

Roscrea People of the Year Awards

2012

The 26th Awards' Evening

2012

(Organised yearly since 1987 by Roscrea People)

For outstanding service to the Community

Damer Court Hotel

Thursday, 17th January, 2013

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*Roscrea People
of the
Year Award*

2012

For outstanding service to the Community

*have been honoured
with a Roscrea People of the Year Award*



*Edna Roscrea People
17th January 2012*



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Roscrea People of the Year 2012

The 26th Awards' Evening

The 26th People of the Year Awards for 2012 will be presented in the Damer Court Hotel on Thursday 17th January, 2013, commencing at 7.30 pm.

The 26th Awards' evening is sponsored by Bernies SuperValu with main associate sponsorship from Roscrea Credit Union and associate sponsorship from Frank C. Murray Construction, Rocktop Asset Management Ltd. & Roscrea Heritage Society

Guest of Honour: Mr Brian Keating, Shannon Development

Admission is by voluntary donation and the profits from the evening go to provide book collections for St Cronan's Services at Roscrea, Birr and Nenagh.

Programme of Events

Part 1 – M.C. Brian King

- 7.30 Ceol: Junior Comhaltas Ceoltóirí, Ros Cré
8.05 *Aspects of Roscrea, past and present*
An illustrated presentation by George Cunningham
8.45 Raffle

Part 2 – M.C. George Cunningham

- 9.05 *Roscrea People* presentation of Book Collections to Roscrea Public Library. The formal presentation, on behalf of *Roscrea People*, will be made by Rev Lesley Robinson.
9.15 *Roscrea People* presentation of Book Collections to St Cronan's Services. The formal presentation, on behalf of *Roscrea People*, will be made by Fr Tom Corbett PP.
9.25 *Roscrea People* formal presentation of Book Collections to the Dom Laurence Walsh Library at Scoil Eoin. The formal presentation will be made by Dom Richard Purcell ocsó.
9.35 26th Roscrea People of the Year Awards
Formal presentations by Brian Keating and main sponsor, Brian Colclough.
10.45 Address by Brian Keating
10.55 Buffet Supper

The Awards evening is held in association with Damer Court Hotel

Guest of Honour 2012

Brian Keating **Shannon Development**



Shannon Development Regional Manager for Tipperary & Offaly, Brian Keating has been an employee of Shannon Development for the past 34 years and has held a number of key senior positions during that time. Brian, a native of Limerick city, qualified as an Accountant (ICPA), has completed a Masters Degree in Business at the University of Limerick.

“My goal is to ensure the Tipperary and Offaly is promoted as a quality location for business, tourism and life. The Shannon Region has a superb range of technology parks, diverse tourism products, accommodation and attractions.”

Brian has led his team to deliver on the company’s regional economic development mandate in both Tipperary and Offaly. He manages and promotes Shannon Development’s strategic assets and interests in both counties and manages the company’s local support element to maximise the regional impact of corporate initiatives in the counties, for example Property Development & Management programmes, Tourism Development & Marketing initiatives, Festival and Event support and other such projects.

A central part of the Shannon Development’s mandate is a stronger focus on developing the less developed peripheries of the Shannon Region and maximising the potential of the more developed parts of the Region. In his role Brian is responsible for translating this mandate into activities which will help deliver economic development across North Tipperary and South West Offaly.

In his time as Regional Manager he has overseen and led Shannon Development’s support of many of the significant festivals and events in Tipperary & Offaly including the visit of President Barack Obama to Moneygall, and he has annually supported the Hot Air Ballooning Festival and Irish Game and County Fair in Birr, The Slieve Bloom Walking and Story Telling Festivals, the Thurles Sarsfields International Hurling Festival and most notably in 2012 he led the multi agency team that delivered the 2012 European Town of Sport accolade for Thurles, the first town in Ireland to achieve this distinction.

In Roscrea he was part of the team which brought the development of the infrastructure at the Roscrea Business and Technology Park in 2007. Last year his team delivered a new investment brochure ‘Roscrea – A great place to do business’ and supported the Roscrea Town Centre Enhancement Plan, The Roscrea Beo and A Taste of Roscrea Festivals; and the Roscrea Conference.

As Shannon Development will undergo massive alterations to its corporate structure from 2013 we wish Brian Keating well and remember the service and interest in Roscrea of other employees people like Eamonn de Stafort and Tomás Mac Domhnaill.

Roscrea People of the Year 2012

Guest of Honour

Brian Keating, Shannon Development

The 2012 award winners are:

- **St Cronan's Church of Ireland community** celebrating the bi-centenary of its church building.
- **Tadgh Kirby**, North Tipperary Carer of the Year, for his commitment and love.
- **Jo Jo Cunningham**, a shining light and an example of all that is good in our community.
- **Tommy Shanahan**, for the joy he gives to the Roscrea diaspora with his Facebook creation 'Well Kid, I'm from Roscrea'.
- **Dick Conroy**, for his Comhaltas commitment and editing of the commemorative volume.
- **Bernie McGinn**, for her indomitable spirit and her work for the Irish Cancer Society.

