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there.  
The Mid West towns will be the subject of an episode of RTE One's 'Local Heroes' on Wednesday May 8 at 8.30pm. It's part of a new series of Local Heroes that will showcase six areas around the country: Killaloe/Ballina is first off the ranks.

In order to attract visitors to the picturesque twin towns in the off-season, local businesses in Killaloe and Ballina started working together to market the area as the perfect place to holiday.

As part of this effort to give the area a higher national profile, the Ballina-Killaloe Business Association applied to take part in the Local Heroes programme last December. Hosted by Joe Duffy, the series is all about meeting individuals who are doing or plan to do something visionary to create jobs in their local communities.

Business Association chairperson Mariam O'Donovan, said: "We couldn't believe the amount of filming that had to take place to get a 30 minute programme. A huge effort went into the 70 plus hours of filming that took place and all the businesses involved can't wait to see the end



**Loving the good life possible within the towns' energies: Helen Keogh of The Wooden Spoon and Ponte Vecchio's Andrew Lofthouse**

result".

The Association decided that the brand for the area would be Love Killaloe/Ballina and there is now a new website, [www.lovekillaloe.ie](http://www.lovekillaloe.ie)

The association launched the 'Love Weekend' event on March 23 and the finale can be seen in the programme

where it even got a couple on their wedding day to take part in their inaugural Tug of Love.

The twin towns are now holding 'Love Weekends' on the third weekend of every month and the next one will fall on Saturday May 18 and Sunday May 19.

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**MEMORIAL**

**War of Independence memorial**

A WAR of Independence memorial commemorating four young men who lost their lives in 1921 will be unveiled in Knockcarron on Sunday, May 5 at 2.30pm.

The Knockcarron Community Council has organised the event to remember John Frahill, Pat Ryan 'Walter', William Riordan and Tom Howard who were killed in action on May 2 1921.

The Community Council is providing a roast hog, sandwiches and refreshments; there will also be live music in 'The Fox's Den' later in the evening.

Knockcarron, near Knocklong, has been described as an 'epicentre of insurrection' as there were 20 significant events involving almost 30 fatalities within a five-mile radius of the area.

The most famous action in the area occurred on Monday 2 May 1921.

On the previous day members of the combined

IRA Flying Columns from east and mid Limerick were surprised and badly mauled by British forces at Shraherla.

During the night the IRA retreated to the Lackelly-Knockcarron area to rest and regroup.

Early that morning Mai Moloney of Lackelly was followed from Emly by Captain Anthony Turton and his patrol of Green Howard soldiers from Galbally.

Mai cycled to Lackelly where she encountered a number of IRA, resting and smoking at Lackelly Cross.

She updated them on what she had seen and when she turned to go home she spotted Turton and his patrol cycling at speed towards the IRA. She shouted a warning and the IRA scattered through the fields.

In the action that followed, William Riordan and Thomas Howard were killed in Fitzpatrick's ditch and John Frahill and Patrick Ryan (Walter) were killed near a gateway on O'Callaghan's land as they sought to outflank the soldiers.

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