

# **The October Fair**

**September 29th to October 7th 2007**

**The Ballinasloe Fair is one of Europe's oldest Horse Fairs. It is held in East Galway's principal town on the first week of October each year.**

This year's festival committee have programmed a wonderful nine day festival, guaranteed to have something for everyone. From the equestrian events which will take place on Sunday 30th September, Monday 1st October and Saturday 6th October. There will be music on the streets both weekends, street entertainers and indeed our traditional La Gaelach on Saturday 6th October.

Throughout the week, the festival have programmed a number of activities with the local schools and we look forward in having the future people of Ballinasloe fair get involved in music and crafts.

It is estimated that the fair & festival is worth in excess of €8.5 million to the local economy and the multi nationalists that attend as well as our local community accumulate a total audience of approx. 85,000.

We hope you get the opportunity this year to visit Europe's Oldest Horse Fair and look forward to meeting with you in Ballinasloe during the nine day event.

## **Programme of Events for 2007**

### **Fair & Festival Committee**

In the fifties with horse numbers dwindling and crowds falling, the changing nature in the way in which sheep and cattle were traded caused a sharp decline in the fortunes of the fair. In an effort to stem that decline a local group previously involved in the Ballinasloe Carnival and some members of the Chamber of Commerce, established a Fair & Festival Committee.

This voluntary group attempted firstly, to revive the Fair as an opportunity for the selling of quality animals on the green and secondly, to revitalise the week as a festival occasion for the town and hinterland of Ballinasloe.

Whatever its origins and subsequent fortunes the Fair & Festival continues to be the biggest economic and cultural event in the Ballinasloe calendar. Activities are co-ordinated by the Fair & Festival Company, the Ballinasloe Show Ltd., the Chamber of Commerce and the Town Council. It is hoped that you can visit and savour this truly unique spectacle and the charm of this bustling market town.

As well as the fair Ballinasloe is for Tourism, being located almost in the centre of Ireland it is an idea base for not only sampling the local spot of interest but those of the greater area.

As for other things to do whilst in Ballinasloe for Fair Week:

- \* Golf at the 18 hole Championship Course. Ph: +353 (0) 90 96 42126.
- \* Pitch & Putt - St. Bridgids Hospital Grounds +353 (0) 90 96 48479.

### **Accommodation**

The Festival Office + 353 (0) 90 96 43453 have lists of various accommodation providers. It is recommended to book early as accommodation close to the town is taken quickly but there is plenty of providers in the outlying areas.

### **Traffic**

With the large crowds attending during the Fair, a certain amount of traffic congestion can be expected, the following information will not only be of help to those not wishing to be held up by the fair crowds but also those attending the event.

#### *More Information*

You can visit the Ballinasloe October Fair & Festival website on **[www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com](http://www.ballinasloeoctoberfair.com)**

Any enquiries regarding the Fair must be directed to the following:  
Show Office at +353 (0)90 9642266 or Festival office  
**info [at]ballinasloeoctoberfair.com**

## **Programme of Events 2007**

Saturday 29th September - Sunday 7th October 2007

Planning for the forthcoming fair is ongoing, we will update the following information as it becomes available.

An Official Program will be available During the Fair containing further details on the events below.

*For Further information on Fair & Festival Events contact:*

**Secretary,  
Ballinasloe October Fair & Festival,  
4 Duggan Avenue, Ballinasloe, Co. Galway.  
Tel. +353 (0)90 9643453 / +353 (0)90 9644793  
Fax +353 (0)90 9644132**

B&B information: as above or Tourist Office +353 (0)90 9642604  
Ireland West for accommodation in greater Galway area.

## Friday 14th September

Selection of Ballinasloe Fair & Festival Queen of the Fair - Carlton Shearwater Hotel.

## Saturday 29th September

**10.00a.m:** 168th Agricultural Show in Showgrounds

GULLANES HOTEL FUN DAY

**1.30p.m:** Street Theatre & Music Madness (St. Michael's Square – Hakuna Matata group with their African music & Street Theatre by Cork Circus)

**3.00p.m:** Meadow Cross Multi Cultural Carnival – celebrating and showcasing cultures from nationalities including Brazil, Ireland, Poland and China. – St. Michael's Square.

**4.00p.m:** Music on the Soundstage with Keith McDonald Big Band

**8.30p.m:** Fairs Twining Reception – hosted by Town Council in Carlton Shearwater Hotel Nite Clubs in Gullane's Hotel & Hayden's Gateway Hotel

## Sunday 30th September

**All Day:** Horse Fair on Fair Green (Including Ballinasloe Credit Union Horse of the Fair)

**All Day:** Over 100 Market Stalls – everything from a needle to an anchor – three main streets of town and square.

**11.00a.m:** Civic Harvest Thanksgiving Service (in St. John's Church)

**11.15a.m:** Steeplechase Day in Showgrounds, The Frank Tracey Memorial Hunt Chase, Pet Farm, Arts & crafts stalls, Homeproduce, Bouncy Castles.