Roscrea Heritage Award (sponsored by RHS):

Professor Willie Smyth, Bournea parish and Cork, co-editor of the award-winning book, **The Atlas of the Great Irish Famine**, and for his chapter therein on Roscrea Workhouse.

Roscrea People of the Year Citations:

(Citations are awarded to people and institutions that have already received People of the Year Awards)

- **CCÉ Ros Cré:**
 - a) For its 50 years of entertainment and leadership
 - b) Darragh Carey-Kennedy, All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil winner
 - c) The Scoraíocht team, All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil winners
- **Coláiste Phobal u16 Badminton Team** for their All-Ireland victory
- **Inane Rovers** and their outstanding successes on the field in 2012

Church of Ireland, Roscrea

Built on the site of St. Cronan's 7th century monastery, St. Cronan's Church, Church Street, was completed in 1812, replacing the 12th century cathedral church, the west gable of which still adorns the entrance to the churchyard. Major renovation work was carried out in the 1960s and the church remains in good repair thanks to the dedication of its loyal parishioners and the support of the wider community in its various fundraising efforts. The Church of Ireland community in Roscrea, though relatively small in number, continues to play an active role in the Christian worship and witness of the town. Weekly services are held in addition to special services and events on occasion. Outreach to the sick and needy includes a Healer Prayer Group which meets monthly, and the community also contributes generously to the Lions Club Food Appeal and many other local and international charities each year. Ministry to children and young people includes Sunday School/Creche, Girls Friendly Society, Boys Brigade and Youth Club.

During the bicentenary year of 2012 several major celebratory events took place in the church, including a Service of Thanksgiving in April, a Flower Festival entitled 'Heralding our Heritage' in August, and a performance of Handel's Messiah in December.

Looking to the future, the Church of Ireland community in Roscrea, in line with a Diocesan initiative, aims to build up the confidence, community, celebration and caring aspects of being part of God's family as it seeks to glorify Jesus Christ in love

and service as well as worship. The strong ecumenical links which exist with the other Christian faiths in the area continue to be a real joy and blessing.

Rev. Lesley Robinson was ordained in 2002 and assisted in the Clonfert and Birr Groups of Parishes before beginning her ministry in Roscrea as Priest-in Charge in November 2004.



Bishop Trevor Williams and Rev. Lesley Robinson cut the commemorative cake at the reception in Damer Court Hotel following the Bicentenary Service of Thanksgiving, watched by Archbishop Michael Jackson, Adrian Hewson, and Churchwardens Jean Stanley and Heather Evans.

Tadgh Kirby

Carer of the Year, Limerick & North Tipperary

Tadgh Kirby attended primary school in Lismackin National School and then went to the former Christian Brothers' School, Roscrea, to complete his secondary education in 1997. Following this, Tadgh attended college in University College Dublin and St. Vincent's University Hospital, where he studied Nursing Science. After registering as a General Nurse in January 2001, he worked for a further three years in St. Vincent's Hospital, before returning to UCD and the National Maternity Hospital, Holles St, where he achieved a Higher Diploma in Midwifery Science and became the first male midwife to qualify from the National Maternity Hospital itself.



In 2007, Tadgh went to work at the Ailesbury Clinic in Dublin, where he undertook further education in Cosmetic Dermatology and remained there as the Nursing Manager for a further three years.

Following sudden and unexpected cardiac problems in 2009, Tadgh's mother Nancy was no longer able to care for herself independently. In 2010, Tadgh made the decision to leave his career and return home to Roscrea to care for his mother, where he now remains as her full time carer. In May 2012, Tadgh was awarded the Carers' Association *Carer of The Year for Limerick & North Tipperary 2012* and was nominated for the BRÍ *Association Carer of The Year Award*.

ROSCREA PEOPLE SALUTES THE CARERS OF OUR COUNTRY
AND ENCOURAGES ALL OUR CITIZENS TO MAKE
REPRESENTATIONS TO OUR GOVERNMENT TO ENSURE THAT
THEIR MEAGRE ALLOWANCES ARE ENHANCED AND NOT CUT.

Jo Jo Cunningham

At the time of writing this piece on Jo Jo Cunningham, she is recovering well from a sudden illness which engulfed her life in late autumn last year. It is testament to Jo Jo's strength of character that despite the early prognosis she is progressing way beyond the expectations of her doctors and it is testament to her huge popularity in Roscrea that five months on from her illness hardly a day goes by that someone doesn't ask, "how's Jo Jo doing and when do ye expect her back".



Jo Jo presenting cheque for the Christmas lights to Brian King and Michael Madden.

Jo Jo was born, raised and educated in Roscrea. From a young age she always displayed a keen sense of adventure and a rebellious heart. Rebellious in a fun sense of course and it was these traits that helped shape the lady we all know and love today.

