



# MAYO ROSCOMMON HOSPICE FOUNDATION



## NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 004 OCTOBER 2024

### Inside...



**Message from Board & CEO**

Page 2



**Rory Quinn, Never Give Up!**

Page 4



**Coffee Morning raises €11,010**

Page 10



**Shop Spotlight - Belmullet**

Page 12

...And so much more

### Monthly Draw Results

#### September 2024:

- €1,000 – Margaret Sage
- €500 – Anthony O'Donnell
- €250 – Betty Conroy

#### October 2024:

- €1,000 – Patricia Armstrong
- €500 – Noel Byrne
- €250 – Dermot Neilan

Don't forget...the monthly draw is the first Friday of every month...and you've got to be in it to win it!

**Next Draw: Friday, November 1st.**

Sign up today. Call **094 93 88666**, email [draw@hospice.ie](mailto:draw@hospice.ie), enter online at [www.hospice.ie/draw](http://www.hospice.ie/draw) or call into any of our 12 Hospice Shops.



Kieran O'Malley (MC), Charlene Hurley (Director of Fundraising & Communications, Galway Hospice), Edel Hyland, and Martina Jennings (CEO, Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation) pictured at the Lunch In Style event at The Lodge at Ashford on October 5th. Photo: Conor McKeown

## 'Stronger Together for Edel' raises €60k for Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation

Edel Hyland is one in a million. Despite living with Stage 4 Breast Cancer, she is a bundle of energy and together with her sister and friends, organised an amazing afternoon of fun and entertainment to raise funds for two charities close to her heart.

Led by the Stronger Together for Edel committee, the 'Lunch In Style' event will have raised in excess of €120,000 by the time the iDonate page closes at the end of this month, with the proceeds being divided equally between Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation and Galway Hospice.

Lunch In Style took place at The Lodge at Ashford in early October, with more than 200 in attendance. An absolutely gorgeous event from beginning to end, the day was jam-packed with giveaways, special guests, fashion, music and dancing. Huge credit must go to the organising committee of Edel Hyland, Maureen Forde, Martina Jennings, Niamh Reilly and Sharon Hughes.

Special guests on the day included Miriam O'Callaghan, author Cathy Kelly, and Dr Harry Barry, while MC for the afternoon was Kieran O'Malley. There were fabulous gift bags for all who came along, with some really brilliant prizes up for grabs too. The main sponsor for the event was the Joe & Helen O'Toole Charitable Trust in Tuam.

Diagnosed in December 2021, Edel has been bravely battling breast cancer for the last three years and after attending Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation's 'Ladies Lunch at The Lodge'

last April, she was inspired to organise her own fundraiser. "I left the event feeling very uplifted and inspired to do the same for others who are in a similar situation. Hence, the idea for this fundraiser was born," she explained.

Edel herself has received palliative home care and in-patient treatment in Mayo Hospice over the last few years. She has always been incredibly grateful for the help and support with managing the symptoms of this disease, as well as with the side effects of treatment.

Sadly, her sister Brigid lost her battle with cancer in April 2022 in Galway Hospice, just four months after Edel received her own devastating diagnosis. Of course, Edel and her family were also extremely thankful for the care and comfort that was given to Brigid during her final days there.

Determined to make the most of every day, the Lunch In Style event was Edel's brainchild and her closest friends were delighted to come on board to help plan and organise a day to remember. The event was a tremendous success and hugely uplifting for all who attended.

**If you would like to donate to this fund, there's still time to do so.**

The iDonate page will remain open until the end of the month. Simply search 'Stronger Together for Edel' or visit [www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/StrongertogetherwithEdelforHospice](http://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/StrongertogetherwithEdelforHospice)

Watch out for our November newsletter, where we will feature lots of fabulous images from the Lunch In Style event.

**Together We Can Do So Much**

To support our services, visit [www.hospice.ie/donate](http://www.hospice.ie/donate)

## A message from the Board and CEO of Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation

From the date the General Election is announced, the CEO of Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation, Martina Jennings, will be taking a leave of absence from her role to run as a candidate in the General Election.

