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Unit 5 Corballis
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ratoath

news and views

your free community newsletter

ISSUE 43 FEBRUARY 2023

From first joining Ratoath Community Centre Committee In 1998 to becoming one of the 4 founding Directors of St Oliver's Community Centre CLG (SOCC) back in 2005, Leo Cummins has a lot to be proud of in making Ratoath a better place for all of us.



Always trying to represent the community interests, Leo is extremely appreciative to all the staff in the community centre, the various societies, clubs and voluntary organisations in Ratoath, including those in the community sports campus where difficult discussions and decisions often had to be taken. And to those who over the years have run classes and productions for the benefit of our community and the many volunteers who keep everything ticking over, including the board of directors, with whom it was always a pleasure to interact and progress ideas that would bring benefit to the community.

Leo first & foremost would see SOCC's role to facilitate people and organisations in our community to do good, with the support of a great staff. From winning national awards in childcare to attracting some fantastic Irish and International artists such as Christy Moore, Janis Ian & Arlo Gurthrie.

In 2009 Leo became a Director with sole responsibility for the development of Jamestown Community Sports Campus, subsequent to joining the board, Leo took on the role of Chairman in 2012 & later Chief Executive in 2017.

Leo established in August 2017 our very first newsletter. While interviewing Tony Darby just prior to his 40th anniversary as a butcher in Ratoath, Tony also a great historian, mentioned the Polish pilot who crash landed in Ratoath 75 years ago. 22 days later that pilot was fully honoured with a 25 panel Exhibition in place, the Polish Ambassador in attendance, a Polish band, an engraved stone from Swans, an enlarged photo of the crashed plane on the afternoon of the 23rd August 1942 and a really moving ceremony, all in his honour. All thanks to Leo and Tony.

In 2021 Leo established the Ratoath Community Employment Scheme which currently employs over 18 long term unemployed people, who not only work within the community centre but the surrounding organisations, such as the GAA, Jamestown Sports Campus & Ratoath Harps, to name but a few. This scheme not only offers employment opportunities but supports Ratoath.

Leo steps down as CEO from St Oliver's & on behalf of the Board, staff & all the extended community of Ratoath, we take this opportunity to thank Leo for everything he has done for Ratoath. We would like to wish Leo continued good health & look forward to seeing him & Rita around the village, at The Venue Theatre & enjoying all his hard work.

Ready to Pounce!



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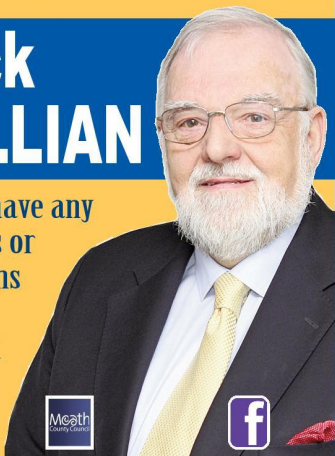


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If you have any queries or concerns please contact me.

Advice Centre:



Riverwalk Court (over Tesco),
Fairyhouse Road, Ratoath. T: 087-2596753.
E: nkillian@members.meathcoco.ie

RATOATH GOLDEN GLOVES BOXING CLUB

FLOAT LIKE A BUTTERFLY, STING LIKE A BEE

As a parent what do we want for our children? For them to be happy, healthy, to have good pals, respect themselves & others, feel like they belong & to have an opportunity to reach their potential.

27th January, The Venue Theatre welcomed Grammy Award Winner, Beth Nielsen Chapman to a wonderful night of song & entertainment. The following night Saturday, you might have been mistaken to think you were in the wrong place, it was more like Madison Square Gardens on Fight Night. Ratoath Golden Gloves Boxing Club - Annual Fight Night came to The Venue. Full ring set up, not an empty seat in the house it was loud, thrilling & the energy was palpable. Boxing Clubs came from Meath, Dublin & Northern Ireland to name but a few counties, boys & girls aged 8 to 18 showcasing their talent, supported & encouraged from their corners by the eager & enthusiastic coaches. While parents, families and friends cheered from their seats, a super night was had by all.

