

SUMMER READY

REPORT 2024



Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council



Gaillimh



SUMMER READY

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INTRODUCTION

County Galway is Ireland's leading cultural and natural heritage tourism destination—a vibrant and integrated destination that respects its unique culture and environment, proudly sharing it with visitors in engaging ways. It celebrates diversity, protects its heritage, and is led by sustainable principles.

Galway is well-established tourism destination for both domestic and international visitors.

This Summer will present opportunities and challenges for the Council as we work with our communities and stakeholders to deliver on our strategic goals and supporting strategies. Galway County Council's approach is to serve the needs of the County this Summer in relation to climate change, economic development and infrastructure.

Galway County Council continues to work with partner agencies such as the Gardaí, Emergency services, Fáilte Ireland, the OPW, National Parks and Wildlife service, Coillte and Waterways Ireland to ensure that environments are carefully managed and safe places for visitors.

From the literary rich Southwest to Connemara's white sandy beaches, to some of Ireland's most distinctive inlets and islands celebrating Irish language, culture and tradition, to the majestic lake lands of East Galway, and not forgetting the vibrant food offering around the County, Galway is truly the number one destination of choice for memorable and magical summer holidays.

DEPT. LEADS

The following services are being led out across various departments in Galway County Council:



Beaches – Blue Flag/Testing	Ann Dolan, Environment
Lifeguards – Where/When	Shane Coogan, Water Safety officer
Municipal District Update	Rachel Lowe, Roads
Community Warden Service	Rachel Lowe, Roads
Litter Management	Ann Dolan, Environment
Public Facilities/Conveniences	Uinsinn Finn, DOS
Fire Service	Gerry O’Malley, Chief Fire Officer
Arts	Sharon O’ Grady, Arts Officer
Heritage	Marie Mannion, Heritage Officer
Economic Rural, Community Dev.	Kieran Coyne/SEO
Library Services	Jo Vahey, A/County Librarian
Corporate Communications	Customer Services
Tourism and Marketing	Tourism Department



TOURISM CALENDAR OF EVENTS

The Tourism Office is dedicated to supporting festivals and participative events by grant funding and promoting a range of events across the County.

In 2024, The Community Support Scheme facilitated **73 festivals and community groups** with an overall funding allocation of **€87,250**.

This was co-funded by **Galway County Council Community Support Scheme Grants** (€69,250) and **Fáilte Ireland Regional Festivals and Events** grants valued at €18,000.

€87,250
73 LOCAL COMMUNITIES

6

For more details on festival and events happening around the County this Summer see <https://discovergalway.ie>. If you wish to highlight an event/festival in your area that is not on this calendar please email the details to tourism@galwaycoco.ie

MARCH

9th	Ghana Independence Day 6th March 2024
15th-23rd	Claregalway Drama Festival
17th	St Patricks Day Festival & Parade
22nd-30th	Glenamaddy 60th Annual Theatre Festival

APRIL

1st	Kilcolgan Easter Festival
4th -7th	Clifden Traditional Music Festival

MAY

1st- 19th	Galway County Fleadh 2024
3rd-5th	Inishbofin Arts Festival 2024
3rd- 6th	Féile Joe Éinniú
5th- 6th	Connemara Mountain Walking Festival
24th- 26th	Brittany Fest 2024
24th-26th	Ballinasloe Something for Everyone Weekend

JUNE

1st- 2nd	National and All Nations Sheep Shearing and Wool handling Championship 2024
9th	Corofin Duck Race
13th- 16th	St. Kerrills Festival
20th- 23rd	Féile na Sléibhte
23rd	Samhradh le Chéile
23rd	Taispeántas Cnocán an Cladaigh

JULY

Jun 30th-Jul 3rd	Headfest Festival
5th-6th	Corrib Shores, These Are Our People
6th-7th	Galway Garden Festival
9th-14th	Galway Film Fleadh
12th-14th	Roundstone Pony Show
25th-28th	Williamstown Community Festival
26th-28th	South Galway Bay Music Festival
28th-4th	Cashel Together Festival

AUGUST

1st- 6th	Ballygar Carnival
3rd- 4th	Féile Rásaí Inis Meáin
12th	Ballinamore Bridge Hen Fair
15th-18th	Clonberne Festival 2024
16th-18th	Comóradh 175 bliain an 'Brig St. John'
16th-18th	Féile Ceoil An Cheathrú Rua
16th-18th	Cruinniú na mBád
30th- 2nd Sept	Féile an tSrutháin

SEPTEMBER

1st	Taispeantas Chois Fharraige 2024
5th- 8th	Féile Cheoil Larry Reynolds
6th	Exploring County Galway's Ulster Heritage
7th	Clarinbridge Market Day
8th	Meelick Riverfest 2024
13th-15th	Cleggan Fringe Festival
13th-15th	Féile Ainm Cleite
14th	Kilcoona Scout Group 25 Year Anniversary Celebration
18th-29th	Clifden Arts Festival
20th-22nd	Bia BóFinne - Food Festival
21st-22nd	Athenry MAD Festival
TBC	Mullagh's Community Day

OCTOBER

4th-6th	Something In The Water
11th-20th	Baboró International Arts Festival for Children- County Programme
18th-20th	Carna Walking Festival
19th	Howl at the Moon 2024
24th Sep-13th Oct	North East Galway Fit Up Theatre Festival
29th Sep-6th Oct	Ballinasloe Fair & Festival
25th- 28th	Creggs Harvest Festival
TBC	Taste of Oranmore & Clarinbridge
TBC	Éigse Dara Beag