Martina has been a driving force behind the establishment of both the Mayo Hospice and Roscommon Hospice, ensuring both facilities became operational and phenomenally successful. She has also been pivotal in shaping future plans, while maintaining the highest standards of governance and compliance.

Mike Smith, Chairperson of Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation, said: "The care and well-being of patients at our Mayo and Roscommon Hospices, as well as in the communities, remains our top priority."

"Our focus will continue to be on funding and providing and developing our Palliative Care Services. I want to assure our users and supporters of the continuation of care to families across both Mayo and Roscommon. We wish Martina every success in her campaign," he continued.

Speaking about her plans, Martina Jennings, CEO of Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation, added: "I am very grateful to the Board and staff for their support on this journey that I am taking over the next few weeks. I can assure you all that the Foundation, and all we do, will continue to operate as normal."

**Together** We Can Do So **Much**

## Volunteers are an absolute credit to Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation

A member of Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation's Board has paid tribute to the brilliant work being done by so many volunteers across the two counties. Hollymount's Tom Connolly described the volunteers as "an absolute credit to the organisation" and said they do "incredible work" on a daily basis for the charity.

Tom - who has spent the last 37 years working across operations, sales and distribution with Corrib Oil - first joined the Board about seven years ago. "A family member had been diagnosed with cancer prior to this and I saw first hand how difficult the diagnosis and illness can be for patients and their families," he began.

Having witnessed and experienced the benefit of Hospice care, Tom wanted to give something back.

"The care and attention from the doctors, nurses, social care workers, palliative care team - from everyone within Hospice - is second to none. As well as medical care and pain management, their focus is on comfort and the quality of end of life. I saw the amazing work that was being done by the Hospice teams and I knew I wanted to do whatever I could to lend my support," he recalled.

Tom pledged that he would whatever he could to help make a difference - be it shake a bucket, assist with local fundraising efforts, or volunteer his time in some other way.

Around the same time, Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation's CEO, Martina Jennings, approached Tom and asked if he would be interested in joining the Board. He didn't think twice in accepting the role and is delighted to have been involved in many great projects over the last number of years.

"It is such a fantastic organisation and I'm honoured to be involved. So many great people have served on the Board before me. I came in at a time when some really fantastic work had already been done in planning and fundraising towards the two dedicated Hospices in Mayo and Roscommon. We came in on the back of great work and we pushed it over the line," he added.

An avid GAA fan and a dedicated community man, Tom had always been impressed by the wonderful work being done by Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation. "The support and service provided within the Hospice facilities, and to individuals and families

across the wider community, is wonderful. The Foundation delivers comfort and support for people who are approaching end of life, as well as to their families and carers during this time," Tom continued.

"I'm so proud that I had an opportunity to play a part in the opening of the new state-of-the-art Hospice facilities in Mayo and Roscommon. There have been many great achievements over the years and hopefully there are many more to come. I look forward to continuing to carry on this work and to follow the legacy and vision of previous directors," Tom remarked.

"As a Board, we're here to do whatever we can, whenever it is needed. All across the Foundation, we have so many really brilliant teams, all working towards the same purpose. The Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation exists to support patients and their families, to take away the fear, to offer medical and holistic care, and to ensure that patients are as pain free and comfortable as possible. I'm honoured to be able to play a small part in all of this and to support the teams in the great work they do," he concluded.



Tom Connolly, Member of Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation Board



## Roscommon families honour two great dads with charity match

An impressive €11,250 has been raised for Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation through a charity football match with a difference. Two well known Roscommon families came together for the fundraiser, with the five O'Connor brothers facing the five Murray brothers on the football field.

An epic battle from beginning to end, the game ended with a penalty shoot out, but it wasn't about winning or losing, as the families honoured two great fathers who were taken too soon.

The football match and family fun day took place at Frank's Bar, Ballybeg, in memory of the late Patsy O'Connor and Mick Murray. Off the pitch, there was music, a raffle, face painting, a bouncy castle and BBQ.

The families were bowled over by the incredible support they received through the event - testament to the high esteem in which both Patsy and Mick were held in their community.

The Murray and O'Connor families, together with the team at Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation, would like to thank everyone who donated, sponsored or supported in any way.



