



Balla Community Resource Development

Community Resource Centre, The Square Balla, Co Mayo, Phone: 094 9365846 Mobile: 087 1850860
Info@balla.ie; www.Balla.ie; Registered Charity Number (RCN) : 20031442

Year in Review 2022

BALLA CRD MISSION STATEMENT

The Main Purpose Of Balla CRD Is To Establish And Support Initiative Directed Toward The Generation Of Enterprise For The Benefit And Welfare Of The Balla Community

Balla CRD Funding 2022

Balla CRD would like to acknowledge and thank South West Mayo Development Company, for their continued support. Minister Heather Humphries for funding under the Town and Village Renewal Scheme and Dara Calleary TD for receipt of grant under the Community and Voluntary Support Scheme (CVSS).

Balla CRD would also like to acknowledge the substantial and generous fundings received from Councillors in 2022. These included amounts from Councillors' own funds. Cllr. Donna Sheridan, Cllr. Al. McDonnell, Cllr. Martin McLoughlin, Cllr. Cyril Burke and Cllr. Blackie Gavin. The monies received from Councillors own private funds provide a public statement of our local Councillors support and dedication to our Balla Community members and community projects.



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Highlights of Funding Received in 2022

On November 26th, we were delighted to receive a visit from Minister Heather Humphries TD to Balla Community Centre and Balla CRD. We are delighted to share that funding of €120,000 from Minister Heather Humphries was confirmed for Balla Woodlands Park and Balla Community and Enterprise Hub (courthouse redevelopment). This is an enormous achievement and will be of fantastic asset to Balla Community and future Balla Community members. Balla CRD is grateful to all who worked tirelessly on acquiring this much-welcomed funding.



Minister Heather Humphries's visit to Balla CRD.

Balla Hot Desk Facilities

Balla CRD would like to take this opportunity to remind our remote working community that the current Connected Hubs Scheme has been extended till January 8th, 2023 and includes both our hot desks and fully equipped kitchen facility.

Heritage Week, Heritage Funding 2022

13th August, 2022 saw the launch of the Balla Walking Trails Heritage Guide. Containing photographs and directions for three main walkways around Balla. This heritage and information walking guide details points of historical interest in Balla. Dr. Stephen Goldrick and Stephen Dunne researched and produced the booklet with the assistance of Catharina Morley. Many thanks to Deirdre Cunningham, Heritage Officer and Mayo County Council. Photographs and layout production were by David Moran.



Balla Past and Present

WALKING
GUIDE



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Fundraising Events 2022

Balla Vintage and Classic Car Show

An auspiciously sunny Sunday, the 4th September, 2022 saw the annual Balla Vintage and Classic Car Show. This year, due to its increased popularity and success, the event had to be moved to the bigger venue of Aurivo Balla Mart. Balla CRD would like to acknowledge and thank the management and staff of Aurivo Balla Mart for the use of their premises and facilities.



We would also like to thank our many valued sponsors as well as the large number of community groups and volunteers too numerous to fully mention here but including Tidy Towns, the Order of Malta and neighbouring classic and vintage car clubs who all helped to make this year's Xmas Lights fundraiser, the fantastic success it was.



Thanks to everyone who came and supported these events. We hope you to see you again next year!

Balla Sensory Garden Fundraiser

As part of our Balla Sensory Garden Fundraiser, the amazing Christina Killeen coordinated a live concert in Balla Community Centre featuring the Celtic Brothers. Christina performed a minor miracle for us, as this show was the Celtic Brothers only performance in the West this year. Warm up was provided by one of our favourite local live performers, David Connor. The night of live music was a soothing and spectacular start to the holiday season and our annual Balla festivities weekend including tractor run, tree lighting and fireworks display.



Balla community sensory garden will be located beside the playground at the Fairgreen in the heart of the town and is a collaboration between Balla CRD and Balla Tidy Towns.



Pictured is Amanda McGuinness from AsIAm, Michael Ring TD and Cllr. Donna Sheridan
"The garden will be an oasis of calm for all who visit. I know that it will be of huge benefit to so many families like my own who have children that sometimes find the world overwhelming." (Amanda McGuinness, AsIAm)

Balla CRD supported Fundraisers



John Niland from Balla undertook a mammoth charity cycle in 2022, leaving the Eiffel Tower in Paris September 1st and cycling for 9 days arriving at the Round Tower in Balla covering 1,109km.