A freezing February Night we had the opportunity to visit Ratoath Boxing Club premises, there was a bit of ducking & diving before finding the premises in Raystown Business Park (behind the bottle bank) the noise provided the much needed guidance. Tapping on the door I was greeted with "no parents allowed". When I eventually blagged my way in, the now identified man, Head Coach, Gary explained "we need the kids to focus & as you can see we are tight on space". The parents sit outside & wait on their children who train Monday, Wednesday & Friday. The boxing club is extremely grateful for the support from the community for their current space, but in the ideal world they reckon very quickly with a more central location in Ratoath, they would easily double membership.

2 full size boxing rings, a mirrored wall, some very cool murals, with the remaining 3 walls proudly displaying punch bags hanging from the ceiling, all supported by grants & sponsorship. There was no disturbing these kids, boys & girls, sparring, skipping, press ups, not one out of line. The space was so tight I thought I might get a whack of a skipping rope, but their precision & display was spot on. When they moved about to the next activity there was a few jokes & laughs, Ella a 17 year old with the best "natural eyelashes to match her right hook", she is boxing because her Dad boxed, The Dad, he was down in the corner sparring with one of the young kids.

Micheal another coach, pointed out the kids who won Ireland titles, the Germany Multi Nations recent trip numerous titles were won there too, he pointed to the 11 year old girl who is currently displaying huge talent and potential, indeed Micheal proudly pointed out his own 2 lads, Kenny & Daniel, both box very successfully for the club. It is plainly obvious the coaches put their heart & soul into the club & work very closely with all the kids. Talent is not the be all, self discipline, respect for self & others, it is a tight boxing tribe.



RATOATH GOLDEN GLOVES BOXING CLUB

Asking to meet the one to watch, Gavin Ryan 5ft tall 11 inches dark haired gentle soul came towards me. He shook my hand, looked me in the eye & smiled the entire time we spoke. Gavin is boxing since he was 8 years old, he loves it, his Dad aka head coach, Gary boxed, his uncles boxed, it was just natural. He preferred boxing to team sports, it has taught him so much, self discipline & self respect. His mates describe him as the peacemaker. He never misses training even though he is currently studying for his Leaving Cert.

Having boxed over 100 fights, represented Ireland 12 times & winning 9 Irish titles, this kid "floats like a butterfly & stings like a bee", yet remains so humble. He is a credit to his folks, boxing club, school, community & most importantly, himself. It is clear talking with Gavin he is a responsible young man, I would go as far as to say, a role model.

Gavin's ambition is the 2028 Olympics, he feels he is too young & with his Leaving Cert this year, Paris is too soon, wise head on an 18 year's old shoulders. Team Ireland Boxing Coach has his eye on Gavin, that is no surprise.

The energy still buzzing, I thanked the coaches for allowing me a sneak preview.

Continued success to the kids, their supportive parents, their amazing dedicated coaches who give so much blood, sweat & tears.

It is clear Ratoath Boxing Club would not survive without their coaches & background team, they are always looking for support & volunteers.

It takes a village.....



RATOATH ALZHEIMER'S SOCIAL CLUB

Friday morning 27th January, we launched our Ratoath Alzheimer's Social Club, a safe space for those with a dementia diagnosis, their families, carers & friends to come share stories & experiences over a cuppa & some fancy treats.

We were delighted to welcome CEO, Andy Heffernan from The Alzheimer's Society of Ireland and a number of his team who kindly supported our morning. Andy opened with, it was his first time in Ratoath & after his welcome would most definitely not be his last.

The sun was shining, it felt more like a beautiful May day, we had some super music & singing from the amazing Ratoath Forget me Nots, Anna, Freya, Aoife & Eamonn. Refreshments were served by the wonderful As you like it Team, Ita, Gordon & Tegan. There was a confusing moment when Tegan served a table, whipped off her apron & flung it at Maurice, Tech Manager. It was then the real fun started. Ratoath's very own World Irish Champion Dancer came into her own, she had the room enthralled with her moves.

We were delighted to also welcome some of our wonderful children from Happy Days, who joined in for a bit of fun & cake too. The Circle of Life in front of our very eyes.

Most importantly, it was wonderful to see our volunteers work the room & welcome families with their loved ones, it was great to see them enjoying their time with us. The social club will happen every last Friday of the month 11am, for chats, fun & maybe even a bit of bingo.

Thank you to all who made our launch such a success & to the impromptu singers, well done also Jimmy & Christy.



