



# Roscrea People of the Year Awards

**2014**

## The 28th Awards' Evening

**2014**

(Organised yearly since 1987 by Roscrea People)

*For outstanding service to the Community*

### Racket Hall Country House Hotel

Thursday 15th January, 2015

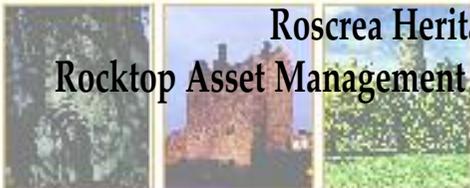
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*15th January 2015*

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# Roscrea People of the Year 2014

## The 28th Awards' Evening

*The 28th Awards' evening is sponsored by Bernie's SuperValu with associate sponsorship from Roscrea Heritage Society, Rocktop Asset Management Ltd and Roscrea Credit Union.*

Admission is by voluntary donation with any profit from the evening helping provide book collections for St Cronan's Services at Roscrea, Birr and Nenagh, and local school libraries.

### Programme of Events

- 7.30 Ceol: Junior Comhaltas Ceoltóirí, Ros Cré
- 8.05 *Roscrea People, 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  
a) Fallon Library at Scoil Chrónáin Naofa, Dromakeenan to complete the 2014 project.  
b) St Anne's Special School to continue a new project into 2015.  
The formal presentations on behalf of Roscrea People will be made by Rev Jane Galbraith, Rector St Cronan's
- 9.15 Book presentation to Roscrea Public Library.  
The formal presentation on behalf of Roscrea People will be made by Rev Tom Kingston, former Roscrea Methodist Minister
- 9.25 Book presentation to St Cronan's Services, Grange  
The formal presentation on behalf of Roscrea People will be made by Fr Pat Treacy / Fr Mike Harding, Co PPs.
- 9.35 28th Roscrea People of the Year Awards
- 10.45 Light Supper

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**Roscrea People No 2**  
**Dec 1974.**

The prices may have gone up in Bernies since forty years have passed but the value and the community commitment remains the same.

Proud sponsors of the Roscrea People of the Year Awards and many other community events in Roscrea and district like the annual Reading Challenge at Roscrea Public Library.



# Roscrea People of the Year 2014

## The 2014 award winners are:

- **Derek Russell**, founder of *Roscrea Stands Up*.
- **Fr Tom Corbett**, PP emeritus, for fifty years of service to God and his fellow citizens.
- **Kennedy Park celebrating fifty years of community living.**
- **Roscrea Men's Shed**
- **Roscrea Heritage Award:** Joe Coughlan and the website and Facebook pages of [roscreathroughtheages.org](http://roscreathroughtheages.org).
- **Roscrea Young Person of the Year:** Clíona Nic Dhomhnaill, Gaelscoil an tSlí Dála a fuair an chéad áit i Fleadh Cheoil na hÉireann sna Foinn Malla ar an feadóg stáin faoi 12.
- **Roscrea Neighbour of the Year:** Jenny Keeshan, Kennedy Park.

## Citations

- **All-Ireland Fleadh Cheoil Champions, Ladies Céili Dance 15-18, CCÉ Ros Cré.**
- **Inane Rovers, county junior champions for first time in fifty-three years.**
- **Coláiste Phobal Hurling Team, All-Ireland Champions.**

# Derek Russell

## Roscrea Stands UP

Derek Russell lives in Glencarrick, Roscrea and was the person who inspired Roscrea Stands Up.

He was the instigator of a public meeting called for the Abbey Hall on 21st July, 2014. It was hoped that forty or fifty people would attend the meeting to discuss issues that were worrying the people of Roscrea: the high unemployment rate; misuse of alcohol; mental health; the lack of facilities for children and teenagers; suicide and the drugs problem in the town.

An estimated seven hundred people actually turned up for the meeting. Expressing anger, concern and worry, issues were discussed and it was agreed to hold a second meeting the following Monday.

Towards the close of the meeting someone suggested that everyone attending should march to the Garda Station on Main St., to protest at the absence of any Garda representation at the meeting. The duty sergeant confirmed that the Gardai would be represented at the following meeting. Roscrea Stands Up was born.