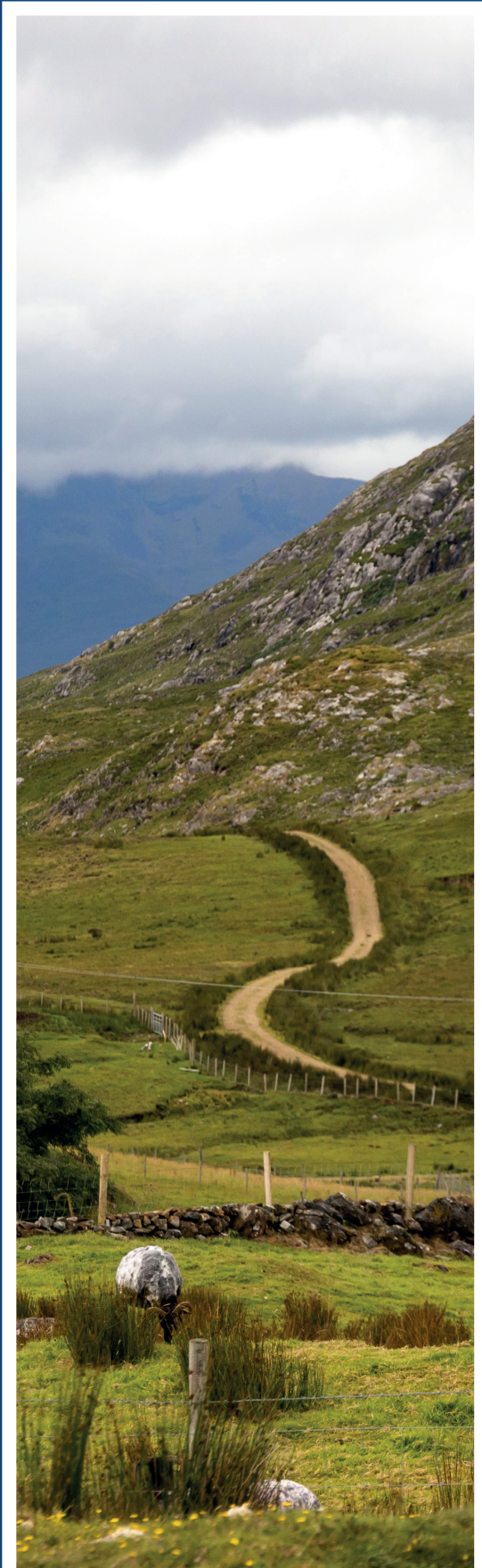
NOVEMBER

1st-17th	TULCA Festival of Visual Arts 2024
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DECEMBER

28th Nov- 8th Dec	Santas Cottage
TBC	Winter Wonderland and Ballyglunin Christmas Fair

COUNTY GALWAY TOURISM STRATEGY 2023-2031



This is the first ever tourism strategy to be adopted for **County Galway**. The purpose of the Tourism Strategy is to provide a focused approach to tourism development and promotion to increase the contribution of tourism to the County's economy while protecting and enhancing sustainability and the quality of life in County Galway.

Project management is currently underway for an implementation plan on the strategy, this will seek to stimulate tourism development throughout Galway, enhancing it in areas that are already strong and nurturing it in areas that are less mature from a tourism perspective with a commitment to delivering economic, social, cultural, and environmental benefits to diverse locations and communities. The plan will also inform the tourism team of the actions and tasks required to achieve the strategic goals in the strategy.

MARKETING CAMPAIGN

Due to the excellent feedback and successful editions, The Tourism Team will continue to invest in a County based marketing spread with **'This is Galway'** . We have highlighted areas like Kinvara, Gort and Moycullen and will continue to showcase what County Galway has to offer and will be focusing on east Galway for the next editions.

'Where West'

A full colour, high quality magazine circulated throughout the west- from Connemara to the Islands; south to north Galway; north Mayo to south Clare.

'Go West'

Galway County Council annually invest in the 'Go West' magazine of Knock Airport- alongside local authority partners in Sligo; Mayo, Roscommon and Galway City. For 2023 - coverage includes highlighting festivals and events supported by GCC and promoting the best aspects of the visitor experience around the County including North/East Galway and high-quality photography to promote Tourism in the County.

'The Spirit of Ireland Magazine'

Four pages were published with 'The Spirit of Ireland magazine' for Promoting the 10th Anniversary of the Wild Atlantic Way 2024.

The magazine will be promoted at all Tourist Attractions in Galway. The Spirit of Ireland Magazine targets the North American Tourists.

The magazine is the official publication of the North American Celtic Trade Association. NACTA brings visitors to Ireland to the value of 3.6 million annually.



Galway County and City Tourism Officers are collaborating on a new Tourism Specific website for Galway that will also highlight the new Galway Tourism Brand.

BEACHES

Galway's beaches all have excellent water quality and stunning scenery and are managed by the local authority in partnership with one or more local Clean Coast groups.

Blue Flag Beaches

Six beaches in County Galway have been awarded the prestigious Blue Flag Award with a further six beaches receiving the coveted Green Coast Award for 2024. At a National Awards ceremony held at the Galway Bay Hotel in Salthill on Monday 20th May.

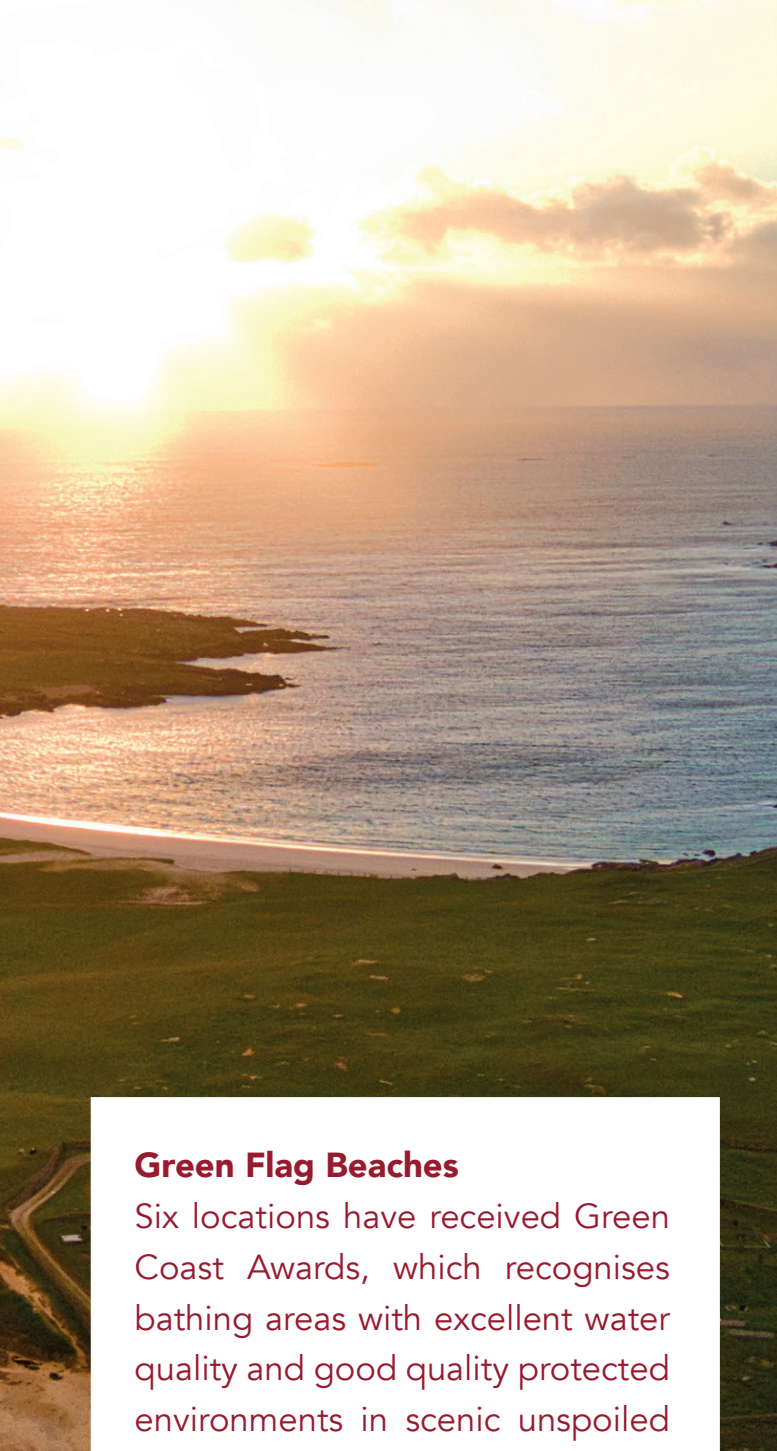
The Blue Flags were awarded to :

- Long Point at Loughrea Lake
- Portumna Bathing Area
- Trá Inis Oirr
- Trá an Dóilin in An Cheathrú Rua
- An Trá Mhór in Indreabhan an
- Traught beach, Kinvarra



Traught beach has regained its Blue Flag having lost its status in 2022. It is a major boost to the local community and tourism sector in Kinvarra.