Children from Happy Days visiting our Alzheimer's Social Club Launch

RATOATH NEWS & VIEWS **ISSUE 043** Submissions
Call 01 689 5600 or email info@ratoathcc.ie

Normal editions are partially funded by advertising and we always try to limit advertising space to 25%. We receive 10% of our annual funding from Pobal under their Community Services Programme

Editor: Laura Murphy
Production: Heather Melia
Advertising: Heather Melia

THE VENUE SHOW SCHEDULE



THE VENUE | THEATRE & COMMUNITY CENTRE
RATOATH

The Venue Ratoath 2023 Show Schedule

| Date | Time | Event |
|--|------|--|
| 23 rd – 25 th February | 8pm | The Venue Players - A View from the Bridge |
| 2nd March | 8pm | Neil Delamere - Delamerium |
| 3rd March | 8pm | Seamus O'Rourke - Indigestion |
| 8 th March | 12pm | International Women's Day |
| 10th March | 8pm | Megan O'Neill |
| 19th March | 8pm | Barbara Dickson & Anthony Toner |
| 24th March | 8pm | Gearoid Farrelly-Glamour Hammer |
| 31st March | 8pm | Eleanor McEvoy |
| 1st April | 8pm | Damien Dempsey 2023 |
| 13th April | 8pm | Hothouse Flowers 2023 |
| 14th April | 8pm | Sharon Shannon |
| 15th April | 8pm | Legend of Luke Kelly by Chris Kavanagh & The Patriots |
| 21st April | 8pm | Paul Brady |
| 22nd April | 8pm | McCartney All the Best - Celebrating Sir Paul McCartney, The Beatles & Wings |
| 23rd April | 8pm | Peat and Diesel – Irish Tour |
| 27 th – 30 th April | 8pm | The Dunshaughlin Players |
| 11 th May | 8pm | The Ivory Sessions present Liam Lawton & Charlie McGettigan |
| 19 th May | 8pm | Pilgrim Street |
| 25th May | 8pm | Kieran Goss & Annie Kinsella |
| 2 nd September | 8pm | Eddie Reader & The Alan Kelly Gang - 2023 |
| 10 th November | 8pm | Red Hurley |
| 18th November | 8pm | Beyond the Horizon – Irish Pink Floyd Tribute |

To book tickets please follow the link: <https://www.thevenueratoath.ie/theatre>
or contact the Box Office: 01-6895600

INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY - Wednesday 8th March

Around since 1911, International Women's Day 8th March is celebrated across the globe and is supported by organisations, communities and governments committed to a more gender equal world.

International Women's Day belongs to everyone, everywhere.

In Ratoath, Co. Meath one of the fastest growing villages in Ireland, with over 12,000 people, we aim to celebrate our local women's achievements by coming together. We are delighted to have a panel of women speakers from Ratoath who have achieved so much throughout their lives & careers. Women who believe in the power of sharing their experience to support others & believe in a world that is diverse, equitable and inclusive.

Please join us in The Venue Theatre, Ratoath 12pm to 1.30pm, share a cup of tea & cake, listen to the amazing challenges, experiences & achievements from our own local women. Together we intend to celebrate our Women's achievements.

Tickets are free and can be booked

<https://www.thevenue ratoath.ie/theatre> or contact the Box Office: 01 6895600

We will have a donation option with all proceeds going to Women's Aid.



NICOLA McMURRAY- ÍON CANDLES - HOW IT ALL STARTED

Nikki McMurray, a busy Mum of 3 young kids started Íon Candle Co. during lockdown. Like many of us, Covid forced a lot of change. Nikki embraced it in following her heart and started a business allowing her to combine a number of her loves; fragrances, community and the environment.

Initially a hobby, her passion for fragrances and candles quickly turned into an obsession as she sought to understand fragrance creation and the perfect burn. As she continued to test and understand scents and fragrances, Nikki found a suitable wax to complement this; a clean burning, plant based coconut and rapeseed wax that is natural and sustainable. The focus on doing right by the environment permeates everything at Íon, from the vegan friendly wicks to a commitment to use only sustainable packaging materials and no plastics, with many of these sourced locally. 18 months on and Íon continues to grow with a range of over nine fragrances across candles, wax melts and diffusers. You can find these stocked locally at Novello's and The Pink Door (amongst many others including Brown Thomas) and has a customer base that stretches from Baltinglass to Boston thanks to its thriving online business. Check out Nikki's journey at Íon from her Studio in Ratoath across Instagram and Facebook on @ioncandleco. Use the code **Ratoathnews** for a 15% discount off your first (or next!) order @ www.ioncandleco.com



COMMUNITY CENTRE EXPO SATURDAY 4TH MARCH

Saturday 4th of March sees Ratoath Community Centre open its doors for our 2023 EXPO.