It was no surprise to her family and friends that Jo Jo took off to America in her early twenties. At the time it was probably the only country in the world that was big enough and accessible enough for Jo Jo to commence creating a life for herself. And what a life that proved to be. Jo Jo took the states by storm and for much of her time there she lived the American dream. She immersed herself in work and like many an Irish person before her that went to the US with a positive attitude, Jo Jo thrived. Until her return to Ireland in 2005 Jo Jo managed one of the most prestigious restaurants in up state New York. Commanding a staff of more than twenty, she and her team won many awards for management and service excellence.

When Jo Jo returned to be with her father, who died in 2006, it wasn't long before Roscrea sat up and took note that Jo Jo was back in town. For the next six years and particularly the last three years Jo Jo, like her father the great Tommy Cunningham and her uncle, Tony McEvoy, got very much involved in her town and numerous local organisations. She started by helping the hurling club and quickly became one of the club's most efficient weekly lotto ticket sellers. Jo Jo was also a great help to the local Roscrea SPCA, the Roscrea Active Retirement Association and was a tremendous help to the Chamber of Commerce who are deeply grateful to her. Jo Jo has helped with the Christmas Lights, and, despite having to listen to a lot of grief on that job, persevered and in 2012 successfully organised a church gate collection and a street collection with her friends in Tidy Towns to help ensure that the lights remain in Roscrea. When Tipperary appeared in their first All-Ireland for eight years in 2009, Jo Jo was the brainchild behind the bunting and helped cajole, motivate and spearhead operations so that when Tipp were victorious in 2010, Roscrea was the most decorative town in the county. It was through Roscrea Tidy Towns that Jo Jo excelled. It was tough work but work I know she found extremely gratifying. Jo Jo like us all, wants to see Roscrea realise it's full potential. One of the best ways we can realise our dream and Jo Jo's dream is to get involved in the local Tidy Towns effort. It was an honour to write this piece on behalf of my cousin Jo Jo Cunningham. Get well soon Jo Jo, your town needs you.

Brian King, Secretary, Roscrea Chamber of Commerce. January 2013

Tommy Shanahan

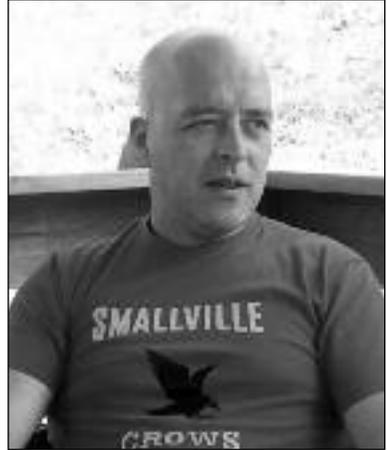
Well Kid I'm from Roscrea

My name is Tommy Shanahan. I grew up in Cnoc Mhuire (over the bridge) Roscrea, with my father Michael, mother Mary, three brothers Stephen, Michael and William and my sister Mary. I now live in Southampton with my wife Flo and have three daughters Chloe, Michelle and Grace.

I went to the BNS and my secondary education was at the CBS Roscrea. After leaving school I worked in the bacon factory. In Southampton I work as a drink and drug support worker for homeless people.

Over the years I have played rugby, hurling, football and athletics for Roscrea. I won a gold medal in Mosney as part of a relay team in 1986.

I set up *Well kid I'm from Roscrea* in 2008, mainly to meet school and work friends whom I had not seen since moving to England.



After a few years it was a tool for other Roscrea people living abroad to do the same. It is a great way for us all to keep in touch and see old photos that would not have been possible before the group was set up. All of us Roscrea people like the craic and this a great way living so far from home. I felt that sitting in my house in England I was not far from home being able to reminisce about great characters that the town produced over the years.

I am lucky to be the second Tommy Shanahan to win this award as my Grandfather also has won one.

Tommy with daughters Chloe, Michelle and Grace doing the Knock wave in the Monastery.

Dick Conroy

A native of Templemore, I received my initial education at the Convent of Mercy there before “graduating” to the Christian Brothers Primary and subsequently Secondary School. Following my Leaving Certificate I went to St. Patrick’s Teacher Training College from where I graduated in 1970 and began my teaching career in Kilkenny. I later studied for and was conferred with a Master of Arts in Digital Media in Education from the University of Limerick in 2008.



In 1973 I married Mary and we have two children – Richard and Michelle and two lovely grandchildren – Harry and Holly. I came to Roscrea as a teacher in Scoil Eoin in 1976 where I remained until my retirement in 2010.

In 2003 I joined Comhaltas Ceoltóirí Ros Cré. In that year the Roscrea Branch was hosting the Tipperary County Fleadh Cheoil. As I had some computer skills, I was given the job of producing the Fleadh Cheoil Programme. Since then I have produced all the Roscrea fleadh programmes and publications.

