



Galway Hooker Sailing Club  
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### DOCKLANDS FESTIVAL

See inside to find out what's happening at the inaugural Galway Docklands Festival.

### MEET THE CREW

This month's crew member in the spotlight is Clodagh Durkan.

### SEA SCHOOL

Find out all the exciting things that have been happening this term in Sea School.

## COMMENT

*with Ciarán Oliver*

Another busy month as the fine weather has meant plenty of sails and rigging sessions. We were thrilled to be at the Docks to welcome Damien Browne home after his epic row from New York to Galway.

Looking forward to lots happening over the next few weeks, in particular the inaugural Galway Docklands Festival.

# MEET THE CREW

with Mary Cunningham & Brenda Foy

This month we chatted with Clodagh Durkan who moved to Galway in 2021 after working abroad for fourteen years in Italy, Germany and Ghana. New to the city she was keen to meet some people and to pursue her interest in sailing which she had dabbled in on and off. She sailed Lasers and Hobiecats and speaks of racing on the Volta river in Ghana.

She spied a post on the GHSC Facebook page where we were looking for help in restoring Loveen. She got stuck in on the sanding, caulking, painting, and puttying (is that a word?) and was amazed that this work earned her a place on the St Patrick's Day Parade where Loveen was shown off to the populace. The club has given her the opportunity to develop her sailing skills and has introduced her to rowing which she loves. She has also participated in the crew support programme.

In the future, as part of the media crew, she would like to develop the website to showcase club activities in a more interactive way. She also sees participating in events with other clubs such as the Galway Regatta and The Cong to Galway race as a positive development, and even though the weather didn't oblige this year, she would like to see more of this.

Listen to Clodagh here:

<https://www.buzzsprout.com/1819632/11443185>

<https://open.spotify.com/episode/6Gq3FTxKH0oJ89JTkrONTv?si=a2089de9b7374616>



# HAWK SAILING

by Eileen Cameron

A selection of photos from recent Sailing into Wellness events - see page 7 for more details.



# SEA SCHOOL

by Tomasina Brosnan

Summer is over and Sea School is back with a bang in Scoil Bhríde Shantalla. Fifth and Sixth Class have been busy learning all about the tides and investigating the seashore.

Third Class have been learning about the history of the Claddagh, examining houses in the past after a visit to Katie's Cottage and have been busy constructing a model Claddagh village from clay.



Fourth Class have been using sea-themed books to visualise the under-water world and have constructed beautiful 'Under the Sea' dioramas.

In order to consolidate all this new knowledge we jumped on board Dolfijn with Ciarán for a spin around the Claddagh basin and joined Collette on a walking tour of the area. It was a very exciting day for the kids on the water, some of them had never been on a boat before! We have lots of exciting plans and projects for the year ahead and look forward to sharing them with you.

# CHART WORK AT KJS SESSION



# IMPRESSIONS OF GHSC

by Nathan O'Shea

I recently completed the Hooker Skills Course. It commenced with an introduction into the history of the Claddagh village. We learnt about the importance of the boats to the Claddagh people at the time. The club's formation, lead by Ciaran Oliver's initiative, was detailed to us.

The club is not just about sailing boats and looking picturesque, the background operations make up the bulk of the work. Behind the scenes members come together by restoring boats, building boats and maintaining them throughout the year. People do so out of passion for the vessels and also to determine their seat on the sailing trips.

During the sessions we were taught more about the boats, their various parts, how they functioned, the physics involved in sailing them as well as nautical language sailors use to communicate amongst one another.

With each meeting I attended the sense of community became ever more prevalent. I felt a sense of appreciation for the club, not only for its directors but also its members who selflessly keep it running.

The Galway Hooker Sailing Club is an inclusive club and I've great admiration for the various nationalities that are actively a part of our culture.

I look forward to future activities, projects and work with the club. Imperative to the survival of our heritage, I believe that the Galway Hooker Sailing Club has the potential to greatly benefit the city's community both socially and economically.

