

# BALLINAMORE TOWN TEAM

12 March 2025



Issue 1



**“Ask not what the Town Team can do for you, but what you can do for the Town Team” - John F. Kennedy (ish)**

Like all community groups working hard for Ballinamore to be a fabulous place to live, work and take leisure in, The Town Team Executive Committee is only as effective as the volunteers giving up their time to further its aims. These are:

- To facilitate communication and cross group working so as not to duplicate work and ensure that we are greater than the sum of our parts
- To help identify funding streams and support grant applications
- To ensure town wide understanding, ownership and commitment to a town wide strategic vision for Ballinamore.

We would welcome any interested resident or group member to join us.

## Town Team Executive Committee Members

Simon Power, Chair, (Tourism, Business leader) | Michelle Reynolds, Secretary, (Leitrim Development Company)  
Amanda O Connell, Minute Secretary | Sarah Garden PRO, (Ballinamore CCE) | Martina McTiernan (Tourism)  
Sharon Sweeney | Kathleen Kearns (Foróige, Beekeepers, Friends) | Richard van Hees

## WHAT'S ON IN BALLINAMORE? IMPROVING INFORMATION FLOWS

Please continue to send information on WhatsApp for circulation to the wider Town Team to members of the Executive Committee as before. In addition to this, the Tourism Committee and the Town Team Executive have agreed a streamlined way of ensuring that information about 'whats on', upcoming events, meetings and other news is circulated in a timely fashion.

All groups are urged to send their news, events, call outs etc to a new email **Ballinamorenews@gmail.com**. News from the schools and the parish news will also be sent to this email. This information will then be collated, edited and disseminated using the following channels:

- [ballinamore.ie](http://ballinamore.ie), Ballinamore tourism facebook and instagram on daily basis
- Leitrim Observer notes pages on a weekly basis.

The Town Team will then collate this information, with news from the PPN, the BACC, and Better Together to form the next quarterly newsletter due in June.

**St Patrick's Day Parade - attract new members to your group!**

It's St. Patrick's Day this weekend and it's not too late to enter the parade. Advertise your group for new members! Contact Martina. Help make this St. Patrick's Day a fabulous day out for all who live here!



## IN THIS ISSUE

1. Courthouse Update
2. What's On Streamlining information flows
3. 'The Gathering' News
4. Opportunity to influence Leitrim Tourism Strategy
5. Group Updates
6. Grants available

/BallinamoreCoLeitrim

/ballinamoretourism

TOWN TEAM

## THE FUTURE OF BALLINAMORE COURTHOUSE - CALL FOR FEEDBACK

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Ballinamore Development Company has commissioned a Feasibility Study to explore viable options for the development of Ballinamore Courthouse. This study aims to enhance the building's social and economic value for the community, including the potential incorporation of a John McGahern cultural experience, scaled appropriately based on research findings.

The study is being conducted by a multidisciplinary team led by Dr Eileen McGloin (EMcG Solutions), with support from Eamonn Monaghan (Keys and Monaghan Architects) and Gavin Duignan (Kelly O'Callaghan Surveyors). Their combined expertise ensures a practical yet forward-thinking approach to the project.

### How to Get Involved

We invite you to share your thoughts on the Courthouse development by:

Emailing your submission to **ballinamoredevelopmentcompany@gmail.com** (use "Courthouse" as the subject).

Dropping off written submissions at the reception of Ballinamore Enterprise Centre, Willowfield Road, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim.

## NEW TOURISM COMMITTEE WINS FUNDING TO ORGANISE 'THE GATHERING' IN BALLINAMORE

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Ballinamore Tourism has formed a new committee and have won a substantial grant to contribute events to 'The Gathering', a county-wide showcasing of all that Leitrim has to offer, during the weekend of 23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May. In Ballinamore, Friday night, internationally renowned traditional band, 'Garadice' will perform in a Marquee at the Junction with support from our very own 'Wren Boys'. On Saturday a number of free workshops will be available under the marquee culminating in a music performance in the evening.

