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# ratoath

## news and views

your free community newsletter

**ISSUE 41 NOVEMBER 2022**

In this issue, we look to varying degrees at Ratoath past, present and future.

On Nov 15th we have the inaugural Ratoath Community Achievement Awards which quite aptly in its first year honours those in our community associated with the Horse Racing industry. These Awards will reflect the industry's close association with Ratoath through the years and generations, from when Ratoath was a small village to today's large town, from Arkle to Lord Lariat. The event will be hosted by local broadcaster Aisling O'Reilly and some 16 recipients will be honoured on a night not to be missed for those interested in local history and horse racing.

While some of our Ratoath martial arts sports have achieved success in Europe in recent years, September 2022 saw the athletes from Ratoath Athletic Club ( RAC ) show they could compete with Europe's best, finishing a highly respectable 9th best European Junior Athletic Club. July had seen RAC win the All-Ireland Track & Field Junior Championships to become Ireland's top Junior Club. This automatically qualified the club to represent Ireland at the inaugural U20 European Clash of the Clubs 2022 Championships being held in the Mediterranean coastal city of Castellón in Spain. For such a relatively young club this is a fantastic achievement and a great credit to all concerned and fully justified the financial support that was received from the Ratoath community in helping to fund their participation and thereby bring such great credit to themselves, their club and Ratoath.

We also feature a number of new initiatives and events aimed at making it more interesting for all ages to live in Ratoath. New community grants have been secured to assist in establishing many of these new initiatives including a €7,500 grant from The Community Foundation of Ireland to assist in establishing a Ratoath Community Repair Hub to be operated and managed by the senior citizens in our community. A new Country Market has been established featuring produce and products that are made in peoples' homes. Thursday Night Cinema in Ratoath is planned to become a new feature for our community in 2023 and a number of other new activities are planned all aimed at making life more interesting for Ratoath residents of all ages.

Last but far from least, congratulations to the small number of volunteers that comprise Ratoath Tidy Towns who have broken the 300 marks barrier in Tidy Towns 2022 for the first time, increasing the town's marks from the previous high of 299 in 2021 to a most impressive 316 marks for 2022. From 2023 onwards we expect Meath County Council to implement their 2022 approved Part 8 Ratoath Pedestrian and Cycling Scheme together with the completion of the new water pipeline into Ratoath (see p10/11) and a start to our derelict sites and properties undergoing new transformations. When these become a reality, we see Ratoath emerging as a serious contender for National Tidy Town awards but new volunteers are needed in Ratoath Tidy Towns if their process of continuous improvement is to be maintained.

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## CINEMA COMING TO RATOATH

Following the recent exciting renovations in the Venue Theatre and the addition of a high-spec cinema projector to its theatre screen, we are now working on bringing Cinema to Ratoath from early 2023. We are planning to join Access Cinema and we are also looking to form a new Ratoath Cine-Club and would love to hear from those in Ratoath who would be interested in joining the club. To express interest, email [info@ratoathcc.ie](mailto:info@ratoathcc.ie) or phone reception at 01 6895600 and leave your name and contact details.

A cine-club is a film society, or membership-based club, where people can watch screenings of films which might not be shown in mainstream cinemas, or re-showing genre, classic, historical, foreign language, or art movies. It would also allow members the opportunity to study the art of the cinema through discussion and screenings.

## RATOATH COUNTRY MARKET

Saturday Sept 24th saw our first Ratoath Country Market take place and it proved a most encouraging start. The intention going forward now is to give it a regular slot and so to hold the Market on the first Saturday of each month. What is unique about our market is, all produce is local, homemade or home grown and show the quality and the diversity of our local community.

The Market is focused on items that are made at home - food, crafts, plants, flowers, jewellery, knitwear and more. Producers pride themselves on keeping traditional and modern home cooking, home growing and hand-crafted items available and offering a truly local and welcoming shopping experience for Ratoath residents. The range of produce will vary according to local skills and, of course, the season.

The Producers pride themselves on keeping traditional home cooking, home growing and hand-crafted items alive, as well as creating the latest up to date produce. We are always looking for new Producer Members. If you are interested in joining contact us on email at [info@ratoathcc.ie](mailto:info@ratoathcc.ie) or phone us at 01 6895600.