From the mats of martial arts to the blocks of ballet shoes, knit and knatter ladies to zumba, our community centre has something to offer everyone.

Whether you're 3 or 93, come along and join us between 12 and 3pm and see what's happening in the heart of Ratoath, your community centre.

Look forward to seeing you there!

Tranquility Holistics by Ann Tuffy



Ann specialises in a range of different treatments including reflexology, Holistic massages, Indian Head Massages & many more. To contact Ann, you will find her on Main Street, over Fidelma's Cafe, Dunshaughlin or on 0852060820 by appointment only

BLONDELLES - FASHION SHOW MARCH 2023

It's back...

Blondelles Fashion Show, The Venue Theatre, 30th March 2023

in aid of Ratoath Local SVP.

With thanks to The Venue Theatre and As You Like It for making this highly successful exciting night happen again. Join us for a night of Fashion, Fun, Fizz & Fantastic Prizes. Tickets €20 available in Blondelles Main St, Ratoath. Kay and all the team in Blondelles are so looking forward to showcasing their beautiful Spring/Summer 2023 Collections. Tickets sold out.



TEDx Talks come to Meath for the First Time

TEDx Ratoath
Venue Theatre, Ratoath
Saturday, 1st July 2023

Checkout www.tedxratoath.ie
Contact us at info@tedxratoath.ie

THE VENUE UPCOMING EVENTS - MARCH/APRIL 2023

Eleanor McEvoy

We are delighted to welcome Eleanor McEvoy to The Venue Theatre on Friday the 31st of March at 8pm. Eleanor McEvoy achieved star status in Ireland in 1992 with her song "A Woman's Heart". Tickets on sale now.



McCartney All The Best

From start to finish "McCartney All the Best" show features hit after hit. Guaranteed to please all dedicated fans of the The Beatles.

Saturday 22nd of April. Tickets on sale now



Barbara Dickson

Barbara is playing The Venue Theatre on Mother's Day the 19th March along with Anthony Toner. Why not treat your mum with something special. Barbara is a Scottish singer and actress whose hits include, I know him so well" "Answer me" and "January February". Tickets on sale now.



Neil Delamere - Delamerium

Expect the usual hilarious stories, wry observations and quick witted improvisation as our comedy hero tries to make sense of the world around him. Show 2nd March
Small amount of tickets left.



THE VENUE UPCOMING EVENTS - MARCH/APRIL 2023

Damien Dempsey

Irish Singer-Songwriter Damien Dempsey is back to The Venue on April 1st. Damien is regarded as one of Ireland's Greatest voices and we are delighted to welcome him back. Sold out.



Paul Brady

Singer, Songwriter & multi-instrumentalist is one of Ireland's most highly regarded and successful artist. We are delighted to welcome Paul back to The Venue on 21st April. Tickets on sale now.



Hot House Flowers

Hot House Flowers will perform their acclaimed acoustic Show here at The Venue on 13th April. Hot House Flowers are a rock Irish traditional band. Tickets on sale now.



Legend of Luke by Chris Kavanagh and The Patriots

The Legend of Luke Show is an authentic and professional show celebrating the songs and ballads of Ireland's most famous Dubliner, Luke Kelly. Playing on the 15th April. Tickets on sale now.



COMING SOON TO RATOATH - ART EXHIBITION

Are you an accomplished or up and coming artist?