Blue flags are awarded to bathing areas that meet excellent water quality standards and provide various amenities, including lifeguards and toilet facilities.



Green Flag Beaches

Six locations have received Green Coast Awards, which recognises bathing areas with excellent water quality and good quality protected environments in scenic unspoiled locations.

Green Flag beaches include:

- Trá Inis Oirr an
- Trá Poll na gCaorach
- Inis Oirr, East End a
- Dumach on Inisbofin
- Aillebrack Ballyconneely
- Renvyle Beach in Tully



OUTDOOR SUMMER LITTER MEASURES

- Introduction of the Galway County Council Anti-Litter Ambassador Programme
- Anti-litter and anti dumping signage on Beaches
- Continued Litter Awareness campaigns on Social media platforms
- Ongoing Community Warning monitoring of illegal dumping and investigation of reported illegal dumping incidents

LIFEGUARD SERVICE

Galway County Council, operates a shared lifeguard service for both Galway County Council and Galway City Council during the bathing season.

A lifeguard service will operate on an extended basis for the Summer months, **lifeguard hours are 11am - 7pm**, times are subject to change depending on availability of lifeguards and resources at the following locations:

- 1 Spideal Pier**
(Limited Parking and Portaloos)
- 2 An Cnoc, Indreabhán**
(Parking and Permanent Toilets)
- 3 An Ceathrú Rua**
(Parking & Permanent Toilets)
- 4 Traught, Kinvara**
(Parking, Permanent Toilets and Showers)
- 5 Loughrea**
(Parking, Permanent Toilets and Showers)
- 6 Portuma**
(Parking, Permanent Toilets and Showers)
- 7 Inis Oirr**
(No Parking, Permanent Toilets)
- 8 Gurteen Roundstone**
(Weekends only, July & August, subject to availability lifeguards, portaloos and parking)





Beaches 1-7 will operate as follows during the bathing season.

- For the month of June the above locations will have a Lifeguard Service on **weekends only** (bank holidays included) from 11am until 7 pm.
- Locations 1-7 will then convert to a daily service for July and August with Lifeguards on duty from 11 am until 7 pm.
- A weekend only service will commence for the above on weekend 1 and 2 in September.

Galway City Beaches

Galway City Beaches have a daily service for July and August with Lifeguards on duty from 11 am until 7 pm. There are four designated beaches in the Galway City area:

- 1** Salthill
- 2** Sliverstrand
- 3** Ballyloughane
- 4** Grattan

COMMUNITY WARDENS



Community Wardens work with local communities to improve the physical environment through education, enforcement and local action. They monitor and report Council issues and liaise with the community and work hand in hand with the community coordinators in their areas and with staff in other directorates of the Council as well as with various stakeholders. Community Wardens will have increased patrols at Tourist locations over the summer period.

County Wide (Supervising Community Warden)	Chris Harrington
Athenry/Oranmore East	Thomas O'Sullivan
Athenry/Oranmore West	Laura Mullins
Ballinasloe North	Tony Cunnane
Ballinasloe South	Mike Kelly
Ballinasloe Town	Rory O'Connor
Ballinasloe MD	John Glennon
Connemara East	Fiona Connolly Loftus
Connemara North & West	TBC
Connemara South	Martin Mannion
Loughrea	Liam O'Brien
Loughrea South (Portumna)	David Kelly
Loughrea West (Gort)	Martin Cummins
Tuam North	Pat Roche
Tuam Town	Tomas Clancy
Tuam West	Willie Doyle

FIRE SERVICE

Fire safety in the home is important all year round but in the summer months there are additional risks such as the use of B-B-Qs. Remember the STOP Fire Message:

S Smoke Detection

T Test Weekly

O Obvious Dangers

P Plan your escape

Visit **FireIreland.ie** for more information and complete your on-line home fire safety check at:

English Version: [Home Fire Safety Checklist](#)

Irish Version: [Seicliosta Sábháilteachta](#)

[Dóiteáin Baile](#)

Over the Summer months we get called to a lot of wildland (gorse and forest) fires. They are all preventable and take up valuable resources which may not be available for other more serious incidents. Wildland fires also threaten homes. Heed the advice in our wildfire leaflet available on **Galway.ie**

At this time of year, and with occasional good weather we see an increase in water rescues. Respect the water, know where you are swimming, use a place protected by a lifeguard and do not use inflatable toys. Otherwise:

Stay Back - Stay High - Stay Dry



Galway Fire & Rescue Service
Seirbhís Dóiteáin agus Tarrthála na Gaillimhe



An Garda Síochána

Wildfire Information for Farmers & Landowners

- It is illegal to burn on open ground for the control of growing vegetation between February 28th and September 1st.
- Farmers and landowners in breach risk prosecution and or penalties under the Dept. of Agriculture's support payments for farmers (Single Farm Payment, AEOS, REPS, Disadvantaged Area Scheme).
- Galway County Council will impose a charge on the owners or the beneficial occupiers of the land or property in relation to the attendance of the Fire Service.

Wildfire Information for the Public

- Avoid lighting fires outdoors when there are high winds or high temperatures
- Do not discard cigarette ends - make sure they are extinguished completely
- Report anyone acting irresponsibly or carelessly with fire in the countryside.

Please Remember!

Wildfires are a serious drain on Fire Service resources. Fire crews may be delayed in attending life threatening house fires or road traffic collisions when fighting wildfires.



STREETSCAPE ENHANCEMENT MEASURES

The focus of this Measure is to support the upgrade and enhancement of shopfronts and street facades of defined areas within selected rural town/village centres. The areas being addressed currently are **An Spidéal, Portumna** and **Gort Town Centre**.

Shopfronts are a crucial element of the streetscape. Shopfronts should, therefore, be of a high standard of design and reflect the architecture of the original building and of the surrounding area.

It is the policy of the Council to preserve and retain traditional shop fronts that contribute to the character of our Towns and Villages. The need to change old shop fronts whether protected or not will be closely questioned.

Preference should be given to refurbishment rather than replacement. Regular inspection and maintenance is essential to avoid serious defects and decay. Galway

County Council seeks to encourage retail innovation, creativity, vitality and recognises the role shopfronts, signs and advertising can have on the character of a street

As part of ongoing investment in small growth villages, the location of An Spidéal along the Wild Atlantic, was approved for an allocation of €100k under the Town and Village Renewal Programme for Streetscape Enhancement in An Spidéal. Launched in 2023 some works were advanced last season with works continuing in 2024.