## RATOATH REPURPOSED ETHICAL FASHION

Ratoath Repurposed Ethical Fashion, a new initiative from Ratoath Community Centre, introduces an ethical and sustainable fashion **project aimed at our 16 - 25 population age group**. This project, currently in planning and set for launch in December, has already been shortlisted for the Coca-Cola National Thank You Fund.

With this project we want our younger generation to fall back in love with clothes they already own, or their friends or family own, by styling them differently or flipping them, or by reimagining them and moving them on. Our goal at Ratoath Repurposed Ethical Fashion is to grasp the potential in unwanted and discarded clothing, and reimagine something creative and new.

By bringing skills already within our community of all ages, engaging with existing school and college projects, and engaging intergenerational teaching and participation, we will teach the participants the skills they need to Recreate, Reimagine, Restore, Recycle, Repurpose, Reduce, Reuse, and Reskill.

As we fight the throw-away-culture of the fast-fashion industry, we are providing a new inspiring way of fashion shopping and creating fresh designs from used clothes. So instead of going out and buying mass produced clothing, we promote endearment and engagement with the recycled and the unique. And in this reimagining and making, we recycle, reuse, reduce, redesign, repurpose, and revamp. And we learn skills for life and better ways of being. And with the reach of our product and learning, we teach a better way.

We will also create a '*flipped in ratoath*' store and swap-shop in the community centre where our younger population can find trendy pieces and give them a second life. We will, in association with participants, also create an online market place.

All help is welcome. All volunteers are welcome. All ideas are welcome. Let us know of your interest by email at [info@ratoathcc.ie](mailto:info@ratoathcc.ie) or by phone 01 6895600.

## NEW RATOATH COMMUNITY REPAIR HUB

Ratoath Community Repair Hub, another new initiative from Ratoath Community Centre commences in December with the backing of a €7,500 grant recently awarded by The Community Foundation of Ireland. This exciting new project invites, involves and integrates older citizens of our local community to contribute their life-learned skills to help other citizens of our community to repair and reuse personal and household items and, in so doing, share skills and stories, reduce waste, and create an intergenerational social space.

The project facilitates our older citizens to actively and productively utilise their skills and abilities to repair and recreate items, to teach reuse, and to do this in an arena of social conviviality and sharing. Led by our older citizens, Ratoath Community Repair Hub will teach all our generations to embrace items they already own, or their friends or family own, by repairing them and by reusing them. And loving them again!

Ratoath Community Repair Hub will shine a light on the positive contribution older citizens can make in the community through promoting positive aging and active participative citizenship. It will positively change lives by giving older citizens the opportunity to regain confidence within their community utilizing their life-learned experience and skills. Multiple empirical evidence shows that active contact with the community enhances the physical, emotional, and cognitive wellbeing of our older community and enhances the life, social relationships, and active citizenship of all the community.

The project targets and enables our older citizens to accomplish the four goals of the National Positive Aging Strategy:

- Removes barriers and provides opportunities for active participation in cultural, economic, and social life within the community utilising the individual's capacity.
- Supports physical and mental wellbeing through active contribution and participation.
- Enables confidence, security, and dignity within the community.
- Supports research programmes into population aging in Ireland.

All help is welcome. All volunteers are welcome. All ideas are welcome. Please contact the reception desk at Ratoath Community Centre for more details.

## RATOATH READERS BOOK CLUB

ratoath Readers Book Club continues its monthly escapade through a great variety of writing at its gatherings at Ratoath Community Centre. Thank you to all who have attended our assemblies of tea, coffee, biscuits, chat, and books. All newcomers are very welcome to join us at any time.

Our next gathering is **Tuesday 29th November** at 8.30 pm in the Glascarn Studio in Ratoath Community Centre. The chosen book is **'TUNNEL 29'** by Helena Merriman. Please note that it isn't necessary to have read the book to attend, or indeed to have a formal invitation or introduction; just bring your good self. Further information from Mark at the Community Centre: [markmulholland@ratoathcc.ie](mailto:markmulholland@ratoathcc.ie)

## RATOATH PICKLEBALL

**Pickleball** has to be one of the best sports invented for the Irish climate. It is usually played on a badminton court with a tennis net and hard paddles but any smooth surface area can be adapted.