The Tourism Committee are working with the Town Team to consolidate information flows are currently seeking funding for a new [ballinamore.ie](http://ballinamore.ie) website. In the meantime, the St Patrick's Day Parade will be on Monday 17<sup>th</sup> of March at 4pm. All local businesses and community groups are invited to take part and local businesses and residents are asked to erect a Tri-Colour flag outside to contribute to the celebration.

### Opportunity to present the potential of the South Leitrim Greenway at Tourism 2025: Workshop and Briefing on the Future Vision, Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March, 11am-2.30pm, Landmark Hotel, Carrick on Shannon.

All individuals and/or businesses involved and passionate about Tourism or Hospitality in Ballinamore and County Leitrim are invited to join the Tourism Forum of Leitrim and Leitrim County council for an important workshop and briefing on the Vision of Tourism for 2025. Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> March, 11am-2.30pm at the Landmark Hotel.

To reserve your spot, contact Darren Casserly at [tourism@leitrimcoco.ie](mailto:tourism@leitrimcoco.ie).

## GROUP UPDATES

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### *Ballinamore Foróige Club Reconvenes Mondays*

Ballinamore Foróige Club, which has been established since the 1980s, reconvened with an exciting programme in store for Monday nights in the Afterschool at 6:30 pm. Elections of committee members will take place under the guidance of Regional Youth Officer Jason Harley.

### *Ballinamore Tidy Towns*

Ballinamore Tidy Towns' next big volunteer event will be the Good Friday Spring Clean and Tidy UP. Volunteers are to meet at car park 10am on Good Friday. Please bring gloves and high vis if you have them. All over 12s welcome. Refreshments available afterwards, courtesy of our national sponsors SuperValu.



***Ballinamore Greenway Parkrun. Get the Outside In, Not Just for Runners!***

A free, fun, and friendly weekly 5km community event. Walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate – it's up to you! All abilities welcome, come to volunteer, or pop down for a chat and make new friends. Be part of this international community there will be a big welcome for you. Every Saturday at 9.30am at The Junction. [www.parkrun.ie/ballinamoregreenway](http://www.parkrun.ie/ballinamoregreenway).

***Ballinamore to Corgar Greenway - Post Storm Update***

This remains a fantastic amenity for everyone in the community and after the recent storm volunteers came out to clear it of debris and fallen trees. The council will be urged to fulfil their role in maintaining it.

***Corgar to Aughawillan Greenway nearly complete***

The Contractor will be on site in the next few weeks to complete the final part of the greenway to Aughawillan. Cavan County Council will then be responsible for finishing the piece from Aughawillan to Ballyheady, which will link to Ballyconnell.

***South Leitrim Greenway***

€100,000 in funding has just been allocated the first phase of this project involving consultation on routes. Potentials include Dromod to Mohill to Ballinamore, Ballinamore to Ballyduff to Keshcarrigan to Kilclare, which will link to Leitrim Village.

***News from the new Ballinamore Biodiversity Gardening Group (BBGG)***

The Ballinamore Biodiversity Gardening Group (BBGG) formed last autumn following completion of MSLETB Horticultural Modules. Their aims are to inspire, engage and educate themselves and the community to live sustainably harmoniously with nature to preserve diversity of all life.

Their Apple-pressing Day last year brought in new people from the wider area. In conjunction with Tidy Towns and in collaboration with CE scheme workers they will enhance local biodiversity by planting native trees, shrubs, perennials and edibles and by strategic seasonal mowing. There are talks planned on a various subjects, including on bats and the importance of healthy soil. They are planning projects aimed at helping swifts, solitary bees & the waterside birds. Find out more information and meet them at the Agricultural Show where they will have a stall.

***Ballinamore Area Community Council goes from strength to strength in its 50<sup>th</sup> Year***

In 2024 BACC drew down €900,000 in grant funding with which they plan to: Upgrade the sports complex, build a new multiple use games area (MUGA), extend the children's playground to include a disability swing & sensory items, insulate the Den and install solar panels & EV charger, provide FREE training such as Safe Pass, QUAD driving, Forklift, Driving lessons, continue running "Better Together - Níos Fearr Le Chéile" Peace Impact Programme, extend services provided by the community services hub in the Den, take ownership of Felim's Pitch, upgrade the Enterprise Units on the Golf Links Road.