Galway County Council sought specific approval for allocation of funding under the Streetscape Scheme to repaint all street lighting on the Promenade and within the Village Centre, given this unique feature of this coastal village. Taking on board recommendations of a colour consultant the village will use a signature deep blue colour for lighting, bins and other Council



installed infrastructure. A supplier has been procured by the Municipal District with works commencing at the end of June. This initiative has been warmly welcomed by Tidy Towns and local businesses participating in the Scheme.

A Streetscape Enhancement Scheme for Portumna Town Centre, designated as a Small Growth Town, will be completed by the end of July 2024. **Over 70 properties have benefitted with grants** towards the painting of facades on St. Brendan's Street, Patricks Street and Abbey Street.

Gort Streetscape was launched on June 25th 2024 with applications now being sought. **Over 100 properties are eligible to apply** and this may be the largest Scheme to date which is being promoted by the Gort Town Team and is an action of the Gort Town Centre First Plan. Gort is a service town with nearby Coole Park and its proximity to the Burren and both the

WAW and Hidden Heartlands region Galway County Council secured funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and is engaging services of a Colour Consultant to advise property owners. It is hoped that there is strong visual improvement in the presentation of the Town by property owners and tenants as result of the Scheme which will contribute to the overall vibrancy of the Town Centre and renew its role as service town for visitor to the Wild Atlantic Way and Hidden Heartlands region, Coole Park and Burren Region.

Furthermore, upgrades to Gort Playground were achieved under the 2023 Community Recognition Fund.

MUNICIPAL SERVICES



Athenry/Oranmore

21

Tuam

23

Loughrea

25

Connemara

27

Ballinasloe

28



Athenry Town



New Benches on Athenry Ring Road



New Picnic Benches & Information Signs at Church

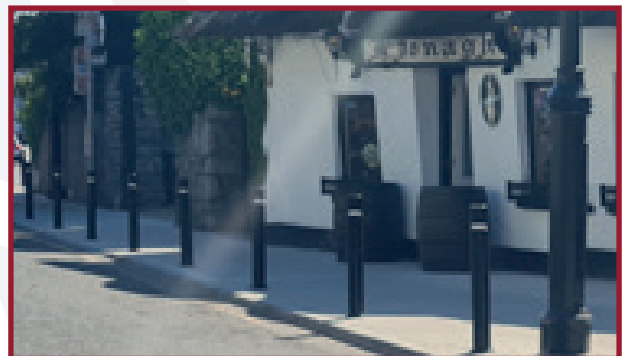


New Pedestrian Crossing at Presentation School Athenry Roundabout

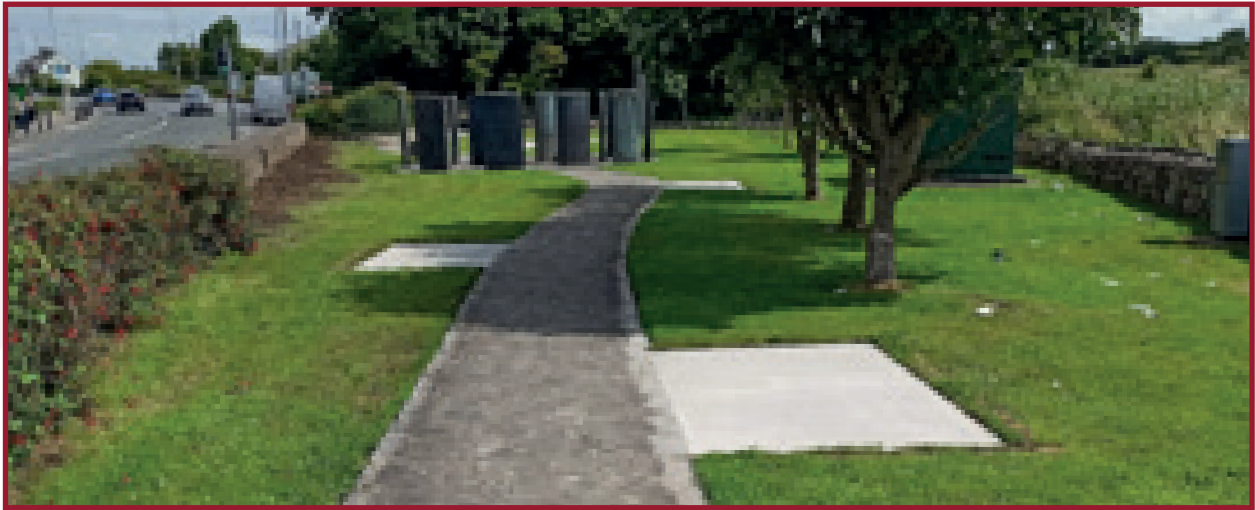
Oranmore Village Area



New Cycle Path completed at Boys School on Maree Road



Pedestrian Bollards along Main Street



Bench Bases at An Tobar

Other Areas



Kilimordaly Playground Bench



New Pedestrian Crossing to access Monivea Rugby Pitch and Monivea Woods



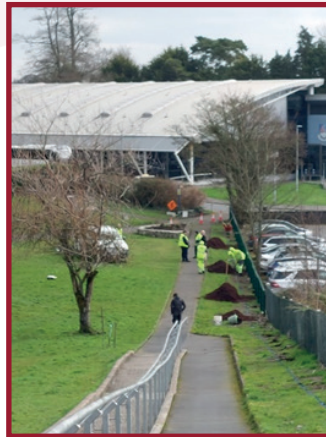
Palace Grounds

Green Flag status had been retained in June 2023 for the Palace Grounds in Tuam from 'an Taisce'. Galway County Council were also successful in our application for 'Green Heritage Site Accreditation', a first for Galway County Council, this is awarded to public green spaces of historical and cultural significance.

Galway County Council applied in April for the Green Flag and Green Heritage Awards again in 2024. It is important this award is continued, and every effort is put in to ensure its success, it remains the only park within Galway County Councils ownership that has these awards. This is a hugely positive award for Galway County Council, for our friends

in Tuam Tidy Towns (who helped with the Management Plan) and for local schools, community groups and the general public. Judges from An Taisce are to visit the Park in July to carry out a full survey.

The Community Employment scheme employees along with the Tuam MD outdoor staff continue to maintain and enhance the Park throughout the year by managing the trees, biodiversity, and grass areas. Throughout the year Galway County Council are removing dead and non-native trees and replacing them with native species. During the summer months biodiversity areas are kept with non-cutting of grass areas.



Other works that have occurred recently in the park include replacement of existing walkways and the commencement of a Sensory Garden. Our Biodiversity officer in GCC, council team, the secondary students of the Tuam Schools, women's shed, and volunteers planted hundreds of new trees

in the park recently to mark national Tree week. The new trees are all native species, and they will mature beautifully over the coming years and decades. A new Fit Stick Walking and exercise station was also installed recently in the Palace Grounds

Ballyglunin Railway Station

Outside of public parks Green Flag Community Awards were awarded to Ballyglunin Railway Restoration Project. Ballyglunin Station holds an An Taisce Community Green Flag Award from An Taisce, the international benchmark standard for parks and green spaces, only awarded for exceeding stringent environmental standards in green space management and excellence in visitor attractions.

