The children have settled in wonderfully and have enjoyed everything from outdoor adventures to sensory exploration, arts and crafts, adventures and Science Week activities. Following the children's interests through our emergent curriculum has led to so much fun and learning.

One of the children's favourite moments this term was our outdoor mini-campfire, where we toasted marshmallows, sang songs, and gathered as one group – a very special memory for all involved.

This year we were proud to participate in the Transitions in Action project in partnership with Ballinlough National School, supporting children moving from preschool to primary education. This collaboration strengthened familiarity, confidence and readiness for the next step in their learning journey. We are delighted to say that we hope to take part in the project again this year.

It was also a great honour for Jack & Jill management to sit as a judge for Ballinlough National School's Schools of Sanctuary process, and we were thrilled to see the school awarded official School of Sanctuary recognition – a wonderful achievement for our community.

We are incredibly proud to belong to such a supportive community. Thank you to the families of the children who attend both our Playgroup in Ballinlough and our Afterschool in Granlahan. Finally, a heartfelt thank you to our amazing staff team, whose kindness, creativity and dedication shine through in every interaction with the children.

We wish everyone a peaceful, joyful Christmas and a New Year filled with growth, learning and happiness, From all at Jack and Jill Community Play Group



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