# Well known Ballina jeweller organises huge fundraiser for Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation

A prominent Ballina businessman has started an online fundraising page for Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation, sharing his experience and how the Foundation has helped him to embrace a Never, Ever Give Up attitude.

Rory Quinn has penned a letter on the iDonate site to tell his story and help raise funds for the Foundation. Already, the jeweller has raised more than €16,000 for the charity and the figure is continuing to rise. As part of the fundraising efforts, he is certainly making use of his physio bike and has become an inspiration to many.

Below is Rory's story, taken directly from the fundraising site. Donations will remain open until November 20th, 2024. To donate and see his progress, visit <https://www.idonate.ie/fundraiser/RoryQuinn>



Rory Quinn, Ballina.

## Never, Ever Give Up! A letter from Rory...

*Hi Everyone,*

*My name is Rory from Rory Quinn Jewellers in Ballina. I'm not too great at stringing words together or indeed social media - I leave that to the experts in my shop!*

*It's been 15 months since my Brain Tumour diagnosis and surgery. I'm spending a bit of time in the wonderful facility Mayo Hospice and receiving great care and brilliant physio - as a stepping stone to going home.*

*The last social media post I did was 1 year after my Road Traffic Accident from which I sustained life-changing injuries. The fight after that has been constant, this even more so.*

*My mantra has always been **'Never, Ever Give Up'**.*

*Physio is going good here. I'm pushing 180km and upwards on the physio bike. I haven't set a target because 200km, 300km, 400km, will never be enough. I have to get over the line to live the best life I can.*

*Mayo Hospice is somewhere people don't want to be, but it offers many more services than people realise. It truly is a wonderful place with amazing staff that I would like to thank from the bottom of my heart.*

*Thanks to my loyal customers for keeping my shop door open while I recover, I will be back soon. Thank you to my great friends who I am so lucky to have and my family and true constants Maria, Jane and Gordon.*

*I will be forever grateful,  
 Rory*



## WOW...Westport women raise €31,115 for Hospice

Well wow is right! What an incredible journey the Westport Women On Wheels (WOW) have been on over the last few months. Seamus Moran, Board Director with Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation, was delighted to receive a cheque for an amazing €31,115 earlier this month from the Westport WOW group.

The group of 17 brave Mayo women completed a mammoth 605km four-day cycle from Mizen to Malin in September to raise funds for Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation and Mayo Rape Crisis Centre.

Comprising a mix of members from Westport Triathlon Club and the Covey Wheelers Cycling Club, the Westport WOW group set off on their Cork to Donegal route on September 4th, and were bowled over by the support they received.

Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation is incredibly grateful for this phenomenal donation.



## Car Winner

Huge congratulations to Patrick Gallagher from Ballina, Co Mayo, who was the winner of our Car Draw, supported by J Keane & Sons, Roscommon. Patrick's ticket was purchased online and his name was pulled out of the drum during our live draw. Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation would like to sincerely thank everyone who supported this fundraiser and congratulations once again to Patrick.

**Monthly Draw**

WIN  
**€1,000**  
JACKPOT

2nd Prize  
**€500**

3rd Prize  
**€250**

Sign Up Now At [Hospice.ie/draw](https://www.hospice.ie/draw) Or Call Instore  
Tel. 094 9388666 Email [draw@hospice.ie](mailto:draw@hospice.ie) Website [www.hospice.ie](https://www.hospice.ie)

Mayo Roscommon  
**Hospice**  
Foundation

Help Support Our  
Hospice for just

**€10**  
a month

## Remember a loved one with Hospice’s Tree of Light in Knock

This Christmas, why not sponsor a light on the Tree of Light in Knock in memory of a loved one, or to show someone you are thinking of them. Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation’s Tree of Light allows all of us to Shine A Light for a loved one – living or deceased – with the light shining brightly throughout the Christmas period.

The switching on of the lights on the magnificent Tree of Light in Knock marks the beginning of Christmas, with the lights shining throughout the festive season. When sending Christmas greetings to relatives and friends, why not show them your care by sponsoring a special light that will shine out rays of love to all.

The tree will be lit at our special Shine A Light ceremony on Sunday, December 1st, but you can continue to purchase Shine A Light cards right up to Christmas. The wonderful John McNicholl will be the special guest for the event. Adorned with thousands of lights illuminating thoughts and memories of loved ones, the tree lighting ceremony is always a particularly special event for families and friends.


