



CHRISTMAS MINI ISSUE 35 - DECEMBER 2020

Welcome to our belated Christmas 2020 newsletter which like many things in 2020 has unavoidably had to be curtailed from the original bumper issue planned.

We would like to encourage everyone to Shop Local in Ratoath this Christmas. Great work has been done by Liz Rigby in promoting all our local retail businesses on social media and town posterage. It is also great to see the many improvements to Super Valu Ratoath under new ownership and this should see more local business return to Ratoath with a knock-on positive effect on the wider retail trade in Ratoath. We have all seen the huge shift in 2020 to online trading and again here, we want to praise the many local people who have made that leap online and can now offer our community a diverse range of crafts, products, services and innovative gifts. We plan to do in-depth features on these various local businesses as a regular feature in our 2021 issues.

Covid has of course particularly impacted the elderly and vulnerable in all communities and it is important that we acknowledge the great work done by the staff and management of Ratoath Manor Nursing Home through 2020 in keeping their residents safe. So we are delighted here to give them the opportunity to record their thanks to our community. Intergenerational interactions are a core theme of our own organisation and we want to again congratulate Eilish Balfe and her team in Happy Days Childcare who won Inspired Practice of the Year from Early Childhood Ireland.

We would also like to record our thanks to our local politicians Gillian Toole and Nick Killian for their generous contributions of discretionary grants towards our arts and community sports activities and also Meath County Council for their €280 grant towards the Christmas Tree Lighting on Dec 3rd and €3,500 towards an upgrade of our IT facilities. Also to Meath Partnership for their €500 SICAP grant towards a large TV which our various community groups can now incorporate into creating their own virtual interactive events as exemplified by the recent Zoom interaction, pictured on page 2, between the residents in Ratoath Manor Nursing Home and our pre-schoolers in Happy Days Childcare. These small localised grants all give us much needed boosts to our activities and must be set against our exceptional disappointment at not receiving any support whatsoever from the Stability Scheme Fund from the Dept of Rural and Community Development unlike our neighbours in Dunshaughlin Community Centre who received €28,566 from this fund.

Nevertheless we intend to continue to work towards increasing our community services despite this major setback. We have been working on a number of exciting new initiatives for 2021 and details will follow through the year ahead. We have been asked by a number of volunteers to assist in establishing a new group for the women of Ratoath and we welcome your inputs into how we might best develop this project in early 2021. Indeed we have also just commenced a new Community Survey to help us better identify the forward needs of our community and we would ask you to devote a few minutes over the Christmas period to complete our online survey which you can find at our new website www.thevenueratoath.ie

So may we wish everyone in Ratoath a Very Happy Safe Christmas and New Year and that 2021 will see a steady return to normal life as the year ahead progresses.

TAKE OUR SURVEY & HAVE YOUR SAY
RATOATH COMMUNITY CENTRE SURVEY 2020

<https://www.thevenue ratoath.ie/survey>

APPROX 5 MINUTES

NEW RATOATH WOMEN'S GROUP

“Creating a space where all the women of Ratoath are invited and are always welcome. Call in for a cup of tea or coffee. There is no pressure. Just be yourself, whoever you are and however you feel on the day!! Whether you fancy a break from the house or work, please pop in.

This is a space where women of all ages support other women. We would love to have all generations of women. As we get established, we will have interesting features such as health talks or “how to” demonstrations and more.”

To register your interest email info@ratoathcc.ie and mark for attention of Anna Kavanagh



RATOATH MANOR NURSING HOME

It would be the understatement of the year to say that Covid has changed our lives! It has impacted every one of us at varying degrees and polarised the narrative around the word "care".

It has impacted our beloved residents at Ratoath Manor too, especially around visiting and outings. However, despite the many restrictions in place, we have managed to maintain some semblance of normality within the home with the many activities and events happening daily.

Our annual Summer party, albeit not the same without our friends and family visiting, still took place. This year we enjoyed a Roaring 20's theme and everyone was given the opportunity, in all their flapper finery, to walk the red carpet for a chance to win some lovely prizes. Who knew the gentlemen would steal the show!!