The past year has been a very busy one for Comhaltas in general and myself in particular. The work began in 2010 and 2011 with meetings to plan the commemorative celebrations of 50 years of Comhaltas in Roscrea, of which a book recording the branch’s history



*Tim Maher and Labhrás Ó Murchú at the launch of **Harmonies & Grace Notes***

entitled “Harmonies and Grace Notes” was to be a part. While I began the work of writing the history and conducting interviews early in 2011, the official commemorative celebrations got under way in October 2011 with the launch of the 2012 calendar. This I designed and compiled from the gallery of photographs in my possession. This was soon followed by the designing of the cover for the CD which was recorded in November 2011 and released as part of the Tipperary Fleadh on May 16th last. The hosting of the Tipperary County Fleadh Cheoil in May 2012 necessitated

a short break from the production and writing of the branch history, as once again I compiled the programme.

Once the Fleadh was over, my time was consumed with the completion of the branch history. It is by far the largest project I have completed to date. I was most delighted to see it in print and launched on November 9th 2012!

Bernie McGinn

The Mad Hatters Fundraiser

Born in the parish of Borrisokane to parents Margaret and Jack King, I was educated in Aglish N.S and Borrisokane V.S. After completing my secretarial course in 1979 I was fortunate to secure employment in Roscrea which was to remain my home ever since. Having met my husband Aiden (who was born in Belfast on the very same day as myself) we married in 1982. We have three wonderful children, Mark, Damien and Ciara.

After being diagnosed with Ovarian cancer in 2009 and again in 2011, I decided that I needed to fundraise for the Irish cancer society.

The Dragon Inn on Main Street, became the venue – a simple tea party, then O'Rourke's Bar in the evening for shave, wax and dye. With my fantastic family both King and McGinn fully behind me, and my hubby Aiden, sons Mark, Damien and daughter Ciara putting up with my ongoing chit chat about our "big day" we couldn't wait until it came about. Anxiety in abundance for success was the mainstay. The day arrived, house full of Mad Hatter costumes, and we got the show on the road. The Dragon Inn became a hive of activity with people calling in to have a cuppa and donate very generously. **Tipp Fm** kept us entertained with a live broadcast. With an army of Mad Hatter characters we later headed to Kelly O'Rourke's Bar for the evening event. I never saw so many grown men screech in my life! Heads that came in brown and black went home purple, pink and green. Two women Julie (Doherty) and Marie (Coppenger) shaved their beautiful long hair all in the cause of cancer research.

Money continued to come in up to a month after the event and on 27th April 2012 we presented a cheque to the Irish cancer society for €21,404.00 – 75% towards research and 25% to phone service and nursing.

I want to take this opportunity to thank my wonderful family both Kings and McGinns, my friends, work colleagues and the many people who helped me with this event. My shavers, waxers, dyers, ticket sellers, bakers, helpers at Dragon Inn, costume suppliers, businesses in Roscrea and outside who donated prizes, hairdressers and beautician and anyone who helped in any way no matter how big or small. It meant a lot to me. It is impossible to name everyone individually so a massive thank you.

I am accepting this award on behalf of you all as it would be impossible to have done this on my own. Therefore you are all worthy of this award for your part in helping the Irish cancer society.



L to R: Presenting the cheque to the Irish Cancer Society are the McGinn family, Damien, Bernie, Ciara, Aiden, Mark and Rose O'Dea (Irish Cancer Society).

Roscrea Heritage Award

Professor Willie Smyth

Willie Smyth, Emeritus Professor of Geography at University College, Cork was born in April 1944, at Behagloss, Bournea parish, four miles south of Roscrea – the fifth child in a family of eight. His father Bill was a farmer, seed agent for Read’s Maltings in Roscrea and Home Assistance officer in the Templemore district. His mother Margaret (nee Bergin) was a farmer and a Mater-trained nurse in St Cronan’s Hospital, Roscrea; her mother Grace O’ Grady was a member of a long established Roscrea family. Willie attended primary school at Boulabane N.S. where he played hurling in the Roscrea Schools League. He then proceeded with his four brothers to



Templemore CBS where in 1962 he won one of the four County Council scholarships to university and elected to attend University College Dublin. There he came under the gentle stewardship of the distinguished professors of geography and archaeology, Tom Jones Hughes and Ruadhri de Valera. Awarded a first class degree in 1965, he decided – with promptings from Jones Hughes – to pursue a doctoral degree. Working on South Tipperary, he wrote a Ph.D thesis *Clogheen- Burncourt: A Social Geography of a Tipperary parish* with emphasis in depth on patterns of family farming and inheritance, issues relating to class and migration and the role of Church and priest in Irish rural life. There he learned the importance of fieldwork with local communities and cultivated his love of maps and landscape.