The names of all those for whom the lights are sponsored will be entered into Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation’s Book of Remembrance for the special Ecumenical Service on the third Sunday in January 2025. Each year, the attendance continues to grow at the service, with many people travelling long distances to take part in this beautiful and moving ceremony.

Both the tree lighting ceremony and the ecumenical service give those who have been bereaved the opportunity to come together to remember and to cherish the many happy memories of their loved ones.

For just €5, you can purchase a Shine A Light Card from Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation, through the Hospice shops across the region, in pharmacies all over Mayo and Roscommon, or by calling the Hospice office on 094 93 88 666. You can also sponsor a light online by visiting [www.hospice.ie/product/shine-a-light-cards/](http://www.hospice.ie/product/shine-a-light-cards/)



*May you be Blessed with  
peace & loving memories  
this holy season*




*The light you shine will not fade  
when the Christmas Season ends*

*A light is shining on the  
Hospice Christmas Tree in Knock*

For: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

Names are entered in the Book of Honour  
for our Special Ecumenical Service on the  
3rd Sunday of January.



**MAYO ROSCOMMON  
HOSPICE  
FOUNDATION**

COMMUNITY PALLIATIVE CARE | MAYO HOSPICE | ROSCOMMON HOSPICE

TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH



## Can you help?

Volunteers will be needed to lend a hand in outlets across the region in late November to help with the sale of Christmas cards. Can you spare a few hours for Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation? If so, please contact the office on 094 93 88 666 or email [info@hospice.ie](mailto:info@hospice.ie)

## Walk in memory of a loved one this December

The 2024 Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation's Memorial Walk returns this year on Sunday, December 1st, as part of our Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony. Taking place in Knock, the walk begins at 5pm.

Would you like to walk this year in memory of your loved one? You can register now, for free, on [www.Hospice.ie](http://www.Hospice.ie) or simply call the office on 094 93 88 666. Sponsorship cards can be provided or participants can create an online donation page.

The closing date for personalised t-shirts is Monday, November 18th, so make sure you get your order in on time. Gather family and friends and get together to remember your loved one this Christmas.

**Come along and join the Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation Memorial Walk this December 1st.**



  
**MAYO ROSCOMMON  
HOSPICE  
FOUNDATION**

COMMUNITY PALLIATIVE CARE | MAYO HOSPICE | ROSCOMMON HOSPICE

TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH

# MEMORIAL WALK

Walk In Memory of Your Loved One.

**December 1st 2024 at 5pm**  
KNOCK, CO. MAYO

Register at: [www.hospice.ie/memorialwalk](http://www.hospice.ie/memorialwalk)

Company No: 202773 | CHY No: 10980 | RCN No: 20029098

## Cuppa For Kev raises €7,550 for Hospice

Kevin Gannon was always partial to a cup of tea and it was fitting, therefore, that his daughters came together earlier this year to host the 'Cuppa For Kev' fundraiser in his memory.

So on August 11th, Maureen Gannon and her sisters held their special fundraising event at the Broadhaven Bay Hotel in Belmullet. Aply named, the fundraiser was organised in memory of their late father, and to raise much-needed funds for the Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation.

The family put a huge amount of work into the event and it showed, with an incredible €7,550 raised on the day. Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation CEO Martina Jennings, was delighted to accept the cheque from Maureen.



## Duffy Family Parish Walk surpasses all expectations with €9,400 total

The Duffy family from Roscommon have presented Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation with a cheque for €9,400 following their fundraising Parish Walk in August.

The family were humbled by the amazing support they received in their fundraising efforts, with the total figure raised surpassing all expectations.

The event itself took place on August 17th from Camcloon National School, with the option to complete an 8km and 5km route on the day. There was a great turnout for the walk, with

young and old getting involved and taking to the streets.

The Duffy family would like to thank all who supported their Parish Walk. Thanks to Laura Tully and Roscommon Sports Partnership, to Camcloon NS for the use of their premises, to Michael Glennon for providing his field for parking, to Rory Curley for taking photos,

to Fr Molloy for his kind words and blessing before sending participants off on the walk, and to all who baked pastries and served refreshments. Of course, a special word of thanks, too, to all the walkers and all who made donations. Your support was very much appreciated.