It is a great sport, and a fun sport, that combines many elements of tennis, badminton, and ping-pong. Played both indoors or outdoors it has taken the world by storm. Fun, social, and friendly, the rules are simple and the game is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players. Pickleball's unique rules favour players with less mobility and allow senior players to compete with younger competitors.

It all happens on Tuesday mornings at 11.30 in Ratoath Community Centre. Come and join in!!!! Your first session is free!!!



# RATOATH TIDY TOWNS 2022 - ADJUDICATION REPORT

Category	Maximum Mark	2022 Marks	2021 Marks	2019 Marks	2018 Marks
<b>Community – Planning / Involvement</b>	80	43	41	41	40
<b>Streetscape &amp; Public Places</b>	80	42	40	40	39
<b>Green Spaces and Landscaping</b>	80	43	41	40	40
<b>Nature &amp; Biodiversity in your locality</b>	55	33	30	28	26
<b>Sustainability – Doing more with less</b>	55	27	24	24	23
<b>Tidiness and Litter Control</b>	90	51	48	47	47
<b>Residential Streets &amp; Housing Areas</b>	55	43	41	40	40
<b>Approach Roads, Streets and Lanes</b>	55	34	34	33	33
<b>TOTAL MARKS</b>	<b>550</b>	<b>316</b>	<b>299</b>	<b>293</b>	<b>288</b>

**Community – Your Planning and Involvement** Thank you for your application and 3/5-year plan. Your aim for Ratoath going forward deserves a mention. Your aim is to work and provide support to all organisations within the community, to ensure that Ratoath becomes a vibrant community to live in, work and visit. You are wished well, for this long-term goal. You have a small committee and a small number of volunteers, with other groups willing to help out as the need arises. You engage well with all the agencies and businesses that provide you with support and funding for different projects. Involvement with all the schools is also good, and this starts with the preschools, which is commended. You also work with a number of students from different colleges, creating projects for the students to participate in the Gaisce awards. The Tidy Towns group and students work closely on various projects, such as litter picking. Work is ongoing on cleaning up sections of Broadmeadow river which can be accessed at the Church. Many community groups assist with this work.

**Streetscape & Public Places** The streetscape looks bright and welcoming with the well painted facades of the businesses, together with window boxes and hanging baskets, bringing great colour to the town. The Holy Trinity Church on an elevated site, surrounded by superb mature trees is impressive. The 1798 monument was also admired on its presentation. The water pump which is part of the town heritage and the Marian Shrine, all add vibrancy to the streetscape. There are some buildings, such as the one opposite Supervalu, that you have brightened up as a temporary measure until more permanent work is done on the site.

**Green Spaces & Landscaping** You are doing good work in this category, ensuring all year-round interest and colour in the seasonal planting of a number of tubs in the town centre. The planting of perennial pollinator friendly flower beds, fruit trees and wild flowers turns an otherwise dull area into an interesting project. The location of such a project at the sports campus can be enjoyed by the wider community. It also helps to make more of the community aware of the importance of this type of planting, and maybe encourage more of the community to do similar planting in their own gardens. It is important that we all plant more pollinator friendly plants and the Tidy Towns group are commended for the work they are doing, highlighting the importance of this type of planting. You are also fortunate to have good help from the scouts and men's shed, making bird boxes and feeders to add to the area.

**Nature and Biodiversity in your Locality** This category is about how you understand, protect and enhance nature and biodiversity in your local area. Broadmeadow river was identified as a natural heritage area. An audit of the biodiversity of the river was conducted in 2021. The objectives of this study were to conduct habitat surveys, identifying any rare or protected species and to look at the conservation of existing habitats. Communicate with the wider community to increase their awareness and understanding of local biodiversity. The study also recommended short medium- and long-term proposals to manage and enhance biodiversity along the river. These type of studies are important as their findings can be shared with the wider community. The planting throughout the town is commended especially the wildflower patches. It is good to see that children from the crèche are being taken on walks to see habitats, such as the bug hotel, so carefully constructed from recycled materials.

