



THE **VENUE** | THEATRE &  
RATOATH | COMMUNITY CENTRE

# NEWS & VIEWS

YOUR FREE COMMUNITY NEWSLETTER  
SUMMER 2025

## To the NEW Beginnings

The aim of the Ratoath Community Centre is to enrich and enhance the quality of life and well-being for all residents in the area. In Ratoath we have kind giving people who come together for the better good of all people. One such person who embodies this attitude is our outgoing CEO Laura Murphy. She has worked tirelessly, along with a dedicated team to provide Ratoath with a caring professional community service. But as Laura points out that could not have happened without the people who support us by giving their time, expertise, commitment, knowledge and skill.

Under Laura's direction Ratoath Community Centre, The Venue and Ratoath Community Sports Campus have developed substantially. We would all like to wish Laura the best of luck in whatever endeavours she chooses to pursue.

We would like to welcome Rob Walpole as the new CEO of the Ratoath Community Centre. He has a wealth of experience in the Community and Service fields. We would like to wish Rob every success in his new role.



Additionally we would like to wish all Junior and Leaving Certificate candidates the very best sitting these examinations over the coming weeks and hope that these exams go as well as hoped. We would also like to acknowledge parents of the students along with the principals, boards of management and school teams that are accommodating the running of these examinations.

### GOOD LUCK



Many events had taken place since the last edition of Ratoath News & Views including a very successful St Patrick's Day Festival, Mrs Robinson exclusive screening in The Venue, Easter camps, Alzheimer's Tea Day,



Ratoath Municipal District

**Cllr. Nick Killian**  
Meath County Council  
Peace Commissioner

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- ✓ Home & Business Energy Grants
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FIVE YEARS

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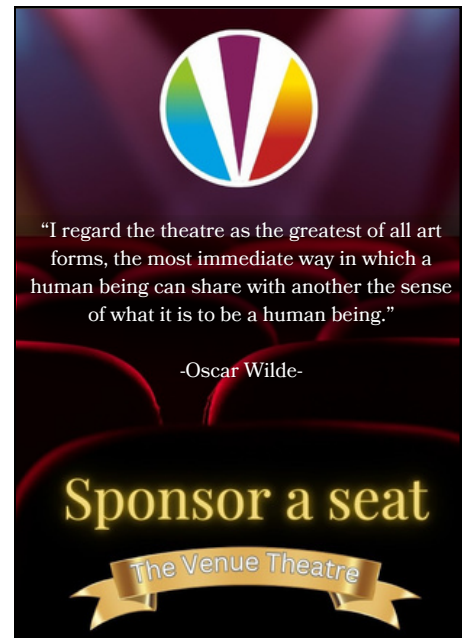


Irish Countywomen's Association (ICA) 50th Anniversary, Darkness Into Light in Fairyhouse Racecourse and "Sponsor a Seat" has got it's first group sponsorship.



"Sponsor a Seat" is a unique opportunity for you, your family, group, business or club to sponsor a seat for 10 years in The Venue Theatre will allow the theatre to continue to inspire and nurture the arts, while supporting the community not for profit activities and ensuring the community centres growth as an inclusive and welcoming space for all.

Some reasons you may want to sponsor a seat are to support and encourage the arts in Ratoath, to celebrate an important milestone or to pay a tribute to someone special. It can also be the perfect gift for any occasion. Please, contact [info@ratoathcc.ie](mailto:info@ratoathcc.ie) or call 01 6895600 for more info.



In April we hosted a special screening of Mrs Robinson, the acclaimed documentary directed by Aoife Kelleher. 150 Students from Ratoath College came to see the film which provides an intimate portrayal of Mary Robinson, Ireland's first female President, highlighting her journey from a pioneering constitutional lawyer to a global advocate for human rights and climate justice.

Following the screening, Lorna McCormack, Director of "Wool in School" and EU Climate Pact Ambassador, discussed the themes presented in the documentary, particularly focusing on leadership, and the ongoing fight for climate justice and the youth Voice of today. Esteemed panel guests featured: Writer and journalist Geraldine Walsh, Ecologist Alex Konieczka and two Students from Ratoath College.

## ALZHEIMER'S TEA DAY 2025



On May 1<sup>st</sup> Ratoath Community Centre was delighted to host the annual Alzheimer's Tea Day 2025 in aid of The Alzheimer Society of Ireland to raise awareness and share experiences for anyone affected.



A huge thank you to everyone who joined in, brought treats, and supported this fantastic cause. A big shout out to lovely TY students. It was great to see all come together to support a cause that touches so many lives.