# TIMBER STORE REFIT

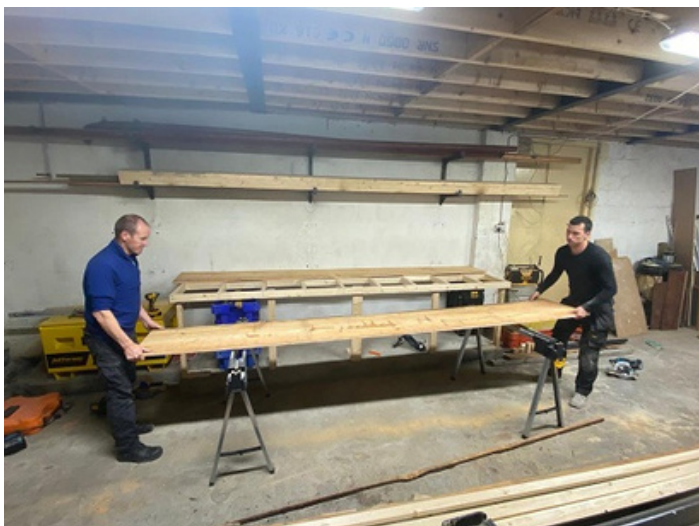
by Collette Furey

Crew have been busy over the last few weeks getting the Timber Store to a usable space. It originated as a store for timber and has since moved on to become a space ideal for working on spars, general maintenance jobs and hosting our KJS sessions.

The plans are also there to use the upstairs area for a learning centre and create a safe and clean work space for our crew. We started with cleaning upstairs and getting a few coats of paint on the walls and ceiling. Immediately this gave it a more clean and fresh look. The stairs and railings also got a new coat of blue paint as we keep with a nautical theme.

We've also a brand new work bench along one of the walls using timber left over from other jobs and even some of the oak that was used on the restoration of our boats. Fish boxes make for great storage drawers, and of course are very fitting for our club, so we've used lots of them for keeping all our tools and boat equipment.

Thanks to all the crew who have been busy working away on this project and we'll look forward to a grand opening in a few weeks.



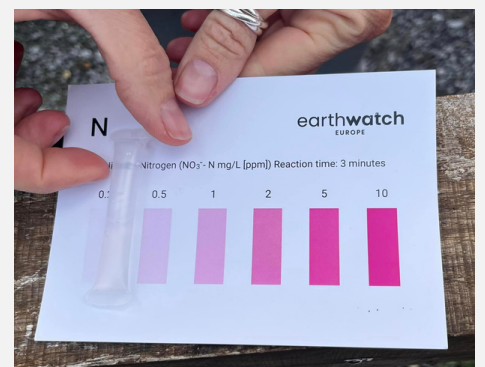
# GHSC ROWERS

by Eileen Cameron

Lots of rowing sessions happening and some lovely spins up to Lough Corrib and around one of the islands.

We also became citizen scientists and undertook water sampling of the River Corrib for the EarthWatch Institute.

These returned positive results on the water quality at the Boathouse, with virually undetectable levels of both Nitrates and Phosphates.



# GALWAY DOCKLANDS FESTIVAL

by Maria Buckley

The countdown is on for the Galway Docklands Festival!

The festival will be held on Friday 21st October to Sunday October 23rd across Galway Docklands. It is being run by Galway Hooker Sailing Club in association with Galway Bay Boat Tours and Galway Bay Seafoods. Over the 3 days we will be showcasing some of Galway's Docklands and celebrating our waterways.

The festival has something for everyone from cooking demos, boat skills workshops, sea life tanks from Galway Atlantaquaria, boat tours, a family fun day and so much more!

**GALWAY HOOKER SAILING CLUB**

## GALWAY DOCKLANDS FESTIVAL

**21 - 22 - 23 OCT' 2022**

Galway Hooker Sailing Club in association with Galway Bay Boat Tours and Galway Bay Seafoods are delighted to invite you to the inaugural Galway Docklands Festival!

