



Galway Hooker Sailing Club  
proud affiliate of



## FLEET SAILS FOR DARKNESS INTO LIGHT



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## A CLUB THAT NEVER RESTS

*with Ciarán Oliver*

Without doubt, the Galway Hooker Sailing Club is one of the busiest clubs in the West of Ireland. There is never a quiet week, or even a quiet day. Any new members are probably dizzy with the amount of activities and work that our club gets through. In this edition of the Masthead you will see exactly what I mean. From an ambassadorial visit, to our work with the Sea School, and new additions to the fleet...and this doesn't even scratch the surface. But the reason this all happens is because you and all of our members. Fair play to you all and looking forward to seeing you soon in the timber shed, clubhouse, on the water or wherever our next adventure takes us!



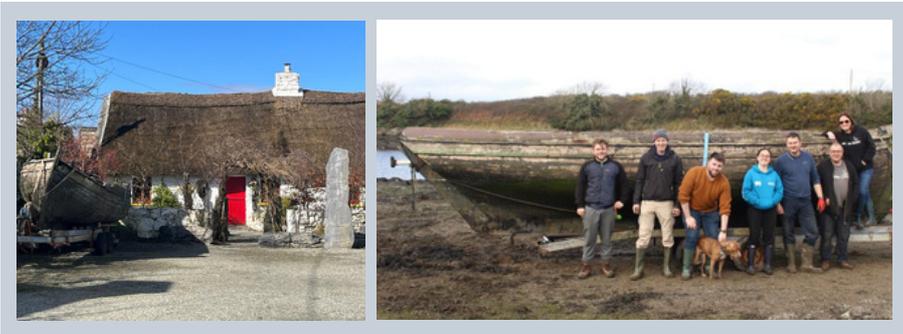
# KNOTS HAPPENING AT OUR SEA SCHOOL

Fifth Class have been busy with their Sea-School activities recently. They have been learning knots, studying sea life and examining the parts of a hooker. They are looking forward to their next trip out on the boats to show off their new skills. And great to see the new Sea-School crest that they have added to their school hoodies. The crest was designed by 6th Class.

Well done guys!



# WELCOME EASÓG BHEAG!



You may have noticed that there's a new hooker in the Claddagh! Congratulations to crew member Gerard Hynes who has purchased the gleoiteóg 'Easóg Bheag'. Easóg was built as a 22' bád iomartha (row boat) by Séamus Sheáin Uí Ní (James Nee) of Rosmuc, Co. Galway. She was built for Patrick Walsh of Snámhbó, Rosmuc. The Walshes also owned a Gleoiteóg Mór called Easóg. Built in 1900, she is a class 2 Gleoiteóg Beag which is the smallest version of the Galway Hooker. Easóg Bheag means small weasel and she was last sailed in 2013. Since then she has been sitting on a beach in Oranmore. A crew which included GMIT students who are on placement with our club along with Gerard's family and Ruda the dog moved her from Oranmore to Katie's Cottage. She is still there if you want to call to see her up close in person. She is in need of extensive repairs but that's nothing that a bit Loveen elbow grease won't fix! Looking forward to seeing her out on Galway Bay in the years to come. Historical background thanks to the Hernons.

# THE BEST 'FLOAT' FOR ST. PATRICK'S PARADE!

The highlight of March was the St Patrick's Day parade. After two years of no parades, the streets were thronged, and the belle of the day was the Loveen. With a fresh coat of paint and bunting on her rigging, she was a hit with the crowds. Members of the club marched proudly with the Port of Galway Sea Scouts.



# MEET THE CREW

by Mary Cunningham and Brenda Foy

Our April interview features Elizabeth Steed who came to Galway from the United States with her husband and children in August 2018. With her children settled in school, Elizabeth wanted to do something interesting with her time and, having some yachting experience turned her focus to the sea. She found the GHSC on social media and as they were looking for volunteers to work on restoring the Lovely Anne, she turned up at the workshop knowing nobody and wondering what she could do to help. Elizabeth soon found herself sanding and painting and learning new skills, all the while making new friends as the Club expanded. She very quickly became involved in all aspects of the club. She has many highlights from her time with the club amongst which are being out with the boats for the Blessing of the Bay, a centuries old tradition in Galway held in mid-August, participating in the escort of the new Aran Island ferry on its maiden voyage out of the docks and competing in the Cong to Galway boat race, which is Europe's oldest and longest inland water sailing race. Elizabeth tells us that she loves how inclusive the club is and how it is always thinking outside the box, looking for new ventures for its members and its boats.