## ALZHEIMER SOCIAL CLUB



### Ratoath Alzheimer Social Club

Friday 30th  
May 2025  
from 11am - 1pm

JOIN US!

Ratoath Community Centre  
Ratoath Co.Meath  
Contact - Liam Burke  
phone number - 087 9740871  
email address - [liam.burke@alzheimer.ie](mailto:liam.burke@alzheimer.ie)

Our Club is a fun social gathering where anyone affected by Alzheimer's can access information and support each other and exchange ideas/experiences.

For more info: [www.alzheimer.ie](http://www.alzheimer.ie)

The Alzheimer Society of Ireland, National Office,  
Temple Road, Blackrock, Co. Dublin Charity Number: CHY7868



Our monthly Alzheimer's Social Club will be held on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> May. All are welcome.





## Ratoath Tidy Towns

Ratoath Tidy Towns are inviting the community members as volunteers to better our wonderful town. They meet every Wednesday at 7 pm in the SuperValu carpark from the 14<sup>th</sup> May 2025 for weekly projects.

Please come and join the team to work on various tasks to enhance Ratoath.




## Ratoath Community Market

### 5th July '25

Ratoath Community Centre

**11am - 3pm**



## Bright Stars Stage School SUMMER CAMP

**7th - 11th July**  
10am - 1pm 4-9 years  
NAVAN COMMUNITY CENTRE

**CAMPING WITH THE BRIGHTEST STARS**  
10+ Years / 1pm - 3pm  
\*Contact Denise for more info\*  
NAVAN ONLY

**7th - 11th July**  
10am - 1pm 4-16 years  
VIRGINIA RAMOR THEATRE

**14th - 18th July**  
10am - 1pm 4-16 years  
DUNSHAUGHLIN COMMUNITY CENTRE

**14th - 18th July**  
10am - 1pm 4-16 years  
RATOATH THE VENUE COMMUNITY CENTRE

**21st - 25th July**  
10am - 1pm 4-16 years  
ASHBOURNE St Mary's National School

**28th Jul - 1st Aug**  
10am - 1pm 4-16 years  
DROGHEDA THE BARBICAN CENTRE

**Cost €90 Family Discounts**

**Performance on last day of camp!**

*The Camp Consists of all aspects of performance including singing, dancing and acting.*  
**Contact Denise on 085 7242481** Check Out Bright Stars Stage School on



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## RATOATH COMMUNITY EMPLOYMENT SCHEME

St Oliver's Community Centre in Ratoath has been a sponsor for a twenty-five place Community Employment Scheme since 2021. The Scheme is designed to help unemployed people get back into the workplace. It provides a framework where a Participant will get work experience, on-the-job training and can work towards obtaining QQI Quality Assurance Certified Educational Awards.

CE participants are also able to apply for external work experience during their time on the project and on completion, participants are supported to progress to employment/ self-employment or further training and education.

The Ratoath CE Scheme is unique in what it offers in terms of training, work experience and new opportunities for potential Participants. It also allows Participants the opportunity to take time and look at where they are in life and what path they want to take for the future. Education and training are lifelong interventions that give people the self-confidence to embrace change and achieve their long-term ambitions.

To obtain that dream job or business idea you have always wanted to develop and bring to fruition; CE is a great starting point. CE has all the connections at all levels to help Participants achieve their dreams.

An example of the roles currently on offer includes Grounds-person, Caretaker, Tidy Towns and General Domestic. The community Projects involved are The Venue, Ratoath Community Centre, Ratoath community Sports Campus, Ratoath Tidy Towns, Independent Living, Ratoath Harps, Ratoath Pitch & Putt, Ratoath GAA, Ratoath Parish, Ratoath BMX Club and Ratoath Rugby Club.

The basic qualifying criteria for becoming a Scheme Participant is that you are currently unemployed, over the age of twenty-one and in receipt of a Social Welfare Payment or signing credits. People who are on a reduced payment due to a means test are also eligible and will return to full payment amount once they are successful in obtaining a place on our scheme. Community Employment is funded by DSP.