## RATOATH TIDY TOWNS 2022 - ADJUDICATION REPORT cntd

**Sustainability – Doing more with less** In this category groups are asked to show how efficiently they are using their resources thus reducing waste generation. Examples of how the town are becoming more efficient, are included in your application. There are a number of recycling and reusing projects, one of these is kitchen waste being made into compost and reused by the group, which is commended. The allotments where you grow your own produce, is an area where great savings, both economic and environmental are made. These are good examples of how the wider community, including businesses can become involved. This ensures that proper management of resources, can help make savings, which everyone is encouraged to do for the environment. Keep up the good work.

**Tidiness & Litter Control** The town has a good plan in place in controlling litter. You have regular litter picking evenings. Adopt an area is one good way of getting more volunteers involved to look after a specific area. Keeping the town neat and tidy should involve the wider community as there is a large area to cover. It is good to see the new bins have become more hi tech, as this will hopefully result in fewer overflowing bins.

**Residential Streets & Housing Estates** The housing estates all have good green areas, trees and hedging. The entrances are bright and colourful with good landscaping complementing the landscaping. Houses along the approach roads and throughout the town look bright and colourful, with neat gardens, hanging baskets and window boxes all brightening up the streetscape. Well done to all the residents for their work in maintaining their homes to such a high standard.

**Approach Roads, Streets & Lanes** The approach roads to the town gives a very good first impression as one enters the town. The entrance signs and landscaping along the approach roads are welcoming. Planting of trees and hedging complements the mature trees that already exist throughout the town. The roundabouts are generally good with more areas left for wildlife. The verges are neat while retaining a corridor for wildlife. The pump looks fresh and bright. Signage is generally clean. Do ensure any encroaching foliage is cut back from signage. You are working closely with the council on various areas needing attention. The adjudicator is aware of the large amount of work that Tidy Towns groups get done in their areas, through constant negotiation with the council. You are commended for all the work you have completed.

**Concluding Remarks** Ratoath have done good work for this year's competition. Keep up the good work and you are wished well in the future.

## JOE TORMEY - INSPIRING RATOATH TO BE A TIDY TOWN

The whole town of Ratoath seemed to be given a lift after word spread on Facebook of a young man doing his fantastic work of picking up litter around Ratoath.

The post highlighted the great work of 10 year old Joe Tormey (son of Aidan and Muireann, younger brother of Jack and Cormac) who has been out litter picking for the past few months as he hates to see litter everywhere and wanted to make the area cleaner. The majority of people wouldn't like to see litter around but Joe has taken the initiative and heads out from his estate and through the village past Centra and Café Novello and on to Supervalu, doing his part for the community and the environment.

The original post on Facebook showed a lot of praise and admiration for Joe and his work. It was great to see the positivity from residents of Ratoath and further afield as they commented on the post. I had asked Joe, via Aidan, what was his reaction to the Facebook post, and Joe was very surprised by the attention that the post got on Facebook. He felt very proud (as he should) and couldn't believe that so many adults would take notice of what a kid was doing. I think what he is doing is helping to raise awareness and maybe inspiring others to do their part as well. His family are immensely proud of Joe and appreciated the kindness that was shown by all the comments. Joe has said he will "most definitely" be continuing!

### Article by Lisa Harding



Once again, well done Joe, what an inspiration for our community!