### ***Ballinamore Comhaltas Hosts the Leitrim County Fleadh Friday - Sunday 25-27<sup>th</sup> April***

It's an honour and an opportunity for Ballinamore to host the County Fleadh. In addition to hosting the competitions, Ballinamore Comhaltas has organised a session trail on Friday, Saturday and Sunday night in local pubs as well as a concert at the Island Theatre on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> by renowned musicians Cian Sweeney, Dylan Carlos and John McCartin. Tickets can be bought on the Island Theatre's website or on the door.

They hold monthly Sunday session in the Crannog Room of the Island Theatre for children learning traditional instruments. Adults who would like to 'dust the cobwebs from their instruments' are welcome to join our 'Cobweb Sessions' held Wednesday evenings in the local pubs on rotation.

### ***The Anglers Continue to Attract Tourists To Ballinamore***

Through organising an annual 6-day Angling Festival, taking place this year 19<sup>th</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup> May, the Angling Group continue to attract roughly 30 traveling anglers to the area with 90 taking part in the Ivan Price memorial match. They support the Ballinamore Family festival's fishing competitions providing equipment and coaches and continue to encourage young people into the sport. More information please contact lakelandsangling@gmail.com.

### ***Ballinamore Athletics Club Celebrates 60<sup>th</sup> Year***

On May 5<sup>th</sup>, Bank Holiday Monday, as part of their 60<sup>th</sup> year celebrations, the club will commemorate the first Club Meeting held in the former Catholic Hall (now the Island Theatre). The event will include Track & Field Sports in St Felim's along with a major photographic and video exhibition covering sixty years along with presentations and refreshments in the Den.

In November last, 150 former and current members of the the club attended an event consisting of a a mile run, jog, walk, photography exhibition and presentations to the first four runners who took part in an open U18 mile in Kenagh on Sunday Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> 1964. They were Thomas J McManus and Christy Foley who were present, Thomas P McManus who was represented by his brother James and the late Sean Flanagan represented by his sister Mary.

### ***Men's Shed, Ballinamore - a vital network for men living in Ballinamore and Surrounding Parishes***

The Men's Shed, now numbering 24 members both native and new arrivals, meet Wednesdays in the ETB building for companionship, camaraderie, activities and outings all enhanced by the tea/coffee and refreshments prepared by our President Noel Sweeney. They are supported by Leitrim County Council, MSLETB, The National Men's Shed Association, Leitrim County Library, Leitrim PPN and Leitrim Sports Partnership.

They are ready to help out with the Tidy Towns and Festival and Show Committees, the Leitrim Community Games, making picnic tables and seats for the local Scout Troupe, providing Buddy Benches and Gardening boxes for the local National School, participating in the local Christmas Fair, erecting the outdoor Christmas Crib at St Patrick's Church, providing and decorating the Christmas Tree at Ballinamore Nursing Unit, making bird boxes and hanging baskets for the Community Arts and Crafts Group, erecting and painting the railway signal up at the Junction, holding fund raising Table Quizzes for the local Nursing Home Comfort Fund, for the Cherry Blossom Centre.

### ***The Coffee Pot Is Seldom Cold at Ballinamore Hens' Shed***

Ballinamore Hens' Shed meet every Monday in the Island Theatre at 11.30am for coffee, chat or for presentations by visiting speakers on health, skin care, and fitness. Thanks to funding from the Leitrim Development Company and Leitrim County Council, they also offer workshops on diverse practical activities such as decorating wooden planters, ceramics, woodwork and jewellery making. They aim to promote social interaction and wellbeing. Women of all ages are welcome.

### ***Long Running Community Arts and Crafts Group Learning New Skills at the Leitrim School of Art***

Thanks to funding from the HSE, Leitrim County Council and the MSLETB, the group have continued to learn and share crafts and skills, upgrade their technology skills through the use of a laptop and printer and create work to exhibit during the Ballinamore Family Festival. They meet on Tuesday mornings in the MSLETB building.

### ***Family Festival Committee***

Following the huge success of the 2024 Ballinamore Festival, the committee is already hard at work planning an even bigger and better event for 2025. Exciting new activities and entertainment are being lined up to make this year's festival truly unforgettable. Thank you to everyone for your continued support. Roll on August 10<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>, as we bring the best 8 days of community spirit to Ballinamore in 2025!