The media were in attendance at the meeting on 28th July as well as an estimated 1400 people. RTE transmitted live from Roscrea on their nine o'clock news, giving Roscrea national prominence. At this meeting five working groups were set up - drugs and alcohol; business and training; housing and environment; youth action and mental health. The groups were tasked with making life for the people of Roscrea better.



At present these groups are working with established groups in the town trying to deliver services to Roscrea. A Board and committee have been selected from the working groups and five public meetings have been held so far, with many more envisaged during the coming months.

Roscrea Stands Up thanks everyone for their help and support since its establishment.

*Derek with Minister Reilly and Noel Coonan T.D.*

# Fr Tom Corbett PP Emeritus

## 50 Years of Priesthood, 1964-2014

Tom Corbett was born in Scariff, Co. Clare on the 19th January, 1939. He grew up in a farming and hard working environment and enjoyed the pleasures of a simple lifestyle and lovely close neighbourliness. Education brought new insights and differing experiences. He was ordained as a priest in Maynooth in 1964 and has spent his life as priest of Killaloe. He taught briefly in St. Flannan's College and was Director of Religious Education in the diocese. Subsequently he was appointed to the Pontifical University at St. Patrick's College Maynooth. There he spent thirty three great years as teacher of theology and became Chairperson of The Irish Theological Association and Dean of the Faculty. He also delighted in his time to assist in parishes in Florida, helping parishes which had a great debt to many Irish priests and prepared him to be a priest in a parish, so different a life from the academic world. He is happy to have won a captain's prize in golf in that Maynooth time. Life moved on and he is thankful for he found life in the Silvermines and Roscrea as so fulfilling and so busy that he is glad to have had the great luck to be here tonight. Thanks for the joy and for this great honour as one of the Roscrea People of the Year

**At the 50th  
Celebrations in  
St Cronan's,  
members of the  
Community Choir  
and SH Primary  
School staff:**

*Pat Carey, Denis  
Heenan,  
(Community Choir  
Director, Lucy  
McCarthy in  
background), Maura  
Ryan, Fr Tom, Mary  
Kelly, Siobhan  
Bowe, Del  
O'Reilly, Noreen  
Moore Heenan  
and Mary Ryan.*



# Kennedy Park Celebrates its 50th

Kennedy Park, established in 1964, was named after the late Irish-American President, JFK, and so celebrated its 50th anniversary in June of this year. It has grown in the 50 years to become the biggest housing estate in North Tipperary with 200 houses. It incorporates three estates: Kennedy Park, Brophy Terrace and Cois Carrig. The Residents' Committee was formed in the 1980s. Over the years it has achieved much, none of which would be possible without the community spirit of the residents and the overwhelming pride that they have in this big hearted estate. One of the main aims of the Residents' Association is to provide a safe, friendly and peaceful place for both young and older residents to live and to be proud of. Some of the main events this year were the installation of a defibrillator that is now in permanent place in the estate, the removal of the 'green trees' and the 50th birthday celebrations.

The Association aims to try to provide a much needed play park for the children and the older residents. As the hard-working secretary, Pauline Simmons says: *We like to get them involved so that they are not left feeling lonely or isolated.*

*To be honoured with a Roscrea People of the Year Award makes all our hard work and time and effort so much more enjoyable. We hope to keep doing our best in the future. So KBC be proud and take a bow on all that you have achieved.*





Brian Redmond Photography: August 2010 – The Templemore Road with KBC, St Cronan's Services, Grange and Corville School.

# Roscrea Men's Shed

## The Courthouse, Roscrea

Roscrea Men's Shed is a dedicated, friendly and welcoming meeting place where men come together and undertake a variety of mutually agreed activities. Roscrea Men's Shed is open to all men regardless of age, background or ability. It is a place where you can share your skills and knowledge with others, learn new skills and develop new skills.

New members are always welcome and can be assured that there is something of interest to everyone as the men have ownership of the projects and decide their own programme of events.