## Show Schedule from Nov 22- April 23

Date	Time	Event
17 <sup>th</sup> November	8pm	The Christmas Show Abba Forever
19 <sup>th</sup> November	8pm	Don Baker Blues Man
20 <sup>th</sup> November	3pm	Megaslam Wrestling Tour
24 <sup>th</sup> November	8pm	Megan O' Neill
25 <sup>th</sup> & 26 <sup>th</sup> November	8pm	Dirt Birds 2022
3 <sup>rd</sup> December	8pm	“The Amazing George Michael Tribute” featuring James Bermingham
8 <sup>th</sup> , 9 <sup>th</sup> , 15 <sup>th</sup> , 16 <sup>th</sup>	7.30pm	Freezin the Panto
10 <sup>th</sup> , 11 <sup>th</sup> , 17 <sup>th</sup> , 18 <sup>th</sup>	2pm & 7.30pm	Freezin the Panto
22 <sup>nd</sup> December	2pm	Rudolph Saves Christmas
6 <sup>th</sup> January	8pm	Enya Martin ” Ask Your Ma “
14 <sup>th</sup> January	8pm	Route 66 Big Band
21 <sup>st</sup> January	8pm	The Bee Gees Concert Experience
4 <sup>th</sup> February	8pm	Deirdre O'Kane - Demented
2 <sup>nd</sup> March	8pm	Neil Delamere - Delamerium
24 <sup>th</sup> March	8pm	Gearoid Farrelly-Glamour Hammer
1 <sup>st</sup> April	8pm	Damien Dempsey 2023
15 <sup>th</sup> April	8pm	Legend of Luke Kelly by Chris Kavanagh & The Patriots
22 <sup>nd</sup> April	8pm	McCartney All the Best - Celebrating Sir Paul McCartney, The Beatles & Wings

To book tickets please follow the link:

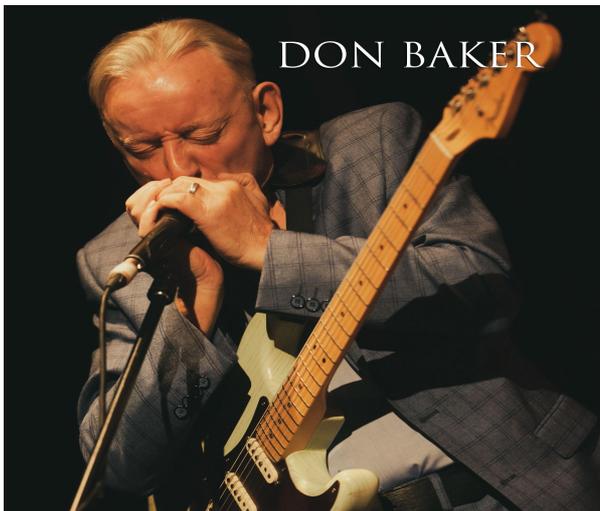
<https://www.thevenueratoath.ie/theatre>

Or contact the Box Office: 01-6895600

## VENUE THEATRE - UPCOMING EVENTS NOVEMBER 2022

**Megaslam Wrestling** comes to Ratoath with their huge 2022 Live Tour. Established in 2009, Megaslam is Europe's leading wrestling show. Megaslam Wrestling is an action-packed two-hour family entertainment spectacular that on Sunday 20th November 2022 comes to The Venue Ratoath. In a must-see show for families, Team Megaslam will do battle with Team Nasty in a series of matches designed to get the little ones jumping around and cheering their favourite team onto victory! Families attending better be prepared to get their vocal chords in check as chants of 'Megaslam! Megaslam! Megaslam!' echo around the arena as they cheer their favourites onto victory! Official Megaslam Merchandise is available from their dedicated shop inside the venue. At Megaslam events they ALWAYS encourage the audience to be as loud as they possibly can. The Megaslam Championship will also be defended as the champion throws down the gauntlet to any challenger and this loaded family event will include matches such as Heavyweight Challenge, Tag Team Thriller, and the Megaslam Rumble.

Sunday 20th November at 3pm. Tickets available from The Venue Ratoath.



### Don Baker Playing The Venue 19th November 2022

Just turned a young 70 and 55 years on the road, Don has had an amazing career. Harmonica player, singer-songwriter and actor, he has headlined with Tom Jones and Van Morrison, acted opposite Daniel Day-Lewis in the Oscar Nominated "In the Name of the Father" and been declared by Bono as "The greatest harmonica player in the World!"

In January 2022 he released his first ever collection of harmonica instrumentals as recorded by Don over the last 40 years while in February TG4 broadcast a documentary of Don's life story through their award-winning documentary series, Finné. However, it is the legendary performances by this consummate entertainer that have engaged, enchanted and charmed audiences for more than 55 years. Tickets for Don's 19th November Ratoath show are now on sale.

### Councillor Gillian Toole

#### Local Issues Lets Talk Community Clinic

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Dates & Times as per Facebook page  
or contact me for details.