### WE WANT YOU

**To Join Our Team !**

#### Ratoath Community Employment Scheme

*Caretaker / Grounds - Person / General Domestic*

**Requirements :**

- ▶ In a receipt of a Social Welfare payment for a minimum of one year
- ▶ Good Attitude
- ▶ Hard Worker

*To check if you are eligible, please contact Ken on 0861585854 or email ken@ratoathces.ie*

Anyone interested in applying for a CE role can please contact one of the project supervisors:

Ken O'Shea  
0861585854  
ken@ratoathces.ie

or

Renate Koutanena  
0862305614  
renate@ratoathces.ie



### RATOATH BINGO

**THE VENUE | THEATRE & COMMUNITY CENTRE**

EVERY SUNDAY 8PM

# BINGO!

QUICK LOTTO

FREE BOOK DRAW

LUCKY LINES

JACKPOT GAME

BONUS PRIZES

**THE VENUE | THEATRE & COMMUNITY CENTRE**

### Ratoath Parent & Toddler Group

**Ratoath Community Centre**  
Every Monday  
9:30 - 11am

Mums & Dads, Nannies & Grandads, Childminders  
Bring the little ones to play amongst themselves while you enjoy a cuppa & chat

**THE VENUE | THEATRE & COMMUNITY CENTRE**

### Knit & Natter

Every Tuesday  
11am

the kettle is always on





### CHARTERED ACCOUNTANTS open in The Village Centre

UR Upton Ryan, a long established firm of Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors, have opened a branch office in "The Village Centre" to look after their current and future clients in the area.



Ratoath man and UR Director, Paul Warren, said they were delighted to have an official presence in the area explaining that they have had a long association with Ratoath and its hinterland. Paul and a number of his colleagues hail from Co. Meath and they look forward to welcoming clients and contacts to their new office in the coming months.

Paul can be contacted at [pwarren@uptonryan.com](mailto:pwarren@uptonryan.com) or telephone 01 4780044.

Dublin GAA legend with Meath connections, Dean Rock, did the honours at the official opening of UR's State of the Art office cutting a ceremonial "ribbon" symbolising where Dublin meets Meath.



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**PAUL WARREN**

[pwarren@uptonryan.com](mailto:pwarren@uptonryan.com)

Contact Details: Telephone: 01 4780044 • Email: [info@uptonryan.com](mailto:info@uptonryan.com) • [www.uptonryan.ie](http://www.uptonryan.ie)





On Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup> 2025 communities all around the globe came together to support mental health and prevent suicide. This inspiring event is proudly supported by Electric Ireland.

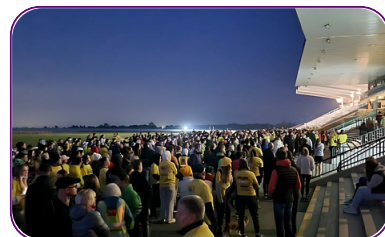
Many organisations and individuals from Ratoath and surrounding areas joined the Fairyhouse Racecourse walk at 4:15 am. It made it even more special as DIL celebrated it's 10 year anniversary at the racecourse. The Ratoath Choir conducted by Rebecca Rodgers sang beautifully and set the tone for the morning. Michael from The Lemonade Kart gave an emotional welcome speech.

## PIETA DARKNESS INTO LIGHT FAIRYHOUSE 2025



Pictured are Ratoath Community Centre and Happy Days childcare staff, Ratoath Men's Shed members and organisers Caroline and Linda.

Thank you to all facilities who opened early to cater for all the participants. Well done to all the organisers and sponsors that has put tremendous effort to making it a successful event.



## DUNSHAUGHLIN DENTAL CENTRE

DR REGINA FLANAGAN & DR NIAL CONATY

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- Implants for Lasting Solutions
- Gentle Children's Dentistry
- Skilled Root Canals

**Your smile is our priority.**  
**Book your appointment today!**  
**(01) 825 9787**



### WHERE TO FIND US

Conveniently positioned on Dunshaughlin's main street, we provide **FREE** parking at the rear of the building for our patients' convenience.



**Suppletown House, Main St, Dunshaughlin, Co Meath, A85 R803**  
**Phone (01) 825 9787 | Email [info@dunshaughlindental.ie](mailto:info@dunshaughlindental.ie)**

## THE BOOK CLUB RATOATH READERS



**Every 1st Tuesday of  
each month  
8pm**

COME AND JOIN US IN OUR MONTHLY  
GATHERINGS  
IN RATOATH COMMUNITY CENTRE

MONTHLY PICKS. RELAXED CHAT. OPINIONS. SHARING



## WE ARE HIRING Hair Stylist Wanted

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Contact Sinead on 087 612 2250 or pop into the salon for chat and more details.

We can't wait to meet you!