"Men don't talk face to face; they talk shoulder to shoulder" was first said by Professor Barry Golding of the University of Ballarat, Victoria and Patron of the Australian Men's Sheds Association. It is often this simple insight that resonates most with people when they first hear about Men's Sheds and are wondering why they work.

The Roscrea Men's Shed was set up in 2013 and aims to help its members improve and maintain their health and well-being by participating in a community Men's Shed. The Shed was originally located at the NTL building and then moved to the Courthouse on Gaol Road. It is open Monday to Friday.

The projects undertaken to date include furniture restoration, flat pack assembly, gardening and making various woodwork projects such as wheelbarrows, window boxes and bird tables. We also get involved in the St. Patrick's parade and A Taste of Roscrea. The Shed is supported by many individuals, groups and businesses to whom we are most grateful for this support.

The Roscrea Men's Shed is also on facebook and our profile is regularly updated with our projects and news items.



*Liam Sinclair and Alan Kiely proudly display some of the creativity of the work.*



# Roscrea Heritage Award

Joe Coughlan –

[www.roscreathroughtheages.org](http://www.roscreathroughtheages.org)



In 2013 Joe Coughlan with the help of Sharon Mulrooney and Joe Moloughney set up the Face book page Roscrea Through The Ages. The idea behind this was to try and bring the history and folklore of Roscrea to the younger generation. It started off with a few old photos and stories and in a short space of time it had over one thousand followers. Some of the most popular stories that were posted were, the Executions in the castle yard during the civil war, the story of Daisy Bates and the story of the ninety young orphans sent from the workhouse in Roscrea to Australia. Today the Face book page is getting on average seven thousand hits per week.

In 2014 with the help of Roscrea Credit Union and Dick Conroy, Roscrea Through The Ages website was set up. The idea behind this was that there would be a more permanent record of this material so that students of Roscrea's history in the future may access this. The site is now being read by our Diaspora all over the world and they are now beginning to send back the stories of their ancestors who emigrated in the past. With the help of and thanks to George Cunningham some Roscrea People publications are on the site and it is hoped to have a lot more as they become available.



*Two of the many historic photos on the website*

*The Demolition of the houses in Bunkers Hhill sent in by Denis Madden*

*Armoured Car in castle yard 1922 sent in by Nuala Moloney.*



# The Good Neighbour Award

## Jenny Keeshan, Cois Carrig

Jenny Keeshan, a native of Roscrea, has been married to Tom for the past twenty nine years. They have a beautiful daughter, Elaine, who was seventeen in December, and of whom they are very proud.

Jenny is Chairperson of the Parents' Association of St Anne's Special Needs School, where she is very involved in fundraising for the school playground and other essentials.

She is also deeply committed to her church, St Cronan's, Abbey Street, where she is a Eucharistic Minister, an avid member of the Liturgy Group and also a member of the Legion of Mary.

Jenny is always ready to give a helping hand to anyone, whether it is to taxi people in need of transport, to bring someone shopping or to drop in and chat to those on their own. No matter how busy she is, Jenny always has time to lend a hand or an ear to others and to make them laugh.

As she says herself, she always likes to have a good deed to do each day.

Her hobbies are walking and gardening and she loves to spend time with her friends.

Elaine and herself also enjoy listening to country music.



*As well as being a great neighbour Jenny is also Chairperson of the Parents' Association at St Anne's Special School seen here with other members of the 'Famous Five' who helped raised money for the bus: Jenny Keeshan, Mary Heaney, Catriona O'Donoghue, Fiona Bennett, Bernie Sheedy*

# Roscrea Young Person of the Year

## Clíona Nic Dhomhnaill

Clíona, a pupil of Gaelscoil an tSlí Dála, Ballaghmore, is the fifth generation of the McDonald family to be involved in music, song and dance. Her music teacher is her mother, Paula, who hails from a well known traditional musical family - the Dowlings from Kilkenny.

Clíona plays many musical instruments, including flute, whistle, banjo, harp, piano and guitar. She represented Kyle GAA in Scór recently where as part of a group they secured 1st place in music, ballad singing and drama. She played the harp with her family at a concert in Castlecomer church this year which raised €12000 for cancer.