### ***'Friends' - New name of the 'Friends of Asylum Seekers'***

Friends of Asylum Seekers have changed their name to 'Friends' to reflect their wider concerns; from sourcing a preloved school uniform or a coat to assisting with integration and big things like hosting international culture events. All are welcome representing a wide range of countries. They are also working with Community Action Tenants Union on evictions, empty properties, lobbying Leitrim County Council to be creative and proactive about housing lists and derelict properties.

### ***The Island Theatre and Community Hall: A Focus for Arts and Community Events***

You couldn't fail to notice that the Island has become a hive of activity since Christmas. Hosting the Ballinamore Musical society production of Sister Act, the current Drama festival, regular events such yoga, hens shed activities, karate, keep fit, and of course the stunning exhibition's organised by the Solas Gallery's araying the walls all ensure a constant stream of visitors. The Event Committee has put together a stunning line up of future events including Sharon Shannon, Robert Mizzell, Anne Gildea and The Ultimate bubble show to name but a few.

Soon to be launched is the "Ballinamore Camino" which will take place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of July and will showcase the natural beauty of Leitrim. More info at [www.islandtheatre.ie](http://www.islandtheatre.ie).

The island Theatre is run by volunteers who not only ensure the smooth running of the venue but also stepped up to provide support as a 'community hub' during storm Eowyn. They are looking for more volunteers and in particular those who can help with funding proposals to enhance the facility further. Please contact Gregory Smith at 087 226 0535 for ways you can help.

### ***Ballinamore Sean O Heslin's Training Season kicks off!***

With the help of dedicated volunteers, Ballinamore Sean O Heslin's GAA have supported their county teams and hosted thousands of fans over the past few months, proudly showcasing their grounds. Training has already started indoors for some girls and boys teams with U9 and U11 boys starting in the next couple of weeks. Nursery, U7 boys, U8 girls and U10 girls will start on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of May. Our teams will be open to all, contact Jenny on 0872958837 for more information.

Following an unsuccessful application for phase 2 of the Community Recognition Fund for an Astro Turf facility, they have submitted a further application for the final round.

### ***Abbey Rovers Sees Enormous Growth***

Abbey Rovers Soccer Club covers a wide area and welcomes boys and girls from as far as Mohill, Carrigallen, Templeport the surrounding townlands. Their season will soon come to close during which there has been a tremendous growth in the number of players and teams with 300 players, 45 coaches and 20 plus teams taking part. If anyone is interested in joining next year please contact Jenny McTague on 087 295 8837.

### ***Sliabh an Iarainn Tracks & Trails Committee***

RTE Tracks & Trails Programme are coming down to film and feature the Mullaghgarve Mass Rock walk and Bothar Na Naomh walk (Cloone). Filming will be done on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of March and guest will be Bryan Dobson.

Our committee is working with National Parks & Wildlife Service and Shared Island Services who are putting up significant funding for a boardwalk extension of the existing trail to the Altar Rock.

The Rural Recreation Officer is working with landowners on implementing the Walks Scheme – this is a financial incentive for landowners on registered walking trails and is funded by the Department of Rural & Community Development.

There will be a Heritage guided walk to Mass Rock on Saturday, 24<sup>th</sup> of May as part of the The Gathering Festival.

### ***Beginner Beekeepers Training Course Starts Soon***

Digges Beekeepers Association beginners course starts on the 19<sup>th</sup> of March at 7:30pm in the Teagaisc Office in Mohill, N41 W580. For more information please call Kathleen on 089 946 7647.

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## FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

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### ***Small Scale Local Festivals and Summer Schools Funding Scheme for 2025***

Aimed at appropriate not-for-profit festivals, summer schools and similar events, this scheme launched by the Department of Tourism, Culture, Arts, Gaeltacht, Sport and Media to encourage engagement with the arts, culture, and creativity by individuals and communities. Maximum Funding Available: Up to €5,000 is available per applicant and the deadline is 1pm on 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025. Information available at <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/89595-small-scale-local-festivals-and-summer-schools/>.