

# John and Sally McKennas' Guides

ALL THE BEST PLACES TO EAT, SHOP AND STAY IN IRELAND. A LOCAL GUIDE TO LOCAL PLACES.

In Ballinrobe, in County Mayo, a town that quietly straddles the mores and the architecture of this century and the last, there is a strawberry éclair that has your name on it.

The pastry is whisper light, the cream and strawberries combine to offer a suspicion of sweetness, and as a piece of patisserie it is as fine a thing as you will find in Ireland.

I know. Go all the way to Ballinrobe for a strawberry éclair? Yeah, it's a no-brainer. You would go to the ends of the earth for a perfect strawberry éclair. So, Ballinrobe? Why, that's just down the road.

That strawberry éclair has been made by Yvonne Murphy and it waits for you in Devour Bakery, on Church Lane. Think of the country's great patissiers and pastry cooks - Sarah Webb, Emer Murray, Mary McEvoy, Yseult Janssens - and now add Ms Murphy's name to that pantheon of patisserie and pastry greatness. She has the touch, she has the nous, she is the real deal. She makes a coffee gâteau that is as great as that éclair, and the nearest place you will get one to match it is in... Paris.

Paris. Ballinrobe. You never thought you would see those two together, did you? That's the sort of magic Ms Murphy weaves.

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