He and his brothers, Michael, Frank and Dan, won a number of divisional and county hurling titles playing for the black and amber of Clonakenny. Willie played minor, under 21, intermediate and senior for Tipperary hurling teams. Losing out to Kilkenny in the minor final of 1962 (which contained five Roscrea players: Philly O’ Rourke, Ownie Killoran, Paddy Delaney, Frances Loughnane and Donie Moloney), he was part of the Tipperary team that won the first ever under 21 all-Ireland in 1964 (which included Roscrea players John Dillon, Ownie Killoran and Frances Loughnane) and was also an ‘outlying’ member of the Tipperary substitutes on the senior All-Ireland winning team of that same year. He won three Fitzgibbon university championship medals with UCD: in 1964,

1965 and 1968. In the latter year (1968) he won the first ever and very prestigious NUI Travelling Studentship in Geography. He spent his first year working with anthropologist Bill Williams in Swansea University, earned his Ph.D degree in 1969 and then continued his Travelling Studentship in Syracuse University in up-state New York. There he had a half- time lectureship and worked with two of the most influential American historical /cultural geographers, Don Meinig and David Sopher. He held appointments at San Fernando State College, Los Angeles and UCD before being appointed senior lecturer and head of the new department of geography at Maynooth College in 1973. There he helped to build up a thriving department before being appointed Professor of Geography at UCC in 1977, where he held the chair until retiring in 2009. For close on forty years, Willie has lectured to Adult and Continuing Education classes across Munster and South Leinster on local and regional histories and heritage skills; was co-ordinator of UCC's Diploma in Heritage Management and an active member of the Heritage Council of Ireland (2000-2005). He has published widely in the fields of cultural, historical and social geography, was editor of the journal *Irish Geography* 1981-83, was co-editor of the Jones Hughes festschrift *Common Ground* (1988) with Kevin Whelan and wrote a major introduction to the second edition of Pender's *1659 Census* in 2002, where he convincingly argues that it was based on a poll-tax and not strictly a census.

In 2006, his book *Map Making, Landscape and Memory – A Geography of colonial and Early Modern Ireland* won two international and one national award. This is the first engagement in one book by a geographer on the most formative and revolutionary period (c.1530- 1750) in Ireland's history and geography, and it includes a chapter on 17th century Tipperary. In August 2012, the acclaimed *Atlas of the Great Irish Famine* was published by Cork University Press, co-edited with John Crowley and Michael Murphy. In this *Atlas*, Willie has written an extensive chapter on the role of Roscrea Union and Workhouse and on famine conditions in the Roscrea region between 1845- 1852. (Curiously, his mother worked as a nurse in the hospital that succeeded the workhouse and his father's Home Assistance position was a successor to the old Relieving Officer function in the Union). He has also written about Roscrea town in the *Tipperary Historical Journal* (1991) and in his chapter in *Tipperary: History and Society* (1988) edited by the distinguished Irish publisher Willie Nolan, who also published a festschrift *At the Anvil* in his honour just before Christmas. As a native of Roscrea district and having carried out much of his research on County Tipperary, its parishes and towns, Willie Smyth is greatly honoured by this Roscrea heritage Award.

Roscrea People Citations

**Citations are awarded to people who have already been honoured
as People of the Year**

CCÉ Roscrea celebrates 50

Ceoltóirí Éireann Ros Cré was founded in the Autumn of 1962 with Éamon Stafford as the first Chairman and he was surrounded by a very eager and enthusiastic committee, Pat Shanahan as secretary and Seán Ó Ciabhaigh (RIP) as treasurer. Since then Comhaltas in Ros Cré has gone from strength to strength. We have relied upon the commitment and dedication of all our members over the years to keep traditional music, singing, dancing and culture alive in Roscrea.

We are pleased that we have had the opportunity to perform annually at the Roscrea People of the Year Awards including this evening. Indeed, Roscrea Comhaltas has performed at many local and national events, a record of which we are very proud. Our 50th anniversary celebrations began in October 2011 when we presented awards to all our previous officers and twenty-seven functions later we launched our book celebrating 50 years of Comhaltas in Roscrea. Other functions during the year included a Calendar and CD launch, live Mass from RTE studios and hosting the Tipperary Fleadh Cheoil.

We are delighted now to have the biggest membership ever, heading into the next 50 years of the branch with two thirds membership being young people which augers extremely well for the future. We sincerely hope that future generations of Roscrea Comhaltas will be as proud of us as we are of the men and women of our past.

Over the years many members have claimed national recognition with some serving on the Ard-Comhairle of Comhaltas at National Level, Munster Council, Tipperary County Board, members of Tipperary Youth Ensemble, Óige Thiobraid Árann, and Munster Youth Group, Ceoltoirí na Sionainne, performing with Brú Ború cultural group. Our members have represented Roscrea and Ireland on foreign tours and of course many members have achieved all Ireland Fleadh Cheoil success on numerous occasions with groups and as individuals.

Ba mhaith liom buíochas a gabháil le gach éinne a chabhraigh liom féin agus leis an gCraobh thar na blianta. Míle buíochas.