Pictured (left to right) are Marion Phelan, Micheál Murphy (Maureen’s Husband), Joanne Bourke (Manager of the Hospice Shop), Margaret Phelan and Eamonn Hyland.

## Killasser Run honours memory of Maureen Murphy

As part of this year’s Swinford Athletic Club Autumn Series, the Killasser Run was organised to honour the memory of the late Maureen Murphy, RIP.

Maureen was a dedicated and much-loved volunteer of the Hospice Shop in Swinford. She was also always a great supporter of Swinford AC and the members were delighted to host this event in her memory.

The event raised an incredible €1,370 for the Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation and the cheque was presented to the Hospice team at the Swinford Hospice Shop.



## Celebrating 21 years of Coffee Mornings in Knockcroghery

We all love a good tradition and in the village of Knockcroghery in Co Roscommon, the community has been rallying together for more than two decades to support Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation.

On Saturday, September 28th, Cullen’s Hall in Knockcroghery was a hive of activity as the locals gathered for their 21st Coffee Morning fundraiser. Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation’s CEO Martina Jennings was delighted to join the community to celebrate the milestone.

Like in so many communities around Mayo and Roscommon, there was a fantastic turnout for the Hospice Coffee Morning. The reality is that without this support from communities in towns and villages across the two counties, we wouldn’t have Hospices in Mayo and Roscommon, or indeed the

Homecare Palliative Services. From all at Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation, a massive thank you Knockcroghery Support Group for their wonderful dedication each year.





Gerry and Anne Lyons with their children Michelle, Morgan and James, taken on December 14th, 2023, a few short weeks before Gerry's passing.

## Coffee Morning in memory of Gerry Lyons raises €11,010

Anne Lyons has been hosting Hospice Coffee Mornings at her home in Ballyhaunis for more than a decade. Since losing her brother to cancer at the young age of 51, the generous Mayo woman has been doing her bit to support her local Hospice services.

Even during Covid, the tradition continued, with a drive-through fundraiser at the family home in Knockbrack. This year, however, the Coffee Morning was both special and heartbreaking. Her dear husband, Gerry, was missing from the party, as family and friends gathered to honour his memory.

Hugely popular in the community and loved by all who knew him, Gerry sadly passed away at the Mayo Hospice last December. It had been a short illness and Gerry's family were with him in Castlebar for every step along his final journey. Nine months later, the community turned out in force to support the Coffee Morning in Gerry's memory, with a staggering €11,010 raised for the Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation through the event.

"If there was ever a year we needed to host a Hospice Coffee Morning, it was this year. The care and attention Gerry received at the Mayo Hospice – and the support we were

all given – was absolutely incredible. We will forever be grateful to the team in Castlebar and it was lovely to remember Gerry at the event last month," Anne explained.

Last year, in September 2023, the family home at Knockbrack was bustling for the annual fundraiser, as always. Gerry was sitting at the table in the kitchen enjoying a cuppa when one of the team from Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation popped in to say hello. She had brought with her a Hospice Coffee Morning sign and wanted to take some photos. As Gerry and the family took the sign in hand and posed for the snaps, little did they realise that they would be needing the services and care of Hospice just three months later.

On November 14th, 2023, Gerry was diagnosed with cancer. It was a massive shock for all the family, but they couldn't have imagined how little time they had left. On December 12th, Gerry was admitted to

the Mayo Hospice in Castlebar. He had just spent two weeks in hospital and on his first night in Hospice, the family were astonished to hear he got 12 hours sleep.

Anne and the couple's three adult children – Morgan, James and Michelle – were eager to spend as much time with Gerry as they possibly could. Morgan had travelled home from Australia to join his family, arriving on the day his dad went into Hospice. Two days later, on December 16th, Anne, Morgan, James and Michelle packed their bags and moved into Hospice's family apartment – a facility located upstairs at the Castlebar Hospice.

"We didn't want to be away from Gerry and we wanted to spend as much quality time as a family as we could. The family quarters has two bedrooms, each with two single beds, as well as a kitchenette, dining room and bathroom. It was absolutely perfect for us. We moved in on the 16th and it was a home away from home," Anne recalled.

