

people **living**

# New book on Ballinasloe stained glass windows

A book written by a Ballinasloe doctor on the stained glass windows in St. Michael's Church, Ballinasloe, will be launched on Thursday night next, April 22nd.

The 104-page hardback, containing over fifty colour photographs, is the work of Deirdre Mulryan from Kilgarve in the town and is entitled 'Windows to the Soul'. The book, she says, will have wide appeal incorporating spiritualism, philosophy and psychology. "There is something in it for all age groups" she claims.

The Ballinasloe Church is dedicated to St. Michael the Archangel and the scriptural incidents connected with him, such as the expulsion of Satan from Heaven. Also the design of Michaelangelo and the Blowing of the Last Trumpet, are naturally prominent in the design.

St. Grellan, the Patron Saint of Ballinasloe, has two stained glass windows dedicated to him and local people often ask why this Church was not named St. Grellan's. St. Grellan was the first historical figure to establish a Christian foundation in 'Magh Sein Chioneoil' now known as Kiltlooney. He came westward with a team of monks, in the fifth century, ac-

companied by St. Patrick as far as Roscommon. His memory is well perpetuated in the Boys' School in Ballinasloe, in a local housing estate and by the GAA.

The book goes on to say that one of the hallmarks of the saints was their immanence of the Kingdom and their ability to live in it daily. Our lower ego nature tells us not to be content with what is, but the saints tell us to relax, let go and let the order of the universe flow through us. We learn to give thanks constantly for the present moment and to be satisfied.

Four prominent artists are featured in the Church windows. The famous Harry Clarke windows shimmer and sparkle with iridescent midnight blues, burning reds and lustrous greens. Other artists include William Earley, Frederick Settle Barff and Patrick Pollen.

The wonderful colour photos enhance this publication while the wealth of information in it about the church and its windows will be a tremendous asset, not alone to the local community but also to the visitors who come to St. Michael's.

With biblical stories and quotes, plus inspiring thoughts, 'Windows to the Soul' will be launched by the author, Deirdre Mulryan,

in Gullane's Hotel, Ballinasloe on Thursday, 22nd April at 8.30 p.m. and will be selling for €20. The excellent photographs were taken by Robert Riddell and the book was printed locally by KPW Print in Ballinasloe.



## Have you a true story to tell?

It's often said everyone has a book in them, and if this is true then a short story should be a cinch! Garret Pearse is asking the people of Roscommon to help the people of post-earthquake Haiti in an innovative way; by unleashing their inner storyteller and submitting their own true, short story for his 'True Irish Sto-

ries' project.

'True Irish Stories' sees Garret aiming to collect hundreds of short stories from the Irish public and publish them in a book with the proceeds going towards Concern's Haiti Relief Fund.

"I got the idea for the project from a book I was reading called True Tales of American Lives,"

says Garret. "It was a compilation of true stories sent to national public radio by people from all walks of life in the US as part of the National Story project. I was reading it around the time of the Haiti earthquake and thought wouldn't it be great to compile a group of short Irish true stories."

"I'm not looking for literary

masterpieces, just for people to take a few minutes to tell a story about anything connected to Ireland in any way at all and send it to trueirishstories@gmail.com. For more information and some writing tips from renowned author Roddy Doyle see www.trueirishstories.com. Stories should be submitted by the end of April.

## 'Communication' at Solas

Local artist Siobhán Cox Carlos is among those exhibiting at a new exhibition at Solas Gallery in Ballinamore.

Each year the gallery takes on a project to promote its artists and activities recently launched its website as well as its appropriately-named Spring members' exhibition, 'Communication' on Friday 23rd April.

The website www.solasart.ie was designed by Brian Timoney of Webforge and will cover exhibitions past, present and future, news and is also building a profile of all member artists. The website and Facebook page will open up more opportunities for member artists; membership is open to all visual artists whether full or part time so this launch would be a good time to come and see what the Solas Gallery is doing.