John raised thousands for charity. John Niland, we salute you!

Mayo Roscommon Hospice Coffee Morning

On Thursday, 22nd September, Balla CRD hosted a coffee morning to support Mayo Roscommon Hospice, the people of Balla donated €500.00 to another great cause.



A selection of homebaked goodies at our Mayo Roscommon Hospice Coffee Morning



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Balla Tidy Towns and Balla Bingo 2022



September 2022 saw Balla Tidy Towns achieve yet another outstanding result. "Balla is a lovely place and an outstanding place to visit. The results of decades of hard work were apparent. The gem that is Balla should be more widely known nationally and internationally as a great tourist destination. The 'unity in community' motto is very true for Balla." This is what the National Tidy Towns Adjudicator said this year when it awarded Balla Tidy Towns an unprecedented extra 17 points - an increase of 58 points in just 5 years.



Some members of Balla Tidy Town with Tommy Walsh – the winner of Balla Tidy Town's 'Guess the mileage' fundraiser.



Thanks to everyone, young and old, who gets involved with Balla Tidy Towns whether that is on a weekly basis or from time to time. We hope you'll join us again next year!



As part of the Mayo Day Celebrations 2022, in addition to a Balla Tidy Town's communal clean up, a Children's Art Competition was organised and entries displayed in Balla Community Centre.



Many fabulous entries were received and an excellent display in Balla Community Centre. Congratulations to all who took part!



Balla CRD and Balla Tidy Towns sowing seeds and planting for the future!



Balla Bingo celebrated its 30th Birthday in 2022. That's 30 years of keeping our bingo players happy! Every Sunday at 8pm sharp, play online or at Balla Community Centre. Order your books at www.balla.ie



And this year, Balla Bingo's news is even better as thanks to the continued dedication of our team of volunteers - we celebrate the holiday season by playing Bingo not just every Sunday night but also on **Christmas Day & New Year's Night**.



Balla Bingo attracts players from all over the county and beyond with some playing from overseas! All profits are reinvested in local projects. Thanks to everyone who plays Balla Bingo. May you have a lucky and prosperous New Year!



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A Selection of Community Centre 2022 Highlights

Balla Community Centre Highlights January to April 2022



16th March - Balla - National Winner of
Inclusive Communities Award



17th March — St. Patrick's Parade, the
first since 2019 is back in Balla.



27th April – the first day of the Balla
community spring clean with
welcome help from Balla National
School and Balla Secondary School.

Balla Community Centre Highlights May to August 2022



3rd May – Cllr. Donna Sheridan and
Amanda McGuinness (AsIAm) at the
launch, in Balla playground, of the first
communications boards for children with
special needs in Mayo facilitating a more
inclusive playground experience.



1st June - Stuart Moyles, a night of
Social Dance with another Mayo
favourite hosted by Sandra Ganley.



13th August – Launch of Balla Walks
Brochure. An informative trail guide.

Balla Community Centre Highlights September to December 2022



23rd September – David Connor Performs
in Balla Community Centre – Down Home!



21st October - Prof. Kevin Whelan gave a
Historical Talk on 'Mayo in the 19th
Century'. Pictured with staff (left to right)
Dr. Stephen Goldrick, Catharina Morley,
Breda Hughes, Prof. Kevin Whelan,
Marie Reilly Davey and Stephen Dunne.
Special Thanks to Wilson Byrd, Manager
of Breaffy House Hotel for providing
accommodation and ensuring a
comfortable stay for Prof. Whelan.



25th November - Shane Martin, (of
Moodwatchers) Psychologist, Author,
Poet, gave a talk on his new book
'Your Precious Life' to a packed house.



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What's On and What's New In Balla 2022

Balla Community Centre What's On

Please see overleaf for a typical schedule of our events and activities.

Among the many varied clubs and groups which meet regularly at Balla are ARA (Active Retirement Group), Balla Bridge Club, 25 Card Drive, Knitwits (Knitting and Crochet Club) Balla Baby and Toddler Group, Foróige, Mayo Organic Group, Quest and Mum and Me.