Volunteers have planted an Irish native orchard, wildflower meadow and installed bee-friendly window boxes and a 'bug hotel'. 6,000 square feet of lawn has also been preserved to allow a natural clover area to develop to provide a vital feeding habitat for our native bees, insects, and pollinator species.





The entrance to Ballyglunin Railway Station has been freshly paved with a new tarmac, accompanied by the installation of a brand-new footpath. These improvements are not just about enhancing the visual appeal but also prioritizing safety for all pedestrians. The addition of new street lighting will further ensure a safer environment for pedestrians.

Ballyglunin Station is part of a wider story of local heritage sites that include manor houses, gate lodges, bridges, gates, walls, ringforts, cairns, a waterfall, weir, mill, icehouse, chapel, and monastery best explored on foot. Recognised by Galway County Council as part of the Golden Mile initiative, the Ballyglunin Heritage Trail passes through a peaceful rural countryside with the diversity of rural roadways, stonewalls, flora and fauna, along with the many heritage gems of 'Golden Mile' at Ballyglunin.



Marina, Portumna

Facilities are available year-round to users of the facility.

All bathing area Public Toilets have been fully reopened since Friday the 31st May. Signage is in place to indicate to the public the opening times at all three locations i.e. Traught Beach, The Long Point, Loughrea and the Swimming Area, Portumna.





Traught Beach

A seasonal caretaker is in position and will monitor and address any issues as required. Designated parking, toilets, picnic benches and cycle parking facilities are available. The Tawnagh Causeway which forms part of the access road to Traught Beach was badly damaged by Storm Debi. Restoration works will shortly be underway with a specialist conservation contractor currently being appointed.



Swimming Area, Portumna

This location is maintained by a combination of a shared permanent caretaker and outdoor staff who will continue to monitor and address any issues as they arise. Designated parking, picnic benches and cycle parking racks are available.

Long Point

This area is monitored and maintained by the Loughrea Town Gardener. When absent, alternative arrangements are made in combination with our outdoor staff. The toilet and shower facility is open throughout the day and the location is also additionally monitored from a litter collection perspective each weekend. There are no obvious parking issues most times, except those all too rare periods of particularly good and prolonged weather. Solar powered compacting bins, cycle racks, a water dispenser and disabled friendly picnic benches are available. Additional seating and lake access ladders have been installed recently.





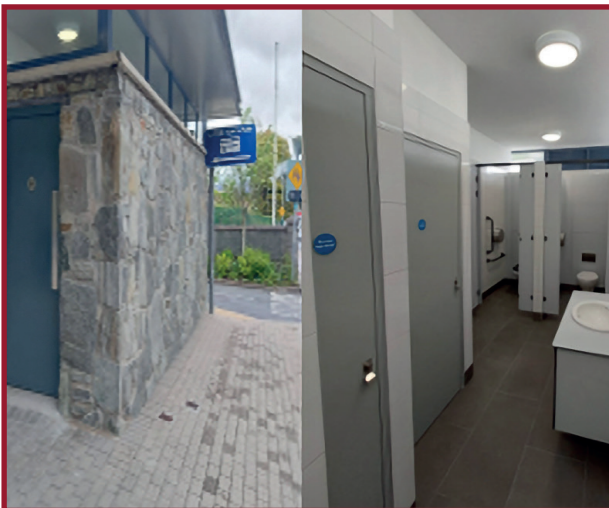
Summer is rapidly approaching and in the Conamara Municipal District, we are preparing for the arrival of visitors to the area.

In line with last summer, we are again rolling out an increased level of services to our beaches. This will include the provision of toilets and/or refuse bins at a number of our most-visited beaches from 31st May 2024 as follows:

Dog's Bay, Roundstone	Toilets & Bins
Caladh Mhuinse, Cill Chiaráin	Toilets & Bins
Gurteen, Roundstone	Toilets & Bins
Lettergesh, Renvyle	Bins
Glasillaun, Renvyle	Toilets & Bins
Trá na bhForbacha	Toilets & Bins
Céibh an Spidéil	Toilets & Bins
Mannin, Bunowen	Toilets
Trá Mhór, Indreabhán	Toilets & Bins
Trá Houston, Leitir Mealláin	Bins
Trá an Dóilín, An Cheathrú Rua	Toilets & Bins
Trá Mhór, Tír an Fhia	Bins
Muighris, Carna	Toilets & Bins

All facilities will be serviced regularly as required.

We are again expecting a flurry of outdoor leisure and sporting activities on land as well as at sea, such as windsurfing, cycling, boating, hill walking, paddle boarding, to name but a few.



Recently refurbished toilets at Clifden Coach Park



An Spidéil painted toilets as part of streetscape



Galway County Council have installed the annual flower boxes and flower towers around Ballinasloe Town for the Summer to welcome visitors and brighten up the town.

Over the summer, Galway County Council carries out grass cutting of parks, public spaces, road verges, green areas in housing estates, (1st cut mid-March, last cut early October) while supporting nature and pollinators by leaving some designated area uncut.

In Laurencetown, the council's own Community Employment Scheme maintains the village with litter picking and grass cutting.

Galway County Council will be using a mechanical brusher to remove weeds and vegetation on Ballinasloe Town's Streets as an environmentally friendly alternative to the use of pesticides.

Seven existing Disabled Parking facilities in Ballinasloe Town have been painted blue to highlight them on Dunlo Street, Society Street and Main Street.





New Bins have been installed in Ballinasloe Town and Aughrim Village.

During the summer, further bins will be upgraded at Callow Lough, Kilconnell, and in Ballinasloe Town at Bully's acre/Famine memorial park, Townparks and Brackenagh.

Facilities for cycling in the Ballinasloe Municipal District have been installed in 2023, including additional bicycle stands and service stands around Ballinasloe Town and villages in the Municipal District.

New footpaths have been provided in Ballinasloe Town including a new section along Beechlawn funded under Active Travel to provide a new walking route around the South side of Ballinasloe Town.



Walking Trails:

Walking trails in Ballinasloe Municipal District include:

- Suck Valley Way – Ballygar to Creggs
- Hymany Way – Ballinasloe to Portumna
- Old Grand Canal and Woodland Trail www.exploreballinasloe.ie/project/old-grand-canal-woodland-trail/
- Poolboy Lock Trail www.exploreballinasloe.ie/project/pollboy-lock-trail/