Over the 3 days we will be showcasing some of Galway's Docklands and celebrating our waterways.

In recognition of the amazing work they do, all funds raised will be donated to Galway RNLI and LAST (Lost At Sea Tragedies).

Follow us on social media for daily updates or visit [www.galwayhookersailingclub.com](http://www.galwayhookersailingclub.com)

**All proceeds in aid of Galway RNLI and LAST**



FRIDAY 21		Galway Bay Seafoods	
School's Cooking Demonstrations and Classes	Free	10am-1pm	
Meet the boatbuilder Cólín Ó hIarnáin	Free	11am-12:30pm	
Galway Bay Seafoods Fish and Chips	€10	12-3pm	
Sea School Beach Clean Up	Free	12-1pm	
Family Cooking Demonstrations	€10	3-5pm	
RNLI Welly Throwing Competition	Free	3-4pm	
RNLI Station Display	Free	4-5pm	
Q & A with boatbuilder Cólín Ó hIarnáin	Free	5-6.30pm	
Galway Hooker Beer and Seafood Sampling	€10	6-8pm	
SATURDAY 22		Claddagh Hall and Claddagh Quay	
Trasna na dTonnta Maritime Exhibition	Free	11am-5pm	
Galway Atlantaquaria Sea life Tanks	Free	11am-5pm	
Coffee Morning with Claddagh Resident's Association	€5	10am-11am	
'Reclaimed Galway' with Sinéad Harte	Free	10am-11am	
Boat building skills with Cólín Ó hIarnáin	Free	11am-12pm	
Walking Tour with Ciaran Oliver	€10	12pm-1pm	
All Aboard Boat Tours of Claddagh and Galway Bay	€15	1:15-2:30	
Galway Hooker Rigging Demonstration	Free	2-2:30pm	
Parade of Sail	Free	2-5pm	
Powerboat Taster Spins	€10	2-4pm	
SUNDAY 23 FAMILY FUNDAY		Claddagh Hall and Claddagh Quay	
Children's Flea Circus, Face Painting and Ice Cream Van	Free	12-3pm	
Galway Atlantaquaria Sea life Tanks	Free	11am-5pm	
Children's Boat Building Skills with Cólín Ó hIarnáin	Free	12-1pm	
Boat Treasure Hunt with the Port of Galway Sea Scouts	Free	1-2pm	
Galway Hooker Rigging Demonstration	Free	2-2:30pm	
Galway Hooker Race	Free	2:30-4:40pm	
Historical Tour by Boat of Claddagh and Galway Bay	€15	2-3:30pm	
Powerboat Taster Spins	€10	2:30-4:40pm	
<b>Auction in aid of Galway RNLI and LAST</b>		<b>5:30-6:30pm</b>	
Festival Finale	Free	6:30-8:30pm	

In recognition of the amazing work they do, all funds raised will be donated to Galway RNLI and LAST (Lost At Sea Tragedies). As part of this fundraising there will be an auction on Sunday the 23rd at 5:30pm where we hope to raise as much money as possible for the organisations.

If you would like to get involved or know of any business that might like to help/sponsor a prize let us know. Or if you are available over the weekend please get in touch, we need as many mighty GHSC crew as possible to make this the coolest festival around and raise as much money as we can for RNLI and LAST.

# CAPER BEAG RESTORATION

by Clodagh Durkan

Caper Beag is a new club project. Galway Hooker Brewery, based in Oranmore, bought an 1887 Bád Iomartha earlier this year. It was originally owned by Tomas O Conaola of Leitir Ard, Caiseal who had Beartaín O Clochartaigh build it and was used for carrying seaweed and gathering scallops.

Over the years it passed through several hands and fell into disrepair, so they approached the club to help. Months of stellar work was undertaken by our GHSC crew, sanding, caulking, painting, and replacing timbers under direction of the Hernons. It's now nearing completion, fast approaching final outfitting and safety checks!