[gillian.toole@members.meathcoco.ie](mailto:gillian.toole@members.meathcoco.ie)

**086 089 1221**

### RATOATH NEWS & VIEWS

**ISSUE 042**

Submissions and final date for artwork

**November 26th 2022**

Call 01 689 5600 or email

[newsandviews@ratoathcc.ie](mailto:newsandviews@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 : Leo Cummins  
Production : Heather Melia  
Advertising : Michelle Gill

We are publishing our new Ratoath 2023 Directory in January. If you want your business listed, please contact us .

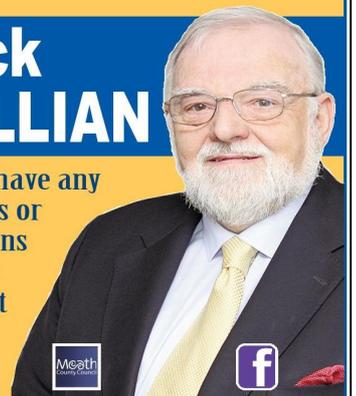
### Independent Councillor Ratoath Municipal District & Peace Commissioner

## Nick KILLIAN

If you have any  
queries or  
concerns  
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me.

**Advice  
Centre:**

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



# Ratoath Athletic Club - Irish Junior Club Champions / 9th in Europe

Ratoath Athletic Club ( RAC) can now proudly describe itself as the 9th best Junior Athletic Club in Europe. No mean feat for a club now in only its 50th year and whose rapid growth has largely occurred over the past 12 years.

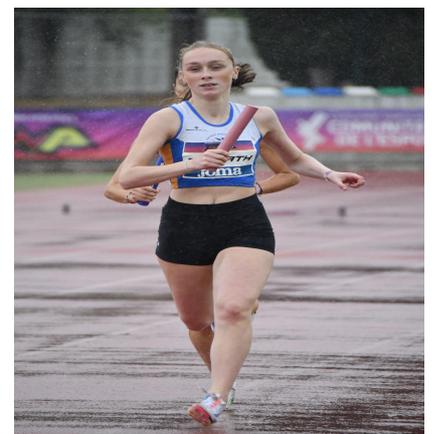
In July RAC competed in the All Ireland Track and Field Junior Championships for athletes aged U17-U20 and won the overall competition thus becoming the top Junior Club in Ireland. RAC thereby qualified to represent Ireland at the inaugural U20 European DNA ‘Clash of the Clubs’ Championships being held in the Mediterranean coastal city of Castellón on Spain’s east coast. DNA stands for Dynamic New Athletics and is a new team-based format which takes place over a limited period and requires strong inputs from not just the athletes themselves but also their coaches. Despite being the smallest club in Castellón, RAC’s athletes and coaches showed they could compete with the best in Europe and finished in a highly respectable 9th position out of the 12 teams competing.

RAC travelled as a group of 27 including 21 athletes accompanied by club chairman Ronnie Quigley, club founding member Tommy Boshell and four coaches, Hugh Kelly, Siobhéal Murray, Peter Doherty and Sinéad McGoldrick. The 21 athletes competing are listed below together with some personal bests and club records achieved on the trip :

<b>Laura Kelly</b> 100m 12.58 secs PB and Relay	<b>Stephen Kiernan</b> 400m Hurdles 60.6 secs	<b>Amelia Campbell</b> Ladies Team Captain
<b>Jesse Osas</b> 200m 22.66 secs PB	<b>Jack Kelly</b> 400m Hurdles	<b>Lili O’Connor</b> Long Jump 4.8 m
<b>Aimee Doherty</b> 800m 2 mins 21,31 secs	<b>Eoin Kane</b> Mens’ Team Captain	<b>Cara O’Sullivan</b> Javelin 18.16m PB
<b>Caoimhe Fitzsimons</b> 100m Hurdles 15.72 secs	<b>Jed Walshe</b> Relays	<b>Jack O’Donnell</b> Relays
<b>Matthew Hayes</b> Mens’ Team Captain	<b>Aisling Stratford</b> Relay	<b>Kyle Witter</b> Relays and Shot Putt 8.26m
<b>Emmanuel Osas</b> 110m Hurdles 16.22 secs and High Jump	<b>Niamh Murphy</b> Relay	<b>Eve Mooney</b> Relay
<b>Aobh Forde</b> Ladies Team Captain	<b>Darragh Masterson</b> Relay	<b>Stephen Walshe</b> MVP Award