GALWAY COUNTY COUNCIL ARTS OFFICE



Culture Night, Friday 20th September – for a listing of all Culture Night events taking place in the county visit:

www.culturenight.ie/about

ÁRAS ÉANNA 2024 SUMMER PROGRAMME INIS OÍRR, ARAN ISLANDS, CO. GALWAY

For the Love of Milseáin	Friday 5 July 2024 20:30	Eventbrite
John McGahern: A Private World	Saturday 6 July 2024 16:00	www.aras-eanna.ie
That they May Face the Rising Sun	Saturday 6 July 2024 20:00	www.aras-eanna.ie
Pádraig Jack	Friday 12 July 2024 20:30	Eventbrite
	Saturday 13 July 2024 20:30	Eventbrite
Ar an Dé Deiridh Exhibition	Tuesday 16 July 2024	www.aras-eanna.ie
The Raines	Saturday 27 July 2024 20:30	www.aras-eanna.ie
Tom Portman & Maciej Zavoronek	Monday 2 August 2024 20:30	www.aras-eanna.ie
Nettle Horse by Little John Nee	Thursday 8 August 2024 20:30	Eventbrite
Julie Feeney & Cormac de Barra	Saturday 17 August 2024 20:30	Eventbrite
Liam Ó Maonlaí	Wednesday 21 August 2024 20:30	Eventbrite
Padraic Stephens, Seamus Ruttledge, Leo Moran and Pat Quinn	Saturday 31 August 2024 20:30	Eventbrite



For full information on the programme visit: [Áras Éanna](#)



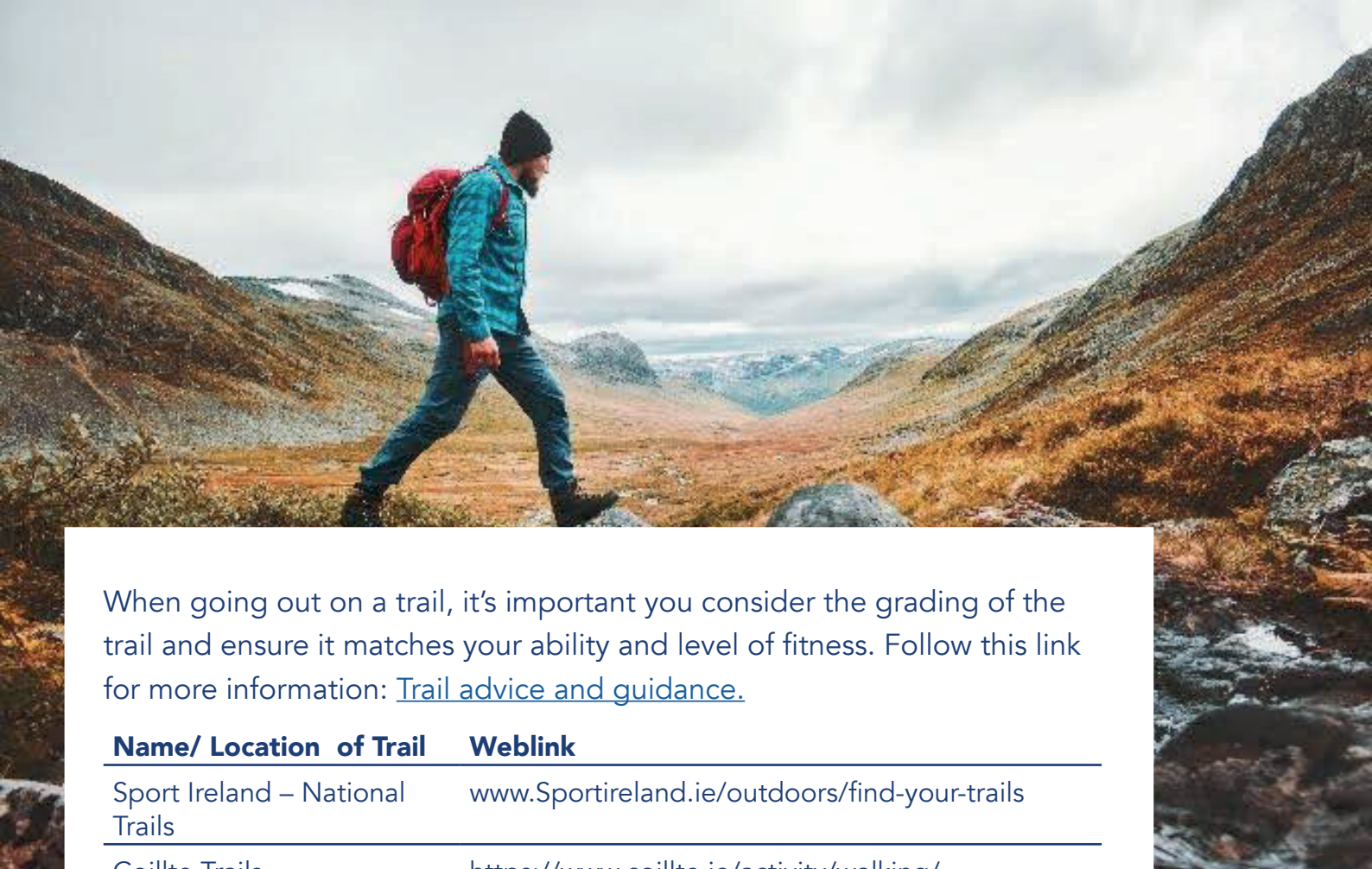
GALWAY SPORTS PARTNERSHIP

Galway Sports Partnership has a number of programmes coming up over the summer for people to get out and get active!

- Inclusive Triathlon Kilcornan, Clarinbridge
- National Playday 21st July 2024 Fairgreen Loughrea 12pm-2pm
- Her Outdoors Week – 12th – 18th August 2024
- Summer Walking Series
- Activator Pole Walking Programs
- Buggy Buddies
- Equestrian programs
- Safeguarding 1, 2 & 3 Courses online 2023 booking link found on www.galwayactive.ie
- First Aid Courses in-person around the county

All events will be advertised on social media:
Galway Sports Partnership.



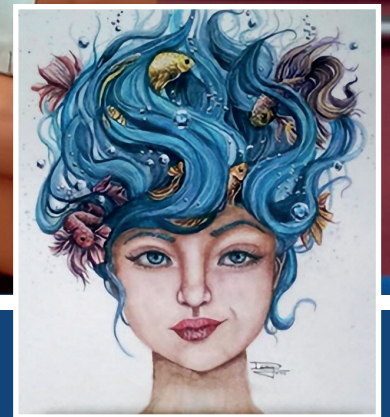


When going out on a trail, it's important you consider the grading of the trail and ensure it matches your ability and level of fitness. Follow this link for more information: [Trail advice and guidance.](#)

Name/ Location of Trail	Weblink
Sport Ireland – National Trails	www.Sportireland.ie/outdoors/find-your-trails
Coillte Trails	https://www.coillte.ie/activity/walking/
EuroVelo Cycling Route	Atlantic Coast Route by Bike EuroVelo Ireland
Joyce Country Geopark	www.Joycecountrygeoparkproject.ie
Lough Derg Blueway	https://www.bluewaysireland.org/destinations/lough-derg
Millennium Forest Locations	Millennium Forest Location Millennium Forests Ireland
The Beara Breifne Way	Beara Breifne Way Tracing the Footsteps of O'Sullivan Beare
The Suck Valley Way	Suck Valley Way Hidden Heartlands Beara Brefni Way Walking Cycling Fishing (discoversuck-valleyway.ie)
Coolepark	https://www.coolepark.ie/trails
The Walks Loughrea	https://www.facebook.com/people/The-Walks-Loughrea/100071264032305/
Connemara and the Islands	Explore Walks/Siúlóidí • Connemara & the Islands
Glenamaddy Frass Loop	https://www.glenamaddyheritage.com/parish/townlands/frass/
Lackagh Walking Trail	Lackagh-Knockdoemore Walking Trail Sport Ireland
Headford Lace Trail	http://www.headfordlaceproject.ie/images/projects/Headford_Lace_Trail.pdf
Knockma Hill	https://www.galwaytourism.ie/knockma-hill/
The Western Way	http://thewesternway.ie/