On Monday 3rd October, Caper Beag was relocated from the workshop back into the water, now anchored with the family beside Loveen, Lon Dubh and Anam Cara on Claddagh quay, its timbers swelling to ensure its sealed and seaworthy. This a vital stage and will confirm work was carried out correctly. Safety first!

The sails needed some customisation to match the spars. These which were trimmed in house, the leaders co-ordinating together on all the tasks to marshal the club who as usual delivered amazing quality work. Caper Beag is already 'Rocking her Red', with sails, riggings, lines, safety kit and final few bits and pieces to be added in coming few weeks. Then she can be launched Hooker style.

Caper Beag will be used as a training vessel for club members, sea scouts and the sea school. For more coverage, check out Galway Daily's piece on the project:-

<https://www.galwaydaily.com/life-style/beer-and-boats-bringing-the-iconic-galway-hooker-to-life/>



# THE HAWKS HAVE LANDED

by Tina Concannon

September saw excitement and activity at the boathouse when two Hawk sailboats named Gina-G and Mary-D landed at the pontoon in Dangan. These are Irish Sailing owned and were in town to deliver the Sailing into Wellness program as well as a sail training course for the LGBT community, over a 4 week period in Galway. Tessa Kingston, one of two Irish Sailing instructors that ran both programmes noted that, “.. as far as Sporting Pride and Irish Sailing are concerned Galway was the one that took off the most, with full attendance every session. Many who attended have caught the bug and are now hooked on sailing, so we might get a call from some to join the Hooker club”.

Amach Support services have said that this course was their most successful to date as they often put on similar sporting initiatives or courses, but uptake is low. However everyone who signed up for the sailing course engaged with full attendance at each session. Rain or shine on the Corrib, there was full commitment with a lot learnt. The tranquillity of the location session also allowed open chats about mental health, social interactions and fitting in. It was a healthy alternative for people to engage with rather than the usual ‘nights out’.

**Sailing into Wellness** is a charity that offers programs that aim to empower individuals and build a positive sense of community on and off the water. Underpinned by social inclusion and fun, learnings on the water are transferable to everyday life, increasing coping mechanisms and encouraging pro-social behaviour. **AMACH! LGBT Galway** aims to reflect equally the diversity within the lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender community by encouraging positive participation from the community. They actively advocate to achieve a solid and safe support structure for the LGBT+ community in Galway. They aim to provide awareness, education, training events and workshops, and endeavour to support and promote a socially inclusive society. Check out <https://www.sailingintowellness.ie/> and <https://www.amachlgbt.com/>

While the Hawks were in town, the club took the opportunity to run some of our own initiatives, namely:

**European Week of Sport** - With support of Irish Sailing and Sports Ireland the club ran a ‘Try Sailing’ event for some of our GM rower friends, who have been helping to introduce and encourage our own club members into their world of rowing on the Corrib. There was great feedback on this session with rowers enjoying their first ever time on the sail, navigating the river with much less physical exertion and also noting how great it is to see sailboats on the water, being such a joy to row alongside them.

**Port of Galway Sea Scout Sailing** – Some of our club members are also scout leaders with the Port of Galway Sea Scouts so they hosted a weekend of sailing on the hawks, with over 60 children (ranging in age from 6 to 16) getting time on the water. This was a fun event and always rewarding when you see how much fun the kids have. Thank you to all involved in making this event happen.

**Sailing Instructor Programme** – again with the support of Irish Sailing and the availability of the Hawks, the club was able to start enrolling crew onto the IS Sailing Instructor course which is aimed at giving and developing the skills needed to teach and deliver sail training courses in our club, e.g. Taste of Sailing, Start Sailing. Over 20 crew expressed an interest in doing this course, and with the weather closing in, the first 8 were quickly chosen to start their course pre-entry assessment day. The course requires a pre-entry practical and theory assessment initially and successful candidates go on to the next stage, the 5 day course where you develop skills to become an IS certified Sail Instructor or Assistant Instructor. The club will continue to roll out this opportunity to those that are interested so that by sailing season 2023 the club will have instructors available to run many sailing courses on our Hookers.