If you are interested in showcasing your talent, we will provide you with the platform to exhibit your work in the community centre. If this is something you are interested in, contact Heather Melia at thevenueratoath@gmail.com

ART EXHIBITION - THE YOGA ROOM THIS EASTER

Art exhibition in The Yoga Room at Easter

Local artist, Mary Duffy, reveals a new collection of work in her first solo exhibition in The Yoga Room this Easter from the 8th to 10th April. Mary is widely known for her sensitive pencil portraits that she creates from photos from her home studio in Ratoath. She also has a range of drawings of hands (currently on show in The Yoga Room) that celebrate the important occasions in a family's life. Mary is excited to share this new collection of drawings and paintings based on the human form. Come along to the wine reception on Saturday 8th April (Easter Saturday) from 7pm or drop in over the Easter weekend. Follow Mary on Facebook and Instagram at Mary Duffy Portraits to see more details about this event.

Visit www.maryduffyportraits.ie to see Mary's online gallery.



LET'S DRAW WITH TINA

Tina Mation, who celebrates 28 years on television with her art show "Let's Draw with Tina", has just started a new painting class for the Ratoath Social Club in The Community Centre. Tina has always believed that anyone can draw and paint, some of us just need to be shown 'how to' and after a few classes, anything is possible. According to Tina *"Painting is possibly one of the most relaxing activities you can try and most people realise that they can paint but more importantly it raises their self esteem and make them feel happier"*.

As Tina always says *"Don't Be Shy ... Give It A Try"*



SAINT PATRICK'S DAY EVENT

It will be St Patrick's Day before we know it & our thoughts will be on Shamrocks & Parades!

Following the huge success of last year's Ratoath Street Festival, it has been decided to follow a similar but extended format for 2023. A team of volunteers have been working on the preparation since September. As before there will be a stage with live music and dancing from various local artists – We are so lucky in Ratoath to have so much talent to entertain us, DJ Ray (who should really have a Ratoath passport at this stage) will be there too. Our Local Scouts will be in attendance also.

There will be market stalls by local food producers from Ratoath's Monthly Country Market and more by vendors from surrounding areas. La Bucca will be serving Pizza & Sweeneys promise an Ice Cream Kart. There are more in the process of booking – please contact the organisers if you would like to take a stall. If the kids aren't happy nobody is happy! To add to the atmosphere there will be numerous Face Painters, Entertainers, Bouncy Castles, Carnival Games & lots more. This year we are lucky to have the knowledge of an experienced health & safety officer on board who will train a number of Transition students from Ratoath College and other Volunteers to assist keep the event incident free. More Volunteers are needed. While every effort is being made to keep costs as low as possible, it is inevitable that funds are necessary. Most local businesses are taking a poster which will double as advertising and sending their good wishes to the community for the Big Day. For this, we say a huge thank you.



RATOATH VILLAGE

**ST. PATRICK'S DAY
STREET FESTIVAL**

**MARCH 17TH
12-5PM**

**LIVE MUSIC - MARKET STALLS- ICE CREAM
FACEPAINTING - BOUNCY CASTLES
CARNIVAL GAMES - ENTERTAINERS - DJ
AND LOTS MORE!!**

www.facebook.com/ratoathstpatricksdastreetfestival
ratoathst.patricksd@gmail.com

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FLIPPING FASHION

Flipping Fashion, last call!! (16 to 23 years of age) to learn about sustainability in Fashion. Please contact Ratoath Community Centre for interest. Taking place Friday 3rd March.

FREE OF CHARGE TO PARTICIPANTS



Cllr. Gillian Toole

*Local Issues Let's Talk
Community Clinic*

*The Yoga Room, Ratoath
Dunshaughlin Pastoral Centre*

*Dates & Times of Clinics as per
Facebook Page or contact me for
details:
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Community Centre** 

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with electrical experience
NEEDED!**

Coming soon



**THE BEST OF RATOATH
- FRESH PRODUCT -**

COUNTRY - MARKET -


Come join us for our Monthly Ratoath Country Market held in Our Community Centre on Sunday 12th March.

If you love local fresh homemade cakes and wonderful fresh homegrown fruit and vegetables or if you are interested in knitting, crochet and homemade crafts why not learn more and visit!

**Market time 10:00am - 2:00pm
Look forward to seeing you there**




ONLY CASH PAYMENTS ACCEPTED

The Venue Players 

A View from the Bridge

By Arthur Miller
Directed by Eileen Kavanagh

The Venue Theatre Ratoath



Thursday 23rd
Friday 24th
Saturday 25th
February
at 8:00pm

Tickets €15

Venue Box 01 6895600 www.venue theatre.ie