In 2013 at the Waltons Music for Schools Competition in the National Concert Hall, Cliona played the piano, flute and sang with Gaelscoil tSlí Dala where they won 2nd prize.

At the Galway Mummerys Festival she won best singer in the Juvenile competition.

At the 2014 Laois Co. Fleadh Competition Under 12 her achievements were as follows:

1st in whistle Slow Airs; 1st in Whistle Fast Airs; 1st in Flute Fast Airs; 1st in Flute Slow Airs; 1st in Miscellaneous; 1st in both English and in Irish singing; 2nd in Duet with her sister, Eabha; 2nd playing with Ard Eirin Céili Band; 1st playing with Roundwood Gaels groups Cheoil.

In the Leinster Fleadh Competition Under 12 she achieved the following:

1st Whistle Slow Air; 1st Ceili Band Competition; 2nd English Singing; 3rd 'Miscellaneous'; 3rd and Recommended to All Ireland in Irish singing; 3rd and Recommended to All-Ireland Duet with sister Eabha; 3rd and Recommended to All-Ireland Whistle Slow Airs and Whistle fast Airs.

In the 2014 All Ireland Fleadh Sligo, Cliona came 1st in the Whistle Slow Airs and 3rd in Whistle Fast Airs. She is a worthy recipient of the RPYA young person award.



*Clíona with her father Francis  
and mother Paula*

# All-Ireland Champion Dancers

Ros Cré CCÉ dancers had a hugely successful year in 2014 winning the 15-18 ladies ceili dancing competition at Fleadh Cheoil na hEireann in Sligo in August. The girls, all members of the Callanan School of Irish Dancing and Ros Cré CCÉ, divide their time between competition and performance. In 2014, they danced at Clareen Trad Day, were guests at "Seisiún" in the White House, Roscrea and in November took part in the hugely successful benefit concert in Racket Hall Country House Hotel to help support the education of two children in Uganda.

Thrilled to bring an All-Ireland title back to Ros Cré, the dancers would like to thank the committee of Ros Cré CCÉ who work tirelessly to promote traditional music, song and dance. They are honoured to accept this citation and would also like to thank The People of the Year committee for hosting this wonderful event.



*Margaret  
Mulrooney*



*Rachael  
O'Sullivan*



*Danielle Bowe*



*Elizabeth  
Harding*



*Aoife Gilligan*



*Dearbhail Ryan*



*Leona Bowe*



*Nicole Cooper*

# Inane Rovers

## County Junior A Football Champions 2014

Inane Rovers bridged a 53 year gap by winning our first County Junior A football title since 1961. It has been a long time in coming but it is all the sweeter as this wonderful group of players have helped restore some pride to the people of Roscrea. This was no mean feat as they defeated both the South and West champions along the way. A full report of the progress may be read in Roscrea People 2014.

There was a spring in the lads step in training as everyone in the club greatly anticipated our first Junior A County Final since 1992. Holycross Sunday 2nd November arrived with Séan Treacys as our opponents. In the final minutes Alan Tynan exploited the space up front and scored a wonderful goal and point to seal a historic victory for Inane. Everyone on the panel played their part from strong defending backs through midfield to deadly forwards. Captain Keith McMahan lifted the cup to jubilant scenes amid players, mentors and supporters. Team: Jim McDonnell, Michael Parlon, Michael Campion, Conor Bergin, Darren O' Connor, David Buckley, Mark O' Meara, Keith McMahan (Captain), Joe Carroll, Jason Fitzpatrick, Liam England (0-1), Robbie Ryan, Conor Sheedy, Aaron Ryan, Alan Tynan (1-4, 2 frees) Subs (used) Sean Fitzgerald, Paul Kirwin (1-1), Brian Kealy (unused) Enda Moloney, Timmy Breen, Darragh Fletcher, Brian O' Lone, Daryll Ryan, Shane Davis, John Ryan, Paul Breen.