The Exhibition, 'Communication' will be showing approximately 40 pictures by members. The works show the many varied interpretations of the title and come in many styles and mediums. They range from the attractive prints by Helen Pinoff, Glasgow 1 etc., based on levels of communication within the human nest, to the beautifully soft painting 'Togher River' by Freda Young.

When there is so much work on show by so many artists, one can only mention a few or run out of space. To whet the appetite 'Approaching Storm' by Miriam Doran Venables is an amazing burst of colour and energy contrasted with the peacefulness of 'Above the Lake' by Maggie Duignan.

There is vibrant and thought-provoking work by well-known Roscommon artist Siobhán Cox Carlos

as well as an eye catching painting by Ballinamore-based Ciaran McDéviot. Other artists include Colleen Quinn, Josephine Kenny, Harald de Bary, Sandra Vernon, Monica Corish and more. Many of the artists will be having solo exhibitions during the year so this is a good opportunity to get a preview of the work of these many talented people.

The 'Communication' exhibition and website will be opened by Claire McGovern, editor of the Leitrim Observer. The opening is at 7.30 pm on Friday 23rd April and the exhibition will run until 15th May. All are welcome. The Solas Gallery is located above the Four Seasons Garden Centre, Main Street, Ballinamore, Co. Leitrim. For any enquiries please contact Gail or Ben by email at info@solas-art.ie



## arts news

■ With Pauline Scott

### East Galway music session in Murray's

Three stalwarts of the East Galway traditional music session scene will be playing in Murray's in Knockcroghery tonight (Thursday, 15th April).

Bobby Kilkenny, Frank Hession and Johnny Kelly have been the backbone of the Sunday night sessions in Brian de Courcey's in Ahascragh for many years now as well as numerous other sessions around Ballinasloe, Ballymacward, New Inn, etc.

Bobby is probably one of the finest interpreters of the traditional ballad in the region as well as being a master musician, flute and banjo being his forte. Frank and Johnny are acknowledged as two of the great exponents of east Galway box playing, while Johnny can also throw in a song or two.

Hopefully the trio will have a few friends with them, while local musicians and singers are also welcome to join in. The music will begin around ten, admission is free and the session is organised under the auspices of South Roscommon Singers Circle.

### Ballymoe Book Club

Are you interested in forming a Book Club in Ballymoe? This involves a group of people coming together about once a month and having a discussion on a book that all group members have read. Galway Co. Library would donate all the books free of charge. It would be a very informal meeting, have a cup of tea and a chat about the book, which was read within the month, and be a good social outlet for people. Enquiries to (094) 96 55488.

### All-Ireland Confined Drama Finals 2010 (Under the auspices of the A.D.C.I.)

In the Community Centre Glenamaddy

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> – 24<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Adjudicator: Mr Michael O Hara

Curtain 8pm sharp

All seats to be occupied by 7.45pm

No admission once play has started

Friday 16<sup>th</sup> April - Ardagh Dramatic Society Limerick.

"Thy will be done" by Michael Carey

Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> April - Kilmuckridge Drama Group Wexford

"Canaries" by Bernard Farrell

Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> April - Ferns Dramatic Society Wexford

"Translations" by Brian Friel

Monday 19<sup>th</sup> April - Conna Drama Group Cork "Give" by John B. Keane.

Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> April - Compantas Lir Claregalway.

"I do not like thee Dr Fell" by Bernard Farrell

Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> April - Lislea Dramatic Society Armagh

"The Freedom of the City" by Brian Friel

Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> April - D.A.D.S. Dunmore.

"The Last Apache Reunion" by Bernard Farrell

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> April - Phoenix Players Tubbercurry

"The Mai" by Marina Carr

Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> April - Kilrush Drama Group Wexford

"On Raftery's Hill" by Marina Carr.

Official opening by Déarbhlá Walsh  
- Emmy award winning director.

Admission: Adults - €12 Students and OAP's  
- €10. Season tickets: €75

Booking - 086 2045896. 10am - 4pm daily and  
www.glenamaddydrama.com

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