**12.30p.m:** Trad & Folk with Ballinasloe Ceoltas on Soundstage

**1.00p.m:** Kids Activities – Emerald Ballroom (runs until 6.00pm)

**2.30p.m:** Carriage takes Fair Queen to Opening Ceremony

**2.45p.m:** Official Opening of Soundstage by Liam Aylward, Member of European Parliament Committee for Agriculture and Rural Development.

**4.30p.m:** The Conquerors on Soundstage

**6.00p.m:** Lightning Strikes on Soundstage

Nite Clubs in Gullane's Hotel & Hayden's Gateway Hotel

## Monday 1st October

**All Day:** Horse Fair on Fair Green (Including Pony & Cob of the Fair)

**All Day:** Over 100 Market Stalls – everything from a needle to an anchor – three main streets of town and square.

**11.00a.m:** Final of Pony Lunging Competition.

**11.15a.m:** Finals of All Ireland Shows Association Irish Draught Foals – in Showgrounds

**12.00p.m:** Show jumping Day in Showgrounds

**1.00p.m:** Fringe Frolics (buskers; Jugglers, mime artists – throughout the streets)

**1.00p.m:** Still Sloping on Sound Stage

**1.30p.m:** Bank of Ireland All Ireland Cob Finals – Fair Green

- 1.00p.m:** Kids Activities – Emerald Ballroom (runs until 6.00pm)
- 2.15p.m:** An Tain Traditional House Band on Sound Stage
- 3.30p.m:** Bareback Puissance Wall Jump Off (Showgrounds)
- 4.30p.m:** Mickey Harte – Live on Soundstage
- 9.30p.m:** Traditional Session – Maud Millars

## **Tuesday 2nd October**

**All Day:** Galway Ensemble Contempo Quartet visit local primary schools to carry out classical music concerts & workshops

**All Day:** Celt craft demonstrators will visit schools and show children old time crafts incl. Blacksmithing

**5.00p.m. - 10.00p.m:** Ballinasloe Community Radio 102.8FM

**7.30p.m:** 1st Heat Domac Tug O'War 12th Anniversary on Society Street  
1st Heat Singing Pub Competition  
Tea Dance in Gullane's Hotel (Doors open at 9.30p.m.)

## **Wednesday 3th October**

**All Day:** Galway Ensemble Contempo Quartet visit local primary schools to carry out classical music concerts & workshops

**All Day:** Celt craft demonstrators will visit schools and show children old time crafts incl. Blacksmithing

**5.00p.m. - 10.00p.m:** Ballinasloe Community Radio 102.8FM

**7.30p.m:** 2nd Heat Domac Tug O'War 12th Anniversary on Dunlo Street  
2nd Heat Singing Pub Competition

**8.30p.m:** Fair & Festival Annual Fashion Show (in Carlton Shearwater Hotel)

**10.00p.m:** Trad Session in An Táin

## **Thursday 4th October**

**5.00p.m. - 10.00p.m:** Ballinasloe Community Radio 102.8FM

**7.30p.m:** 3rd Heat Domac Tug O'War 12th Anniversary on Main Street  
3rd Heat Singing Pub Competition

**9.45p.m:** Trad Session in Egans

## **Friday 5th October**

**5.00p.m - 10.00p.m:** Ballinasloe Community Radio 102.8FM

**8.15p.m:** Finals Domac Tug O'War 12th Anniversary incorporating Ladies Tug O'War on Main Street

**10.30p.m:** Monster Fireworks Display from Marina - Sponsored by Ballinasloe Vintners

**10.30p.m:** The Humble Earth Worms on Soundstage

**10.55p.m:** Presentation of Domac Plant Hire Tug O'War prizes (in Gullane's Hotel)

## **Saturday 6th October**

**9.00 a.m - 3.00 p.m:** Ballinasloe Community Radio 102.8FM

**All Day:** Traditional Country Fair Day – 140 Stalls in St. Michael's Sq. East & West Carparks

**All Day:** Horse Fair on Fair Green

**All Day:** Mare & Foal Fair in Showgrounds

**1.00 - 6.00p.m:** Supermacs La Gaelach & Seisiun Mor Traditional Day

**1.00p.m:** Skidú

**2.30 p.m:** Pat Buckley & Co.

**4.30p.m:** George Murphy & Band

Nite Clubs in Gullane's Hotel & Hayden's Gateway Hotel

## **Sunday 7th October - Family Day**

**9.00a.m - 1.00p.m:** Ballinasloe Community Radio 102.8FM

**10.00a.m:** Original French Market – St. Michaels Square

**1.30p.m:** Premier Proteins Dog Show (St Michael's Sq.)

**3.00p.m:** Kiddies Magic Show & Fancy Dress Disco in Gullanes Hotel

**5.00p.m:** Parade of Champions – Dog Show Ring

*Please note Fair and Festival not responsible for running/regulating anything under the Auspices of the Ballinasloe Show Society, The Farmers Market, Town Council events or funfair as included above.*