## RATOATH MEN'S SHED

On Tuesday 29th April 2025 an enthusiastic group of Shed members enjoyed a wonderful door-to-door trip in glorious sunshine directly from Ratoath Men's Shed to St Patrick's Cathedral on board the comfortable bus generously provided by St Patrick's Cathedral. Our driver was the very knowledgeable Kelley Birmingham, Community Officer and she took us on a memorable guided tour of parts of Dublin and then the significant features of St Patrick's Cathedral.

Afterwards, our group enjoyed tea and coffee, and scones at the nearby Hyatt Centric Restaurant before boarding the bus for the return trip home to Ratoath.



## Ratoath Men's Shed receives a 2025 Civic Achievement Award

There was great excitement and anticipation amongst Ratoath Men's Shed representatives, who attended the Meath Civic Awards ceremony at Buvinda House, Navan, on Wednesday evening 7th May 2025.

The Meath Civic Awards ceremony was a celebration of the vital role played by local groups such as Ratoath Men's Shed in enriching life in our community.

Speaking at the event, Cathaoirleach Cllr. Nick Killian stated the Shed was Community orientated, providing a place where men could connect, learn new skills, and foster meaningful friendships and he emphasised how some men had used the shed to become part and parcel of the Community, adding a new dimension to their lives.

## Healthy Food Made Easy



Members of Ratoath and Ashbourne Men's Sheds pictured on 30th April 2025 with their certificates of participation in the Healthy Food Made Easy Course with course leader Lorraine. The picture was taken by Susanne Shevlin, Senior Community Dietitian, who answered all our questions on nutrition.



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happy days  
community childcare

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Contact Mary on 089 988 3816 or happydays@ratoathcc.ie

**RATOATH**  
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

**MONDAY**  
**30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE -**  
**FRIDAY**  
**4<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

**SUMMER CAMP**  
**2025**

**REGISTRATION FOR OUR ANNUAL**  
**SUMMER CAMP IS NOW OPEN!**

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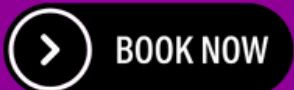


THE VENUE THEATRE



THE **VENUE** | THEATRE & COMMUNITY  
RATOATH | CENTRE

# COMING SOON



Box office 01 689 5600  
www.thevenueratoath.ie







## The Venue Ratoath 2025 Show Schedule

Date	Time	Event
25 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	1pm 6:30pm	Addicted to Dance – Broadway Bound
31 <sup>st</sup> May 2025	7:30 pm	Sarah Bass presents Vocal Vibes Summer Concert
6 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	8pm	Leah Barniville in Concert
7 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	8pm	Don Baker – My Story – The Tour 2025
8 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	2pm 6pm	Front Row Performing Art School – Variety Show
13 <sup>th</sup> – 14 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	2pm 2pm 7pm	Stage Performance – Mamma Mia – Here we go again!
26 <sup>th</sup> – 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2025	7:30pm 2:30pm	Acting Academy – Tales are told – On sale soon
12 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	8pm	Eddi Reader & The Alan Kelly Gang 2025
13 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	8pm	George Michael Tribute
19 <sup>th</sup> – 20 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	8pm	The A – Ladd – In – Adult Panto - Strictly over 18's – The
26 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	8pm	Deirdre O'Kane – O'Kaning it
27 <sup>th</sup> September 2025	8pm	Ronan Collins – Showband Hits & Stories
2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	8pm	The Venue Players – Dancing at Lughnasa
10 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	8pm	Gerry Tully sings the Christy Moore songbook
11 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	8pm	Anne Gildea – Further Adventures in Womaning
18 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	8pm	Air Guitar Anthems – Meet the Legends
24 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	8pm	Tommy Fleming Acoustic Tour 2025
25 <sup>th</sup> October 2025	8pm	The Piano Man – Live Tribute to Elton John & Billy Joel
2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2025	3pm	Joe The Magician
14 <sup>th</sup> November 2025	8pm	Abba Forever Show 2025
12 <sup>th</sup> December 2025	8pm	Hothouse Flowers



RATOATH NEWS & VIEWS      ISSUE 54 Submissions

Call 01 689 5600 or email: [newsletter@ratoathcc.ie](mailto:newsletter@ratoathcc.ie)

Normal editions are partially funded by advertising and we are grateful for all continued support.

We receive 10% of our annual funding from Pobal under their Community Services Programme.

Editor: Rob Walpole      Advertising: Renate Koutanena





## RATOATH BOXING CLUB

The fortunes of Ratoath Golden Gloves Success continues to follow the club in the boxing world.