By all accounts the Ratoath parents who made the trip to support the team were the loudest in the well named Complejo Deportivo Gaetá Huguet stadium while the trip was only possible with the aid of Athletics Meath, Leinster Athletics, Athletics Ireland and the community of Ratoath. The Ratoath business community organised a night of Music Bingo with raffle donations in the Ratoath Inn and together with local individual donations enabled RAC to meet its fundraising target for the trip.

Undoubtedly the confidence and experience gained by the Ratoath athletes and coaches from this event will inspire all Ratoath athletes to go on achieving even greater success and congratulations to all concerned for putting Ratoath on the European map with such distinction.



# RATOATH ATHLETIC CLUB COMPETING IN EUROPE



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## IRISH WATER / MEATH CO COUNCIL

Irish Water welcomes the decision by Meath County Council to grant planning permission which will allow for a substantial increase in treated water storage capacity at Windmill Hill Reservoir. The completion of the project is vitally important to improving the water supply security for residents and businesses in Ratoath and Ashbourne, facilitating economic development, and providing for a growing population.

Irish Water, working in partnership with Meath County Council, will also replace over 7kms of problematic, old water mains in Ratoath that have been prone to frequent bursts and have caused water supply disruptions for customers and businesses in both Ratoath and Ashbourne. The old water mains will be replaced by high density, state-of-the-art polyethylene (plastic) pipes which will also address low water pressure particularly in Ratoath, encountered during periods of peak demand.

Irish Water also plans to construct an additional large storage reservoir at Windmill Hill. This additional infrastructure will mitigate the impact of any of the frequent bursts in the existing upstream watermain that supplies Windmill Hill Reservoir from Staleen Water Treatment Plant located near Donore. Commenting on the decision, William McKnight, Regional Delivery Lead at Irish Water said: "We welcome the decision by Meath County Council to grant permission for the construction of a 4.7 million litre treated water storage reservoir at Windmill Hill. Once completed the Project will reinforce the water supply security and resilience for homes and businesses in Ratoath and Ashbourne and will empower future growth for Southeast Meath." William added, "Irish Water and Meath County Council are committed to working closely with all residents and stakeholders as we progress this significant infrastructure project with benefits for all." Irish Water is now in the process of concluding the tender process for the planned works and is on track to award the construction contract in Q3 of this year, with works to commence shortly thereafter. The new proposed additional reservoir will be built adjacent to the existing reservoir at Windmill Hill which is located between Curraghera and Kilmoon Cross. The replacement watermain will run parallel to the existing watermain along the L5003 and the R155. Irish Water is responsible for the delivery of all public water and wastewater services in Ireland. We are committed to continuously upgrading and developing critical infrastructure to support growth in our economy, while protecting the environment and safeguarding water supplies.

## INCREASING YOUR WATER STORAGE CAPACITY

Like all enterprises in Ratoath, Ratoath Community Centre has been plagued by the multiplicity of water outages. In recent years these outages have proved quite costly with the enforced closure of As You Like It and the cancellation of concerts and events primarily because of no toilets being available for the large numbers attending these events.

In 2021 we acquired two 1,000 litres IBCs for storing water and then in 2022 we gave the task to our participants in the Ratoath Community Employment Scheme to come up with an innovative solution utilising these 2 IBC's that would in future enable the Community Centre to remain open for at least 24 hours whenever there was a water outage.

The solution that emerged was to link the two IBC's into our existing system, gravity fill them from the mains and instal a return pipe to enable water be transferred to a downstairs retaining tank which has a capacity of 1,000 litres for distribution throughout the building. So now if there is a water outage and this downstairs tank empties, the valves from the two back-up storage IBC's are opened and when the downstairs tank reaches quarter full, a pump kicks in and distributes the water around the building. We estimate there is then sufficient capacity to maintain supply around the building for at minimum 24 hours if the building is busy or longer if less busy.