Ἀς Γεληύραδῃ Celebrating 100
Ἀἰὲς Ἐἰς τὸ Ἄλφειον ἄν Ἐἰς τὸ Ἄλφειον
Galway Leabharlanna
Public Libraries Ποιητὴς καὶ Ζῳολογία

GALWAY LIBRARY SERVICES



Cruinniú na nÓg - June 15th

Cruinniú na nÓg (Saturday 15th June 2024) is the annual National Day of Creativity for children and young people. It aims to celebrate and encourage children and young people's participation in culture and creativity by providing free, accessible, activity-based creative action in their own locality.

The emphasis of Cruinniú na nÓg is on doing, making, and creating. Ireland is the first, and only, country in the world to have a national day of free creativity for children and young people under 18. The guiding principle of Cruinniú 2023 is to empower children and young people to develop their creative expression through creative activities in their local area. Galway Public Library Summer events for Cruinniú na nÓg will take place in many of our branch libraries. All events will be advertised on social media.

Activity examples include:

Portumna Library will host two workshops which will be delivered by local artist and workshop leader Laurie Legrand:

"The secret life of a superhero"
Quiet storytelling and drawing
11am to 1pm (8 to 12-years-old)

"Selfies at the Portrait Museum"
Painting, Drawing, Writing and Collage
2- 4pm (10 to 14-years-old)



Ballinasloe Library – Sowing Creativity

We will create a sensory garden in their outside courtyard. The sensory garden will stimulate and engage the five basic senses of sight, smell, sound, touch and taste. A local horticulturalist will oversee the placing of selected sensory plants in special wheelchair accessible containers.

These plants will be selected based on their scents, colours, and textures. The creation of the small garden will take place during two slots, one in the morning and one in the afternoon on June 15th.

Oranmore Library - Mini Music Explorers

Oranmore Library will host Mini Music Explorers led by Early Music Years Academy. This fulfilled and energetic workshop will incorporate singing, movement of dance, basic percussion with Maraca's and Mini Tambourines and some musical games. It is aimed at children 3-5 years old.

Tuam Library - Sparkcatchers! & the re-imagining of Ireland's oldest myth Cessair of Cnocmea

Tuam Library will host an interactive storytelling show with puppets for 6–12-year-olds, reimagining the mythology of Cnocmea, performed and created by Tuam teenagers.

Workshops for teenagers will be delivered by Jojo Hynes and Midie Corcoran over 6 weeks. They will deliver 3 half day and 3 full day workshops in performative storytelling, music and prop making. The CYC will co-write the script, compose music, create props and puppets for a 30-minute show at the Tuam Library.





SUMMER STARS

The Summer Stars reading programme was launched in June. Children's author Mary Murphy visited Inisbofin & Clifden Libraries and Letterfrack N.S reading stories, drawing and creating giant doodles with the children. The exhilarating atmosphere continued in Tuam Library with facepainting & balloon-making and the arrival of the magical School's Library mobile with its painted themes of life in our woodlands and life under the sea.



Children are thrilled that the National Summer Reading Stars programme will be rolled out this summer in every library in Galway.



We'll be celebrating Summer Stars and Galway Public Libraries 100th Birthday this summer with loads of events for children in libraries across the county, including author visits from Niamh Doyle and Serena Molloy; comic making workshops as Gaeilge with Coimicé Gael; Fairy shows from Jay Ryan; biodiversity workshops; arts and crafts; storytelling sessions; speech, drama, and lots more.

HIGH SPEED BROADBAND CONNECTION

Broadband Connection Points (BCPs)

Under the National Broadband Plan, Broadband Connection Points (BCPs) serve as public locations offering High-speed connectivity. They were some of the first locations in the state to receive High speed broadband under the state intervention contract. The set up of BCP's is considered by the government as long-term investment, which will help rural communities to fulfil their full potential. It is part of the 'Connected Communities Initiative' between the Government, NBI and Vodafone.

Currently, there are 21 live BCPs across the county, including the islands of Inishbofin, Inis Mór, Inis Meain, and Inis Oír. Some of these chosen BCPs are strategically placed in tourism destinations, such as the Portumna Irish Workhouse Centre Famine Museum.

Each BCP provides free external Wi-Fi access to the public, with several locations also offering excellent facilities for remote work, study, digital skill training, and promotion of arts and culture.

BCPs play a vital role in supporting their communities by emphasising digital inclusion, digital skills, community engagement, and various activities.

Additionally, they offer a social space for in-person connections among community members, contributing to overall health and well-being. Access to these resources expands choices and opportunities for community members. Galway County Council leverages the PPN network to promote BCPs.

A photograph of four people standing outdoors in front of a building and a body of water. From left to right: a woman in a pink jacket, a man in a patterned shirt, a man in a blue shirt, and a woman in a dark blue jacket. The background shows a building with a white roof and a blue body of water under a clear sky.

MICROSOFT GENERATIVE AI SKILLS AT INISHBOFIN BCP

The Galway County Council Broadband Office recently collaborated with Microsoft to facilitate and promote the implementation of a Microsoft Generative AI Course in County Galway. On May 16, 2024, the first of these Microsoft funded courses was delivered in Inishbofin BCP. The course received an overwhelmingly positive response, with participants expressing great enthusiasm about the AI tools and their potential benefits for business.

Generative AI is an exciting field within artificial intelligence that enables machines to create new content by learning from existing data. Whether it's generating text, images, music, or even code, generative AI empowers creativity and problem-solving.

“Designed by Microsoft, in partnership with LinkedIn and GitHub, Skills for Jobs is a global skills initiative, which provides free access to training in 8 career pathways identified as the most in-demand jobs in the digital economy. This training will focus on the Generative AI career pathway’.

Pictured in the photo above are from left: Tara O'Shea, Philanthropy Manager @ Microsoft, Noel Madden, Broadband Officer, Galway County Council, Owen Dignam, Digital Advisor @ Microsoft, Donna Byrne, Broadband Support Officer, Galway County Council.



Microsoft Generative AI Skills in Ballyglunin BCP:

On June 19, 2024, another Microsoft Generative AI Skills course took place at the Ballyglunin BCP, situated at the Railway Station in Ballyglunin, Co. Galway. Once again, this course received an overwhelmingly positive response.

Farm IT Skills in Lackagh BCP:

Digital skills training sessions for the agricultural sector have also been facilitated by the Galway Roscommon Educational Training Board (GRETB). Two sessions have been run to date in the Lackagh BCP.

