

Ballinamore Community Arts & Crafts Group

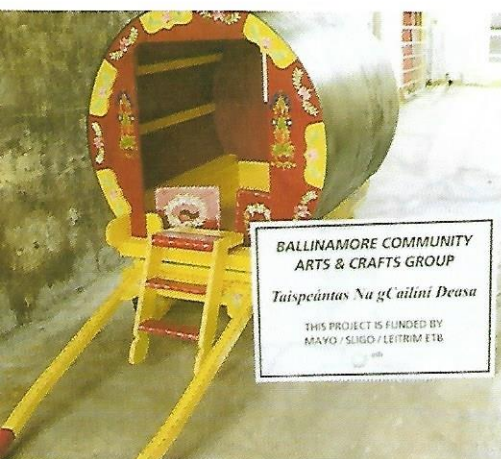
BALLINAMORE and its environs can be very proud of its prestigious position in the Leitrim artistic world. Participation and diversification easily come to mind and much credit must go to the founders and members of the local Solas Art Gallery, which provides a platform for young and old to feature their exhibits.

One of the most recent and successful additions to the artistic scene is undoubtedly the Ballinamore Community Arts and Crafts Group. Set up in 2015 by a number of interested individuals on an ad-hoc basis, the group was set on a firmer footing through the efforts of Bernie Donohoe, Community Development Co-Ordinator with the Leitrim Development Company and of the Mayo/Sligo/Leitrim Education and Training Board under Shaun Purcell CEO.

A financial grant from the ETB and permission to use facilities in the former

■ Old-style gypsy caravan done to scale painted by Alice Shiels

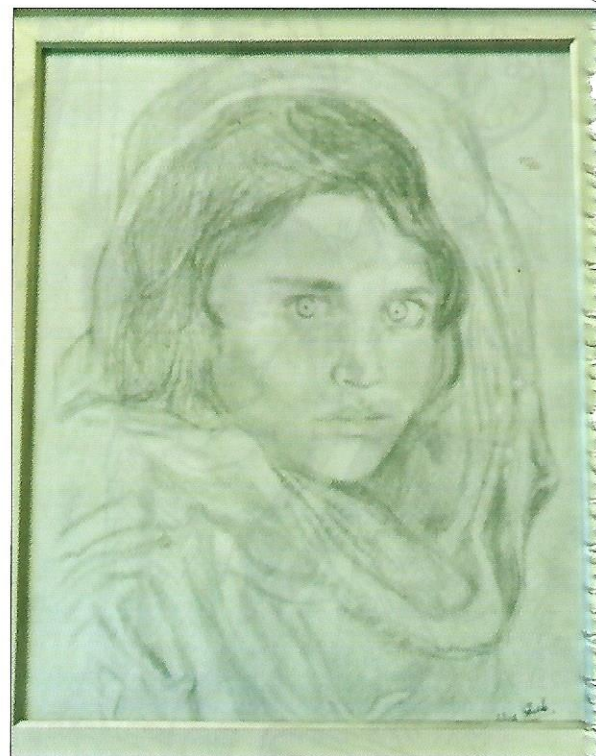
Photo: Eunan Sweeney



Vocational School in the town were the springboards to success. Membership is open to women and men over the age of eighteen and the numbers have grown, thanks to the welcoming nature of those involved from the beginning and the assurance that each member will be helped by the sharing of craft skills, class by class. Those who join the group and participate in the classes, held each Tuesday from 11am to 1pm, find a warm, jovial atmosphere, where craft skills are shared in various branches of the arts, including painting, sketching, crochet, knitting, folk art, decoupage and fabric sculpting. The latter has become extremely popular and the quality of pieces, made almost completely from re-cycled material, was the highlight of the display held by the group in the Lá Nua building on Main Street, during Ballinamore Festival Week.

■ Maura Sweeney, Secretary; Joan Gallagher, Treasurer; Alice Shiels, Chairperson; & Deirdre McGovern Meehan, PRO—with Shaun Purcell at the official opening of the Ballinamore Community Arts & Crafts Group Exhibition *Photo: Eunan Sweeney*

Below: Charcoal drawing by Alice Shiels





This art and crafts display was visited by large numbers daily and very high praise was forthcoming for the high quality of all the exhibits. Another positive outcome was the increase in membership of the group, as people realised, from chatting to the officers, Chairperson Alice Shiels, Secretary Maura Sweeney, Treasurer Joan Gallagher and PRO Deirdre McGovern Meehan, that co-operation is the name of the game and members quite easily learn from one another.

The Ballinamore Community Arts and Crafts Group certainly looks to have a very bright future and remain a vital cog in Leitrim's artistic wheel.

SNIPPET

GIFT FOR MERCY CENTRE IN THAILAND



THE LOUGH ALLEN HOTEL, Drumshanbo—Vincent Woods, Eleanor Shanley and other wonderful musicians raised €3,000 for the Mercy Centre in Thailand.

Mohill man, John Reynolds, was the guiding force behind it all—not to mention his brilliantly traditional dinner menu. Our picture shows John making a presentation of the mock-up cheque to Fr Joe Maier the Director of the Mercy Centre.