Tim Maher

Chairman, Roscrea Comhaltas 2012



*Ros Cré current CCE Chairman
Tim Maher with Founding Chairman
Eamon Stafford*

Darragh Carey-Kennedy

Once again I am honoured to receive this award. I am very thankful to the organisers for their input because without them a lot of people's achievements would go unrecognised.

The past year was a very hectic time for me as I was involved in many projects. It began with the Scoraíocht. I was part of the group that went on to win the All Ireland. It was a great achievement for the Roscrea branch. This was soon followed by preparation for the County Fleadh where I was fortunate enough to advance to the Munster Fleadh in numerous competitions.

I was very disappointed in not progressing to the All-Ireland Fleadh on the banjo as I believe that I had done enough to qualify, but I was delighted to go through to the Rogha Ghléas and Mandolin finals where I was placed First and Third respectively.

The period from mid September until mid December was an especially busy period for me. During that time I received an invitation to play with We Banjo 3 in Athlone at one of their tour of Ireland concerts. I also made my first professional appearance when I was part of a trad group that entertained at a wedding in Cashel.

Two years ago I was introduced to the London College of Music by Jacqui O' Connor where I progressed through the exam structure to finally sit for a Diploma in Irish Traditional Music early in December. I am pleased to say that I have received notification that I was awarded my Diploma. I believe I am the youngest graduate to achieve this honour.

Finally I wish to thank Melanie Butler, Jim Egan, Michael Dyer, Sean Gleeson, Martin Howley and especially my family for all their help and support. Congratulations to all the other recipients.



Scoraíocht

The word ‘Scoraíocht’ literally means an ‘*evening pastime*’ but is more usually interpreted to mean general ‘merry-making’.

Scoraíocht is the title of a group competition run by Comhaltas. It usually takes place during the winter and spring (in contrast to the Fleadh Cheoil which takes place during the summer and autumn). A competing branch can have up to 45 participants.

The performance involves 40 minutes of continuous and varied entertainment. Marks are awarded for production, music, song and dance – all of a traditional nature.

Roscrea branch achieved 2nd place in this competition in 2011 when they were beaten by one mark by Leinster champions Camross. Having benefited from this experience, Roscrea pulled out all the stops for 2012. The theme of the show was ‘*Celebrating 50 years*’ in which Dan and Molly Maher were celebrating 50 years of marriage. This theme provided the basis for the presentation of a show that contained the best of music, song and dance. The twist in the theme involved the arrival of Tipp FM to the Maher house to broadcast the celebrations.

The hard work of the 45-man cast was evident in Clontarf when Roscrea took the trophy, having been awarded the highest marks in all 4 categories. All age groups were represented on the Roscrea team from under 15 to over 70 and this added greatly to the benefit that such an undertaking brings to the younger members.

The branch frequently competed in this competition in the past. The victories of 1988, 1989 and the joint 1st place with Leeds in 1991 represented the most active involvement. During those years the producer of the show was Monica Shannon, now resident in Cashel.

The production team for 2012 were Carol Thompson, Kathryn Browne, Ann Callanan, Sandra Bowe and Pat Flanagan.



Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré Under 16 Boys Badminton Team

Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré have been knocking on the door of an All-Ireland title for the past number of years with their boys and girls under Under 19 qualifying for the All Ireland finals on numerous occasions.



However, 2012 was the big year for Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré with the Under 16 Boys claiming the All-Ireland Division 2 Title for the first time. The team members were Andrew Cullen, John McCabe, Tony O'Connor, Stephen Tierney and Darragh Tomlinson. Each of the boys had to play a singles set then team up to play a doubles set. They

commenced their road to victory by first winning the Tipperary title by beating Our Lady's Secondary School from Templemore. Then it was off to the Munster finals which were held in the magnificent Sports Arena in University College Limerick where they beat the Cork Team. This was a very close and exciting encounter in U.L. where after four games it was two games all with two doubles to play. The boys upped their game at this point and, much to the relief of their Coach and supporters, pulled off both doubles games giving them a 4 – 2 win which qualified them for the All-Ireland Championships which were held in Gormanstown College, Co. Meath on March 28th 2012 where they had a very convincing victory over the Champions from Ulster, Leinster and Connacht with the closest match being against Coláiste Mhuire from Kilkenny.

Great credit is due to the Coláiste Phobal P.E. Teacher, Mr. Freddie Williams, who coached and mentored the team all through the year. Mr. Williams was assisted by senior players from the local Country Club Badminton Club, of which all the boys are members. They started their playing in the Juvenile Club on Friday nights in the Coláiste. The boys participated in and have won many competitions in Tipperary, Munster, Offaly, Laois and South West Leinster.

In 2013, three members of this winning team will still be eligible to play under 16 where they will challenge for the Division 1 title when, hopefully, they will bring another All Ireland title for Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré.