To hear more from Elizabeth copy and paste this link:  
<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1819832/10239830>

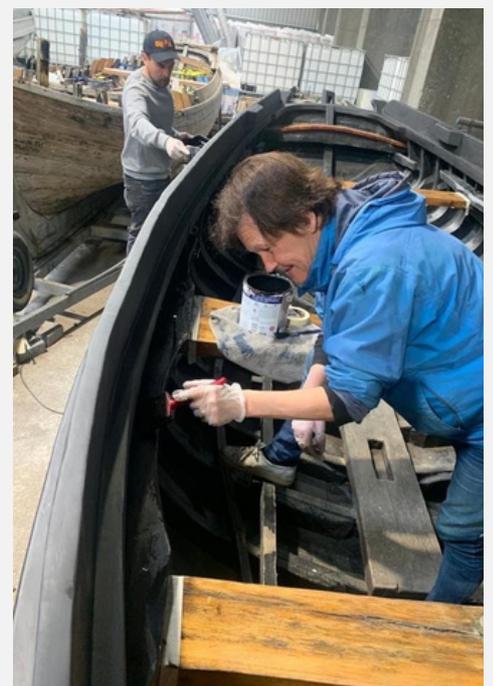
## AMBASSADOR AHOY!



The Loveen and members of GHSC had the honour of taking Mrs. Karen Van Vlierberge, Ambassador of the Kingdom of Belgium to Ireland for a sail out on Galway Bay in April. The weather was fantastic and it truly was a beautiful afternoon to showcase the best of Galway!

## LOTS OF LOVE FOR THE LON DUBH

At the heart of all things GHSC is the love that goes into the restoration and maintenance of our fleet. Here is a look at some of the crew working on Lon Dubh. With her repairs and undercoat finished, our crew started to work on her spars and her shiny, new coat for 2022. Looking forward to seeing those powerful black sails out on Galway Bay soon.



# KJS TUESDAYS GROWING EVERY WEEK



Our KJS sessions are based on learning in a fun and social environment. It's a great way for our members to get to know each other, have a cuppa and learn something along the way. From presentations on navigational charts to shore base rigging sessions, there is always a good reason to be there. Our only advice is to book early as they are filling up faster with every week!

## FIRST EDUCATIONAL EVENT AT THE BOATHOUSE



On Friday March 25th Jen Cunningham, Eco Advocates Course Developer, welcomed students from Coláiste Iognáid to the boathouse. Accompanied by Pam Dolan, the school's Environmental Officer, they were there to participate in an Eco Advocate field trip course which comes under the umbrella of the EcoEd4All initiative ([www.ecoed4all.com](http://www.ecoed4all.com)). It was one of those glorious days we enjoyed in March and you could not have been in a better place than the banks of the Corrib.

The course kicked off with presentations from Molly Curran and Joseph Donnelly, Marine Biology students at the GMIT (Atlantic Technological University) They took samples of the river, helped the students identify the insects in the sample and analyse the ph levels of the water. Molly emphasised the importance of regular sampling to keep an eye on the water quality. It was reassuring to hear from Joseph that it is quite good at the moment. I was seriously impressed by the scientific knowledge displayed by the students and their genuine interest in the activity.

Duncan Stewart and Brendan (Speedy) Smith arrived on their bikes to join the session. Duncan is a well known environmentalist, architect and TV presenter while Brendan is equally well known in Galway for his work in education and in maintaining and improving the natural environment. Both men were lively and inspirational presenters. They discussed biodiversity, climate change, eco solutions to current problems, energy conservation, and how to effect change. As the students had so many questions the event could have continued for another hour or more. It was great to see this type of activity, the first of many, at the boathouse and wonderful that the club has forged this connection with the river.

## ROWERS ROARIN' ON



Great to see our partners Gráinne Mhaol Rowing Club out enjoying the Corrib. There is lots planned for the club this summer with many more updates to come!

## DID SOMEBODY SAY JUST EAT???



Early trials of the GHSC on water food delivery service have proven to be very successful. Just Eat were not available for comment at time of publication.

## HISTORY & STORIES, IN THE WORKSHED



Here is a little peak into the fab new displays that are now on the walls of the workshed. We will be doing a feature on this in an upcoming issue. But for anyone who has not been over to see them, it is well worth a visit. Just don't forget your paint brush, hammer, sander or sweeping brush as a job or two might find you.