

ATHENRY BINGO : ONE YEAR ON

8.30-10.30p.m. De Burgo Suite

Check us out on Facebook: Athenry Bingo

Every Tuesday evening for the past year people from Athenry and surrounding areas have been playing Bingo in the Raheen Woods Hotel in Athenry. Margaret Cotter was delighted when it started up: *“When the bingo stopped in the Community Hall in Athenry a few years ago I used to have to go to Turloughmore and Craughwell but now I don’t have to travel which is great”*, she says.

Paddy Coen, another regular and a pensioner enjoys the bingo as it gets him out of the house and it is a social occasion where he meets up with friends, *“the cup of tea and biscuit at the interval gives us all the chance to chat and catch up on all the news locally”*, he says.

“How many times have you won anything?” I asked Paula Rohan, a young regular: *“The most I ever won in a night was €160, I’ve been lucky this past year; I’ve won five or six times.”* But she hasn’t won the JACKPOT yet! Ask any of the regulars why they are here and most of them will say they want to win the JACKPOT. It has been won twice since the Bingo started up, the first time it was €4,800 and just recently Michael Ward from Athenry won €2,200.



Tommy Carroll presenting a cheque for €4,800 to Ann Molloy from Woodford

The raffles are an extra attraction during the Bingo Nights especially the Christmas raffle where you buy a ticket every week and you are entered into a draw. This year there are two lovely festive hampers to be won and the lucky winner will be announced on December 20.

Tommy Carroll, whose idea it was to start the Bingo, has been very pleased with how quickly and effectively the whole venture has taken off. He realises on committee members to give up a Tuesday evening for four weeks every second month but is quick to point out that there is good craic to be had and a great sense of achievement because the Bingo Nights are a success.



Julie O'Beirn (Ball Caller)

As a fund raising initiative for Gaelscoil Riada in Athenry the committee of volunteers have been successful in raising vital funds for the school. Sinéad Nic Ghiolla Chionnaigh, the principal is very grateful to the parents who volunteer and says: *“keep up the good work guys and we are always on the lookout for new volunteers.”* If you have children in Gaelscoil Riada and you'd like to help out please contact Mary Kate on 0874189841.

Mairéad Uí Churnáin