Digital Skills for Older People:

Initiation of digital literacy courses for the elderly is underway. These sessions are facilitated by Age Action Ireland. In the year 2022, these educational programs were extended to seniors at three BCP locations and were met with positive reception. The funding for these classes came from the Department of Rural and Community Development, supplemented by support from C&E.

Visual & Creative Arts:

Several BCPs have participated in a Visual Arts Workshop called 'Tide Lines' run by The Ark cultural centre for children and supported by the Department of Rural and Community Development. They have also participated in showing Creative Art Screenings in the BCP as 'The Race' by Ark which entwined three of Aesop's Fables to create a fun, interactive and colourful world of animals, puppets, theatre, and movement. The Race was filmed with support from the Department of Education, the Department of Rural & Community Development and Rethink Ireland.



BATTLE OF AUGHRIM VISITOR CENTRE

The centre offers visitors:

- Interpretative and artefacts display
- New Educational/Learning zone
- Children's worksheets, costume dress-up
- Self-guided driving, cycling or walking trail of the battlefield (full trail route approx. 10km)
- Free car parking & baby changing facilities
- Fully accessible
- Children's playground and park adjacent to Centre
- Guided tours of battlefield on request

At the **Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre**, visitors can learn about how three rival European Kings took hold of Ireland in their struggle for power with over 45,000 soldiers gathering in Aughrim in 1691. The centre is located in the heart of Aughrim Village just 7km from Ballinasloe and 22km from Loughrea.

Summer Season Opening hours:

(June/July/August)

Tuesday to Saturday: 10.30 am to 4.30 pm

Sundays: 2.00 pm to 5.00 pm.

Schools tours, groups, special interest & educational tours are all welcome and enquiries can be sent to:

battleofaughrim@galwaycoco.ie

HERITAGE OFFICE EVENTS 2024



Athenry Walled Town Day

18th August 2024, 1pm to 5pm.

For more information see:

www.athenryheritagecentre.com

Heritage Week

17th – 25th August 2024.

This year we will celebrate the theme of “Connections, Routes & Networks”. The theme of Connections, Routes and Networks invites you to explore the links between people and communities, to look at what brings us together and what connects us. For more details: www.heritageweek.ie and www.heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org

Loughrea Medieval Festival

23rd - 24th August. For more details see:

heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org

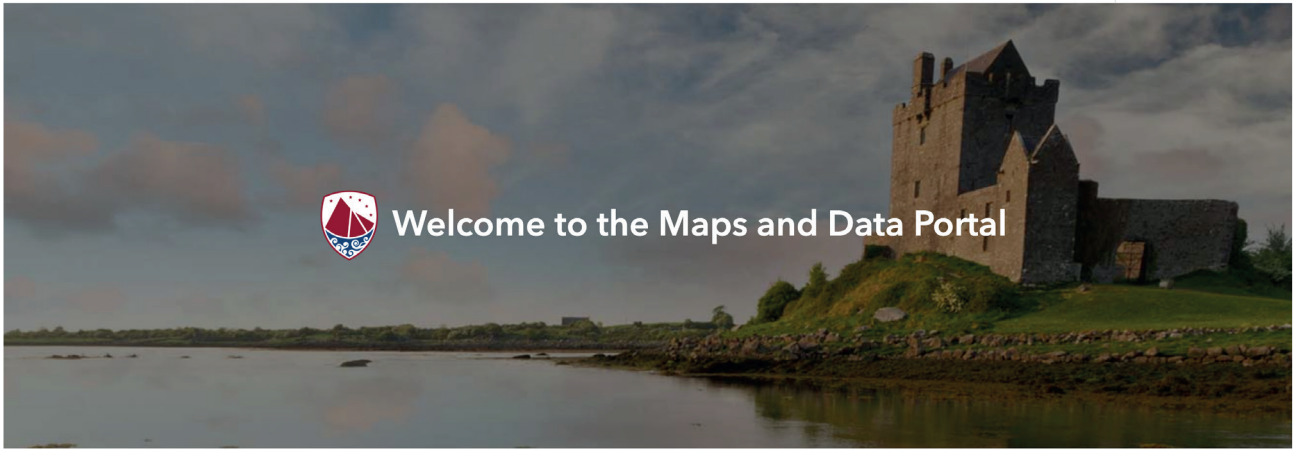
Féile na gCloch

12th - 15th September. A celebration of all aspects of stone craft from stone wall building to lettering and carving; paving, using hot limes and sketching and more. For more details see: www.heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org

HERITAGE TRAILS AROUND THE COUNTY



Dunmore: Digital Story	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/323a6f-b90a0d4c7b803ec6116aaf19af
Galway East Trails and Tours	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/galway-east
Killimor Heritage Trail	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/killimor-heritage-group/places-killimor-heritage-group/killimor-heritage-trail
Loughrea Heritage Trail	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/loughrea-heritage-trail
Map of 1916 Rising in County Galway	https://dpgay9x1sxad.cloudfront.net/heritage/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2016/04/map02.pdf
Mountbellew: A pocket guide to it's heritage	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/places/mountbellew-heritage-andtourism-network/mountbellew-pocket-guide-5
Oranmore Heritage Trial	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/oranmore-heritage/oranmore-heritage-trail
Battle of Aughrim Visitor Centre	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/battle-of-aughrim-visitor-centre
Athenry Memory Map & Heritage Trail - Trail by kids for kids	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/athenry-medieval-memory-map-trail-for-kid-by-kids-sli-mapa-cuimhne-bhaile-atha-an-ri-sa-mheanaois-do-leanai-le-leanai
Lawrencetown Heritage Trail	https://dpgay9x1sxad.cloudfront.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/6/2018/03/Final-Lawrencetown-Heritage-Map-Leaflet.pdf
Loughrea Virtual Medieval Festival	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/topics/loughrea-virtual-medieval-festival
Loughrea Memory Map & Heritage Trail	https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/loughrea-medieval-memory-map-trail-for-kid-by-kids
Abbey Village	https://storymaps.arcgis.com/stories/3b1e021e116241b2bdc8c1fd4b5e29ca
Ross Errilly Franciscan Friary	http://monastic.ie/history/ross-errilly-franciscan-friary/



Key Featured Maps and Apps

Select from the available maps and apps available below, providing access to all sorts of useful data resources relating to County Galway.



'Maps and Data Portal' is available on the Council Homepage, in particular the 'Heritage and Tourism Related Resources' section.

There are some excellent resources for the public particularly:

- **Heritage Trails StoryMap collection**
- **Biodiversity StoryMap Collection**

Additional resources will be added to this 'one stop shop' Portal including lifeguard beaches, playgrounds, litter, community events etc.

Go Trace your Galway Roots and more!

Graveyard Records:

- <https://experience.arcgis.com/experience/b42c38a841b84d2b8da39ebd9b6b3c00>
- <https://www.galway.ie/Graveyards/Cemeteries/>

Townland Research:

- <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/galway-east-townland-research>
- <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/category/places/townlands-of-county-galway>
- <https://heritage.galwaycommunityheritage.org/content/places/townlands-of-county-galway/north-connemara-townlands>

SUMMER READY







Comhairle Chontae na Gaillimhe
Galway County Council