Inane Rovers Magnificent Year

2012 proved to be an incredibly successful year for Inane Rovers Gaelic Football Club, with four of our teams bringing titles home to Roscrea. The Under 10s won the Tipperary County Community Games title for the third year in a row! After a great win over Mungret of Limerick in the quarter final, they were unlucky to lose in the Munster semi to eventual winners Douglas of Cork.

Our Under 14s won the North B title in a thrilling final against Borrisokane by four points and were also unlucky to lose to a very strong Ardfinnan side in the county semi. Ardfinnan went on to take county honours. The Under 16 team this year produced some exhilarating performances and with no shortage of skill and determination overcame every challenge put to them. They defeated a combination team of Kildangan/Ballinahinch in the North final, followed by a storming seven point win over South champions Cahir in the County semi. The County final was a physical encounter with Holycross/Ballycahill. It took a monumental effort in extra time from the Inane boys to gain a most deserved four point victory, delivering a first County title in this age group since 1999.

Our minors capped 2012 off with both North and County B titles. After a long summer break the lads battled to a one point win over Borrisokane in the North final. However this was followed with their best footballing performance of the year with an emphatic ten point win over a fancied Drom & Inch side in the County semi. Battling testing weather conditions and a strong Cahir team in the County final the lads showed quality of character to win by a point and deliver a first County title at this level since 1995.

Truly a great year for Inane Rovers.



Inane Rovers U-15 North and County B Football Champions 2012

Grant Fergal Flanagan

Middle: Ar Aislin Tynan, Ewan Fitzpatrick, Cláire Gullfoyle, Lee Cusby, Shane Fitchey, Brian Davy, Enda Moloney,

Ale Maloney/Copey, Tom Abenise, Kyle Cahill, Craig Ryan, Dylan Carroll,

Goal: Ar Aislin Tynan, Lee Fitzpatrick, Ryan Hackett, Ian Tynan, Eoin Hobbs, Shaun Meehan, James Ryan,

John Fitzpatrick, Gordon Moore, Roddy Ryan, P.J. Hackett

Missing: Colman McCormick



*Brian King,
Andrew
Drought,
Sinead
Kinsella,
Helena
Kinsella,
Aoife
Kinsella,
Tracy Hynes,
Rita
Mulrooney,
Peg
O'Reegan,
Helen Bagott
and Louis
Cooley.*

Roscrea Credit Union would like to say a big thank you to young Andrew Drought who was a great help at the “Taste Of Roscrea” Christmas Festival. Roscrea Credit Union were proud sponsors of the event and used the opportunity to help showcase the Credit Union movement in Ireland. A free draw for a Christmas Hamper took place for all those who took the time to visit the Credit Union stand. The winner of the hamper was Helena Kinsella who is pictured here receiving her price from Andrew Drought who drew the winning ticket.

Congratulations to all those involved in making the event such a great success and thanks to everyone who took the time to ask questions and learn more about the Credit Union.

The Saint Cronan’s Day School Quiz sponsored by Roscrea Credit Union was won by Nathan Finnerty, 5th class student in Scoil Eoin Primary School, Roscrea.



Nathan is pictured at the Credit Union with Credit Union and St Cronan’s Day representatives, receiving his prize from Adrian Hewson:

*Joan Murray, Brian King,
Sarah Kennedy, Liam
Phelan, Aisling
O’Hanlon, Kayleigh
Guidera, Nathan
Finnerty, Adrian Hewson,
Lily Cummins, Mark
McLoughlin, Peg
Caverley, Patsy Treacy.*

Bernie's SuperValu - Main Sponsor



Bernie's SuperValu have had a busy year, supporting the local communities around Roscrea.

The year started with a presentation of 2500 euro to St Anne's from the proceeds of Bernie's annual Christmas charity event. The event hosted by celebrity chef Kevin Dundon attracted over 300 people to the Damer Court Hotel.

St Patrick's Day saw Bernie's supporting the parade in Roscrea with their float entitled 'Fresh Fish Everyday'. The float highlighted the shop's success in winning the Bord Iascaigh Mhara Seafood Circle Award for the 3rd consecutive year - the only supermarket in North Tipperary & Offaly to hold this honour.

Supporting SuperValu's National sponsorships of GAA and Tidy Towns Bernie's presented hanging baskets to Roscrea TT and a new set of away jerseys to Inane Rovers. These turned out to be 'lucky' jerseys for Inane as the club went on to win several North & County Championships during the year.

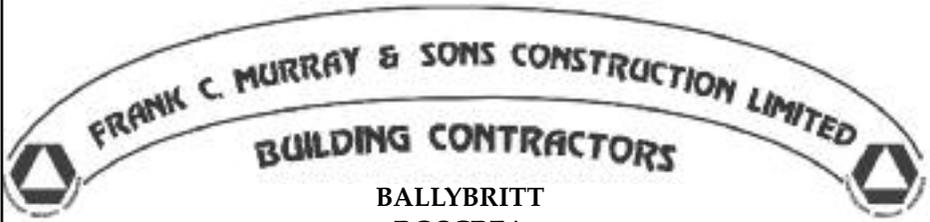
Bernie's were also delighted to be involved as main sponsor of the very successful Taste of Roscrea. For the second year running they are main sponsors of the Roscrea People of the Year Awards and congratulate all the worthy recipients. Bernie's look forward to the Gala Evening – a truly great Roscrea event – on the 17th January. And they look forward, too, to continuing their policy of supporting local in 2013.