MSLETB hold modules annually in our Centre including QQJ Level 5 in ICT classes in Spreadsheet Methods, Research Methods, Desktop Publishing and Communications.

Hobby classes and courses held in the Centre have included line dancing, social dancing, yoga, grinds, children's cookery, adult's cookery, art, crafts and creations. First Aid and CPR.

Workshops have included cookery, floral pumpkin, meditation and dance

Our remote working hot desks are popular, convenient and with the added attraction of free parking.

Our fully equipped, HACCP approved commercial Kitchen facility is available for short or long term lets and is suitable for both small start-ups or cookery classes or demonstrations. Please contact us for a booking, we will be happy to help.



Balla Community Centre What's New

Balla Baby and Toddler Group



Balla CRD was delighted to receive funding from Mayo County Council through their Childcare Committee. October 19th saw the first Balla Baby and Toddler meeting since 2020.

Yoga Classes



Yoga Classes for Adults Only and Yoga for Adults with Babies and Toddlers.

Have Your Say

We are always open to discussion and suggestions from everyone in Balla regarding development, groups, clubs, courses, initiatives or projects which can further enhance our community. If you have any ideas or suggestions for improvement, please contact us at info@balla.ie or on our office mobile of 0871850860 – we're here to serve you!

Balla CRD wish our community and diaspora a Very Happy Christmas and a Prosperous New Year in 2023.

New Manager and Project Coordinator joins Balla CRD Team



We are delighted to welcome our new Manager, William Nestor and new Projects Coordinator, Phil Noyes to our team. William hails from Ballyhaunis and has a background and experience in community development work, business and communications. Phil will already be known to our community, having run very popular Cookery Classes from the Balla Community Kitchen and worked closely with ARA. Phil has experience working in management and events in the UK. Earlier this year, we were also delighted to welcome Breeda Hughes and Marie Reilly Davey who joined Veneta Ansbro completing our administration team and our new caretaker, Paul Noyes.





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Typical Weekly Schedule of Events and Activities 2022

DATE	TIME	WHAT	WHERE
Sunday	9am – 6pm 8pm – 10pm	Photography Bingo Online and in the Hall	Main Hall Main Hall
Monday	All Day 7.30pm – 8.30pm 8pm – 10pm	Hot desk workers Gardening Club Line Dancing	Balcony Room Front Room Main Hall
Tuesday	All Day 10am – 2.30pm 10.30am – 1.30 pm 7pm – 8.30pm	Hot desk workers Quest 'Cooking with Phil' Pilates	Balcony Room Front Room Kitchen Hub Main Hall
Wednesday	All Day 10.30am – 12 noon 7pm – 9pm	Hot desk workers Balla Baby and Toddler Group Balla Bridge Club	Balcony Room Front Room Front Room
Thursday	All Day 9.00 – 10.30am 9.30 – 10.30am 10.45 – 11.45am 7pm – 9pm 8pm – 10pm	Hot desk workers Balla Baby & Toddler 'Walk and Talk' Yoga Classes Pregnancy Yoga Classes Knit Wits (Knitting and Crochet) Private Meeting	Balcony Room Lobby and Front Room Main Hall Main Hall Back Office Front Room
Friday	All Day 3pm – 4.30pm 7.30pm – 9pm	Hot desk workers ARA (Active Retirement Association) Foróige	Balcony Room Front Room Main Hall
Saturday	12 noon 3pm – 5pm 9pm – 11pm	Private Grinds Tuition Movement and Meditation Workshop 25 Card Drive	Balcony Room Balcony Room Front Room

Above is an example of a typical weekly schedule here in Balla Community Centre. Remember we are always available to speak to and we will facilitate any remote workers, community groups, clubs and activities, family or business functions, celebrations such as parties and conferences, workshops, classes or courses. Our community book swap is also located in the lobby. Please feel free to come and have a browse. Please contact us on 0871850860 or send an email to info@balla.ie if we can be of assistance at any time or come into the Centre - our office is staffed 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Please follow us on Facebook and Instagram – Balla Community Centre.