Great celebrations were had but we could not rest on our laurels as a Munster quarter final clash with Glin from Limerick lay ahead the following Sunday. A titanic battle ensued in Newcastle West against a fancied Glin side. Being six points down at half time our chances looked slim but a heroic second half effort from all the lads saw us take a 2 point lead only to lose out by a single point. The second half was as good a display by any Inane side and huge disappointment was felt by all. However it has been an exceptional year and hopefully we can build on this experience to challenge in the intermediate grade next year.

*Inane Rovers  
proudly run  
the Liam  
Carson  
Shield for  
young  
footballers  
every year*



# Coláiste Phobal Hurling Team, All- Ireland Champions

Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré won the last ever Munster Vocational Schools senior hurling title in March of 2013 and although subsequently beaten in the All-Ireland semi-final by Rathdowney the experience garnered by the players was invaluable. In 2014, after an early upset in the group stages at the hands of St. Mary's, Newport, qualification for the knockout stages was secured with a good win over St. Josephs, Borrisoleigh.

We defeated St. Anne's, Killaloe in the quarter-final with Jordan Fogarty giving a man of the match display. In the Munster semi-final we once again faced St. Mary's, Newport at the all-weather pitch in University of Limerick. A tight low scoring game saw Roscrea get the victory on a score line of 1-9 to 2-3.

On to our first Munster colleges final facing Cashel C.S with a nice sprinkling of Tipperary minors, could we do it? The decisive score was created by Roscrea when Adrian Cleary fielded a high delivery and found Cian Rigney on the edge of the square who shook the twine with a low hard shot. Jordan Fogarty sealed the victory with two superb late points. Munster B Colleges Champions – and on to All-Ireland semi-final against St. Mary's, Galway. Patience eventually paid off and this was another day when the strength of the panel was evident as Adrian Cleary came off the bench to score 1-2. Victory was sealed and we were now in the All-Ireland B Colleges final.

5th April Nowlan Park 3.15 p.m. - Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré –v- Cross and Passion, Ballycastle.

After many close calls in All-Ireland Vocational Finals, this day proved to be the greatest ever for Coláiste Phobal hurling. This was to be Roscrea's day with players just upping their game all over the field and outscored Cross and Passion by 1-9 to 0-4 during that second half. Our outstanding captain graciously received The Paddy Buggy Cup – being presented for the very first time by the Buggy family. Jordan Fogarty collected a deserved Man of the Match award after an awesome

display of hurling. There were scenes of great joy and celebration for all Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré supporters, parents, families, clubs and friends.

Thanks to everyone who helped us along our journey – one of the great days in our lives.

~Willie Smyth~



*Captain Lee Cashin proudly displaying the Paddy Buggy cup after Coláiste Phobal Ros Cré's All Ireland win in Nowlan Park.*

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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 over the 50,000 mark. As usual at this Awards' evening major donations will be made:

- a) Over 100 new books, mainly on Irish heritage and culture, will be presented to the Tipperary Public Library, adding to the 3,700 titles already donated and mainly housed in Library headquarters in Thurles. A catalogue of the collection is available on line at [www.roscreapeople.com](http://www.roscreapeople.com) or from the Library's web site. Roscrea Librarian, Aine Beausang will accept the 2014 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 RP schools' donation for 2014 will be to the Fallon Library at Scoil Chrónáin Naofa, Dromakeenan and to St Anne's Special School.

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

## Roscrea Spring Conference 2015

The 56th Roscrea Conference

Mount St Joseph Abbey, 10th - 12th April 2015

Theme: *The Céili Dé*

## Redmonds of Roscrea

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## Thanks

Sincere thanks to the management and staff of Racket Hall Hotel for their staging of the event; to Brian and Theresa for all their help with mounting the certs and for their photographs; to PJ Wright whose social photography recorded much of Roscrea 2014 happenings, as recorded in GC's presentation this evening; to Gráinne Brooks and Pat Bourke thanks for all the help. Our best wishes go to all who, for one reason or another, can't be with us tonight.

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

Booklet edited by Carmel and George Cunningham,  
published by *Roscrea People*, January 2015 and printed at Walsh Printers, Roscrea.

RH

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