Pictured below is Alice Eiffe, who along with her fellow residents thoroughly enjoyed our most recent fancy-dress Halloween party organised by staff. An afternoon of fun, laughter and fantastic food was had by all!

During these extraordinarily unprecedented times, we have witnessed an amazing sense of togetherness, solidarity and fantastic community spirit around the village. Ratoath Manor Nursing Home would like to extend their heartfelt thanks for the kind words, generous donations, uplifting letters, and even a very large painting that we have received over the last number of months. It has given both staff and residents a great sense of belonging.

A special shout out to Eilish Balfe and the little tots at happy Days Creche for the wonderful display of arts and crafts that covered our railings and the many, many rainbows that kept our residents safe!

We would also like to thank Paul Sweeney & all the Staff at Centra Ratoath, Katie O'Neill from Katie's Takeaway, Ita Murray & her Team from As You Like it and Russell Bailey from La Bucca's Restaurant and the countless others who have been thinking of us!

You have made us feel evermore part of the Ratoath community and we sincerely thank you for that.

We want to take this opportunity to applaud all our residents who have become tech savvy and have fully embraced alternative means of communication with friends and family, such as Facetime, Zoom and Skype. They have really surpassed themselves and made us all very proud in this regard!

A very special mention to the resident relatives and friends who have been extremely patient and co-operative with us throughout the pandemic. We couldn't have done it without you.

There's no such thing as a small act of kindness, absolutely every act creates a ripple and leaves a positive impression. Kindness, like a boomerang, always returns. We hope it returns to each and every one of you, especially during Christmas time. On behalf of all our residents thank you once again and we wish you and your families a very happy, peaceful and safe Christmas. Enjoy the festivities.



HAPPY DAYS COMMUNITY CHILDCARE



Happy Days are the winners of the Early Childhood Ireland Inspired Practice Award 2020.
"To say we are over the moon is an understatement.
This idea was sparked by a child who just wanted to be kind.
Follow a child's idea and who knows where it will lead you... you might even change the world.
I know its definitely changed our village.
Thank you to each and everyone of you for all the support Happy Days receives." - Eilish Balfe



DENTAL VISITS IN A PANDEMIC

Dr Conor Irwin explains why patients should feel perfectly safe and fully relaxed when visiting his practice at Ratoath Dental and Implant Centre

A visit to the dentist is very often a scary prospect. Going out the door usually feels way better than going in ! We fully understand this and we do everything we can to make your visits to the dentist as comfortable and stress free as possible.

But what about the Pandemic? Should we be avoiding dental visits? Are the risks higher in a dental practice ? Absolutely not. In fact when all precautions and good cross infection protocols are in place there are fewer places safer to visit than a dental practice.

We have three separate waiting areas so safe distancing is assured. Some patients prefer to wait outside in their cars and we call them in when we are ready. We already have excellent cross infection measures in place as standard All of our dental team are well used to wearing masks and visors so it comes as second nature for us to do so. Our instruments are vacuum sterilised and seal wrapped before use and of course our

surgeries are cleaned and disinfected to hospital standard. Possibly the game changer for us was to sterilise our dental aerosols ie :the spray that comes from our handpieces when we clean or polish a tooth. We have installed the latest and highly effective anti viral disinfectant system which uses Hypochlorous Acid :No smell, no irritation and lethal to Covid 19 virus !

So please be assured your visit to our practice is safer than ever before. Don't put off your routine dental treatment. Call us on 01 8256983 .



We would like to wish a Happy Christmas to all our Readers, Advertisers, Contributors and the Community and Voluntary Groups of Ratoath



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Gift Vouchers Available

 Giz a Laugh's

LIVE Enya Martin
STREAM ALL AROUND THE WORLD

Her brilliant stand up comedy show

Not to be missed...

Streaming Show
Friday 29th Jan 2021
€12 - BUY ONLINE FROM WWW.THEVENUERATOATH.IE
VALID FOR 48 HRS

luke kelly

live stream

Saturday 30th January 2021
37th Anniversary Show



BOOKINGS

Call 01 689 5600 or online
www.thevenueratoath.ie