Roscrea Credit Union –Main Associate Sponsor



Roscrea Credit Union continues to support many activities, clubs, schools and organisations in the area. In the last year alone, Roscrea Credit Union was the main sponsors of the Roscrea festival and the SCP copping on awards and affiliated sponsors of the Roscrea People Awards and the "Taste Of Roscrea" Christmas festival. The Credit Union has also supported Coolderry GAA Club, The St Patrick's Day Committee, the St Cronan's Day Committee, Cancer Research, Roscrea Tidy Towns, Comhaltas and the 2012 County Fleadh. Roscrea Musical Society received great support as did Kinnitty Playground Committee and Badminton Club, St Anne's Annual Golf Classic, Pieta House, RSPCA, Killavilla Hurling Club, Inane Rovers, and the new Roscrea Darts Tournament which brought great social and economic benefits to the town on Friday nights in the build-up to Christmas. Roscrea Credit Union continues to be the main sponsors of Roscrea Juvenile GAA Club, has run great events such as the Schools Poster Competition, and the Schools Quiz in addition to events co-ordinated at credit union regional level. Credit Union personnel give a lot of their voluntary time to the community and in this regard the Credit Union congratulates Dick Conroy on the launch of his book celebrating 50 years of Roscrea Comhaltas and sends best wishes to Brian King in his capacity as Chairman of the Town Enhancement Committee and Chairman of the "Bring A Cinema To Roscrea Committee" amongst his other local commitments. Despite the economic woes, Roscrea Credit Union continues to accept requests for sponsorship and voluntary donations. The "Roscrea Credit Union Sponsorship/Voluntary Donation Application Form", is available to download or apply online from our website www.roscreacau.ie.

Associate Sponsors



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Roscrea Heritage Society
are proud to sponsor the
Roscrea Heritage Award

Roscrea People Book Donations

Since 1987 Roscrea People has been donating book collections to various schools, charities and institutions, not only in the Roscrea area but nationally too. These collections of mainly new books (but in the case of the Public Library relevant antiquarian volumes too) are acquired through the monies generated by the sales of *Roscrea People* and augmented to some degree by generous help from benefactors and friends of the particular institution.

To date the total number of books donated since 1987 lies around the 45,000 mark. As usual at this Awards' evening three major donations will be made:

- a) Over 170 new books, mainly on Irish heritage and culture, will be presented to the Tipperary Public Library, adding to the 3,500 titles already donated and catalogued, and mainly housed in Library headquarters in Thurles. A catalogue of the collection is available on line at www.roscreapeople.com or from the Library's web site. Roscrea Librarian, Aine Beausang will accept the 2012 donation.
- b) St Cronan's Services at Roscrea, Birr and Nenagh receive the usual array of hundreds of beautiful new, relevant books for the use of their clients and staff. Presentations of books are also made during the year.
- c) The schools' donation for 2012 will be to the Dom Laurence Walsh ocsó Library at Scoil Eoin. Here a dedicated library is being put in place by the editor of RP and relations and friends of Dom Laurence to honour a great monk, a Roscrea native and a past pupil of Scoil Eoin. A new room to house the library will be opened during 2013/2014.

Token presentations of books will be made on the evening with delivery of the many boxes on the following days.

Roscrea Spring Conference 2013

The 52nd Roscrea Conference

Mount St Joseph Abbey, 5th - 7th April 2013

Theme: *The Anglo-Normans in Roscrea and the Midlands
and the holding of Ireland's first Parliament at Roscrea in 1213*

Roscrea 800

**4th - 7th April 2013 Ceremonies and pageantry
to celebrate Ireland's first parliament in 1213**

Help given graciously and freely

Special thanks to Brian and Olivia at Redmond Photography for the mounting of the Awards certs and for their help with the screening of the powerpoint presentation.

Sincere thanks too to Ger O'Meara for his help with the projection and sound.

The certs and booklets were produced at Walsh Printers; thanks, as always, to Andrea & Val.

Booklet edited by Carmel and George Cunningham,
published by *Roscrea People*, January 2013 and printed at Walsh Printers, Roscrea.

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*Some of the return will be subject to DIRT (Deposit Interest Retention Tax).

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minimum deposit €50.

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Childcare Plus Savings – As instalment savings account, with deductions from Child Benefit payments.

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*Interest subject to DIRT (Deposit Interest Retention Tax)

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*Commission free for a limited time only.



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& 9am - 7pm Sunday

Proud To Sponsor The Roscrea People Of The Year Awards