In addition to being able to stay on site, the family had access to all the team and resources they needed. "Everyone knew us by name and made us feel special. We could ask the questions we needed to ask and get whatever support we needed. Across the board, the team was incredible. We were just one family but even when we went back after Gerry's passing, it was like visiting old friends," she continued.

From nurses and doctors to social workers and the chaplaincy service, the Mayo Hospice provided all the support they needed. "One day, they even brought Michelle and I down to another room for a massage. Gerry was getting the wonderful care he needed, and so were we," Anne added.

Living on site during an incredibly difficult time helped to make life that little bit easier for the family. "Gerry came from a large family and they were always able to visit. Even when he wasn't having a good day though, and maybe wasn't up to visitors, family could come and visit, and spend time with us too. For all of us, for those precious, difficult and heartbreaking days, Mayo Hospice provided us with our own little home away from home. We could take it in turns

to sit with him and none of us were ever far away."

Just six short weeks after his diagnosis, Gerry passed away peacefully at the Mayo Hospice on December 28th, 2023. Thanks to the wonderful facilities available to families in Castlebar, his nearest and dearest were with him right until the end.

"We are so thankful to Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation for the love, care and support shown to Gerry and to all of us. We wanted to do something special in his memory this year and organised a Coffee Morning on September 14th when Morgan was home on holidays from Australia," Anne noted.

The community support was phenomenal. "The GAA Club and everyone rowed in behind us, helping with tables, chairs, and anything we needed. The house was packed and it was a huge success. We simply opened our doors, the community was incredibly generous. Of all the years we needed to do it, it was this year, and it was so brilliant to be able to present such a sizeable sum to the Foundation to help other families when they need it most," Anne added.



Martina Jennings, CEO of Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation, receiving a cheque for a staggering €11,010 – the proceeds of Anne Lyons' fundraising Coffee Morning in memory of her late husband, Gerry.



## Melodies of Hope

Two nieces of Gerry Lyons – Aisling and Kathy – have come together to organise a special fundraising concert in his memory.

Melodies of Hope featured the wonderful talents of Aisling, Kathy and friends, for a really special night of music and song.

The Melodies of Hope concert was in aid of Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation and took place in The Friary in Ballyhaunis on Friday, October 25th. There was no specific admission fee on the night but all donations were very welcome.

The charity concert blended beautiful music with a noble cause. Your support was greatly appreciated.



## Community support for Belmullet Hospice Shop will always be remembered

The Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation Shop in Belmullet opened its doors for business on February 23rd, 2018, becoming the 12th Hospice Shop in the chain. Located at Chapel Street in the Erris town, across from the Church, the unit had previously served as a hardware premises. As a result, it took quite a bit of work to convert it into the boutique style store that it is today.

Thankfully however, when it comes to community support, Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation is never found wanting and the local community in Belmullet rowed in to offer their services and assistance in any way they could. Carpenters, builders and general helpers dropped what they were doing and set to work to help create a really welcoming shopping environment and the Foundation will forever be thankful for all of their help.

From the very outset, Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation has been incredibly fortunate to have received such wonderful support from the Belmullet community. From day one, the shop was busy, both with donations and with customers, and this trend has continued over the years.

The store also has a strong base of committed volunteers, who give their time freely to sort and steam clothes, and organise other goods, ensuring everything is in great condition and ready for sale. The shop has an excellent reputation in the town for customer service and value for money, and Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation is extremely grateful to each and every one of the volunteers for all their work.

The Hospice Shop in Belmullet is headed up by the manager, Ann Gallagher, who says it's a really special place to work. "Our shop is filled with fun and laughter. The banter among our team is lively, and can be heard all around. Our customers love the atmosphere. Many pop in just to say hello and often to reconnect with old friends. It's a

wonderful place to enjoy good company and great conversation," she explained.

Anyone familiar with the Belmullet store will agree that it is always so inviting to customers, with fresh stock hitting the shelves and rails every day. Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation is lucky to welcome lots of repeat customers each week, who call in to see what new treats are on offer.