At the end of April they had a memorable weekend at the boy/girl 123 championships where they came away with 4 All Ireland titles: Reuben McMorro (boy 1 54kg), Mark Marikhin (boy 2 56kg), Ella Conway (girl 3 39kg), Cassie Gavin (girl 3 57kg).

Earlier that month the boxers performed admirably at the Leinster championships. They came away with 5 champions: Cassie Gavin, Ella Conway, Rueben McMorro, Mark Marikhin and Dani El Suriak.

Not to be outdone, Dylan Conroy and Gavin Ryan won three straight fights and claimed gold at the prestigious Porto Box Cup in Portugal; At the same event Colm Traynor came up just short and claimed a silver medal in a very close fight.

Photos below of All Ireland/ Leinster Winners followed by the 3 boxers from the Porto Box cup.

Well done to all the boxers and coaches on a great month for Ratoath Boxing.

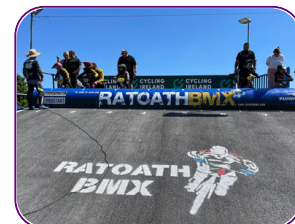


## RATOATH BMX

Ratoath hosted Round 3 of the Cycling Ireland 2025 National BMX series on Sunday May 18<sup>th</sup>. This was the third round of an eight round National series taking place on purpose built BMX tracks all across Ireland from Northern Irish clubs, Cork, Lucan and Courtown.



Photo credit to @fifteen



The event catered for all ages for boys and girls from Under 6 to Over 40's racing the 400m long track. There were around 110 riders taking part in the event.

Ratoath is the founding track for this Olympic sport which brought the sport back to Ireland in 2011 and Ratoath have held National races since then. The Club is going through some difficult times with the eminent re-location of the Track to another site in Ratoath as the Land owner has plans for its current location, with funding unavailable the Club hopes to work with Meath County Council to come on board as is the case with all other Tracks nationally.



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### RATOATH COMMUNITY SPORTS CAMPUS

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Booking can be made between 9am - 5pm and must be booked one day in advance to avoid disappointment.

#### BOOKINGS:

BOX OFFICE 01 689 5600







## RATOATH RFC

It's been a very busy few weeks for Ratoath Rugby Clubs, Junior Boys and Girls. They have had a special guest, an introduction to rugby program has started and sixth class students from local schools attended a blitz in Curragha Road.

Ireland Rugby and Dublin G.A.A. star Hannah Tyrrell visited our girls division recently to talk about her sports career and to find out what the girls like so much about the game. Hannah joined a training session with the girls and they were blown away by how great she was with them. A special thanks to Gavin at Annesley Williams Skoda for organising this meeting.



"Give It A Try" launched on the 7th May. It is a program introducing the game to girls between the ages 8 and 14. It runs for 8 weeks and the cost is €10 per player. Each registered player will receive a Canterbury top.



Friday 9th May over 300 6th class pupils from primary schools in Ratoath, Dunboyne, Rathbeggan and Rathregan took part in tag rugby blitz at Ratoath Rugby Club. 21 teams of 10 played each other in 12 minute games. TY students from Ratoath College assisted with refereeing and the running of the event which was a great success, the main emphasis of which was to have fun.



Leinster Secondary Schools Track and field championships:

Fantastic results for the club at the Leinster schools in Tullamore on May 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> coming away with 10 Gold medals, 5 Silver and 7 Bronze.

An amazing nine Ratoath inter athletes have qualified to represent Leinster at the Tailtean games on the 21st of June. Congratulations to Nicole Doherty, Olivia Ryan, Milana Sharhayeu, Daniel De Antolin Rodriguez, JJ Magbagbeola, Aisling Shevlin, Lily Flood, Ellen Sheridan and Chris Olatunde.

Club Records were also rolling after the day with five new junior record smashed in the 1500m Steeple Chase Olivia Ryan (5:38.08) TRIPLE JUMP: Daniel De Antolin Rodriguez 12.77m. LONG JUMP: Enya Silkena, 5.79m. 800m Lily Flood (2.14.9) and 300m Aisling Shevlin (40.44).

## RATOATH ATHLETIC CLUB

Massive thanks to the teachers and schools for organising the event and getting their students to Tullamore.







GILLIAN

INDEPENDENT

# TOOLE<sup>TD</sup>

Putting People & Communities First

**COMMUNITY  
CLINICS**

**THROUGHOUT  
EAST MEATH**

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DUNBOYNE - CARLANSTOWN  
& more to come.



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