Because the system is fundamentally mechanical, there is very little to go wrong and it now means that our rooms, theatre and restaurant can remain open for at least 4 hours when a water outage takes place. The stored water is treated and sealed in the two IBC's once filled and the water released is only used for sanitary and cleaning purposes. It is checked and treated regularly and the next development is to introduce water harvesting into the system. We would urge local businesses to talk to their plumber about having some basic back-up system in place should they not already have one and particularly as there is a strong likelihood that water outages will continue for at least another two years whilst the new pipeline into Ratoath from Windmill Hill Reservoir is completed.

# WINDMILL HILL RESERVOIR WORKS COMMENCED

November 8<sup>th</sup> saw Minister Darragh O'Brien, TD and officials from Irish Water and Meath County Council turn the sod on a €11.8 million contract that will provide a more reliable water supply for existing homes and businesses in Ratoath, Kilbride and Ashbourne. The project will also support social and economic growth and development in areas which have seen significant growth in recent years. The Windmill Hill Reservoir and Trunk Watermain to Ratoath project is just one of a number of strategically important projects to increase the security and resilience of the drinking water supply across County Meath. The ceremony to mark the commencement of the works was led by the Minister for Housing, Local Government and Heritage, Darragh O'Brien TD and supported by Cathaoirleach of Meath County Council, Councillor Nick Killian. Also in attendance was Minister for Justice Helen McEntee, Minister of State for European Affairs, Thomas Byrne, local TD Darren O'Rourke, and Senator Sharon Keogan and representatives from Irish Water and Meath County Council, as well as local Councillors from Ashbourne and Ratoath municipal district, members of the of the local business community and pupils from St. Andrews National School, Curragha.

Minister O'Brien said he was delighted to be here today to officially turn the sod and mark the commencement of these works. The construction of this new reservoir and in turn, the provision of a reliable water service is essential to support the economic and social development of the local area. I would like to commend all those involved in bringing the project to this important day and I would like to wish the project team well as they progress this vital water project. This project , he stated, is critical to enabling us to meet our commitments under Housing for All, to create more businesses and attract more investment. It represents a significant milestone in the provision of a more secure and resilient water supply for Southeast Meath.

Nick Killian spoke of this being a significant day for the people of Ratoath, Ashbourne, Curragha and Kilbride and how the project will support future population growth of the villages and surrounding areas and he welcomed the commencement of this essential upgrade project by Irish Water and the benefits it will bring to the community.

William McKnight, Infrastructure Delivery Lead with Irish Water, called the project an important milestone in the delivery of a more secure and reliable water supply for our customers in Meath and stated that Irish Water is committed to playing its part in the national drive to provide homes to people who need them by developing and prioritising the delivery of key water infrastructure. Pictured below at Windmill Hill Reservoir are (L to R), Ministers Thomas Byrne and Helen McEntee, William McKnight and Minister Darragh O'Brien.

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## VENUE THEATRE - UPCOMING EVENTS NOVEMBER 2022

RMS are back this Christmas with Freezin' The Panto! Follow Auntie Freeze, Anna, Kristoff, Sven and Olaf as they try to save summer and bring Elsa back to Arendale. Lord Weselton, Frida Boobenknocker and Hans, (along with their not so trusty sidekicks) have taken over the castle and plan to rule the kingdom FOREVER! Can Auntie Freeze and the gang find Elsa and save the day before it's too late?!

The RMS Pantos are always of the highest standards, favourably comparable with any of the larger Dublin City Centre shows. So why incur all the expense and trouble of bringing the family into Dublin when right on your own doorstep, we have the fabulous RMS Freezin, The Panto. Please note only a limited number of tickets remain available.



**Megan O'Neill** is a stunning singer! She comes to the Venue Ratoath on the 24th of November. Megan's recent singles, Wildfire and Fail Better, were both top 10 hits. Her beautiful cover of Time in a Bottle features in the Netflix hit series Firefly. To purchase tickets, book online or call our box office on 01-6895600



Come join us for our Monthly Ratoath Country Market held in Our Community Centre on the first Saturday of every month.

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!

**Saturday 3rd December 10am - 2pm**  
Look forward to seeing you there



**ONLY CASH PAYMENTS ACCEPTED**



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