The shop sells clothes to cater for all ages, as well as bric-a-brac, shoes, handbags, toys, books, and many other items. You never quite know what might be for sale, so the next time you're in Belmullet, be sure to call in and see for yourself!

If you have goods that you'd like to donate, or are looking to refresh your home or wardrobe, call in to see the team in Belmullet today. New volunteers are always welcome too.

## Gaye's Coffee Morning has been uniting the community for 32 years

Gaye Harper has been hosting Hospice Coffee Mornings for as long as they have existed in Co Mayo and the energetic 83-year-old isn't planning on sitting back any time soon. Based in Kilsallagh, just beyond Lecanvey, Gaye and her husband Chris opened the doors to their home for the 32nd year in a row this September, and were delighted to welcome Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation CEO Martina Jennings for a cuppa and a chat.

The annual Coffee Morning for Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation at the couple's home is something that the locals look forward to each year. Gaye has her own orchard at the house and visitors can always look forward to her mouth-watering rhubarb and apple tarts, as well as her delicious scones.

For Gaye, the Hospice Coffee Morning is a wonderful way to bring the community together. "Everyone is so busy nowadays and we don't call to see neighbours, or stop for a chat, as often as we once did. I decided to become a host 32 years ago and I've enjoyed it so much over the years. It's a chance to get together with neighbours and friends and to talk about what has been going on in everyone's lives and catch up on all the news," she explained.

During Covid, Gaye didn't want to let the tradition slip so Chris offered up his studio out the back of their house, and people were able to come and go, while still following the rules and restrictions that were in place at the time.

Of course, 85-year-old Chris has his own special connection to Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation. A talented artist, some of his paintings adorn the walls at the Mayo Hospice in Castlebar.

Young at heart, the couple celebrated their 62nd wedding anniversary on September 29th this year - a date that also marked Gaye's 83rd birthday. The energetic pair



remain heavily involved in all aspects of community life, and once the Coffee Morning was taken care of, Gaye was turning her attention to the next project.

"I love opening up our home for the day for the Hospice fundraiser each year and I really enjoy being involved in community life. Next up in Lecanvey are the Harvest Fair, Craft Fair and then the Sheep Fair, so that will keep us busy for the next little while," she said with a smile.



# Monthly Draw

WIN  
**€1,000**  
JACKPOT

2nd Prize  
**€500**

3rd Prize  
**€250**

**Sign Up Now At [Hospice.ie/draw](https://www.hospice.ie/draw) Or Call Instore**  
Tel. 094 9388666 Email [draw@hospice.ie](mailto:draw@hospice.ie) Website [www.hospice.ie](https://www.hospice.ie)



Help Support Our  
Hospice for just  
**€10**  
a month



## Communities turn out in force for annual Coffee Morning fundraisers

The annual National Hospice Coffee Morning, Together with Bewley's, is always one of the biggest fundraisers of the year for the Mayo Roscommon Hospice Foundation. This year was no different, with upwards of 200 fundraising events organised across the two counties to coincide with the country-wide initiative.

In 2023, an incredible €192,480.69 was raised in Mayo and Roscommon through Coffee Morning events, bringing people and communities together to catch up, have fun, and raise money for vital palliative care services.

Money is still coming in from this year's events, and as soon as we have a final figure, we will share this information with you all.

While September 26th was the official date for the nationwide fundraisers, Coffee Mornings are continuing to take place and it's not too late to play your part.

If you would like to organise an event but don't know where to start, simply get in touch today and we will offer all the support you need.

Remember, as with all our fundraisers, every cent raised locally stays locally. Whether you've hosted in the past, or want to get involved for the first time, we would love to hear from you.

To hold a Coffee Morning in your school, home or work place, contact us at [info@hospice.ie](mailto:info@hospice.ie) or call us on 094 93 88666 and we will send you out a coffee pack with coffee, posters and balloons.



# Coffee Mornings 2024





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# MAYO ROSCOMMON HOSPICE FOUNDATION

COMMUNITY  
PALLIATIVE CARE

MAYO  
HOSPICE

ROSCOMMON  
HOSPICE

TOGETHER WE CAN DO SO MUCH



Mayo Hospice



Roscommon Hospice

Together We Can Do So Much

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